

World Vision's statement to the Global Platform for DRR Geneva, Switzerland 2019

Ms. Mizutori, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The following is a statement by World Vision International, one of the world's largest NGOs and an active partner in building resilience and improving child wellbeing in nearly 100 countries around the world. World Vision (WV) recognizes the strength of the Sendai Framework's cross-sectoral approach that draws upon the experience and skills of a wide variety of stakeholders. Only working together with governments, peer NGOs and the private sector we can collectively address the underlying drivers of disaster risk and transform the systems that keep vulnerable people at risk from devastation.

Zinnia and her baby missed being hit by falling bricks when the December 2016 earthquake shook their home in Kirakira, Solomon Islands. The earthquake alarm sounded and the community evacuated with special care paid to assist the most vulnerable. She joined many people who ran to the hills for safety from aftershocks and a potential tsunami. The decision to flee to the hills was prompted by community preparedness training facilitated by WV. The supplies WV had pre-positioned in three locations meant World Vision was able to immediately assess damages and provide aid in partnership with the local government.

WV is intentional about leaving no one behind so we focus our attention on the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable contexts. Growing inequalities, climate change and the displacement of people has changed the way we look at development and challenged us to find new ways of working. WV is acutely aware of the impact of shocks and disasters on children and notes there is no current frameworks for responding to children displaced by disasters.

With access to knowledge and skills development, and when given the opportunity by adult-decision makers, children can play a vital role in DRR and building community resilience. WV advocates for the inclusion of children and youth in country Sendai reporting and supports integrated approaches to risk reduction education at home, school and in the community. We observe children as active and innovative agents of change and communicators of risk and preparedness. Their participation strengthens sustainable development by empowering next generation leaders to be disaster risk-aware.

World Vision's commitment to strengthen community-level DRR is integrated into WV's community programming approaches. Community-led disaster preparedness and risk reduction increases accountability and ownership in development planning and implementation, and as with the experience of Zinnia, can save lives. Participatory methodologies such as community driven vulnerability and capacity assessments ensure local level delivery of services in contextually appropriate ways. WV invests in collaborative partnerships with government and other service providers to create local level platforms for integrated risk reduction planning. At the Cancun Global Platform, WV Honduras strengthened relations with the government of Honduras to

better implement monitoring mechanisms and jointly apply for OCHA grants. Sendai monitoring with WV is also active in Uganda, Kenya and the Philippines.

WV is committed to further accelerating the implementation of risk-informed sustainable development, in line with the Sendai Framework and SDGs. We are responsive to life-threatening emergencies where our involvement is needed and appropriate. We make evidence-based decisions and impact-led plans for programming and are committed to the following DRR initiatives:

- 1) We maintain our World Humanitarian Summit commitment to aim to reach 20% of all affected children when responding to natural disasters through prioritizing child protection and education in emergencies.
- 2) We will empower children and youth as agents of change by investing in a global campaign to address violence against children including in natural disasters and protracted crises.
- 3) Our privately funded global development portfolio is worth over USD 1 billion per year; to help bridge the relief-development divide, we will allocate up to 20% of development funding as a crisis modifier to prepare and respond to disasters.
- 4) We will continue to strengthen our policies and operational guidance to ensure all investments are climate and risk-informed and responsive.
- 5) We will leverage our influence on disaster policies and strategies and call for states to prioritize DRR and Climate Change Adaptation as part of national development plans and sustainable policies

Thank you for this opportunity, Ms. Mizutori.