Realization of Systemic Risk on the Education Sector in the Caribbean region

Hon. Curtis King
Minister of Education of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
The COVID-19 pandemic reveals the complex and interconnected nature of risks to disrupt the normal functioning of society.

The economies of the Caribbean countries will fall on average by 6.2% (ECLAC)

COVID-19 has exacerbated other vulnerabilities and inequalities, with a significant increase in gender-based violence.

In the LAC region, on average, primary and secondary students lost 158 days of the 190 days of the school calendar in 2020.

In the education sector alone, around one and a half billion students around the world have had their education interrupted.

3 out of every 5 of those students are from Latin America & the Caribbean
### Drivers of Risk in the Education Sector

- Limited budgets on school safety actions
- Gender inequality
- Deficiencies on school infrastructure, and access to water and sanitation
- Limited access to connectivity (internet)
- Multi-hazard vulnerability
- Inadequate use of preventive health services
- Slow economic growth, high indebtedness, and government income dependence on tourism
Context of Risk in the Education Sector

Hazards
incl. geological, hydrometeorological, technological, biological, environmental and societal hazards

Exposure
Children, teachers, and education staff are exposed in different degrees. Due to the particularities of the region most of the school infrastructures are located in hazard-prone areas.

Vulnerability
The education system is susceptible due to the physical conditions of their infrastructure and to the social, economic and environmental factors that affect the sector.
Realization of Risk in the Education Sector

Inability to ensure an inclusive, equitable quality education. Incapacity to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG4)

Inadequate infrastructure of educational facilities (SFDRR, D3)

Prolonged disruption of the education services (SFDRR, D6)
Slow economic growth, high indebtedness, and dependence on tourism and food imports.

Education coverage advancements but gender and inclusive parity remain a challenge.

Deficiencies on school infrastructure, and, water and sanitation.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Climate change

Exposure to multiple hazards

COVID-19

Health sector crisis

Health crisis

Remittances diminution

Schools lockdown

Tourism sector crisis

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Hurricane session

Disruption of school feeding programmes

Volcanic Eruption

Displacement

Prolonged economic recession

Social & child protection crisis

Inadequate use of preventive health services

Significant vulnerability to different hazards

Buildings

Stressors

Context

Tipping Points

System Failure

Multiples Failures of Different Systems

Education system failure
The Caribbean Road Map and Antigua and Barbuda Declaration on school safety guide the Caribbean Safe School Initiative (CSSI) for this upcoming year. In order to ensure the implementation of the Road Map, it is critical that countries and partners include the activities identified in the Road Map in their respective work plans. The Group of Caribbean Ministers of Education will ensure the political buy-in and follow-up. Technical support will be guaranteed by the members of the CDM sub-committee on Education and other regional and national partners. During the Ministerial meetings and other regional and global fora, ministers as well as partners shall report on progress, good practices and challenges.

### Enabling Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority area</th>
<th>Region(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Technical / Financial support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop existing policies and plans/strategies</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Mapping school safety national plans and policies</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>CSSI/Ministries of Education</td>
<td>Technical Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Provide technical guidance in developing national policies, plans and strategies</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Ministries of Education with the stakeholders</td>
<td>Technical and financial resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Ensure legal and policy legislation framework to ensure the Safety School is part of</td>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
<td>Ministries of Education</td>
<td>Technical support from ACDI office or Legal Drafter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Align the 5Ps with the National DRM plans</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>MIN/national DRM system</td>
<td>Technical support from agency responsible for DRM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation of National School Safety plans</td>
<td>Ongoing with annual reviews</td>
<td>Ministries of Education</td>
<td>Technical Support</td>
<td></td>
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### Human and Financial resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Provide technical support in project development and fundraising initiative at regional level</td>
<td>3 to 6 months</td>
<td>CSSI/and GADRESS partner</td>
<td>Technical Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Create space within MIN/jurisdiction to the School Safety</td>
<td>During the preparatory period specific to each country</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary (Chief of Education Office)</td>
<td>Technical financial support from HRM Management team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Develop a proposal for School Safety building</td>
<td>4 months (and the proposal)</td>
<td>MIN Planning Unit</td>
<td>Technical support</td>
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**19 Caribbean States have joined the CSSI**

**3rd CSSI Ministerial Forum**

**Sint Maarten, 2022**
The way forward

- Better understand the multidimensional nature of risk, addressing risk from a systemic perspective.
- Need for interdisciplinary research approaches, involving non-traditional partners (such as other Ministries or NEMOs) and enabling innovative and collective action.
- Ensure the articulation of education policies and plans with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement
- Strengthening regional cooperation for an effective implementation of the school safety agenda in the framework of the Caribbean Safe School Initiative.