

# guardians of the planet

## Asia Pacific Children and Youth Voices on Climate Crisis and Disaster Risk Reduction



We are here because we realize the urgent need for empowerment of youth and children of our country to be highly involved and consulted in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management including climate crisis planning and programming.” **Philippines Children and Youth representatives, November 2019**

### CHILDREN & YOUTH CONSULTATION

	Online	Face-to-face
Bangladesh	1,413	229
Cambodia	-	79
China	829	
India	2,759	646
Indonesia	2,234	16
Laos	-	38
Mongolia	-	66
Myanmar	46	64
Nepal	800	108
Pakistan	56	-
Philippines	131	52
Solomon Islands	-	65
Regional (Thailand)	-	50

**9,681** children and youth

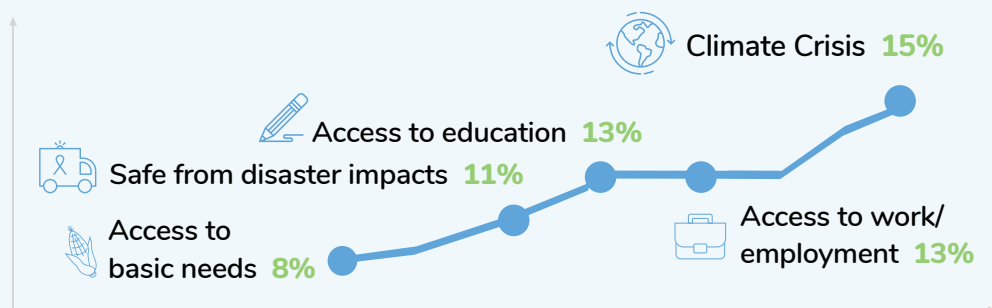
ONLINE  
**8,268**

F2F  
**1,413**

**50.2%** boys  
**49.6%** girls  
**0.2%** others

Consultation period: Aug 2019 - Jan 2020

### TOP 5 CONCERNS for future by children & youth



**93%** of children and youth see Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change adaptation as an important issue

### CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE NOT STRANGERS TO CLIMATE CRISIS

**77%** of children and youth have noticed more climate related disasters locally in the last two years

**99%** of children and youth have experiencing disaster risks in the past 12 months

# Who is most vulnerable during disasters?



18% children & youth

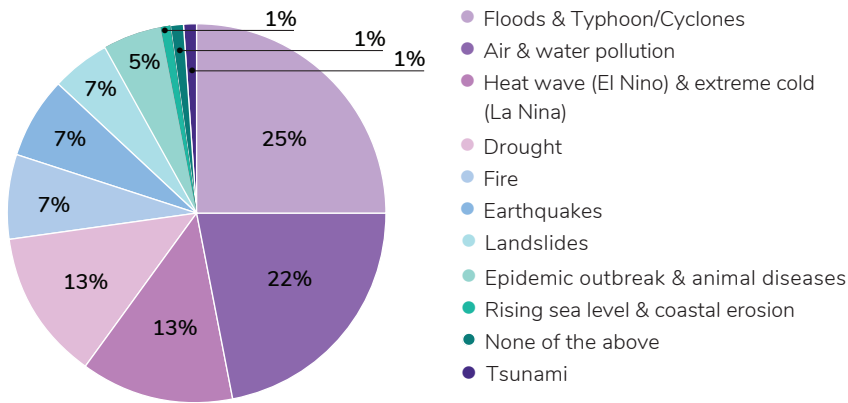


17% elderly



13% people with physical disability

## C&Y's Disaster Risk Experienced in past 12 months



## Call for Inclusive Approach to DRR and CCA Processes

**45%** thinks children and youth with disabilities are not given enough support to prepare for disasters.

Children and youth with disability faces lots of challenges in context of disaster risk reduction.

### Challenges for C&Y with disability in the community in the context of DRR

Limited access to education	24%
Mobility difficulties/physical limitation	18%
Social distance/ignorance from people	14%
Prone to illness, malnutrition or abuse	9%
Not able to be independent (Separation from parents/caregivers)	8%
Limited understanding on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction	7%
Cost of inclusion	6%
Difficulty in adjusting to a new neighbourhood or community	6%
Limited language of proficiency	4%
Lack of space	4%

## Strengthen Education Curriculum on Climate Change Adaptation

Majority of children and youth thinks they have above average awareness and knowledge on understanding the climate crisis and DRR, learning from different channels.

**21%** via formal education, and it is particularly significant in the younger age groups

**15%** via news

**13%** via social media

Children and youth recommended that governments develop curriculum towards resilience building and include DRR and climate change topics in the school syllabuses.

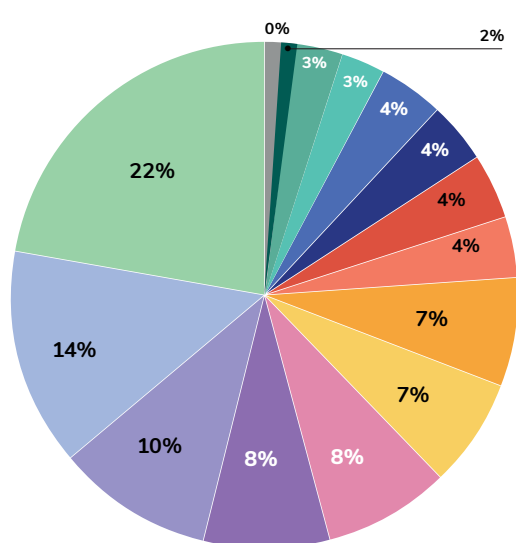
## Mainstream and Localize Children and Youth Voices in Climate Discussions

Children & Youth emphasizes the urgent need to **empower** them and be given the opportunity to be heard and involved. They recognize their **potential as agents of change** among peers and can contribute to **community resilience building**, averting and mitigating the climate crisis.

Children and youth called for **inclusive approach to DRR and CCA** processes, increased participation on the policy and framework for DRR and CCA including their involvement in DRR and CCA activities. There is urgent need for **mainstreaming and localization of children and youth** in DRR and climate discussions through a similar platform.

Governments and stakeholders should strengthen opportunity to **hear children and youth voices in policy processes**, including setting up more formal platforms and communication channels between policy makers and children and youth. Children and youth see themselves are "guardians of the planet." They want to give voice and take action on the Climate Crisis.

# What can C&Y do to help address climate crisis & disaster risk?



- I do not know
- Eat less meat/go vegan
- Join the climate school strikes
- Go on strikes against industries harming the environment
- Be more sensitive to needs and challenges of special groups
- Advocate for policies that address climate change and promote DRR
- Actively involve in related curriculum development and awareness campaign
- Consume locally grown products
- Choose public transport or walk cycle if possible
- Eat moderate (avoid food wastage)
- Influence peer/communities positively to address climate crisis and disaster risk
- Use less water & electricity
- Equipped myself with knowledge on climate crisis & DRR
- Say NO to plastics & straws
- Plant more trees

## Recommendations

Children and youth recognized the need to strengthen policies and plans to reduce disaster risks and address further risks.

Current initiatives of the government to prevent and mitigate disaster risks and climate crisis are observed but it is not enough.

All stakeholders, including governments, civil societies, the private sectors and communities, have a responsibility to step up actions against the climate crisis.

### Governments

- Make strong policies and plans for DRR and CCA
- Invest and allocate resources for DRR and CCA initiatives
- Ensure strict implementation of law and polices
- Provide platforms for children to speak on DRR and CCA
- Develop school curriculum towards resilience building
- Make inclusive school safety planning compulsory in every school

### Civil societies

- Provide linkages to the government and people
- Conduct eco-friendly activities and conserve the environment
- Include participation of children and youth in the consultations for regional and global platforms

### Private sector

- Protect the environment
- Should be given heavy taxes on non-renewable resources
- Contribute and help in mitigating greenhouse gases

The children and youth would like governments, NGOs and stakeholders to include children and youth by allowing them to participate, have their voices on DRR and climate issues heard and raised across various forums platforms – locally and internationally.

They also called for all state leaders to prioritize the future of children in their countries and join hands to help other countries that are experiencing crisis/disasters as well as working together to reduce the risks.