



## **Concept Note**

### **A regional consultation with Children in MENA on how current disaster risks affect their lives – a contribution to the post-2015 agenda for the Hygo Framework for Action**

#### ***What do children and adolescents in the MENA region say about how they are affected by the disasters they face?***

#### **Background:**

Preparations for post-2015 agenda for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) are underway with regional and national consultations happening globally. In the Arab States, the inaugural platform for the post-2015 DRR framework, the 1<sup>st</sup> Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), took place in March 2013 in Aqaba, Jordan. The proposed recommendations in the post-2015 agenda are in the areas of 1) institutional mechanisms and governance; 2) climate change and local resilience; and 3) DRR and development planning. As contribution to the post-2015 agenda, UNICEF and partners will organize a campaign across the Middle East and North Africa region to mobilize children and adolescents' voices on what is important to them in the post 2015 DRR agenda. This action aims to encourage governments to recognize the role children and young people play in defining DRR and CCA priorities so that national and regional concerns include the statements defined by children and young people themselves. It also accounts that children and adolescent voices are differentially impacted by both natural and human-induced hazards, including conflicts, which have long-term consequences for resilience of children to shocks and stresses. UNICEF recognizes that for children and adolescent's participation to be truly meaningful and sustainable, these voices need to be linked to its key interventions and from those who are affected by these issues.

#### **1. Justification:**

Children in the MENA region are among those highly vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters. Aside from being faced with natural disasters, children in the region are also affected by conflicts, severe food insecurity or deprivation of access to social services. Through the regional and in-country campaign, children are given the voice to express their concerns and raise their thoughts on how they are affected by these disasters and what they would like to tell governments through national action and through regional inter-government Regional Platform (RP) on Disaster Risk reduction to highlight their messages for the post 2015 Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2. The focus of the messages will be on how to make the lives of children and adolescents more sustainable and resilient amidst disasters, climate change and other vulnerabilities they face.

#### **2. Overall Results:**

The regional campaign will contribute to the following results: 1) Increased awareness of policy-makers on children's agenda on resilience to help influence policies on DRR and CCA at regional and country levels; 2.) Inclusion of Children's voices on DRR in the Regional Platform agenda in the Arab States in 2014, and 3.) Increased visibility of UNICEF and the Children in a Changing Climate Coalition in the post-2015 HFA 2 agenda in the MENA region.



#### Campaign objectives:

- Mobilize children and adolescents in the MENA region and gather their voices in the MENA region for the regional platform meetings
- Develop key advocacy messages at regional and country levels
- Support country-level initiatives on Children's Voices on DRR

#### **3. Participating organizations:**

- World Vision, Save the Children, and UNICEF. These organizations will coordinate this effort within the framework of the Children in a Changing Climate Coalition<sup>1</sup> (CCCC).
- Other key agencies of the MENA group (as IOM, WHO, UNISDR, IFRC) have been invited to make this an interagency action.

#### **4. Timeline**

- Preparatory work and discussions with COs: November to December 2013
- Country level consultations: January to March 2014
- Children regional forum – Held in April 2014
- Feedback into the Arab Regional Platform – May 2014 ( may be moved to mid-June)
- July 2014 - May 2015: Contributions to global discussions and to the Next Global Platform in Sendai.

#### **5. Potential Budget:** USD 150,000 – 250,000 (Depending on country level resources)

The following are currently included in the budget requirement to fund the activities of all partners.

- Country level consultations – varying and based on the actions planned in country, coordination, communications (Country Offices are expected to contribute counterpart to the consultations as leads in the country campaign).
- Regional Children's Forum: Travel, documentation/translation, forum organization
- Communications and visibility: Video on Children's Voices on DRR (Messages from the six focal countries), printing of posters and the Children's DRR Communique.
- Children's participation in the regional platform in May 2014.

#### **6. Focus countries:**

- Iraq, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine

#### **7. Outputs:**

- 7.1. Children from MENA participating in the Regional and Global Platforms
- 7.2. Joint Children's Communique drafted and finalized
- 7.3. # of children identified and consulted country and regional levels
- 7.4. Key messages formulated
- 7.5. Key advocacy partners mobilized and regional event organized

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<sup>1</sup> See website for details of actions on a global level <http://www.childreninachangingclimate.org/home.htm>

## 8. Key Activities:

- 8.1. Children in the six countries of the MENA region are engaged in a discussion process on the issues they want authorities to take forward in the post 2015 DRR, CCA and development agendas
- 8.2. Activities<sup>2</sup> at a country level gather, engage with children, and request inputs on five key questions:
  - 8.2.1. What are the main disasters, adversities or calamities that you face as child?
  - 8.2.2. How has your life, your family or community have been affected by this?
  - 8.2.3. How do you feel your government or local authorities are addressing these issues to help build children's resilience to disasters, climate change and conflict?
  - 8.2.4. What do you think is your role as a child or an adolescent in your society or group to help reduce risks to disasters and climate change?
  - 8.2.5. What are the 3 things you would like to tell your government to do to makes the lives of children better?

The Children's Charter on DRR<sup>3</sup> will be the basis for illustrating what messages other children around the world developed on issues that affect children.

### 8.3. Suggested Children Participation Criteria

To ensure greater participation, CCC and CO partners may consider the following participation criteria for Children's Voices on DRR, as appropriate, at the country-level context:

- 8.3.1. Children led Democratic selection of participants, where possible, in country programs where there are established groups of children (e.g., school systems, student groups).
- 8.3.2. Age representation: 10-18.
- 8.3.3. Multiple groups: refugees, displaced, teenage mothers, children in conflict with law, school children, street children, rural children, urban children, etc.
- 8.3.4. The country offices can recommend the number of children or existing groups to be consulted through their ongoing program/s and partnerships.
- 8.4. At least 20 children and adolescents participate in a regional children's forum to present the ideas of the children in their countries and formulate a Children's Communique to governments of the MENA Region. The forum can be facilitated using both online and offline means as a pre-regional platform event.
- 8.5. At least 10 children will be selected to participate in the next Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation to be

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to section on Proposed Methodology and Activities for more details.

<sup>3</sup> Attached as annex one.

held in Egypt in May ( or June) 2014. The children and adolescents will present the Communique during the Regional Platform and advocate for greater commitments to ensuring resilience of children to disaster and climate change in the post-2015 agenda.

- 8.6. Advocacy to have children from the MENA region participate in the next Global Platform in Sendai in 2015.

## 9. Proposed methodology

- 9.1. Regional level: At the regional level, the campaign will be led by UNICEF, WVI and SCI, as well as other identified partners from the coalition. Focal points will be identified and actions will be coordinated amongst CCC partners towards the preparation, coordination and conduct of the campaign. The focal points will also coordinate with their respective country offices to carry out the campaign activities.
- 9.2. At the country level, UNICEF, together with partners, will work in coordination with the DRR focal points. Six country-led consultations will be organized around the campaign. Countries that have expressed interest but would need further guidance on how to move the consultations include Iran, Iraq, Morocco, and Palestine. The following are actions that are currently planned:
- **Iraq:** mobilization with their Communications and C4D team; target are children in the Kurdistan region. More activity details to be provided to Regional Office.
  - **Iran:** The activity will be linked with their current program in DRR in Education; likely identifying children from the student parliamentarian forum.
  - **Jordan:** The country office will lead the campaign through their DRR project and in coordination with the Youth Section, tapping partnership with the Ministry of Education and the established youth networks.
  - **Morocco:** Interest to mobilize around schools and Council on Youth and Children in 3 municipalities.
  - In **Palestine and Lebanon**, Save the Children and World Vision will lead in-country consultations through their ongoing programs.
  - Partners in-country will coordinate their activities and key messages. Focal points will play a key role in driving the process.

When feasible, UNICEF country focal points will work with child engagement specialists in the conduct of the consultations.

### 9.3. Regional Campaign Activities:

#### Proposed Timeline

Timeline	Regional/CCC partners	Country	Expectations
November – December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultations with Country Offices and CCC partners</li> <li>- Initiate resource mobilization and presentation to Regional programs</li> <li>- Set up coordination meetings among regional focal points</li> <li>- Draft and share guidance on in-country Children's Voices on DRR (methodology, media/comms, key questions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Propose activities to be initiated at country level &amp; resources requested/available</li> <li>- Assign focal point for the in-country activity</li> </ul>	<p>Regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generate CO level interest and participation in the regional campaign</li> <li>- Agreements with CCC members reached on joint activities &amp; resource mobilization</li> </ul> <p>CO: Identify coverage of participation and children/adolescent groups to tap from its ongoing programs and government partners</p>
January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop communications product (poster)</li> <li>- Start of preps for regional forum (agenda/invitation)</li> <li>- TOR for videographer</li> <li>- Connect with Global Children in a Changing Climate Coalition for lead up activities towards Sendai 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start in-country consultations</li> <li>- Identify children/adolescent groups from programme areas</li> <li>- Coordination between CO and CCC partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COs have initiated activities for in-country consultations</li> <li>- Pre-test methodology/facilitation guide</li> <li>- Coordination committee formed</li> </ul>
February 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Print and disseminate posters (online and printed)</li> <li>- Coordinate with COs on ongoing consultations</li> <li>- Provide technical assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In-country consultations</li> <li>- Communication products</li> <li>- Advise RO on Visa and travel preparations for children</li> <li>- Feedback to regional coordinating group on country consultation progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial consultations conducted and feedback provided to RO</li> <li>- Documentation of processes</li> </ul>
March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media training for kids/adolescents</li> <li>- Drafting of children's communique</li> <li>- Footages for video to be produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications event</li> <li>- Media training for kids/adolescents</li> <li>- Consolidation of messages from Children in the focal countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Messages drafted from COs</li> <li>- Communications event organized or commas product develop to highlight Children's</li> </ul>

	- DRR fact sheet	- Feedback to regional coordinating group on country consultation progress	Voices - Children and Adolescents selected for the regional forum and platform - Visa and logistical preparations
April 2014	- Regional forum (online and offline) - Package and circulate draft communique to CCC partners and COs - Print Communique - Media advisory/Human Development Stories - Video draft presented	- Prepare all relevant arrangements for children to travel/participate in skype meeting - Feedback results into COs	- Regional forum is conducted with support from CCC partners and COs - Communications event/stories covered - Communique is finalized and circulated
May - June 2014	- Regional Platform in Egypt - Participation in the meeting (regional and selected children) - Media briefing - Final video presented during the RP	- Prepare children in their participation for the regional platform	- Selected children participate in the Regional Platform on DRR - Communique is submitted to the Regional Platform
June 2014 onwards	- Co-draft monitoring mechanisms at regional and country levels	- Feedback of results into country offices and government partners	- Monitoring mechanism for Children's Voices towards post-2015

#### 9.4. Communications requirements

- Communications strategy will be two-pronged:
  - 1) Increase awareness of DRR and resilience at country and regional level. At country level, this will be taken on by relevant communications person.
    - a. Documentation of consultation process (video/photo/text)
    - b. Media training of children for the Regional Platform
    - c. Social Media
  - 2) Increase visibility of UNICEF and CCCC partners on DRR towards the post-2015 agenda. At the regional level, the Regional Emergency Section will work with the Regional Communications Team in bringing the campaign to work. Liaison with CCCC partners' communications teams and focal points to ensure alignment of messages.
    - a. Media briefing
    - b. Human interest stories
    - c. Social Media
    - d. Video for the Regional Forum and the Regional Platform



#### 9.5. CCC Coalition Focal Points/Regional Coordination Group

- UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
  - Mark Choonoo, Emergency Specialist, [mchoonoo@unicef.org](mailto:mchoonoo@unicef.org)
  - Kathlyn Kissy Sumaylo, DRR/Resilience Specialist, [ksumaylo@unicef.org](mailto:ksumaylo@unicef.org)
- Save the Children:
  - Alex Gray: Regional Humanitarian Manager, Middle East and Eurasia, [alex.gray@savethechildren.org](mailto:alex.gray@savethechildren.org)
  - Soso Bagashvili, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Preparedness Senior Specialist, [sbagashvili@savechildren.org](mailto:sbagashvili@savechildren.org)
- World Vision:
  - Georgina Jordan, Regional Community Resilience Project Coordinator, Middle East and Europe Regional Office, [Georgina\\_Jordan@wvi.org](mailto:Georgina_Jordan@wvi.org)

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