

Hazard and risk assessment for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in Lebanon

Chadi Abdallah, Rita Der Sarkissian, Sara Najem, and Ghaleb Faour

National Council for Scientific research, Remote sensing Center, Natural Hazard, Beirut, Lebanon (chadi@cnrs.edu.lb)

This paper outlines and discusses the hazard and risk assessment for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), in Lebanon. It notes the hazard mapping, exposure analysis, vulnerability assessment and damage evaluation in order to protect MEHE, its facilities (public and private schools, public and private technical institutes, public and private universities), every asset under its mandate, and ultimately to protect the Lebanese society especially the students, assure the continuity of education in time of crisis, spread awareness and encourage the Ministry to develop and implement preventive plans and critical infrastructure protection plan. Considering the importance of educational facilities in time of crisis as they can serve as shelters, reserve of food, water and energy should be always present, the study revealed that the majority of educational facilities are not built to resist to natural hazards and do not have evacuation plan or response plan. It also showed that 450 public schools hosting 101,000 students and 16,700 staff are at high risk concerning natural hazards