



# ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

□ PREVENTING DISASTER RISK: PROTECTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT □

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## Statement of Action:

### Children and Youth Stakeholders

#### 1. Major achievements and challenges observed in the last two years

##### Achievements

##### *Challenges:*

- Limited support and resources mobilized to sustain and scale up DRR-CCA initiatives for children and youth.
- Limited understanding of government and other stakeholders on meaningful participation of girls, boys and youth in decision making processes at different levels
- Integration of DRR-CCA interventions in sectoral policies and plans at all levels

##### *Achievements:*

- Child-centred organisations, specifically UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, and Child Fund, are able to build the capacity of child forums and platforms to ensure adolescent and youth participation in DRR-CCA and other related issues of child rights, health and well-being in Asia and the Pacific Region. As a result, children and youth were consulted during the development of national/sub-national DRR-CCA policies and plans.
- Sound multi-hazard risk assessments, based data that is inclusive and is disaggregated by age, gender and disability in demonstrating risk and resilience assessment that is child-centred and strengthening national and sub-national risk assessment capacity, in many countries like India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Mongolia, Myanmar data collection is being advanced through child-led disaster risk management plans where children map their hazard in schools and in communities and influence the local planning.
- Contributed to raise awareness on the Sendai Framework through the DRR toolkit that is called 'Seeds for Tomorrow Toolkit' that informs on the Sendai Framework and empower children and youth to advocate and implement the Sendai Framework.

- Using innovation and technology in DRR and emergency response, such as collecting disaggregated and real-time data that is inclusive of the participation of children and youth.
- The availability of comprehensive school safety national baseline has been adopted by governments in Asia-Pacific.
- Influenced government (Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Viet Nam, India) to allocate resources for specific needs of children and youth through prepositioning supplies and creating child/youth friendly spaces/services, and provide skills training for psychosocial first aid support.

## **2. Key opportunities identified**

- Opportunities for partnerships with DRR-CCA stakeholders including public-private partnerships and leveraging resources.
- Advancing and scaling up innovations and mobilization of children and youth through online and cyberspace, media and virtual reality, and other technologies.
- Strong commitment from governments to implement Sendai Framework in Asia Regional Plans and recognize meaningful participation of girls, boys and youth in decision making processes.
- Ownership from the inter-government to scale up initiatives on child-centred DRR at the regional level, including the ASEAN Safe Schools initiative.
- Recognition on engagement of youth networks and platforms for DRR-CCA interventions at different levels.

## **3. Commitments to implement the Action Plan 2018-2020**

*Specifically, in the next two years (2019-2020), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2020 AMCDRR:*

- Facilitate the development of inclusive Disaster Risk Management policies and plans for persons with disabilities and involving girls, boys and youth, young key population, young LGBTI+ in the design, implementation and monitoring.
- Systems strengthening of disaster risk reduction by enhancing capacities of governments, civil society organisations, private sector, children and youth, and other stakeholders to ensure child and youth friendly DRR-CCA initiatives.
- Strengthen partnership and collaboration to foster knowledge exchange, data and information sharing, good practices and lessons learned with governments, international, national and sub-national civil society organizations, children and youth organizations and other DRR-CCA stakeholders.

- Ensure evidence-based advocacy to inform policies and programmes in meaningful participation of children and youth in all levels.
- Promote innovation in disaster preparedness and response, climate risk management, and integration of relevant solutions for developing new technologies and methods for disaster risk reduction with/for children and youth.

*To support stakeholders to deliver on our commitments, we call on Governments and other partners to:*

- Further recognize and ensure participation of girls, boys and youth as equal stakeholders in the inclusive policy, planning and implementation processes at all stages and levels, including monitoring of the implementation of Sendai Framework.
- Invest in building capacity of girls, boys and youth on DRR and CCA, equip them with information, knowledge and skills to mobilize them as agents of change.
- Strengthen social protection systems by building the resilience of social and physical infrastructures and ensuring access to basic services that is rights-based and built on proper multi-hazard risk analysis.
- Ensure education continuity during emergencies and implementing the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (i) safe learning facilities, (ii) school disaster management, (iii) risk reduction and resilience education.
- Disaster risk assessments to take into account the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of girls, boys and youth and be integrated into all sectors. (nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, sexual and reproductive health, employment and livelihoods, education, social welfare, child and social protection, child and youth friendly spaces/services etc.)
- Disaster preparedness and response should be strengthened at all levels including national and sub-national level ensuring efficient and timely response during emergencies and takes into account of special needs of girls, boys, adolescents and youth, people with disabilities, young key population, and young LGBTI+.

See Annex I

## **Annex 1**

### **Children and Youth Consultation results to the 7 targets of Sendai Framework for DRR**

#### **SFDRR Target 1 – Substantially Reduce Disaster Mortality by 2030**

- Conduct more systematic awareness raising activities at national and sub-national levels on child-focused DRR, emphasising on the role of children and youth in facilitating peer-to peer-learning and sharing.
- Strengthening of adults to engage children in DRRM to support child-led and youth-led activities in schools and communities.
- Target more schools nationwide to raise children and youth awareness on disaster risk reduction.
- Ensure accuracy of data during individual and family registration and data disaggregation.
- Engage children and youth, as resource persons, for trainings, seminars and workshops on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and child protection.
- Develop child/youth-friendly SFDRR resource material that gives age-appropriate information and skills, and expand its outreach and promotion to geographically isolated and depressed areas.
- Acknowledge children and youth's capacity to engage in SFDRR implementation and monitoring along with their participation in decision-making at all levels.
- Increase investment on disaster preparedness activities, at the local level through village development funds, like disaster drills, safety equipment and risk mitigation measures.
- Expand DRRM to be more inclusive (girls, children with disabilities, indigenous peoples, young key population, young LGBTI+ etc.) by acknowledging the impact of disaster on different population demographic like women and men, girls and boys and people with/without disability. Ensure that prepositioned supplies caters to the needs of children and youth in disaster and emergencies.

#### **SFDRR Target 2 – Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030**

- Engage children and youth in risk assessment, develop disaster preparedness and contingency plans, draw out risk maps and evacuation routes, and facilitate disaster drills at the sub-national level, which includes identifying safe assembly area at schools and communities for children and youth and disseminating the information to them.
- Engage teachers and parents in DRR initiatives to support school and community-based DRR, including child-led and youth-led DRR initiatives, which also cover inclusive risks and collecting/gathering information on hazards.
- Establish children and youth core group/task force to engage children and youth networks that could monitor their peers affected by disasters in the future and report to local authorities for further assistance.
- Strengthen partnerships of schools and the local governments through local disaster risk reduction and management offices.
- Build children and youth life saving skills for emergency as part of social responsibility to help others.
- Conduct nation-wide campaigns on disaster risk reduction and family preparedness targeting families living in high risk and disaster prone areas.
- Provide hazard signage that is easy to read and comprehend and that is understood by the community.
- Engage children and youth, at national and sub-national levels, in integrating environmental protection and restoration in DRR and CCA initiatives.

- Ensure safety at schools, kindergartens, madrasahs and monastic schools etc. and keeping in mind informal school settings, out-of-school youth and NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).
- Add child protection measures in DRR & CCA initiatives at schools and communities.
- Promote youth leadership and volunteer engagement, school based disaster risk management and community and household level disaster risk reduction programmes.

### SFDRR Target 3 – Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to gross domestic product by 2030.

- Ensure risk assessment and mitigation feedback are taken account, as consideration, for infrastructure development at local and national level.
- Organise sustainable activities for community programmes such as 'Cash for Work' and livelihood programmes and fundraising activities for DRRM, plus recycling activities.
- Accelerate village development, especially infrastructural development such as access to stable power and Internet connection, as channels, for communities to access accurate and real-time information on DRR and emergency.
- Provide financial literacy initiatives for children and youth, even adults.
- Provide capacity building on sustainable entrepreneurship for youth and community groups, to immediately bounce back post emergency.
- Engage children and youth groups to gather information on loss in agricultural sector due to disaster within their community.
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### SFDRR Target 4 – Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

- Organise annual school assessment on safety to regularly assess the school's preparedness.
- Provide other alternative places for evacuation centres. School must be the last resort or option for evacuation centres so that classes are not disrupted when disaster strikes. There should be safety inspection conducted before the classes resume.
- Encourage more volunteers to participate in reconstruction and rebuilding after disasters.
- Engage students to create wide monitoring networks to monitor and report education and health facility status, in their neighbourhood, to the authorities, before and after a disaster.
- Ensure safe spaces for adolescent and youth to learn livelihood skills, socialize with friends to rebuild social networks, enjoy creative outlets such as art and dance, receive psychosocial counselling, obtain gender-based violence response services, learn about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and where to find services, discuss and deal with sensitive issues including HIV, early pregnancy, early and forced marriage and other topics, to cope new realities and support their overall development and wellbeing.

### SFDRR Target 5– Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020

- Advocate for child representation in government disaster risk reduction and management committees/councils.
- Strengthen youth leadership and participation in governments, DRR committees, and other stakeholder engagements.

- Ensure continuous participation and consultation of children and youth in meetings, planning, mapping, assessment and implementation while developing DRRM strategies.
- Look for opportunities, locally and internationally, that offer semi/fully funded conferences and exchange programmes for direct implementation of DRRM strategies.
- Encourage elected politicians and national agencies to be child-centred.
- Ensure that all DRR initiatives are child friendly and disability inclusive.
- Allocate funding to implement DRR interventions.

**SFDRR Target 6 – Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of present framework by 2030.**

- Adopt or replicate best practices, by government, for example, nomination of Most Child-friendly Villages.
- Ensure partnership and collaboration with local and international organisations, in DRR and CCA, as platform for sharing information, building greater connection and partnership with civil society/ youth led disaster risk reduction and management programmes and activities.
- Conduct summit or congress for children, at all levels, to present children and youth disaster risk reduction and management good practices.
- Preposition supplies that cater to the specific needs of children and youth, especially the needs of girls and young women and their ability to access age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate information and services for their health and well-being, including sexual and reproductive health.

**SFDRR Target 7 – Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.**

- Post, regular, information on early warning systems, signage and conduct disaster drills.
- Establish more early warning devices like siren, megaphones and traditional devices, then conduct proper orientation within communities.
- Involve children and youth in developing DRRM IEC materials for people with disability and indigenous people, translated into local dialects.
- Accelerate village infrastructure/facilities development such as power, telecommunication, and Internet services as channels for community's access to accurate and real-time information on DRR and emergency.
- Use of integrated communication technologies for DRR and CCA including mobile technology, internet and social media for early warning alerts, information-sharing, risk mapping and incidents reporting.