



# INCLUsive Disaster Education

The COVID-19 pandemic, which is a type of biological disaster, defines the global health crisis of our time and has been described as the greatest challenge for the world since World War II. Adding to this, people across the world are also increasingly exposed to a wide range of natural hazards, the effects of which destroy development efforts.

Due to the complexities involved in tackling disaster risk, there has been increasing recognition of the need to embrace lifelong learning. This has been identified as a way of ensuring the continuous education of the various stakeholders who are responsible for managing disaster risk. In an effort to support lifelong learning, a number of online and distance learning opportunities have emerged in the field of DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction).

Despite some countries launching remote DRR education activities, they have faced a range of challenges and these have been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The rise of remote teaching and the use of digital platforms has presented challenges to inclusivity and social equity, with a digital divide lowering the academic outcomes of low-income, underserved students and areas. Engagement outside the classroom has also become a challenge and this is a particular concern for practical fields such as DRR.

The complexity of these challenges limits our ability to apply generic solutions for DRR education and there is a need for it to be contextualized. Effective teaching and learning strategies are important to increase the effectiveness of DRR activities and increase the inclusivity of disaster education.

INCLUDE aims to reimagine online distance learning education so that it better supports the diverse DRR community.



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## The planned objectives of INCLUDE:

- Understand online, distance learning strategies currently used in DRR education and their effectiveness, by taking into consideration gender equality and sensitivity, and also in addressing differences in relation to the access and use by underrepresented groups
- Develop a framework to reimagine online distance learning education so that it better supports the diverse DRR community, also in addressing both natural and biological hazards and their integration
- Design an innovative University-Industry digital learning platform to provide high quality, inclusive digital education to the DRR community
- Explore the opportunities for the use of disruptive technologies in online distance learning education in DRR
- Propose a digital competence framework for educators in building capacity to implement online and distance teaching and learning in DRR

## Project outputs

- A survey of online, distance learning strategies used in DRR education and their effectiveness to identify their success factors and associated issues and problems
- A framework to reimagine online distance learning education that can support the diverse DRR community
- An inclusive University-Industry digital learning platform to provide high quality inclusive digital education to DRR community
- Case studies with the use of disruptive technologies for disaster risk reduction
- Online research repository with open educational resources
- Digital competence framework for DRR educators to develop digital pedagogical competences

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