Committing to Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction:

An Opportunity at the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

What Children Want:
A Resilient Future

World Vision is determined to ensure that in addressing disaster risk, the well-being of children is always the first priority. In the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction process, World Vision is hopeful that a lasting platform will be created for the well-being of children and their communities. To ensure that this happens, World Vision has been advocating for children's interests, needs and rights to be safeguarded from natural hazards, such as droughts and floods, as well as social hazards and stresses, like violent conflict. We have advocated to reduce the drivers of vulnerabilities to ensure that children and their communities who are vulnerable to risks, can bounce back better. Based on ongoing consultations with children across the globe[1] , key priorities have been identified to support a child friendly post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) .

We have been advocating for the inclusion of children and their needs in the post-2015 Framework for DRR, in partnership with key child-centred organisations[2].

Equipping children and their parents/caregivers with the basic knowledge on disaster management helps reduce risks and negative impact on children's lives. Zin is demonstrating to other children what he has learned from the disaster training.

[1] Consultations took place in: 2011 with more than 600 children from 21 hazard-prone countries; in 2013 with 662 girls and 637 boys in 17 countries and through the Regional Platforms in the lead up to the World Conference for DRR.
[2] The Children in a Changing Climate coalition consists of: Child Fund, Plan International, Save the Children, Unicef and World Vision International.

Specifically World Vision asks that the post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) includes:

> " School should send a note to mothers asking their permission so we can go to DRR activities. "
> Anon, boy from El Salvador

1. **Children's participation:** Ensure their voices and perspectives are reflected in local disaster risk reduction and development plans. As children are most vulnerable to shocks and stresses and constitute up to 50 per cent of a community, government authorities should ensure systematic and active children participation in all proposals for community-based risk reduction projects.

> " The first thing that needs to be ensured is the protection of children. Otherwise there will be no education or anything else. "
> Moges, boy from Ethiopia

2. **Establishing or reinforce child protection legislation:** Ensure that the most vulnerable children, particularly those living outside family care as a result of shocks and stresses is highly reduced.

> " I want good and strong buildings that will not break easily. "
> Hillary, female, Zambia

3. **Making schools safe from disasters:** Adopt and implement the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) to protect learners and education workers, ensure uninterrupted safe learning environments for children, and safeguard education sector investment.

> " School children have better information than other people in the family and children who are not attending the school. People in urban areas have more information than those in rural areas. Also people associated with NGOs have more information regarding disaster. "
> Dharamveer, boy from India

4. **Building life skills and ensure access to knowledge and information:** Empower children and youth, with specific life skills. Considering age, sex, disability, and social group, that will enable them to prepare for, respond, and adapt to the impacts of shocks and stresses, as well as contribute to innovations in community-led disaster management.

World Vision's Asks for the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

> " There should be a curriculum for students in high risk areas where [in the event of a disaster] they are not able to attend class. We ask them to take us into account so that we can pass our classes with high grades and learn all the knowledge that our teachers want to teach us. "
>
> Paola, girl from Nicaragua

5. **Ensuring that all children, especially the most vulnerable[3] have access to quality services** related to health, education, water supply and sanitation, protection and security to minimize their vulnerability to shocks and stresses.

> " The government should help us improve the drainage systems at our school because we have tried several times but encounter more challenges. "
>
> Kwenda, boy from Zambia

6. **Increasing accountability:** Ensure a clear accountability mechanism at the national level, especially with respect to compliance by local, sub-national and national authorities with supporting legislation and joint reporting with civil society.

> " Differentiating vulnerability is important. Older and younger people need to participate. Knowing vulnerability status is very important. "
>
> Tadese, boy from Ethiopia

7. **Taking up risk-informed development planning:** Include children's vulnerabilities and capacities. National risk assessments and all development designs and activities should be built on child-sensitive risk assessments and include age and gender specific vulnerability indicators.

Together these calls from children and youth represent their vision of a future that values their needs and those of their communities. World Vision supports their calls in order to ensure child wellbeing.

Youth club leader Noeun Hun, 21, and her youth group in Cambodia are having their monthly meeting to reflect their achievements and create a new quarter plan of action. Hun and her youth group have played an important role to advocate for change within the community on issues including: domestic violence, value of education, child and mother health, human trafficking and immigration.

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[3] World Vision defines the most vulnerable children (MVCs) as children whose quality of life and ability to fulfil their potential are most affected by extreme deprivation and violations of their rights. These children often live in catastrophic situations and relationships characterised by violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, exclusion and discrimination, WVI Public Policy Positions 2013

World Vision's Commitments to the Post 2015 Framework for DRR

400+ primary school children in Indonesian, which was hit by the 2004 Tsunami learn to act quickly, protect themselves and help others during emergencies, thanks to training their teachers received after the tsunami.

Supporting governments in risk reduction planning and implementation, and including children's needs and rights to participation.

We commit to:

✓ Facilitate development of child-sensitive risk assessment and planning tools, guidance, and frameworks

✓ Provide technical assistance in the integration of DRR in government sectoral plans and programs

✓ Strengthen capacity of national, sub-national and local governments in undertaking preparedness, mitigation, and response measures.

World Vision is ensuring that our development programmes prepare to manage risks, shocks and stresses – be they natural, such as droughts, or social, such as conflict and market price spikes. We work in partnership with a range of key stakeholders such as: community members; children; the private sector; faith based organisations; academic, scientific and multilateral agencies. Further, World Vision works in partnership to strengthen the capacity of national, sub-national and local governments to ensure that basic social services and governance structures contribute to children's wellbeing.

World Vision continues to commit to reduce risks through: our work in development and humanitarian country programming; improving our own organisational capacities; and our local, national and international risk reduction and resilience[4] advocacy.

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[4] Resilience is defined by World Vision in 2010 as the capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by changing or resisting, reaching and maintaining an acceptable level of functioning and structure. It is the capacity of a community to grow through disasters, or 'bounce-back plus'. Resilience is determined in part by the degree to which the social system is capable of organising itself to increase its capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures.

Ensuring our local development programming is promoting child-centred disaster risk reduction.

We commit to:

✓ **Include children's participation in our programme designs, implementation and monitoring and evaluation through child clubs.** The catalytic effects of engaging and educating children and young people in risk reduction has been shown to influence family, community and local government practices that reduce vulnerability to future risk. As disasters significantly impact the wellbeing of children, child-centred DRR is grounded in the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means it focuses on children's rights to protection, participation, survival and development in the face of natural and social hazards and stresses. This is of critical importance in both peaceful and conflict affected contexts.

✓ **Combine sector programmes to address root causes of vulnerability built on multi-hazard risk assessments and regular context monitoring.** Child-centred community risk and vulnerability assessments addressing natural and human-induced hazards, are increasingly being incorporated into the design of World Vision's programmes. This approach allows World Vision to integrate sector programmes to build the foundations of resilient livelihoods with the aim of enabling parents and caregivers to provide well for their children. In addition, a consistent focus on context monitoring at the local level is being promoted through a real time Early Warning and Early Action system that enables a more responsive and flexible approach to programming that can adapt based on predicted future risk scenarios.

✓ **Provide children and young people with access to uninterrupted education in safe environments and skills to keep them and their communities safe.** We commit to advocating for the uptake of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSS) across our development work as well as among key stakeholders. This includes: safe learning facilities to allow children to learn in safe and secured conditions; disaster management for schools that enable children to assess, plan, prepare to respond to disasters, shocks and stresses; integration of DRR into curriculum and extracurricular activities that will increase children knowledge and capacities on risk management.

In the Dominican Republic, World Vision is partnering with other organisation to teach disaster preparedness in schools. Girls demonstrate how to lift a person who has been injured in a disaster.

Enhancing World Vision's organisational capacities to embed risk management so that staff skills, organisational systems, strategies and structures are risk smart.

We commit to:

✓ **At least 70% of all national and regional World Vision offices to report on 'resilience-related' strategies, programmes and activities[5].** This number will increase over the next five years.

✓ **Investing in our reporting mechanisms to provide increased evidence of the impact of risk reduction for child wellbeing.**
National Office performance metrics and annual child well-being reporting has strengthened efforts to track outcomes for household resilience[6]. In our future reporting, World Vision will focus on ensuring that the perspectives of the most excluded and vulnerable are included, that findings are better disaggregated by sex, age, disability and social differences, and that beneficiaries, including children play an increasingly active role in our assessment process[7].

✓ **Institutionalising an early warning/early action system at multiple levels.** Such systems can enhance resilience and reduce the need for external humanitarian response when they target decision-makers at multiple levels (local community programming, National Office and Regional Office strategy, donors, United Nations and more) and provide them with relevant management information of potential risk scenarios and recommended early actions. World Vision's experience, through real-time risk monitoring, has led to early management decisions for preparedness and mitigation and, in some cases, early response to prevent a disaster becoming a humanitarian crisis. We will continue to scale up our innovations in early warning and early action.

✓ **Capitalise on risk awareness within in the aftermath of a disaster.** World Vision's experience suggests that effective integration of risk reduction into programming was enabled by a growing interest in building resilience after a disaster. It is important to take all opportunities to champion risk reduction integration into programming, organisational procedures, policy and advocacy during the aftermath of a disaster. We will continue to invest in incorporating lessons from previous emergencies into disaster recovery strategies.

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[5] Resilience-related activities ranged from risk assessments to design programming to discrete DRR projects through a specific sector.
[6] Household resilience: this level is the primary area where change needs to take place in order to bring about 'sustained child wellbeing'. We understand resilience as the promotion of integrated programmes that take a systems approach to address the underlying causes of vulnerability. The high-level outcomes of such an approach empower and enable households / families to: Absorb shocks and stresses; Adapt to a changing environment and Transform risk into opportunities - though effective economic growth, access to financial services and markets, access to public services and a transformed enabling environment promoting progress out of poverty.
[7] World Vision UK (2013) Impact Report 2013.

Advocating for Children's Rights in the post 2015 framework.

We commit to:

✓ Advocate for effective and equitable disaster risk management systems through key international processes, such as: Global Platform on DRR, World Conference on DRR, the G7 Summit (June 2015), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, World Humanitarian Summit and the Habitat III.

✓ Work in partnership using evidence for effective advocacy on risk reduction, namely through the Children in a Changing Climate coalition and its regional arms[8].

✓ Work through the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES) to achieve school safety.

World Vision child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction training in Mindanao promotes child participation and highlights community experience. Children, village leaders, and health workers learn how they can work together to foster resilience and disaster preparedness in their communities.

Together these commitments to the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction reinforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child. More than 194 Member States have ratified and are currently reporting on their progress in the implementation of the Convention and the status of child rights in their country (See Article 6 Survival/Development; Article 12 Respect of views of the child; Article 13 Freedom of Expression; Article 28 Education).

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[8] Children in a Changing Climate Coalition Regional arms: Asia sub-group of the Children in a Changing Climate Coalition , Coalicion para la resiliencia de la ninez y la juventud de Latinoamerica y el Caribe (CORELAC), Middle East and North Africa Regional Children in a Changing Coalition, and the Africa Regional Education Sector Working Group.

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For more information please visit:

http://www.wvi.org/disaster-risk-reduction

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