

Protecting Through Education



OFFICIAL
RET INTERNATIONAL
DECLARATION
IN THE VI PLATFORM
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
IN THE AMERICAS

JUNE 2018

OFFICIAL RET INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION

IN THE VI REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAS - JUNE 2018

At RET International we are committed in supporting communities to meet the educational needs, in the broadest sense, of young people and women in vulnerable conditions due to displacement, violence, conflicts and disasters. We believe in the potential of youth and women, as allies and leaders, to become pillars for their families, agents of positive social change and fundamental actors for resilience, for which we seek to promote favourable conditions for their protection and offer tools so that they develop competencies for life.

We consider fundamental for the implementation of the Sendai Framework the effective exercise of gender equity. Therefore, we recognize the key role that women have in disaster risk reduction and in the development of resilience. The empowerment of young people and women is an essential element for the strengthening of communities, as well as for the reduction of vulnerabilities.

We recognize that, although much progress has been made in this subject, the articulation of decision makers and public policy makers at the national level with local actors and organizations remains a challenge. However, only by creating a solid network of interactions and relationships in local spaces, resilient policies that really empower civil society on the road to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change can be generated.

Our experience in the field, as an organization of civil society, has led us to participate as an articulator of different sectors, as a partner in networks of civil society, and as a permanent contributor in the development of public policies. This allows us to affirm that opening participation to young people and women and generating empowerment, facilitates the revitalization of resilience factors and the generation of stronger and more sustainable protection mechanisms. Civil society organizations definitely contribute to the boost of meeting spaces and generating alliances at all levels between different sectors.

We are convinced that education, whether formal or non-formal, is one of the most important ways to advance in DRR and adapt to climate change, considering community knowledge and the capacities of women and men.

As facilitators of social change and actors in humanitarian contexts, we believe that it is necessary and we commit ourselves to:

- Provide solutions for disaster risk management, under an approach that promotes the empowerment of youth and women, involving the active participation of civil society in actions that allow understanding,

- communicating and addressing threats (including social variables such as violence, armed conflicts and displacements), and risk (in all its dimensions).
- Promote and contribute to the identification and recognition of existing resilience capacities at a local level, especially among young people and women under an inclusive rights approach.
- Contribute to the construction of solutions for the promotion of resilience and disaster risk management with an active participation of organized civil society, along with an approach of gender equity and inclusion, which promotes the participation of people in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Cooperar con la construcción de soluciones para el impulso a la resiliencia y la gestión del riesgo de desastres, con una activa participación de la sociedad civil organizada, sumado a un enfoque de equidad de género e inclusión, que promueva la participación en la toma de decisiones de las personas en el nivel local.
- Develop and implement educational strategies and contribute to the strengthening of DRR platforms in all areas: local, national and regional; coordinating with authorities and decision makers, as well as contributing to the empowerment of the communities.
- Desarrollar e implementar estrategias educativas y contribuir al fortalecimiento de las plataformas de RRD en todos los ámbitos: local, nacional y regional; sirviendo como articulador de instancias y tomadores de decisión, así como contribuyendo al empoderamiento de las comunidades.

In Cartagena de Indias,
within the framework of the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
June 2018.