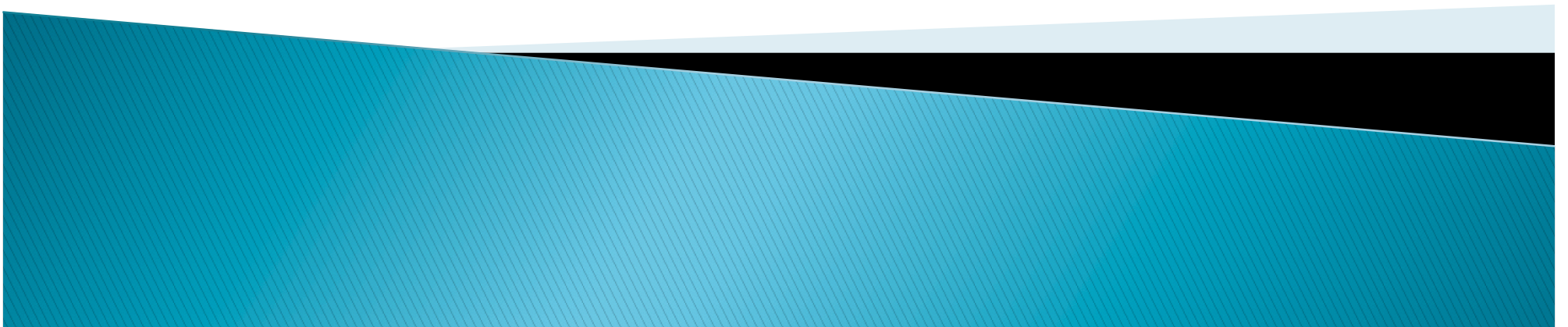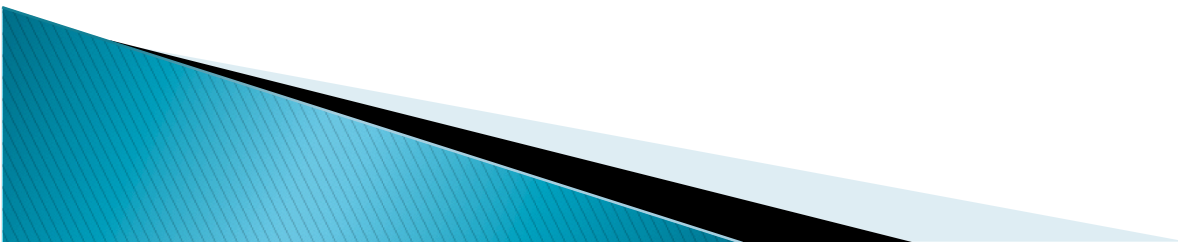# Disaster Risk Reduction through Storytelling Online

Alicia Palmer

Christchurch, New Zealand
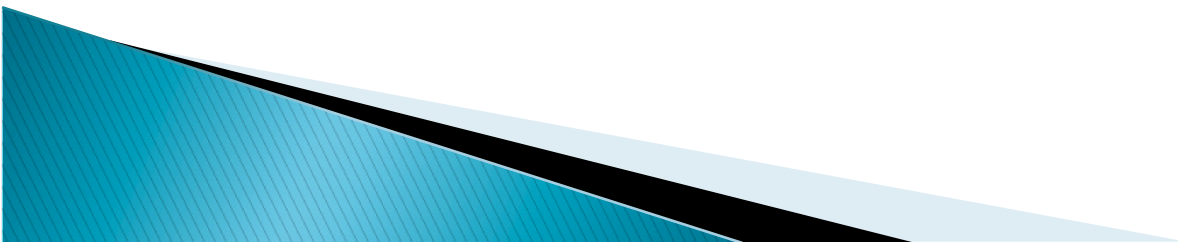
Introduction

- Project grew out of the shared experiences of UNESCO youth forum participants;

- Common thread of disaster experiences:
  - Lack of disaster preparedness;
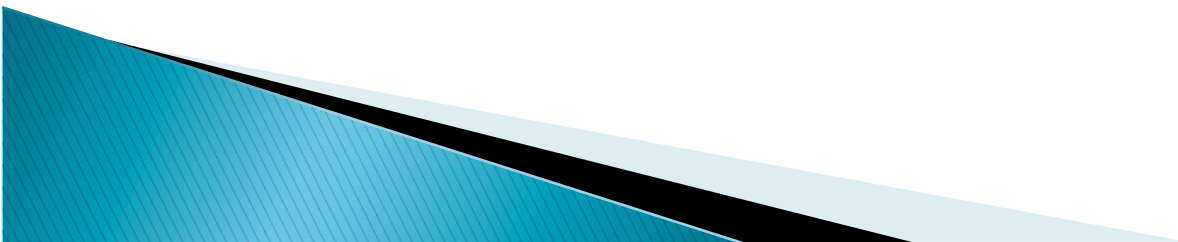 - Lack of understanding of disaster risk;
  - Lack of community education.

Observation

- The wisdom gained by people through their personal disaster experience is quickly forgotten or lost:

  ◦ Queensland Floods – Traditional "Queenslander" style home on poles vs. modern brick homes built at ground level;

  ◦ Sri Lanka Tsunami – 100m buffer zone from the shore is already being developed.

Project Objective

▸ To create a globally accessible website or webpage that shares the experiences and learnings of young disaster survivors;

▸ To create a tool that can be used by education providers to raise disaster awareness and preparedness levels in children and youth;

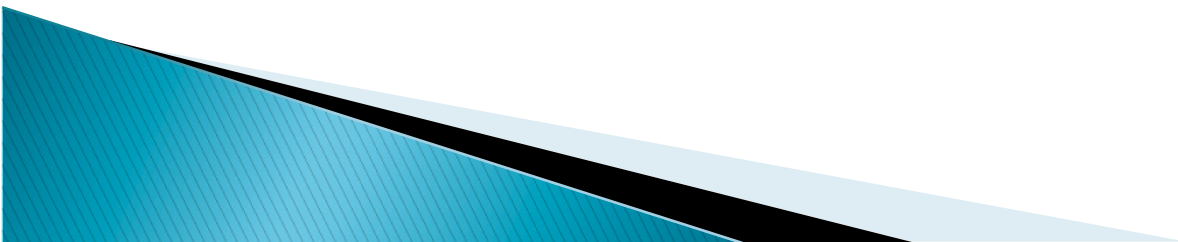▸ To create an online forum for children and youth that highlights disaster risk in their region.

Project Outline

- Children and youth share their stories of survival which are uploaded to the web;
- Linked through an interactive map, the stories form a global resource to raise awareness and remind us of lessons learnt.

Video Clips **+** Short Stories **=** Images and words that tell of disaster survival
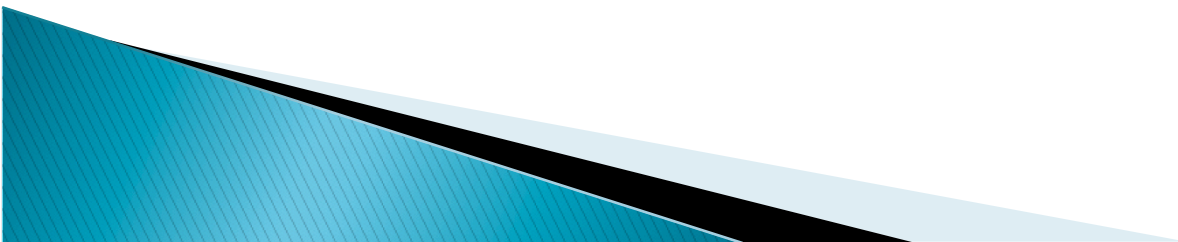
Interactive Geographic Map

Stories Searchable by Disaster Type

▸ Stories able to be searched according to disaster type, e.g.

- Flood:
  - Queensland floods (Australia)
  - Thailand floods
  - Cambodian floods

- Cyclone:
  - Cyclone Yasi (Queensland, Australia)
  - Cyclone Nargis (Myanmar)

- Earthquake :
  - Sichuan Earthquake (China)
  - Chilean Earthquake (Chile)
  - Christchurch Earthquake (New Zealand)

Global Champions

- Lead by "Champions" who can initiate the story collection process locally;

- Work to provide stories in many languages;

- Partnering with the UNESCO Bangkok website – wide reach (able to reach "hard to reach" regions due to internet permissions);

- An ongoing process.

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got"

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