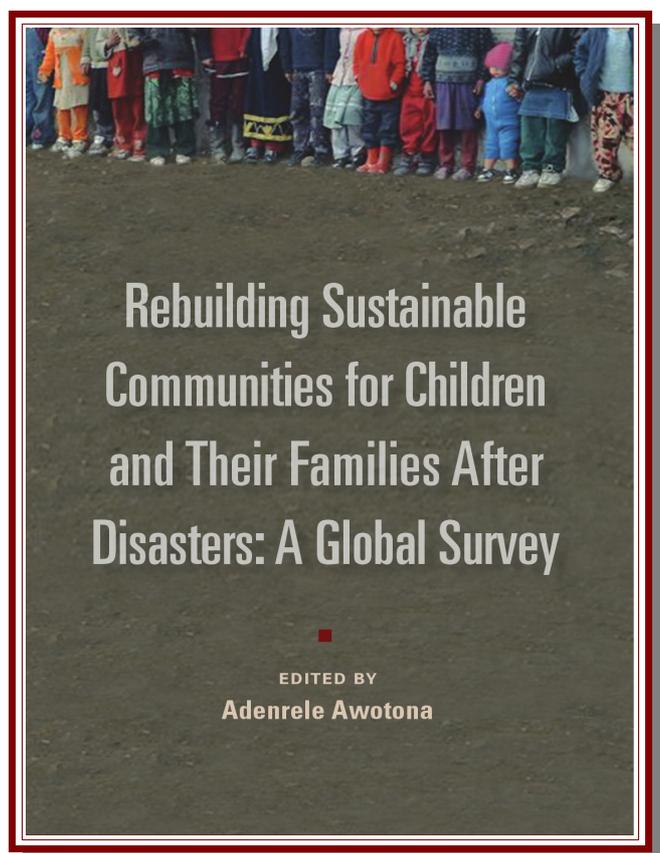


REBUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AFTER DISASTERS A Global Survey



EDITED BY

ADENRELE AWOTONA

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Disasters impose enormous misery on children, the most vulnerable members of the community. Records show that two million children have died as a direct consequence of armed conflict over the past decade. Globally, millions more have suffered death, disease, and dislocation as a result of such natural disasters as earthquakes, droughts, and floods. And even when emergency relief is available, permanent human damage remains; all too often, families fall apart, women are assaulted and degraded, and children are left to take care of themselves.

In November 2008, the *Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters* at the University of Massachusetts Boston, USA, hosted an international conference to examine how to reconstruct sustainable communities that would be safe and secure for children and their families after disasters.

This volume collects some of the papers that were presented at the conference. It is remarkable for the sheer assortment of topics covered. These include the role of gender equality in alleviating poverty and assisting children, their families and their communities after disasters; war and child soldiers; lessons from Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami; the nature of psychosocial resilience and its significance for managing mass emergencies, disasters and terrorism; and, the promotion of human dignity in the creation of sustainable environments that empower families in the aftermath of disasters.

“I write to strongly recommend this book to researchers, scholars, university professors, mid-management development personnel, governmental and non-governmental officials concerned with matters of sustainable development and communities. [...] The book provides compelling and powerful arguments for the sustainability of communities. It is with the highest level of enthusiasm that I recommend this book.”

—**Valentine Udoh James**, Ph.D.; CES; CAQS, Professor, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

“... Professor Awotona has put together an excellent collection of essays from people who have been at the forefront of responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups after such disasters. ... This book is a must have for everyone, for we are all potential victims of disasters, and knowing how to protect and heal ourselves and our families is the starting point to disaster recovery.”

—**Michael A. Burayidi**, Ph.D., Irving Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Planning, Ball State University

“Everybody working with advocacy for young children should read this book. When you then have read it and just feel overwhelmed by the situation for many children in the world, read *A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN* published by UNICEF, and you will realize that children themselves have the answers to many of the questions dealt with here.”

—**Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson**, Professor & UNESCO Chair in Early Childhood Education and Sustainable Development

Adenrele Awotona is the Director of the Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. He was a Director of Studies for the British Council International Seminars (*Reconstruction after disasters*) in the United Kingdom. His publications include: *Rebuilding sustainable communities in Iraq: Policies, Programs and International Perspectives* (edited, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008); *Reconstruction after disaster: Issues and Practices* (edited, Ashgate, 1997) and, “Approaches to post-war reconstruction and development: lessons from Africa,” *Habitat International*, Vol.16, No.4. (1992).

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