

Findings from Children & Youth Consultations

During May-June 2018, there were Children and Youth consultation workshops organized in Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Vietnam by network of child focused organizations in the countries referred. In total, there were 932 children and youth¹ participated in the consultation through focus group discussions. An addition of 2,900 children and youth respondent also participated through social messaging platform survey in Myanmar. Children with hearing impairment also participated in consultation workshop in Vietnam.² Here are what we found from all off children and youth participants through the consultation processes:

1. On Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) Target and Indicators

During consultation workshops in **China**, **Cambodia**, and **Sri Lanka**, children and youth shared explicit need to understand more about SFDRR. They also willing to look for more materials available and study it further so that they could share it to their peers and family. Having child/youth friendly resources and opportunities to learn more about SFDRR also raised by youth attending consultation workshops in those three countries and **Indonesia** and **Mongolia**. Furthermore, participants in Mongolia also identified various child/youth friendly solution to it such as using pictures, comics, drama and storytelling. While in **Indonesia**, C&Y participants also identified the significant use of social media to promote disaster preparedness, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and SFDRR. In **Myanmar**, before C&Y consultation workshop, a social messaging based questionnaire was used to reach 19,000 registered C&Y respondent across **Myanmar**. About 2,900 respondent answered it. More than 90% of respondent said that they are not aware of SFDRR but really want to contribute in its implementation and monitoring. In the **Philippines**, children and youth emphasize their experience in major disaster events that affected them in the past as strong basis to engage them as agent of change in resilience building. In **Vietnam**, all C&Y participants were able to relate their experience in school based DRR to the SFDRR. Moreover, C&Y willing to help adults to gather information needed to monitor the SFDRR. In **Nepal**, we found that, school based DRR initiatives had enabled children to be active promoter of DRR and Preparedness in their family and community. This has also enabled them to connect with wider scope of DRR policy and implementation that they observed from the lowest level of governance structure in their country up to national level. These findings summed up huge potential, energy and enthusiasm of children and youth in Asia to contribute to the implementation of SFDRR and its monitoring in the future.

2. Children and Youth willingness to support the monitoring of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)

Children and youth consider themselves as active member of their community. Despite limitation in technical knowledge about SFDRR targets and indicators, children and youth are committed and willing to contribute to the implementation of SFDRR at their countries including its monitoring. During consultation workshops, all children and youth participants in **China** and **Myanmar** stated that they are willing to contribute in the SFDRR targets by: learning more about SFDRR, setting up participating team at schools (China); promoting youth volunteer engagement, School Based Disaster Risk Management and Community & Household level disaster risk reduction programs (Myanmar). In **Mongolia**, children and youth identify themselves as important agents of change that contribute to disaster risk reduction programs and policies in disaster risk reduction at local and national level. In **Cambodia**, majority of C&Y consultation workshop participants also stated their willingness to support the monitoring of SFDRR. Various ways of actions identified by children and youth such as: using mass media and online portal to monitor information regarding DRR, participating in studies, village/community meetings, set up village youth networks, village level monitoring, connect with local authorities, and working as peer educators to raise awareness about SFDRR and DRR. In **Indonesia**, similar ways also

¹ Consist of 402 male, 473 female and 57 participants with unidentified gender as one of country report we receive did not present segregated data on this.

² Six children with disabilities attended consultation workshop in Vietnam (3 male and 3 female).

identified by children and youth to contribute. Promotion of preparedness, Climate Change Adaptation and SFDRR through social media and peer to peer support at schools and village; Engagement in risk assessment, development risk map and evacuation route, and disaster drill at local level, Lead the monitoring on village development implementation with basis consideration on gender and inclusiveness. In **Sri Lanka**, it was as well that majority of children and youth are willing to contribute in the monitoring processes. Children and youth identified that being observer they could report to authorities or the media and take active role in participation as community led volunteer works for local risk reduction and community awareness rising. In the **Philippines**, children and youth emphasize their willingness to work with governments officials and structures in policy making, implementation and monitoring of DRM programs, at community level as well as school based disaster management initiatives. In **Vietnam**, children and youth are willing to contribute in the process of data gathering for SFDRR monitoring in collaboration with adults. While in **Nepal**, all consultations participants also confirmed their willingness to take part in the SFDRR monitoring.

3. Children and Youth contribution and capacities on how they are able to/can reduce disaster risk for themselves, their peers, families and others in schools and communities

As Asian countries would focus on target (e) of the SFDRR, “**Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020,**” it is obvious that children and youth enthusiasm and willingness to contribute in SFDRR implementation at country level would help national authorities develop realistic and grounded national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. Children and youth willingness to be peer educators, village volunteers, and school DRR initiatives actors would enable government authorities builds its DRR strategy in a very participatory manners and make the strategy as inclusive as possible. Our experience in organizing children and youth consultation workshops taught us that children and youth deserve to be heard in DRR governance and policy making. They could provide insights and ideas that are very creative, out of the box and grounded at the very basic of their daily life as part of communities across the country that has been experiencing and affected by disasters. Children and youth also very well informed and has been actively engaged in using internet, social media and other information and communication technology that would enable them to build strong networking, information sharing and opinion making at local, sub-national and national level. School based DRR initiatives, combined with community led DRR programming has made our children and youth as critical **go to partner** for governments in building its DRR strategy as well as protecting life and livelihoods of the people from the impact of disasters in the future. As children also aware that they are not an expert, their ability to share feelings, problems and seek ways to address those from their perspective would be very helpful for adults at policy making position, to ensure that children and youth voices incorporated in the DRR policy and programming.

4. Children and Youth recommendations detailing specific calls for the inclusion of their rights, needs, and capacities on DRR in the 7 targets and indicators of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The following are compilation of recommendations from various C&Y country consultation workshops in **Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Vietnam**:

(a.) SFDRR Target I – Substantially Reduce Disaster Mortality by 2030

- Conduct more systematic awareness raising activities at local and sub-national levels on child focused DRR, emphasizing on the role of children and youth and facilitate learning sharing among them.
- Target more schools nationwide to raise children and youth awareness on disaster risk reduction.
- Ensure accuracy of data on individual and family registration and disaggregation of data.
- Engage children and youth as resource person for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and child protection trainings, seminars, workshops.
- Ensure development of child/youth friendly SFDRR book and expand the outreach and promotion of the book to remote areas.

- Acknowledge C&Y capacity to engage in SFDRR implementation and monitoring, as well as C&Y participation in any kind of decision making forum at different level.
- Increase investment on disaster preparedness activities at local level through village development fund such as disaster drill, safety equipment and risk mitigation measures.
- Expand DRRM to be more inclusive (girls, children with disabilities, indigenous peoples, etc.) by acknowledgement of different impact of disaster faced by woman/man, girl/boys and people with/without disability thus will create different needs to be addressed in disaster preparedness and emergency.

(b.) SFDRR Target 2 – Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030

- Engage children and youth in risk assessment, development of risk map and evacuation route, and facilitate disaster drills at local level. This should include identification of safe assembly area at schools and communities for children and youth and dissemination of the location to them.
- Engage teachers and parents in DRR initiatives to support school and community based DRR, which also cover inclusive risks and hazards information collection/gathering.
- Children core group/task force could be established to engage children and youth network that could monitor their peers affected by disasters in the future and report it to the authorities for further assistance.
- Strengthen Partnerships of schools and the LGUs through their Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils.
- Build children and youth skills needed for saving live during an emergency situation, i.e. Facilitate trainings on emergency response for youth and community group at local level as part of volunteerism and social responsibility to help others, or survival swimming trainings at flood prone communities.
- Conduct nation-wide campaigns on disaster risk reduction and family preparedness to disaster events targeting families living in disaster prone areas.
- Provision of hazards signage at hazardous areas.
- Integrate environmental protection and restoration in DRR and CCA initiatives (re-planting trees, clean up rivers, waste management, and water management) by engaging children and youth in various level (local, sub-national and national).
- Ensure safety at schools and kindergartens.
- Add Child Protection measures in DRR & CCA initiatives at schools and communities.
- Promote youth volunteer engagement, School Based Disaster Risk Management and Community & Household level disaster risk reduction programs.

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

- Ensure risk assessment and mitigation are taken account as consideration for infrastructure development at local and national level
- Organize activities for sustainable projects for communities such as Cash for Work and Livelihood programs and fundraising activities for DRRM, plus recycling activities
- Accelerate village development in infrastructure such as power and internet connection as channel for community in village level to access accurate and real-time information on DRR and emergency.
- Provide financial literacy initiatives to children and youth, even adults.
- Provide capacity building on sustainable entrepreneurship for youth and community groups and its marketing network as part of resiliency capacity of people to immediately bounce back in post emergency.
- Engage children and youth groups to gather information of loss in agriculture sector due to disaster in their community.

(d.) SFDRR Target 4 – Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including through developing their resilience by 2030.

- Organize Annual School Assessment on safety, (i.e fire safety, chairs, building, electrical etc.) to regularly assess school facilities
- Provide other places for Evacuation Centers, school must be the last resort or option as evacuation center so that the classes will not be disrupted and after the disaster strikes, there should be safety inspection conducted before the classes resume
- Encourage more volunteer for reconstruction and building after disasters.
- Engage students to create wide monitoring network to monitor and report education and health facilities status in their neighborhood to the authorities, before and after disaster happened.

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

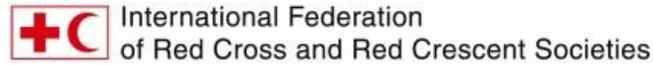
- Child representatives must always be present and involved in government Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee.
- Ensure continuous participation and consultation of children and youth in meetings, planning, mapping, assessment, and implementation in developing DRRM strategies.
- Look for opportunities locally and internationally that offer semi/ fully funded conferences and exchange programs for direct implementation of DRRM strategies.
- Elected politicians and national agencies should always be child centered.
- Ensure that all DRR initiatives, whether it is based at schools or communities, are child friendly and disability inclusive.
- Allocate funding to implement DRR interventions.

(f.) 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.

- Government to adopt or replicate the best practices like the search for the most child-friendly Villages.
- Ensure partnership and collaboration with local and international organizations for a larger scope of support and network in DRR and CCA as platform for sharing information of different countries, build greater connection and partnership with civil society/ youth led Disaster Risk Reduction and Management programs and activities.
- Conduct summit or congress at all levels for children to present children and youth Disaster Risk Reduction and Management good practices.

(g.) 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.

- Continuous putting up of Early Warning Systems, signage and conduct disaster drills.
- Establish more early warning devices like siren, megaphones and traditional devices, then conduct proper orientations in communities
- Involve children and youth in developing DRRM IEC materials for persons with disabilities including children and youth with disability and indigenous peoples. These should be translated in local dialects.
- Accelerate village development in infrastructure such as power and internet connection as channel for community in village level to access accurate and real-time information on DRR and emergency.



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- Use of Integrated Communication Technologies for DRR and CCA including mobile technology, internet and social media for Early Warning, information sharing, risk mapping, and incident reporting.

Together with all other Children and Youth focused organizations, we are sincerely appeal to governments and/or other duty bearers, private sectors, INGOs, CSOs to give children and youth a chance to become active constituents in your inclusive DRR efforts in the Asia region.

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