



Children and Youth Stakeholder Action Statements

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

New Delhi, November 2016

We, the Children and Youth Stakeholder Group consist of three major coalitions:

- 1. The UN Major Group for Children and Youth, (UNGA created facilitating entity for children and youth in UN negotiations, established through Agenda 21 in 1992)*
- 2. The Children in Changing Climate Coalition (CCC) (includes Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision and Child Fund, established in 2007)*
- 3. The Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety (APCSS) (includes ADPC, IFRC, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, UNESCO, and UNICEF, established in 2012).*

We are here to contribute to the implementation, and follow up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). The framework specifically states that “*children and youth are agents of change*”. We also recognize the important commitments to reducing disaster risk addressed in the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs.

Recognizing the Sendai Framework principle of ‘an all of society engagement in DRR’ and given our continued engagement in the Asian region including through the IAP and AMCDRR, we are here to build on commitments in support of the Sendai Framework.

In 2015 nearly half of the disasters recorded globally occurred in Asia. This has devastating impacts on all the three pillars of sustainable development – environment, social and economic. The Asian region bears 42% of the global financial impact, 83% of the global

disaster mortality, and 86% of the affected people in disasters. Moreover, climate change is compounding the risks for this generation and the next.

We are here to show that children and youth are not just vulnerable; rather youth and children are part of the solution. Children and youth possess unique capacity to contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR), respond to disasters and humanitarian crises, and build resilience. They are dynamic, resourceful, innovative and fast learners. Moreover, children and youth have the right for their needs to met and participate in decisions affecting them.

To get a youth and child perspective, during 2016 several National and Regional Consultations were conducted with children and youth in countries in Asia and the Pacific. Through these, children and youth outlined how they contribute to DRR and CCA, including participatory risk assessment of the school and their communities, school preparedness, and participation in decision-making and policy design at all levels.

We, the Children and Youth Stakeholder Group, hereby commit to the following actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework:

1. Support children and youth to raise awareness of risk and identify practical actions to strengthen resilience including through their active engagement in social media, within their communities and through various networks.
2. Advocate and support boy's, girl's and youth's equal participation in the role out, monitoring and evaluation of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national and local levels.
3. Provide and support capacity building opportunities and equip children and youth with knowledge and skills on DRR, CCA and resilience.
4. Support government ministries in committing to ensuring education continuity and implementing the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF); (i) safe learning facilities, (ii) school disaster management, (iii) risk reduction and resilience education.
5. Support national and local government sector development plans, including child protection, health, education and social protection to be risk informed and contribute to resilient development.
6. Promote boy's and girl's, especially the most vulnerable, meaningful and equal participation in disaster risk management policy and decision-making at all levels.

Specifically, in the next two years (2017-2018), we commit to undertake the following actions and report back at the 2018 AMCDRR:

1. Spearheading innovative and scalable models and sharing technical expertise on children and youth-centered DRR to build community resilience.
2. To promote comprehensive school safety including through knowledge sharing and tools and technical guidance supporting national and regional initiatives and established networks such as the APCSS.
3. Work with youth organizations, including medical students, young scientists, youth groups, and first responders to align their projects with the SFDRR priority areas.
4. Through effective advocacy and generation of evidence-based knowledge we will facilitate the participation of youth as equal stakeholders in the IAP and AMCDRR, regional platforms and High Level Political Forums.
5. Work collaboratively towards more systematic and coherent risk assessment that is child-sensitive, strengthens existing national and local planning processes and informs sector plans – including health, education, child protection, and social protection.

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

- 1) Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on loss and damage by age, disability, and gender and promote child/youth sensitive risk assessment to inform policy and programming.
- 2) Ensure children and youth have access to age-appropriate information on disaster risks, climate impacts and relevant policy frameworks.
- 3) Strengthen mechanisms and dedicated spaces to ensure the gender balanced and meaningful participation of children and youth, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework at all levels.
- 4) Strengthen national and local development plans so that children and youth enjoy their rights to access basic social services, including child protection, before, during and after crises.
- 5) Strengthen the integration of DRR into formal and non-formal education and ensure continued access to quality education including drawing on the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.
- 6) Implement evidence-based and innovative policies that discourage underlying risk factors, such as climate change, conflict, inequality, and unplanned urbanization.