



FEEL SAFE



## CHILD-FRIENDLY GLOSSARY

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** a list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, signed in September 2015 by the governments of the 193 UN member countries to improve people's economic well-being, concern for people's health and care for the planet

**Accessibility:** the possibility of access to a place

**Adaptation:** the set of measures taken to prevent or minimise the effects of a disaster

**Adaptive capacity:** ability to find strategies to adapt to a situation

**Alarm:** the condition following an alert, whereby a signal is sent indicating the start of an emergency

**Alert:** the condition following the signal of an imminent hazard for which monitoring is not sufficient, but it is necessary to be prepared for a possible emergency

**Anthropic:** anything related to human beings or their activities

**Biodegradable:** a substance that decomposes easily in nature through the intervention of bacteria and microorganisms, but cannot become a natural fertiliser

**Biome:** area of the planet that can be classified according to the vegetation and animals that live there

**Chemical hazard:** the possibility that any chemical substance, regardless of its form, may cause physical harm and damage to the health of people or the environment

**Civil Protection:** set of competences and activities aimed at protecting life, physical integrity, property, settlements, animals and the environment from damage or the danger of damage resulting from calamitous events of both natural and man-made origin

**CRC:** UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a very important document adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989. Thanks to this document it is recognised for the first time that children also have civil, social, political, cultural and economic rights, which must be promoted and protected by all.

**Crowdsourcing:** an online project whose realisation requires the contribution of many people at the same time



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**Danger:** probability of a calamitous event of a given intensity occurring at a given location within a given period of time

**Disability:** any limitation of the ability to act as a natural consequence of a state of disability or impairment, which can result in social disadvantage

**Disaster:** an event that causes serious damage or disruption to the normal course of life

**Disaster management cycle:** set of activities divided into four phases that make up a single cycle, in which the development of each phase conditions and influences the actions of the next in a continuous manner. The phases of the risk management cycle are: forecasting, prevention and mitigation, emergency management and overcoming the emergency

**Domestic accident:** an unintentional accident occurring inside or outside a dwelling that temporarily or permanently alters a person's state of health

**DRR:** Disaster Risk Reduction. Set of activities aimed at preventing the risk of new disasters, reducing existing ones and managing residual risk

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

**Earthquake resistant:** material, building or structure capable of withstanding earthquake tremors without suffering damage

**Ecological footprint:** a measure of the amount of biological resources consumed by humans in a year in terms of the 'planets' needed to maintain our standard of living

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

**Emergency:** a critical situation requiring urgent or immediate action

**Emergency backpack:** collection of basic necessities (e.g., food and water) and basic equipment (e.g., torch and batteries) inside a backpack that can be easily reached and carried in an emergency and allows survival for at least 48h/72h

**Emergency management:** phase in the risk management cycle with the aim of implementing assistance and rescue interventions in an integrated and coordinated manner

**Epicentre:** the point on the earth's surface that is most intensely affected by an earthquake

**Escape route:** an obstacle-free route that, together with correct behaviour, allows people to evacuate safely



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**Evacuation Plan:** an operational tool through which the operations to be carried out in the event of an emergency must be studied and planned. It includes the route to be followed in the event of an evacuation. At school it is called the School Evacuation Plan

**Exposure (or exposed value):** number of people and elements (or 'value') at risk in a given area

**Fake news:** partially or totally false and misleading information disseminated intentionally or unintentionally through the web or media, without verifying the source

**Fear:** emotion that informs us of dangers, warns us and allows us to react in time in case of emergency

**Flood:** the discharge of water contained in a river due to natural causes (heavy rainfall) or due to human activities, resulting in the flooding of built-up areas or industrial sites, infrastructure, communication routes and agricultural areas

**Forecasting:** phase of the risk management cycle that aims to identify and study possible risk scenarios

**Gathering point:** a safe place where the population is temporarily gathered in the event of an emergency

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

**Hashtag:** a word or short phrase (consisting of written words all joined together) preceded by the hashtag symbol (#) used to tag a topic in social media so that all communications made by users on that topic can be found quickly

**Hazard:** the intrinsic capacity of a given element or phenomenon to cause harm to the environment or to people

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

**Heat wave:** a set of extreme weather conditions resulting from very high temperatures for several consecutive days, high humidity and lack of ventilation and posing a health risk to the population

**Landscape:** part of the territory, as perceived by populations, whose features derive from the action of natural and/or human factors and their interrelationships

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

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



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**Memory:** 'strategy' of the mind to preserve traces of representations of events, people, situations or objects that belong to the past and of which we possess a direct memory or one mediated by the accounts of others. Applied to the risk management cycle, memory allows us to increase resilience from events that have affected an area in the past

**Mercalli Scale:** a scale that measures the intensity of an earthquake according to the damage it causes. Values range from 1 to 12 degrees

**Mitigation:** reduction of a risk and its harmful effects

**Online risk:** a dangerous situation arising from an unconscious and responsible use of digital technologies

**Participation:** a fundamental right of a child. It represents the possibility to take a direct and active part in any activity and to make one's own contribution

**Perception:** becoming aware of a reality that is considered external thanks to sensory stimuli experienced first-hand, analysed and processed through intuitive processes that allow one to adapt one's behaviour

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

**Prevention and Mitigation:** the phase of the risk management cycle that aims to identify and implement all possible measures to reduce the risk. The Civil Protection Plan is one of these measures

**Recovery:** phase in the risk management cycle that involves the removal of all possible obstacles to facilitate the resumption of normal living conditions

**Resilience:** the ability to cope with calamitous events and overcome their effects

**Richther scale:** a logarithmic scale that measures the amount of energy released by an earthquake (the magnitude) through the seismograph. It has no maximum value, but going up from one degree to the next the amount of energy released by the earthquake is 30 times greater than the previous degree

**Risk:** the possibility that a phenomenon may cause harm to people, settlements and the environment in a given period of time and in a given area

**Risk communication:** interactive exchange of information and opinions between the scientific community, experts, policy-makers and citizens regarding hazard elements, risk-related factors, risk perception, risk assessment findings and risk management decisions

**Safety:** a condition that makes one feel that one is not in danger or that a risk can be prevented or reduced

**Sensitivity:** a component of vulnerability that acts to increase risk



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**Social Media:** a freely accessible online platform that allows people to create, share and exchange ideas and text, image, audio and video content quickly on message boards read by people who follow the updates

**Snow and frost risk:** a set of critical situations resulting from snowfall or very low temperatures that may compromise the environment, property and the performance of human activities

**Susceptibility:** the ability to suffer effects of a disaster and change due to these effects

**Sustainability:** development that ensures that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

**Thunderstorm:** extreme weather phenomenon involving lightning, strong wind and heavy rain. The clouds from which thunderstorms develop have a characteristic anvil shape

**Tornado:** a violently rotating column of air in contact with the earth's surface and a cumuliform (anvil-shaped) cloud. It is often referred to as a "hurricane", "tornado" or "cyclone"

**Toxic cloud:** a collection of toxic substances that are released into the air in mostly gaseous form and whose inhalation is highly dangerous

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

**Virality:** very rapid dissemination of text, audio, video and image content via social media

**Vulnerability:** propensity to suffer damages from an event

**Wildfire:** fire that tends to spread over wooded, wooded or bushy areas, structures located inside or on cultivated or uncultivated land and adjacent pastures