

# Child-Friendly Glossary

**THE WORDS WE USE WITH CHILDREN CAN TOUCH THEM DEEPLY OR BE TOO COMPLEX, RISKING EVEN MORE CONFUSION ABOUT EXTREMELY DELICATE AND IMPORTANT CONCEPTS.**

**THIS GLOSSARY IS INTENDED TO BE A WORK-IN-PROGRESS CATEGORISATION TOOL OF THE MOST FREQUENT TERMS WHEN TALKING ABOUT DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND VULNERABILITY.**

**THE CATEGORISATION CAN BE FURTHER ENRICHED BY THE CHILDREN WITH THE HELP OF THE TEACHER.**

**Accessibility:** the ability to access a place

**Alert:** the condition following the notification of an imminent danger

**Anthropic:** everything that refers to a human being or to their activities

**Assembly point:** a safe place where the population temporarily gathers in the event of an emergency

**Biodegradable:** a substance that decomposes easily in nature due to the action of bacteria and microorganisms

**Crowdsourcing:** online project which requires the contribution of many people at the same time.

**Connectivity:** the ability to be connected with other people through means of communication

**Danger:** anything that can cause harm to the environment or people

**Disaster:** an event that causes serious harm and disruption or upheaval to normal life.

**Disaster cycle:**

**DRR:** Disaster Risk Reduction

**Earthquake:** A sudden shaking of the ground resulting from movements in the earth's crust.

**Ecosystem:** a set of animal and plant species that interact with each other and with the surrounding environment

**Emergency:** a critical situation that requires urgent or immediate action

**Epicentre:** the point on the earth's surface that is hit hardest by an earthquake

**Exposure:** the number of people and elements that can be damaged or affected because they are located in a risk area.

**Fire:** a destructive event caused by flames

**Global warming:** increase in the temperature of the Earth's surface due to human activity

**Hypocentre:** the point of origin of an earthquake from which seismic waves propagate

**Landslide:** the movement of a large mass of earth, rock or debris down a slope

**Magnitude:** the energy released by an earthquake

**Mitigation:** reducing the effects of a disaster.

**Pollution:** contamination of the environment, caused by human activities

**Prediction:** the identification of the risks and the causes that determine calamitous phenomena in specific territories

**Prevention:** The action of reducing vulnerability and exposure by preventing a risk from becoming a disaster.

**Resilience:** The ability to deal with calamitous events and overcome their effects.

**Risk:** the possibility that a phenomenon can cause damage to people and the environment in a given period of time and in a given area.

**Safety:** a condition when an individual is not in danger or when a risk can be prevented, reduced or eliminated.

**Threat:** probability that a calamitous event of a given intensity will occur in a given place within a given period of time

**Toxic cloud:** a set of toxic substances which are released into the air in mainly gaseous form, which are very dangerous to inhale

**Tsunami:** a phenomenon caused by underwater movements that can generate very high waves with potentially disastrous effects, especially on the coasts

**Vulnerability:** The predisposition to be affected or damaged by a disaster.