



guardians of the planet

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



Acknowledgments

This report is a joint effort of many individuals across national and regional offices of World Vision, Plan International, Save the Children and UNICEF, as well as communities and national partner organisations.

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Acronyms

APCSS	Asia Pacific Coalition for School Safety
APMCDRR	Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBO	Community-based organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CRC	Child Rights Coalition
C&Y	Children and Youth
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PLAN	Plan International
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
Save	Save the Children
SFDRR	Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction
WV	World Vision
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas



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Background

Asia and the Pacific is home to 4 billion people, representing 60% of the world's population. It also contains many vulnerable areas to the climate crisis.



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Report highlights and summary

In Asia and the Pacific, from August 2019 to January 2020, a total of 9,681 children and youth from over 12 countries voiced out their views and opinions on climate disasters. They summarized roles and responsibility of stakeholders in addressing climate crisis, while pointed out children can be agent of change.



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Introduction

Given the heightened vulnerability of children and youth in disaster situations, consideration of how best to uphold children and youth's rights, and ensure their full participation, is imperative in considering how to effectively prepare for and reduce the risks of disasters.



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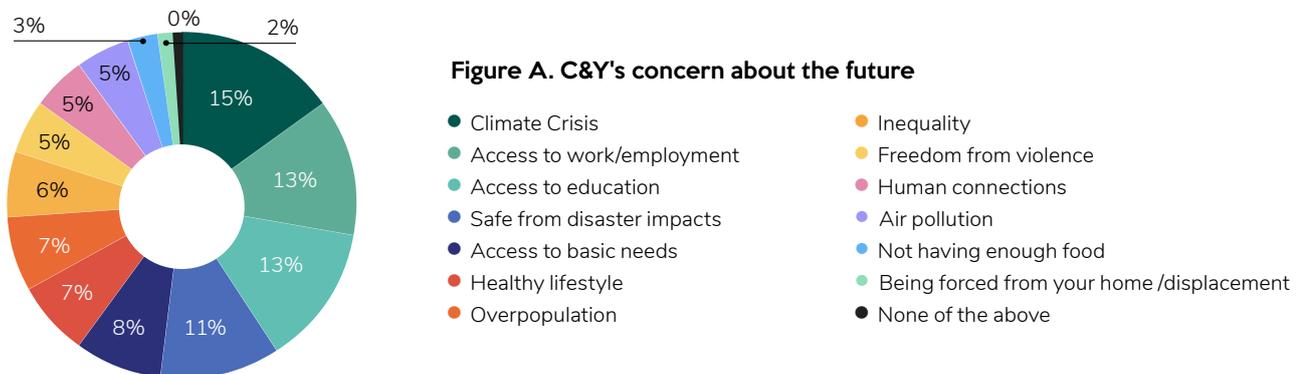
“We are here because we realize the urgent need for empowerment of youth and children of our country to be highly involved and consulted in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management including climate crisis planning and programming.”

Philippines Children and Youth
representatives, November 2019

Children and Youth are no strangers to the Climate Crisis

The worldwide youth movement that brought over 10 million people to the streets in September 2019, is calling on people across the world to take part in 'climate strikes'. In Asia and the Pacific, from August 2019 to January 2020, a total of 9,681 children and youth from over 12 countries voiced out their views and opinions on climate disasters. These children and youth represented Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands. They participated through on-line surveys and face-to-face workshops to give voice to their concerns for the well-being of the planet.

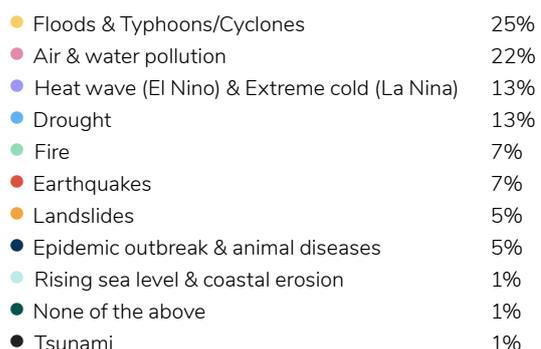
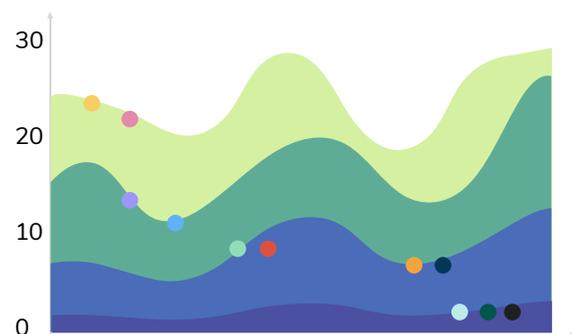
Across the region, "Climate crisis" is ranked as the top concerns of all children and youth. 15% of respondents picked "Climate crisis" as their first concern for the future, followed by "Access to work or employment" (13.21%), "Access to education" (13.18%), and "Safe from disaster impacts" (10.65%). "Climate crisis" remains the top 3 concerns in all age groups and countries, except for China. Indeed children and youth see themselves as the "guardians of the planet" and they want to give voice and take action on Climate Crisis.



Children and youth in Asia and the Pacific are no strangers to the negative impact of the Climate Crisis. Many have witnessed the effects of the climate crisis first-hand. Over 77% of children and youth reported having noticed more climate related disasters locally in the last two years; 23% reported experiencing extreme temperature, while 30% experienced floods or more intense rains. Decrease in economic opportunities is also reported as a visible impact of climate change.

Over **99%** of children and youth reported experiencing disaster risks in the past 12 months, with hydro-meteorological disasters risks (e.g. flooding, drought, typhoon/cyclone, El Niño and La Niña) accounting for over 50% of the reported experience by children and youth.

Figure B. C&Y's Disaster Risk Experienced in the past 12 months



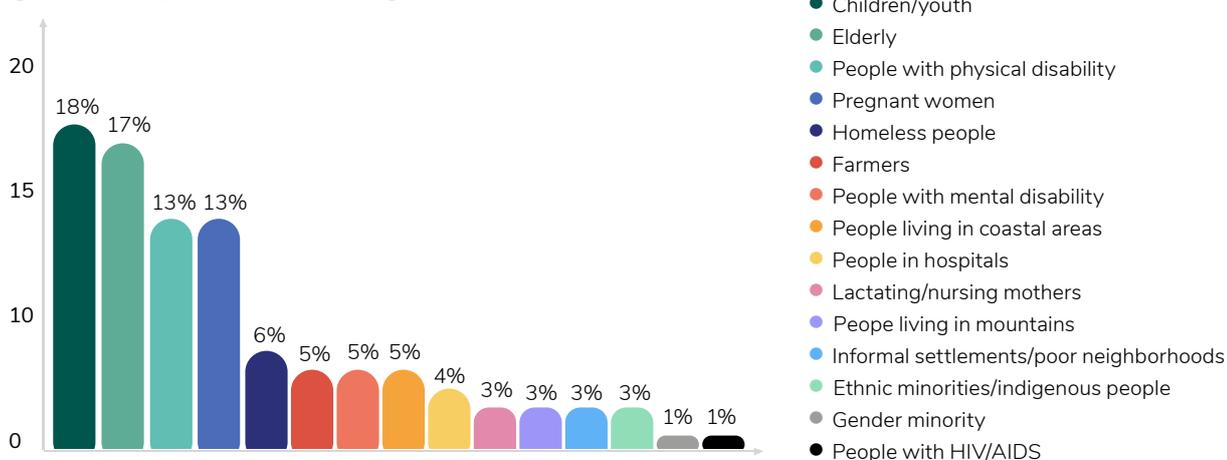


Call for inclusive approach to DRR and CCA processes

In the face of the growing impact and frequency of climate disasters, children and youth identified themselves as the most vulnerable group, followed by the “elderly” and “people with physical disability”.

► The 2019 Asian Children's Summit was participated by 46 child delegates from 21 countries from the Asia Pacific to form their opinions and give recommendations on the realization of their rights, including “children’s rights to a health environment”.

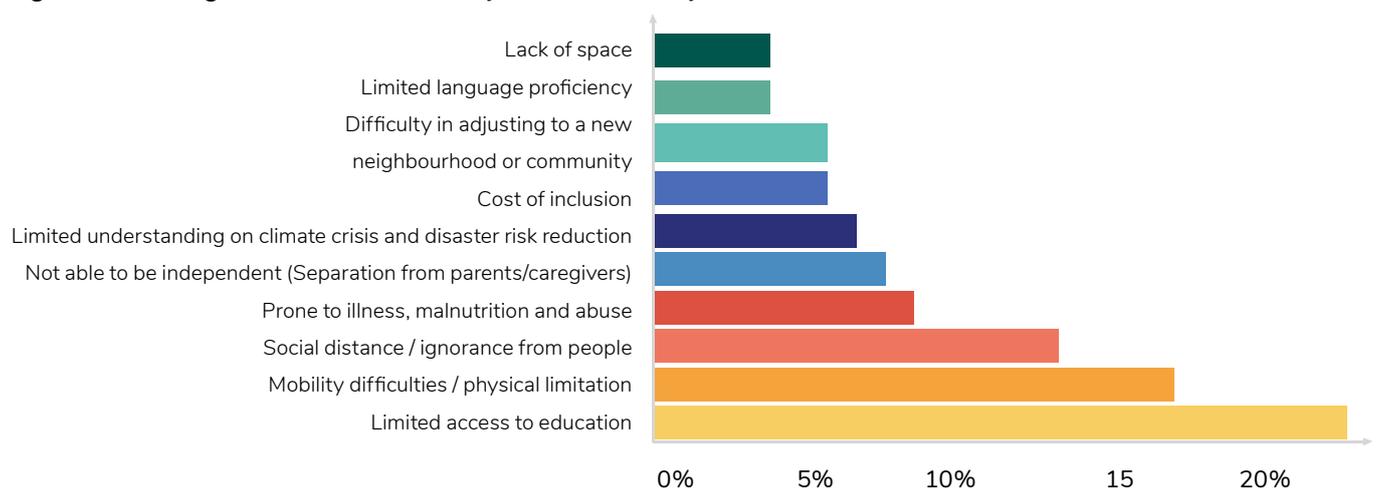
Figure C. Groups most at risk during disasters



In fact, disability and inclusion has always been high on the list of concerns of children and youth. 45% felt that children and youth with disabilities are not given enough support to prepare for disasters, and they have also identified challenges faced by those with disability in the context of disaster risk reduction. For example, in the COVID-19 pandemic, it was found that a lot of the health messages were not reaching people with hearing and visual disability.

There is a strong call to governments to collaborate with different stakeholders to include the most vulnerable groups, especially children and youth, and children with disabilities in addressing the negative impacts of hazards including climate crisis in every country.

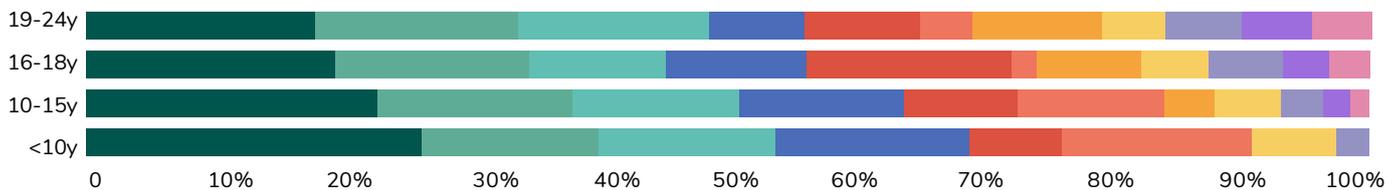
Figure D. Challenges for C&Y with disability in the community in the context of DRR



Strengthen Education Curriculum on Climate Change Adaptation

On a positive note, the majority of children and youth reckoned they have above average awareness and knowledge on understanding the climate crisis and DRR. 21% indicated that formal education is a major channel to learn about climate change and disaster risks, and it is particularly significant in the younger age groups; whereas 15% were informed via news and 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. This points to a strong need to strengthen formal educational materials on Climate Change Adaptation.

Figure E. Where C&Y learn about climate change and disaster risk



- Formal education: Schools, textbooks etc.
- News: Newspaper, BBC, CNN, NYT, National news channel through radios or TVs, etc.
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Whatsapp, Instagram, Weibo, Wechat, etc.
- Entertainment: Television, music, movies, podcasts, comics, cartoons, etc.
- Extracurricular activities: School Clubs, Debate Societies, ModelUnited Nations, Summer camps, Children fora, Youth Club, etc.
- Institutions: Musems, information & resource centres, etc.
- NGO campaigns on DRR & climate change mitigation
- Connections: Family, friends, community groups, etc.
- Self: Real-life experience with climate change/disaster impact
- Work: Volunteering for/job in an NGO working on environmental protection, local development, humanitarian response
- Online learning platforms: Coursera, EdX, Udemy, etc.

- ▶ Sooni and her friend are members of a Child Group in Lucknow, India. A hazardous open drainage ran right through the area and overflowed during monsoon, causing problem for people going to work and no children could attend school. After DRR training by World Vision, Sooni acted.

"We formed a group of 10 and went to meet the Ward Councilor and told him of the about the state of our neighbourhood. Drainages were not cleaned nor garbage picked. The next day, a garbage vehicle came and started picking up." she said.



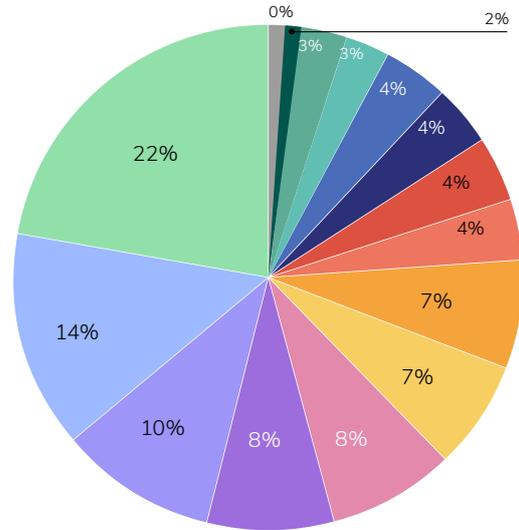
Mainstream and Localize Children and Youth Voices in Climate Discussions

Over **93%** of children and youth deemed DRR and CCA as an important issue, emphasizing the urgent need to empower them and be given the opportunity to be heard and involved. Children and youth recognized 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, which allowed for 9,681 children and youth from over 12 countries across the Asia-Pacific to voice out their views and opinion on climate disasters.

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.

Figure F. 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



We definitely can stop climate change, but there are no such things the youth cannot achieve. The local government should initiate efforts to manage industrial waste, conserve existing forests and prioritize trees plantation in the barren lands. The industries contributing to air pollution should not be allowed and there is a need for effective implementation of laws and policies already in place.”

Rajo, 18, World Vision youth representative, in the C&Y Consultation on Climate Crisis & Disaster Management Workshop, Nepal

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 responsibility to step up actions against the climate crisis.

Stakeholder	Responsibility
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, non-governmental organizations (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 is experiencing crisis/disasters as well as working together to reduce the risks.

- ▶ A total of 1,759 children and youths from all over Bangladesh have participated in the online Children and Youth Consultation survey which aims to give children and youth a platform for them to voice their concerns for the future of a resilient world. 229 children and youth also came together and discussed the issues face-to-face and exchanged experienced.



“

There have some disasters in our community. Most commons are severe heat waves, hail, heavy rain and tropical storms. During the heavy rains there're usually floods. We have to use boats to go to school.

The name of our group is 'Superhero children' because we want to be examples and hero to our community. If the climate worsens, not just trees, but also people will die. Because we are connected. Trees can provide oxygen and if trees are gone, people will die eventually.”

Min Khant Naing, 11, World Vision sponsored child and a youth representative, Myanmar



Background

Asia and the Pacific is home to 4 billion people, representing 60% of the world's population. It also contains many vulnerable areas to the climate crisis, with over 68 million affected by disasters in 2019¹, mainly by weather-related hazards, fuelled by climate change. Compounding the problem is rapid urbanization in many Asian nations, population boom which puts a strain on water, food supplies and the environment. Meanwhile, many big Asian cities are susceptible to rise in sea level and other extreme weather events as half of Asia's population – approximately 2.4 billion people – live in low-lying coastal zones and flood plains.²

The need to address disasters risks in the humanitarian field is increasing. Research indicates that the earth's climate is changing at a rate that has exceeded most scientific forecasts. In fact, 2020 is forecasted to be one of the hottest years on record³ and 2020 has been the warmest start to the year (January - April) for Asia.⁴

In the past years, an increasing frequency and scale of climate disasters in the Asia and the Pacific is observed. There has been a growing magnitude of meteorological disasters or water-related disaster. For example, the 2018 Kerala floods had almost half of the state submerged under water, ranking it the worst ever floods in its history since 1924⁵; Bangladesh and India saw deadly super cyclones in the last two years, including Cyclone Fani and Amphan; China is currently experiencing flooding of unprecedented scale, with 33 river water levels

breaking historical records.

On the other hand, a severe drought in 2019 caused water levels in Southeast Asia's Mekong River to drop to their lowest in more than 100 years, caused by delay of critical monsoon rains driven under El Niño and exacerbated by climate change, impacting Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Climate-induced disaster is the key driving force for displacement in the Asia-Pacific. In 2017 alone, sudden-onset disasters displaced 18.8 million people globally, with most of these disasters being climate and weather-related that occurred in East Asia and the Pacific. Estimates reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that a sea level rise of 2 metres would result in significant land loss by 2100, displacing an estimated 187 million people, mostly in Asia.⁶

While the world is now gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic, United Nation Secretary General Antonio Guterres also reminded that, "Despite the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, the world mustn't forget the 'deeper environmental emergency' facing the planet". "The world must work together, as it has to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, to support a green and resilient recovery, which leaves no one behind. The efforts to contain the impact and economic fallout of the pandemic is an opportunity for all to accelerate the shift to cleaner energy alternatives and greener development."

¹UNDRR, COVID19 Brief - Leave no one Behind in COVID-19, April 2020. ²Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Asia" in Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Part B: Regional Aspects, Vicente R. Barros and others, eds. (Cambridge, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2014), p. 1,347. ³National Centers for Environmental Information <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/202003/supplemental/page-2> ⁴National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <https://www.noaa.gov/news/april-2020-was-earth-s-2nd-hottest-april-on-record> ⁵Kerala Post Disaster Needs Assessment: <https://reliefweb.int/report/india/kerala-post-disaster-needs-assessment-floods-and-landslides-august-2018-october-2018> ⁶UN Economic and Social Council, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, November 2018.

Introduction

2020 is the first major milestone of the Sendai Framework of Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) Target E and, a third of the way through the Framework's timeframe, and is an opportunity to review the progress towards the Sendai implementation. Hearing from the experiences and perspectives of children and youth is important for decision makers to accelerate progress towards the reduction of disaster risk.

This is in line with the SFDRR, which recognizes that children and youth are agents of change, and should be given the opportunity, and the appropriate mechanisms for contributing to DRR.

It is also recognized that a regional platform representing multi-stakeholder mechanisms should be set up to support assessing of progress, identify gaps, and monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Children and youth have inalienable rights in all circumstances and the right to participate in decisions that affect them all. These rights are outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Given the heightened vulnerability of children and youth in disaster situations, consideration of how best to uphold children and youth's rights, and ensure their full participation, is imperative in considering how to effectively prepare for and reduce the risks of disasters.

Including children and youth in climate crisis initiatives has benefits beyond meeting obligations as duty bearers. Children and youth are communicators of impacts and risks, informing their communities (families, friends, school and social networks) on climate crisis mitigation practices. Children and youth are also innovative agents of change, identifying new ways for addressing the impacts of climate

Aliya and her friends used to play near the open drainage right in front of her house, oblivious to the dangers. After World Vision's DRR training, the community realized that open drainages were dangerous and children fell in them. It had been improved, and just a few man holes remained now.

change using pre-existing community assets, improving both their own, and their communities' safety. Finally, ensuring the participation of children and youth in climate change adaptation is also an opportunity for strengthening sustainable development and empowering the next generation of leaders to be aware of environmental risks.

In preparation for the 9th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), World Vision together with Asia-Pacific regional partners: Save the Children, Plan International, UNICEF and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth formed a Task Force to give voice to children and youth.

The Task Force worked with national partners to consult children and youth through online and face-to-face consultations, providing a structural platform for young people to speak their view and opinions. The online consultation served as a platform for children and youth in Asia and the Pacific to voice out their concerns and influence different stakeholders at all levels in order to be heard and given importance for the future for a resilient world. The face-to-face consultations provided a structural opportunity to advocate for governments and stakeholders to take action and address the priority needs of most the vulnerable and to increase investment in child-focused DRR/CCA initiatives.

In summary, the consultations aimed to:

- Seek the views and experiences of children and youth on disaster risk and change and their hopes for the future;
- Raise awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction and climate crisis among children and youth; and
- Equip and demonstrate the contribution and capacity of children and youth in reducing disaster risks for themselves, their peers, families and communities.

For the online consultation, the Task Force developed the questionnaire guided by the seven targets of the SFDRR to understand experience, knowledge, perceptions and recommendations of children and youth in the region. The survey was divided in to three parts. Part one intended to know the level of understanding of climate crisis and disaster risks. Part two expressed recommendations to governments and policy makers regarding DRR education and inclusiveness. Part three exhibited children's and youth's ideas to address climate crisis and disaster risks, encompassing themes such as resilient infrastructure, financing and individual action.

The face-to-face consultation was facilitated by national stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, using standard materials developed by the Task Force. The partners provided venue for children and youth to discuss issues on DRR and climate crisis, as well address the gaps through knowledge awareness and capacity building. Recommendations to address the issues and gaps, with children and youth as active agents, were addressed to the legislators, government, and NGOs in country.

- Kenizeh, the 13-year-old child delegate from Pakistan sharing her experience and views of climate disaster at the 2019 Asian Children's Summit.



Methodology

Online Consultations

The original survey was in English and consisted of 26 questions. Six (6) countries participated in the process of further translation and contextualization, producing additional 12 versions of the survey. The contextualization includes, but not limited to, local child-friendly vocabularies, reduction of number of questions to accommodate younger, targeted participants, and/or modification or removal of cultural/political sensitive answers.

The online consultation was made possible through the commitment of different organizations in Asia-Pacific to conduct the same set of survey questions in every country they are currently present. The process of translation and contextualization was mostly conducted in inter-agency working groups nationally, and with support of local governments in some cases. Apart from regional partnering agencies, the working groups also extended to local organizations active in promotion of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The surveys were hosted by Survey Monkey for online consultations. In the cases of Indonesia and China, the surveys were conducted via U-Report⁷ and wjx.cn respectively and shared via social media, based on the local context. The English survey could be accessed by all countries via the internet, hence used by the Philippines and Pakistan. While access to internet and tablets is quite widespread in most countries, in the case of Nepal, national partners facilitated the child and youth participation by providing access to tablets in underprivileged communities. Whereas for Assamese-speaking areas of India, the survey was collected manually due to technical limitations.

Countries that participated in translation and contextualization of the survey are summarized as below:

Country	Date	Partners	Remarks
-	English	Plan, WV, Save, UNMGCY	Full survey 26 questions
Bangladesh	Bengali	Plan, Save, WV	Full survey
China	Simplified Chinese	Beijing Zhongke Psychological Aid Centre, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, One Foundation, Plan, WV, Save, The Innovation Centre for Risk Governance at the Beijing Normal University	Full survey
India	Assamese, Marathi, Bengali, Oriya, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam	ChildFund, Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief, Plan, Save, WV	Child version
Indonesia	Bahasa Indonesia	Plan, Save, WV, UNICEF	Child version
Myanmar	Burmese	Plan, Save, WV, UNICEF	Full survey
Nepal	Nepali	Plan, Save, WV, UNICEF, UNMGCY	Full survey

⁷U-Report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change. The program sends SMS polls and alerts to its participants, collecting real-time responses, and subsequently publishes gathered data.

Face to face consultations

Methods to facilitate the face-to-face consultations vary in every country. In most countries, the adult mentors explained and discussed the contents and theme of the consultation on DRR and climate crisis to the children and youth facilitators before or during the event to ensure basic understanding of the topics.

The children and youth facilitators then led the discussion among different age groups (10-24 year olds) during the consultation on DRR and climate crisis. The children and youth were provided an opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences on the hazards and disasters they experienced in their communities. Solutions and recommendations on how to reduce the risks were discussed. The children and youth were also able to express their role and contribution to the society in addressing the present and future risks that may affect the future of young people.

After the discussions, the identified representative in every age group was assigned to present to the bigger group the results of their group discussion. After the presentations, the appointed children and youth representatives together with the children and youth facilitators consolidated their discussions to produce an overall statement. Finally, the children and youth participants presented to the government and stakeholders the overall contribution of children and youth in DRR and addressing the climate crisis and their recommendations to legislators, governments, NGOs and stakeholders.

Many countries organized the consultation as an inter-agency event, with support from national or local governments. While some organized only one (1) national level consultation, some managed to conduct both national and multiple provincial/district level consultations. In some countries, such as Cambodia and Laos, Training of Trainers Workshops were organized, for selected children and youth from partnering networks to lead or support the consultations, instead of adult facilitators.

Country	Date	Partners	Remarks
Asia Child Summit (regional level)	Nov 2019	Plan, Save, WV, VSO	Held in Bangkok, Thailand; Supported by: South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women & Children (ACWC) & Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia).
Bangladesh	Oct-Dec 2019	Plan, Save, WV	Held in Dhaka, Savar, Tongi, Sirajganj, Sylhet & Bhola
Cambodia	Nov 2019	ChildFund Cambodia, Child Rights Coalition Cambodia Child Rights Foundation, Plan, Save, WV	Participating C&Y networks: Adolescent & Youth Reference Group, Cambodia Children & Young People Movement for Child Rights Child Advocate Network Held in Phnom Penh, Koh Kong, Prey Veng, Kampong Chhnang & Stueng Treng
Laos	Oct 2019	Save, WV	Held in Vientiane
India	Jan 2020	ChildFund, Child Survival India, Plan, Save, WV	Held in Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
Indonesia	Oct 2019	Plan, Save, WV, UNICEF	Held in Jakarta
Mongolia	Nov 2019	Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency, Save, WV	Participating network: "Junior Rescuer Club" of Khentii Province, Tuv Province, & 4 Ulaanbaatar districts; Held in Ulaanbaatar
Myanmar	Nov 2019	Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Mercy Crops, and Myanmar Disaster Preparedness Initiative, Plan, UNICEF, WV	Held in Yangon and Mandalay
Nepal	Dec 2019	Plan, Save, WV, UNICEF	Held in Kailali, Morang & Sunsari Districts
Philippines	Nov 2019	ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Makati City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Plan, Save, U-Inspire, UNMGCY, WV, YesPinoy Foundation Inc.	Held in Binangonan of Rizal; Supported by 37 organizations/schools from 20 cities/provinces
Solomon Islands	Nov-Dec 2019	Save, WV	Held in Makira, Malaita & West Provinces

“



To the world leaders, we, children, were given the privilege of our local authorities, in partnership with non-governmental organisations to be heard.

I hope you can make actions on what we call for. We are already experiencing the effects of climate change. Please do not ignore the problems and voices of the youth, because it is us who will directly be affected in the near future. Please greatly consider our plea. Pay attention and give us high importance. And allot time to study and dig deep on what to do, for the sake of the children and youth.

Rhea, 17, an earthquake survivor, child supported by World Vision, Philippine Red Cross volunteer and youth representative, Philippines

Limitations

- Some online data were not translated in English, while some data submitted were in a summarised format which limited the in-depth analysis.
- For some countries' dataset, the suggestions in the “others” options were written in the local language. Hence, some of the nuances some of the meaning could have been lost in translation.
- Australia's consultation was delayed, hence results could only be included as a case study, and not within the regional data analysis.
- A number of countries modified the questionnaire, with certain questions or answers removed due to local contexts or sensitivities.
- Most countries included children younger than 10 years old up to the ages of 18 , while some countries expanded the age range up to 24 years old, while some countries did not target children less than 10 years old.

Online Consultation Findings

DEMOGRAPHICS

Country

Apart from the English version of the online survey, six (6) countries translated the questionnaire according to their context for it to be easily understood by the children and youth respondents. These countries were: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal . In the case of India, it was translated into seven (7) local dialects.

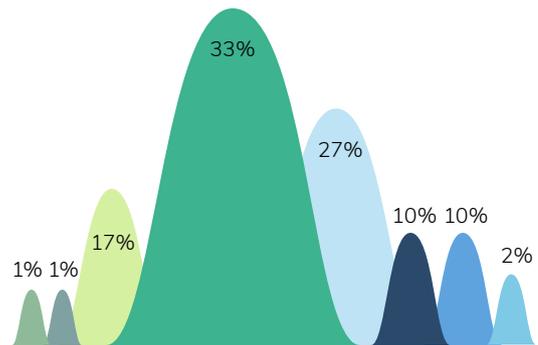


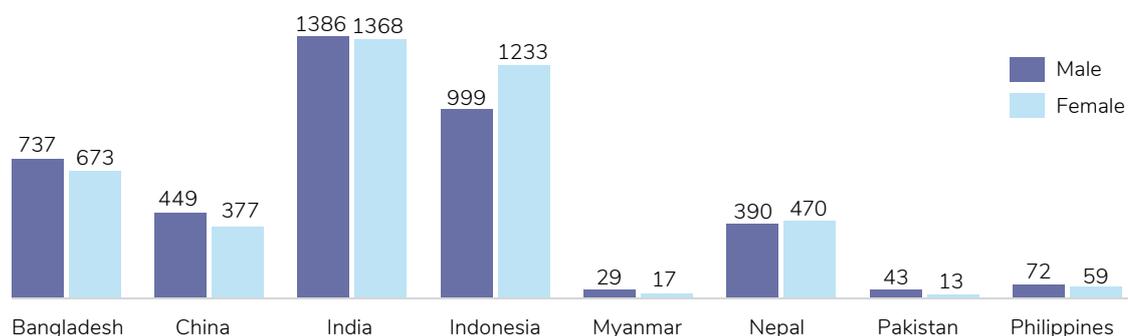
Figure 1. Percentage distribution of respondents by country

- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- China
- Philippines

Overall, the survey had 8,268 children and youth participating from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Most respondents were from India with 2,759 respondents followed by Indonesia with 2,234, Bangladesh with 1,413, China with 829, Nepal with 800, the Philippines with 131, Pakistan with 56 and Myanmar with 46. The distribution of respondents per country are shown in Figure 2.

Further analysis show more female respondents among all participating countries, except for Indonesia and Nepal (Figure 2). Based on the online consultation participation data, it is possible that there is no difference between genders in active engagement, knowledge and awareness on issues related to climate crisis and DRR. Also to note that most children and youth participants may come from districts or communities where INGOs or UN agencies are active in disaster management, development and resilience building work, while promoting equal participation of genders and inclusiveness for underprivileged groups.

Figure 2. Distribution of respondents by country





► “I would not panic anymore if there was another earthquake because we’ve learned how to manage a disaster,” said Swosthani, who joined the school club supported by World Vision.

Age

Most of the respondents belong to the age group of 10-15 years old, with 47% of the total 8,268 respondents (Figure 3).

33% are from the 16-18 years old age group with a total of 2,712 respondents. 1,314 participants belong to 19-24 age group, while very few below 10 years old participated in the survey (348 responses).

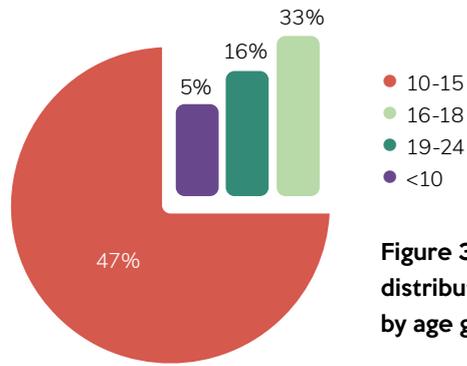


Figure 3. Percentage distribution of children by age group

Gender

Male respondents comprise of 50.2% (4,147 people) of the total number of respondents. While female respondents are at 4,105 and 16 children and youth identified themselves as ‘Others’ (Figure 4). When disaggregated by gender and age, the 10-15 year old age group has the highest female participation ratio, with a total of 2,028 (49%) females and 1,858 (45%) males (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Percentage distribution of respondent by gender

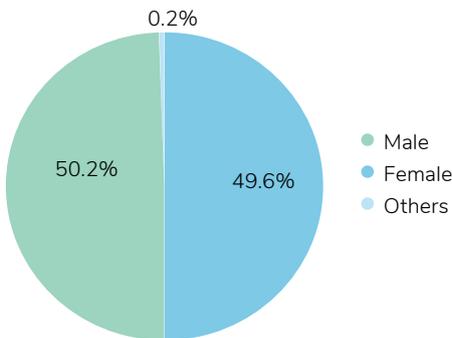
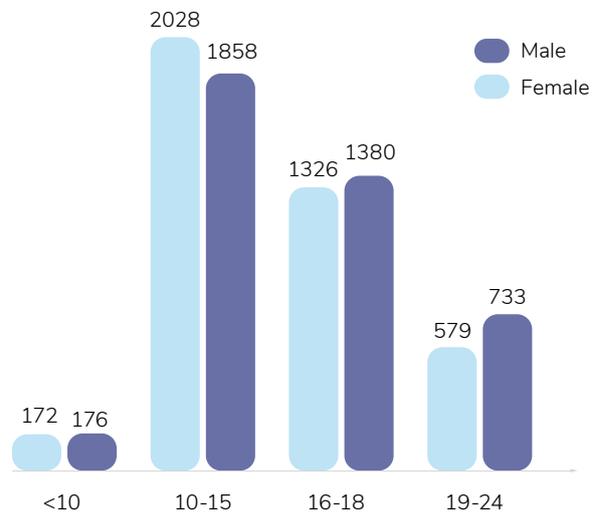


Figure 5. Distribution of respondents by gender & age



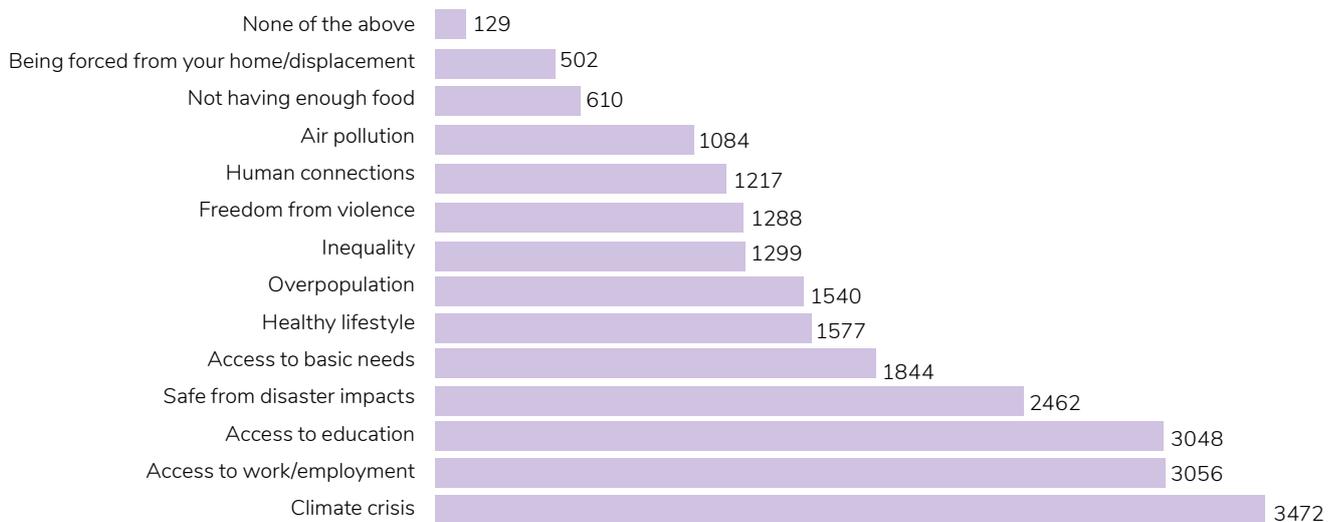
Part 1: Understanding DRR and Climate Crisis

The first part of the online survey consists of nine (9) questions (two (2) questions moved to Annex 1) that intends to identify the level of understanding of children and youth aged <10-24 about the climate crisis and disaster risks. Different levels of understanding of children per age group are shown in the graphs depending on their perception. Varying perspectives on different questions shows that taking care of the environment and reducing disaster risks is important to them in facing the future and that they are aware and concerned on the climate crisis and disaster risks.

7 What concerns you most about the future?

To assess the level of understanding of children and youth from all ages, they were asked about what concerns them the most about the future and each respondent could choose more than one answer. There are 13 answers gathered and the top answer is “climate crisis” with 15% of responses from all countries who participated in the online consultation. This is followed by “Access to work or employment” with 13.21% responses, “Access to education” with 13.18% responses, and “Safe from disaster impacts” with 10.65% responses (Figure 6). “Access to basic needs”, “Healthy lifestyle”, and “Overpopulation” received 7.97%, 6.82% and 6.66% responses, respectively.

Figure 6. Children and youth's concern about the future by responses



There are four (4) choices that received responses less than 1,500, but still over 1,000, including “Inequality”, “Freedom from violence”, “Human connections” and “Air pollution”. “Not having enough food” and “Forced from home or displacement” are the only choices that received less than 1,000 responses. There are 129 respondents who answered “none of the above” and other responses like accidents, deforestation, competitive world, integrity of people, losing our purpose as humans, no proper agriculture, not being human to other living beings, water crisis and wars.

▶ A participant at the community awareness raising workshop on climate change and DRR organized by Plan International Bangladesh.

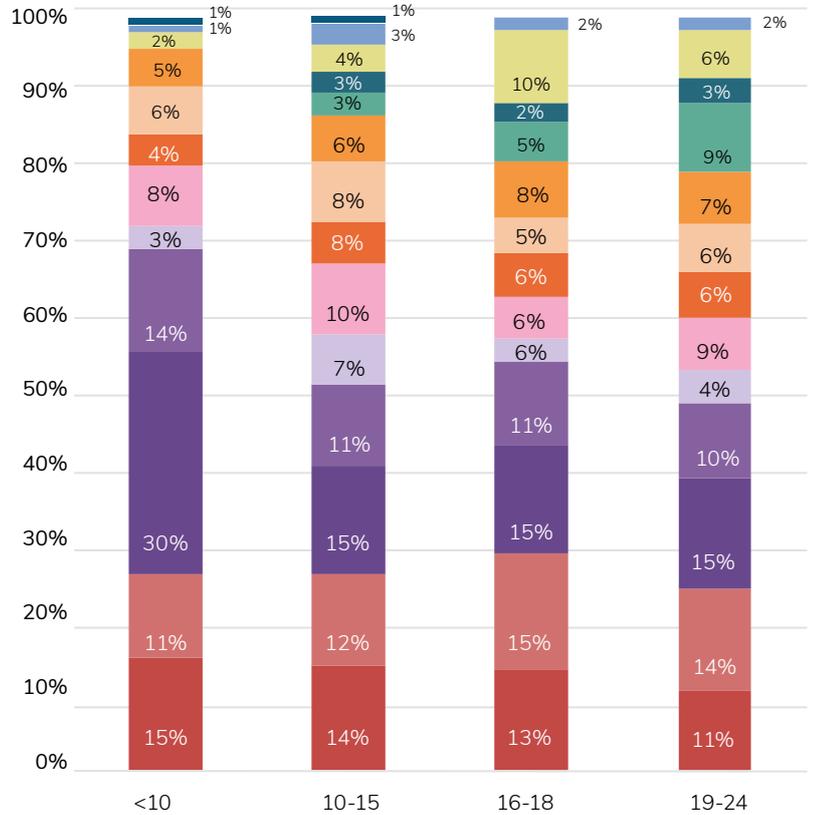


While “Climate crisis”, “Access to education”, “Disaster impact” and “Work/employment” remains as the top 4 concerns in all age groups. “Climate crisis” is the common, top 1 concern among all ages, except children and youth aged 16-18, who prioritized “Access to work or employment” above climate crisis.

The difference observed in this age group may be due to them looking ahead as they complete schooling and start work or be employed.

Figure 7. Children and youth's concern about the future by age group

- Access to education
- Access to work/employment
- Climate crisis
- Safe from disaster impacts
- Human connections
- Access to basic needs
- Freedom from violence
- Healthy lifestyle
- Overpopulation
- Air pollution
- Not having enough food
- Inequality
- Being forced from home/displacement
- None of the above



► “Climate crisis is not a single word. We always say that children and youth are the future. But I want to say that children and youth are not only future but they are also present. Bangladesh is one of the countries, which has very high population so that the impacts of climate crisis are many. To reduce the impacts, we need to work together. I want to call you all to help us to face climate crisis.” Said Dola, a National Child Forum leader, World Vision.

In the breakdown of concerns by country, variations are also observed (Figure 8). While “Climate crisis” is the top priority both in total responses and by age breakdown, children and youth from different countries may or may not prioritize climate as their top concern, likely influenced by local contexts, country’s economic development, government policies, school curriculum and recent disaster experience.

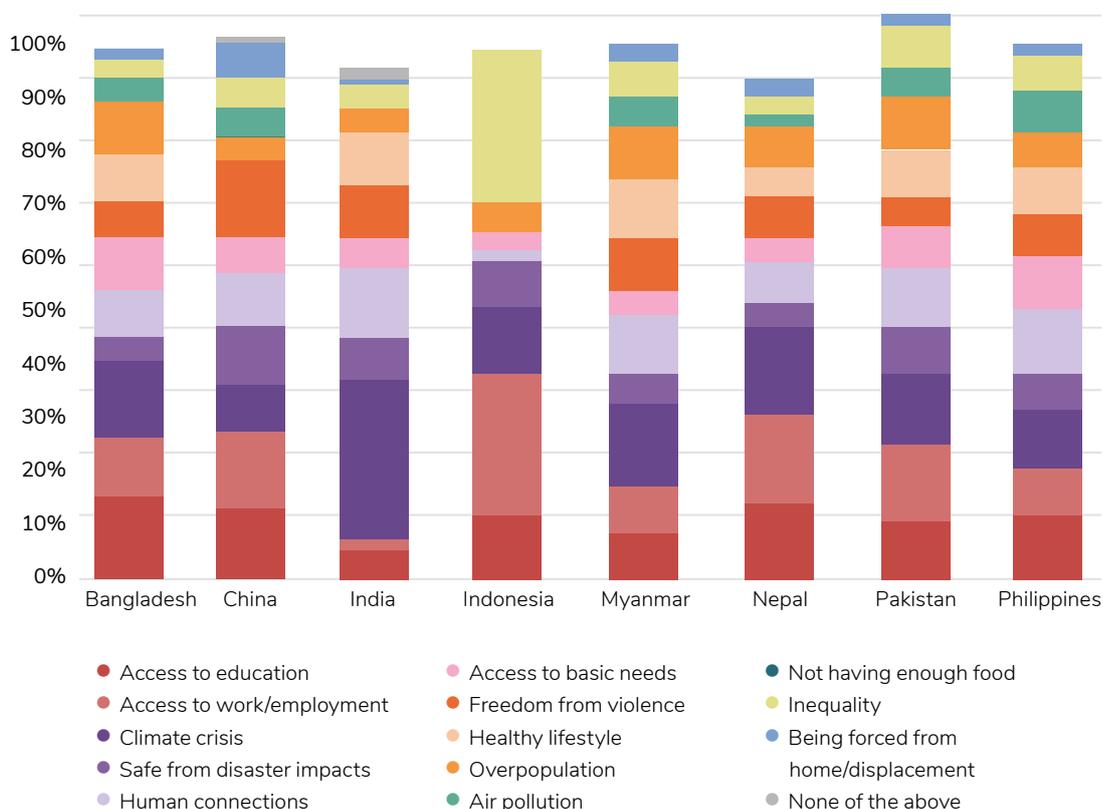
Among the eight (8) countries, only India (27%), Myanmar (14%) and Nepal (15%) ranked “Climate crisis” as top concern. However, all remaining countries still ranked “Climate crisis” within their top 3 concerns, except for China. Hence, despite the variation, the climate remains an important issue amongst most children and youth.

In the case of China, their top concerns were related to access to work, healthy lifestyle and education, with “Climate crisis” only ranking number 7. In the case of Nepal, “Climate crisis” was considered almost equally important as “Access to work”, followed by “Safe from disaster impact” and “Access to education”.

Indonesia’s concerns were quite different from other countries, with nearly 26% prioritizing “Inequality” as their top concern, followed by “Access to work” and “Climate crisis”. In fact, Indonesia is the only country with significant proportion of respondents selecting “Inequality”, whereas other countries only had a response rate of 2-7%.

Interestingly, India has relatively low concerns for “Access to education” and “Access to work”, accounting for 5% and 3% respectively. These two (2) concerns generally considered important concerns in most countries, ranking within top 3, except for Myanmar, with only 8% voting for the both options. Myanmar is also the only country that prioritized “Overpopulation” within their top 3 concerns. “Access to basic needs” was also considered relatively important, being ranked within the top 3 concerns by India, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines.

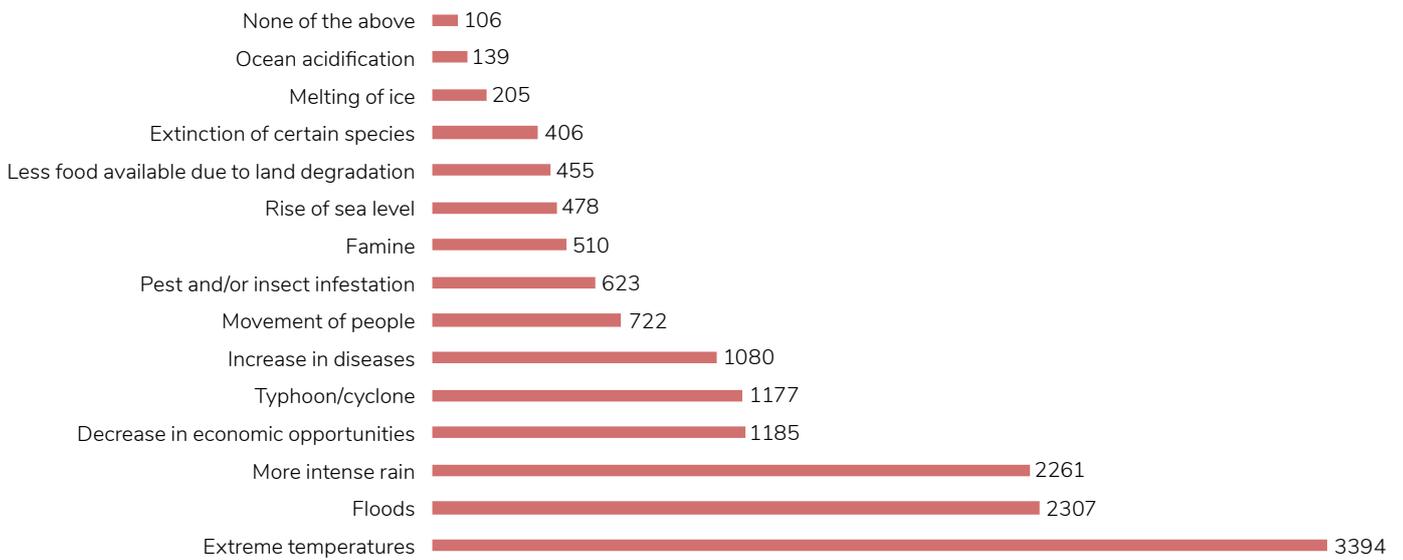
Figure 8. Children and youth's concern about the future by country



2 What effect(s) of climate change do you experience in your community in the past 12 months?

The survey participants were asked to identify one or more climate change effects they experienced in their community in the past 12 months. Of the fifteen climate change effects, children and youth experienced in their community, the top answer is “Extreme temperature” with 22.55% responses (Figure 9). This is followed by climate change effects related to precipitation, namely “Floods” (15.33%) and “More intense rain” (15.03%). Ranked fifth is the decrease in economic opportunity with 7.87% responses. The less reflected experiences are likely due to lack of participation from the Pacific countries and/or children and youth are less aware of changes in the ocean and animals, which are further away from their daily living environment.

Figure 9. Disaster risk experienced in the past 12 months



106 (0.7%) children and youth answered “None of the above” and identified climate change effects which are experienced according to their context, these includes climate change, conflict, degradation of natural habitat, deforestation, deterioration of air quality, earthquake, endangering and extinction of animal species, global warming, increase of number of animals like street dogs, monkeys, crows and so on. The temperature rise increases their population, introduction of invasive species, less rains and crops, and less rainfall.

Looking into responses from different countries (Figure 10), or simply comparing between South and East Asia, there are significant differences in the effects of climate change experienced by children and youth. The differences could be due to actual experiences related to their geographic locations, or simply due to varied concerns or awareness, which influence their perceptions.

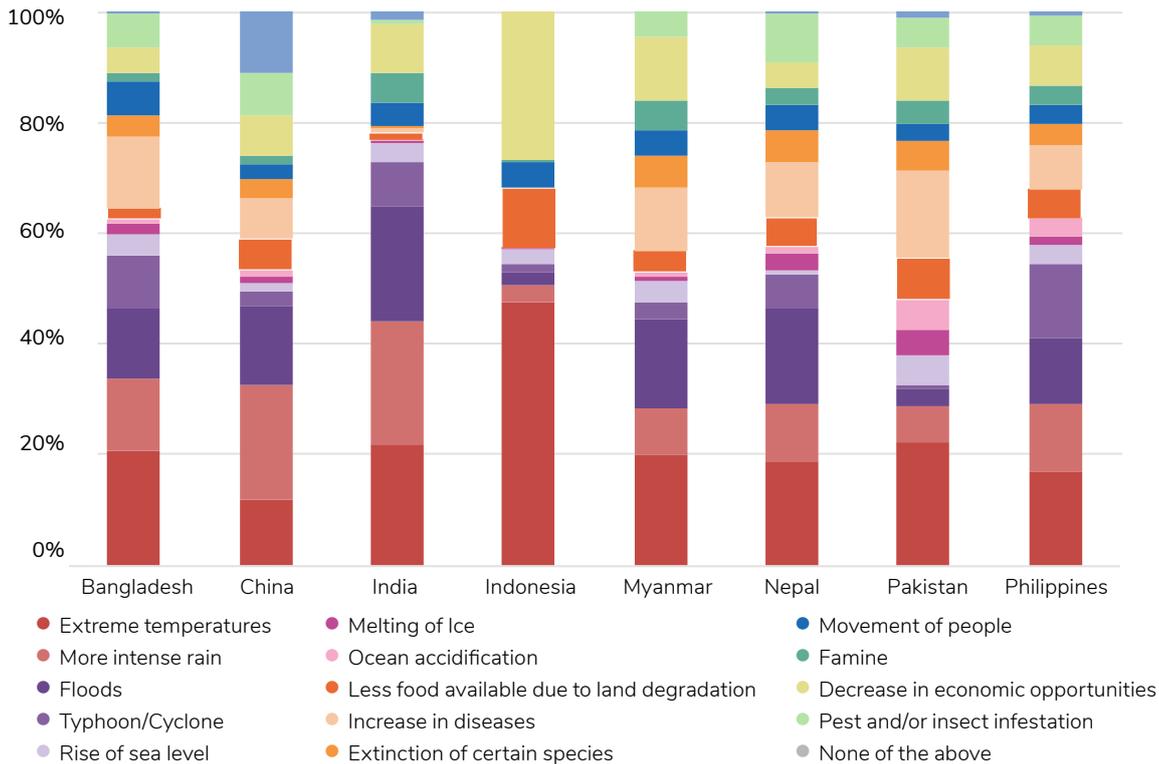


▶ A student from Vietnam at a comic contest organized by UNICEF for children to create a superhero that has a positive impact on the planet.

Amongst all, “Extreme temperatures” remains the top common experience across countries. While “Intense rain” and “Floods” are common, while “Typhoon/cyclone” experience varies across countries, with proportionally more responses observed in southern countries, like Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the Philippines.

“Less food available” and “Famine” have a combined relatively good portion of response in all countries, while “Decrease in economic opportunities” draws more significantly higher responses by percentage in Indonesia and India, when compared to others. Interestingly, “Increase in diseases” also stands out more in Bangladesh and Nepal proportionally, compared to other countries.

Figure 10. Effects of climate change experienced by children & youth, response by country



► “For the first time in my school a programme was conducted on school safety. We were taught on how to react in times of earthquake in school and at home. In such case one must place one’s school bag over their head. And make one line from young to old and gather at a place where there are no trees or lamppost so that it doesn’t fall on our head,” says Mohammad Masud Alam, a student at a Madrasa, Kolkata, World Vision.



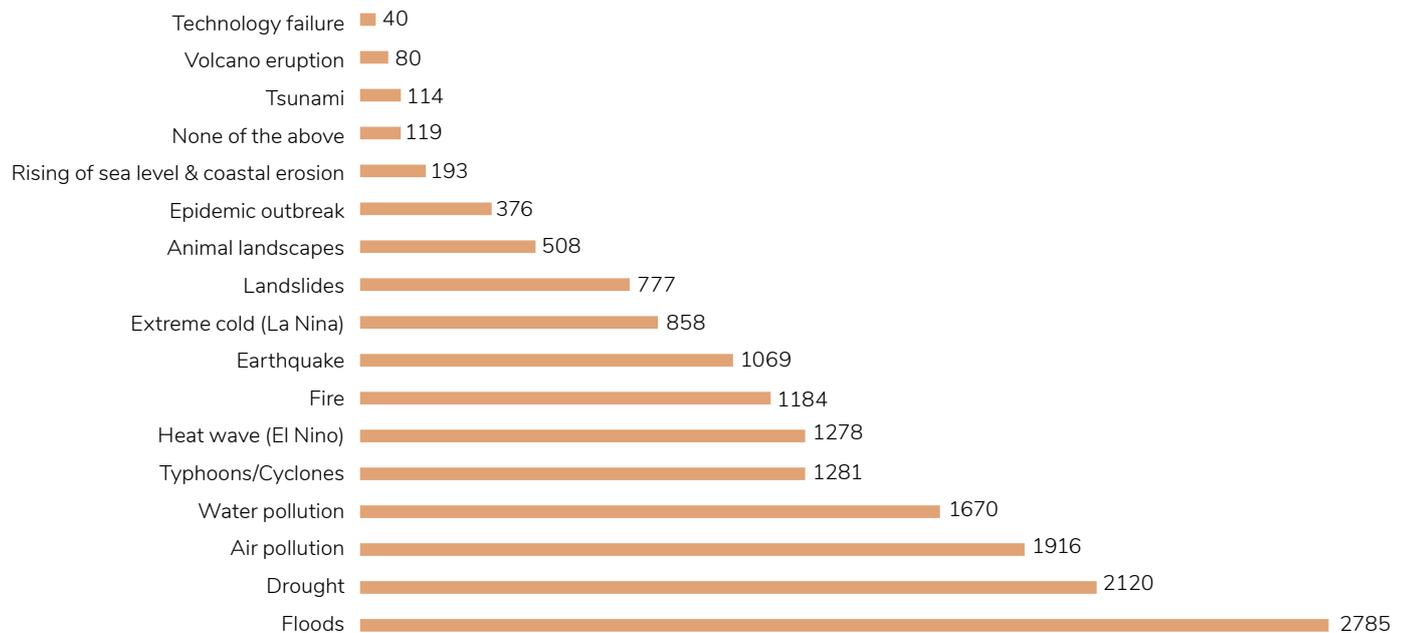
► Students demonstrate the triangular method of tying a bandage during first aid training as part of the Child-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) project by World Vision. “If not for the training, I would not have known all this. Now I know three ways of tying a bandage!” says Krishna.

3 Which disaster risk(s) have you experienced in the last 12 months including current risks?

The children and youth respondents revealed their experiences in disaster risk in the past 12 months. The top answer is “Flooding” with 17.01% responses (Figure 11), followed by “Drought” of 12.95%. Ranked third is “Air pollution” (11.71%), followed by “Water pollution” (10.2%). Fifth and sixth are “Typhoon or cyclones” and “Heat wave”, accounting for 7.83% and 7.81% respectively.

Overall, hydro-meteorological disasters risks, including floods, drought, typhoon/cyclone, El Niño and El Niña, have accounted for 50.84% of the reported experience.

Figure 11. Disaster risk experienced in the past 12 months



There are 119 (0.73%) respondents who answered “None of the above”. The respondents identified their experiences on disaster risk as follows: Contaminated water, dengue, fire, religious violence, thunderstorm, sound pollution, soil pollution, deforestation, untimely monsoon, “unseasoned” rain, and hailstorm.

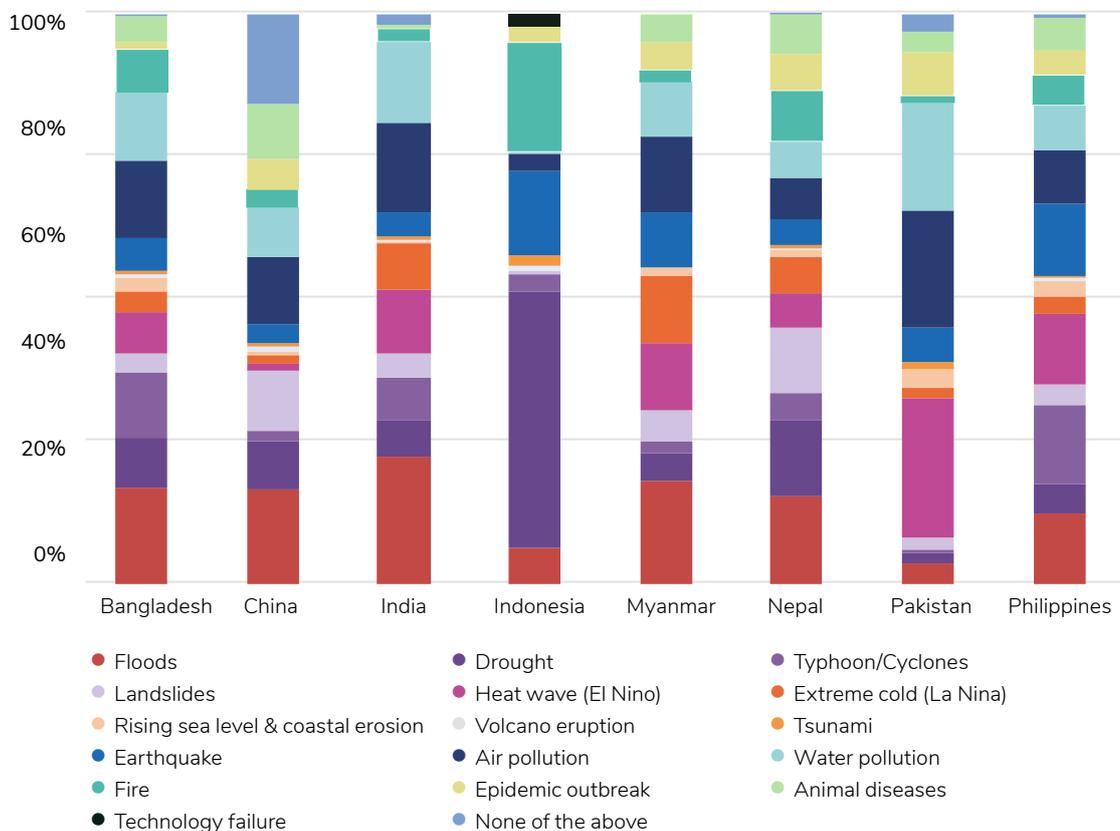


- School children in the Philippines illustrate their perception of a “Safe School” through a creative 3D map during a school-based consultation on disaster risk reduction organized by Save the Children Philippines.

Meanwhile, in the country breakdown data as shown in Figure 12, varying experience with disaster risks across countries is shown, depending on country context and geographic composition. Also, there is a likelihood that the majority of participating children and youth may come from districts and areas where INGOs have operations should be taken into consideration, which might be less resourced, inland, rural and with weaker infrastructures.

Interestingly, Indonesia is the only country that indicated experience in “Technology failure”, but none on “Heat wave”, “Extreme cold”, “Rising sea level and coastal erosion” and “Animal diseases”. On the other hand, apart from “Technology failure”, respondents from Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and the Philippines indicated experience with all remaining 15 disasters risks, whereas Indonesia, Myanmar and Pakistan respondents showed a slightly smaller spectrum of disaster risk experience in the last 12 months.

Figure 12. Percentage distribution of disaster risk reduction experience in past 12 months by country



4 Have you noticed more climate change related disaster locally over the last two years?

5,611 (77.55%) children and youth said that they noticed more climate change related disasters locally in the last two years (Figure 13), while 1,383 (19%) said that they had not. 241 respondents (3%) said that they were not sure.

Shown in Figure 14 are the disaggregated data according to age distribution. Majority of the answers who said “Yes” are aged 10-15, representing 2,410 respondents.

Figure 13. Climate change related disaster in the past 2 years

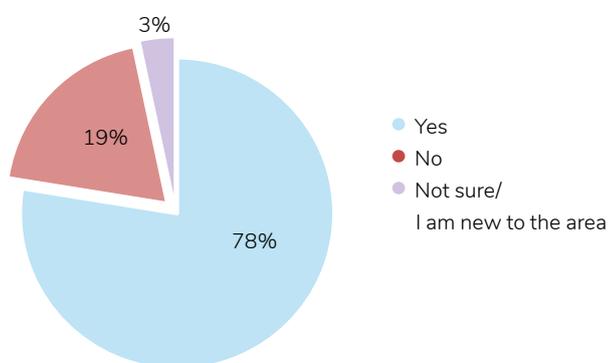


Figure 14. Climate change related disaster observed in the past 2 years, by age

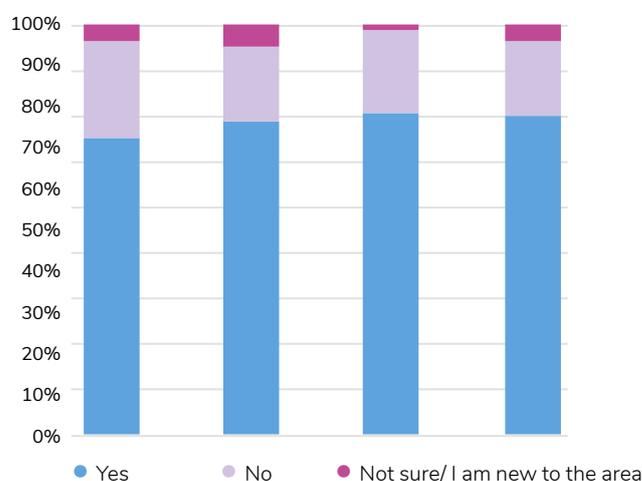
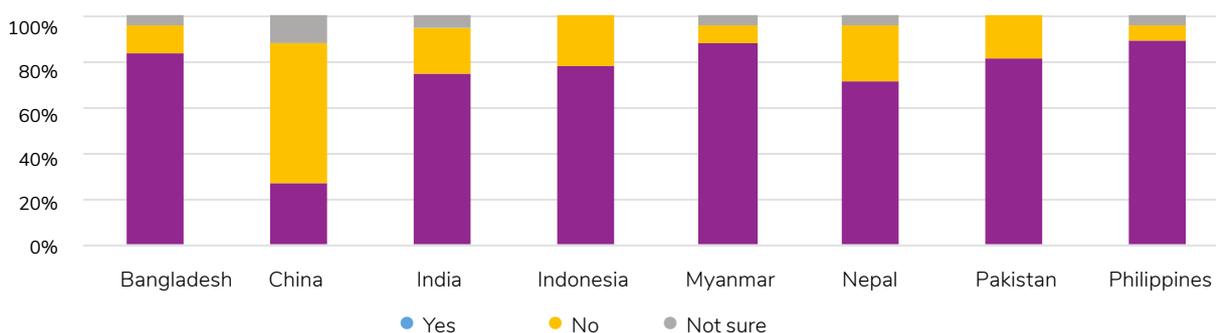


Figure 15. Climate change related disaster observed in past 2 years by country



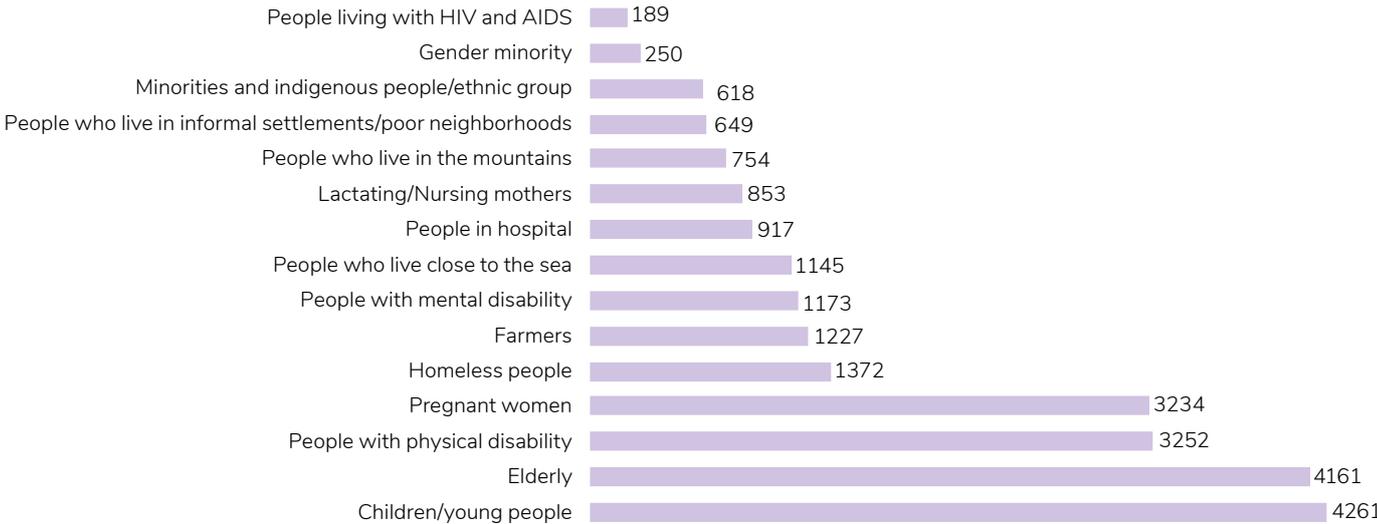
Interestingly, when zooming into responses by country, China is the only country that had more respondents reflecting not seeing an increase in local climate change related disasters the past two (2) years (Figure 15). The outlier is likely due to China’s data respondents (87.03%) predominantly from Shaanxi Province, which did not experience major disasters in the past two (2) years. According to Shaanxi Provincial Department of Emergency Management, 2018 disasters and its impacts was the lightest in a decade, with a significant drop from 2017 in terms of deaths, damaged/collapse houses and economic loss⁷, whereas even though 2019 saw an increase from the previous year, the government managed to do better preparedness.⁸ Hence, compared to past decades, the perceived increase in disasters experienced by most children and youth from China would be comparatively less.

⁷Department of Emergency Management of Shaanxi Province, <http://yjt.shaanxi.gov.cn/c/2019-01-11/520029.shtml> ⁸The State Council, The People’s Republic of China, http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-01/17/content_5470130.htm

5 Who in your community are most at risk during disasters?

Participants were asked to choose one (1) or more types of people deemed vulnerable in facing disasters. In the perspective of children and youth, the most vulnerable are “children and young people” with 17.71% responses (Figure 16). Second are the “Elderly” with 17.30%, followed by “People with physical disability” with 13.52% responses. Ranked fourth are “Pregnant women” with 13.44% responses. Fifth are “Homeless people” (5.70%) and sixth are “Farmers” (5.10%).

Figure 16. Groups most at risk during disasters



6 How would you rate your level of awareness/knowledge on understanding of climate crisis and DRR?

In the past decades, disasters continue to rise across countries in Asia and the Pacific. Children and youth are identified as vulnerable and suffered from the consequences of disasters. In hindsight, in conferences and consultations, children and youth are identified as key players if provided with knowledge and skills and the right attitude to prevent and mitigate further risks.

This question intends to measure the knowledge of children and youth in understanding the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction to identify approaches on how to support children and youth to strengthen their capacity. “5” is the highest level of understanding, while “1” is the lowest. The result shows that 50% of respondents perceived to know a lot on the climate crisis and DRR (Figures 17 and 18), whereas 27% perceived to have average/medium level of knowledge. Note that the age group of “below 10” and “16-18” have higher level of perceived understanding than those of 10-15 or 19-24 year olds.

Figure 17. Level of understanding of climate crisis and DRR

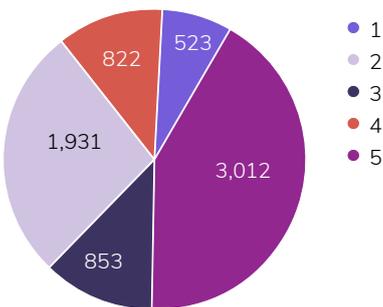
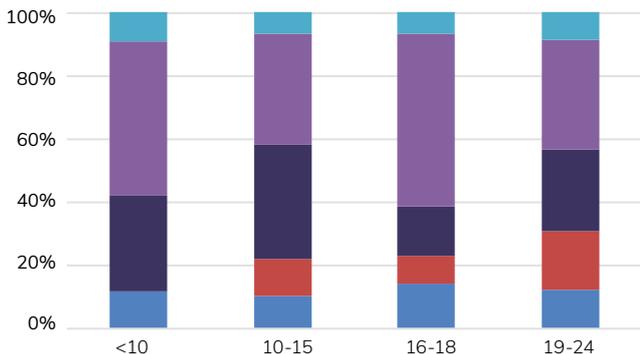


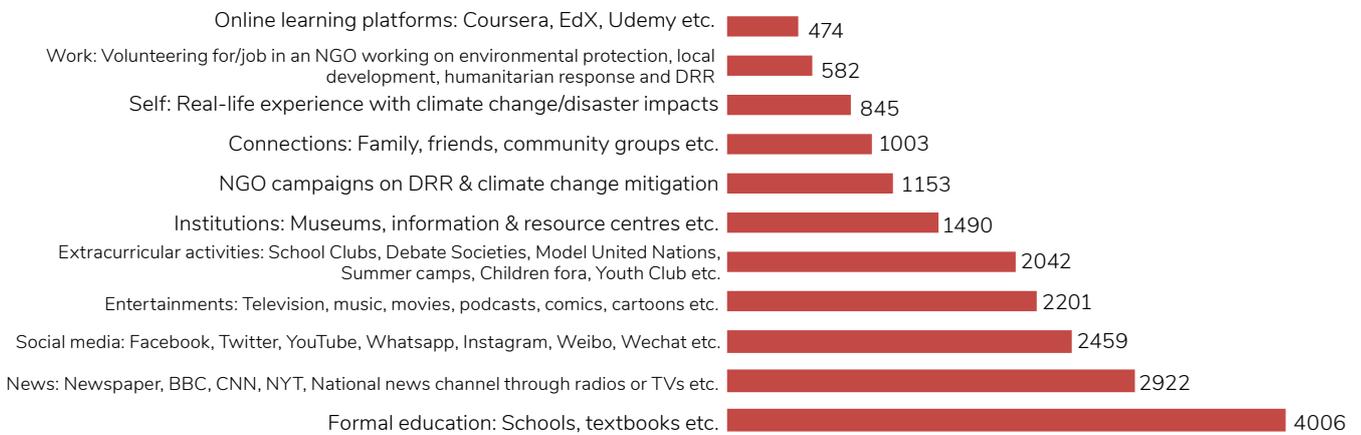
Figure 18. Level of understanding of climate crisis and DRR by age



7 Where did you learn about the climate crisis and disaster risks?

The top 5 answers of children and youth, in general, when asked on where they had learned about the climate crisis and disaster risks are: “Formal education in schools” ranking on top, with 4,006 responses, accounting for 20.89% (Figure 19). Secondly is “News (newspapers, BBC, CNN, NYT, national news channel through radios or TV)” at (15.24%), while “Social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, Weibo, and WeChat” ranked third (12.82%). “Formal education” ranking on top maybe due to climate crisis and disaster risks topics being integrated in school curricula as one of the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Action, especially with the promotion and adoption of ASEAN Comprehensive School Safety Framework across the region.

Figure 19. Where children and youth learn about climate change and disaster risk

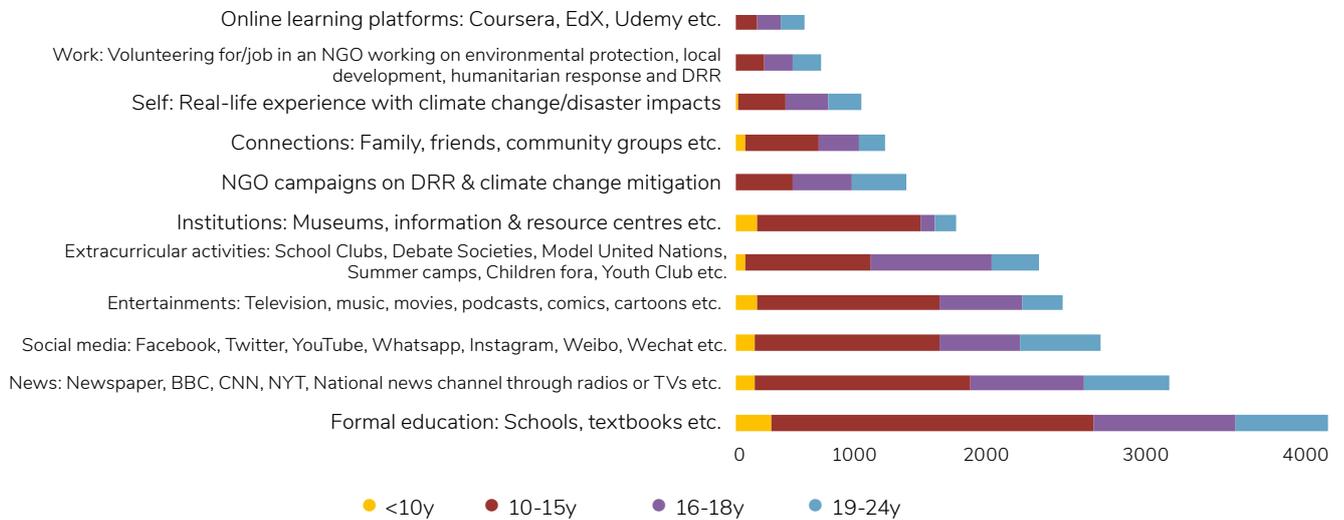


“Entertainment: television, music, movies, podcasts, comics, and cartoons” ranked fourth (11.48%); while in fifth place, children and youth answered “Extracurricular activities: school clubs, debate societies, model United Nations, summer camps, children fora and youth clubs”.



► Community competition “No fear to disasters”, is part of Safe schools activities in Vietnam by Plan International Vietnam.

Figure 20. Where children & youth learn about climate change & disaster risks



While “Formal education” is ranked the top 1 source to learn about climate crisis and disaster risks amongst all age groups, different age groups show varied learning channels outside of schools (Figure 20).

For example, children below 10 learn through “Entertainment” (15.4%) and “Institutions” (15%), while “Social media” and “News” commonly ranked fourth (13.98%). Whereas children between the ages of 10-15 years old seem to learn mainly from “News” (15.19%), “Social media” (13.04%) outside school, and through “Entertainment” (12.85%).

In the age group of 16-18, “Extracurricular activities” is their top learning channel outside formal education (15.92%), followed by “News” (15.15%) and “Entertainment” (11%). It can also be observed that “Social media” only ranked fifth (10.7%). With youth, the top 3 channels outside formal education are “News” (15.8%), “Social media” (14.9%) and “NGO campaign” (10%).

From the above data, it seems that “News” is one of the most common sources of learning outside school. While “Social media” is still a popular channel, it is more welcomed by age groups of 10-15 and 19-24. “Entertainment” still remains a good choice for most, where children learn through play and fun. While younger children may find institutions like museums a good way to learn, older children and youth learn through participation in extracurricular activities and NGO campaigns.

Part 2:

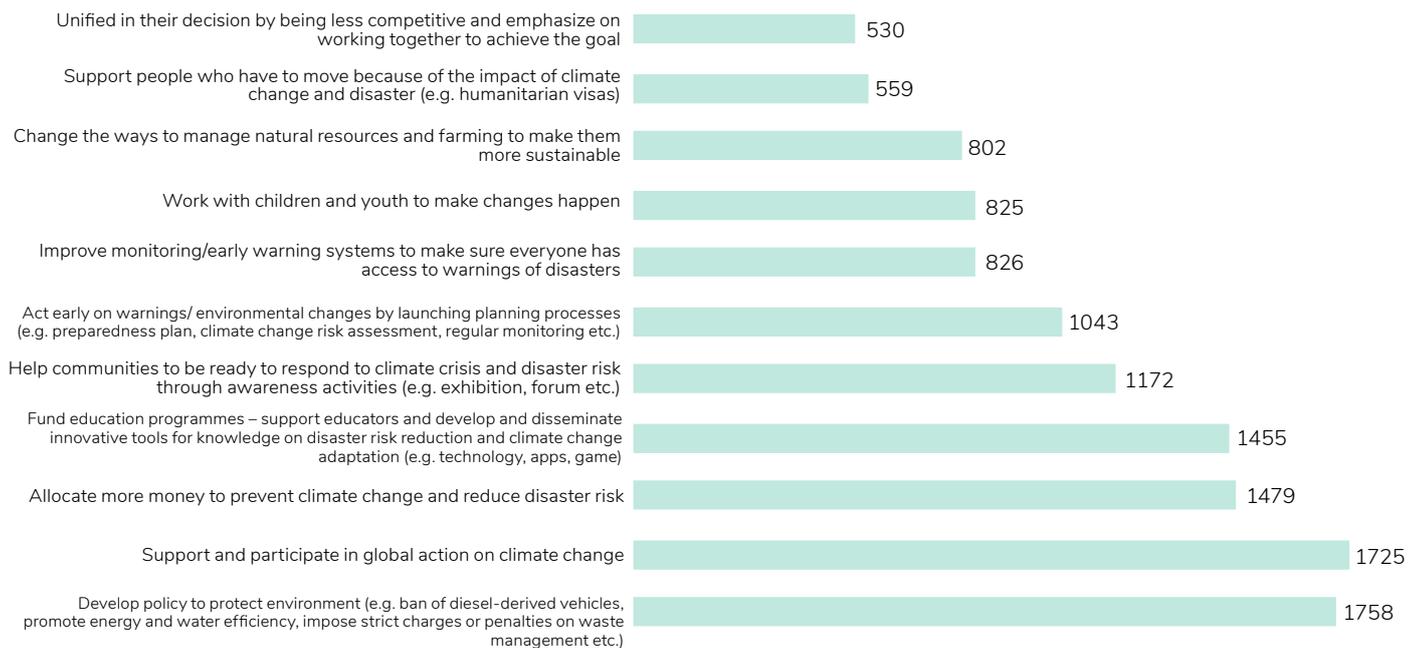
Recommendations to Governments and Policy Makers

The second part of the survey is composed of five (5) questions that is focused on the recommendations to governments, policy makers and stakeholders in addressing the gaps, challenges in addressing the climate crisis, disaster risks and the inclusion of vulnerable groups.

7 What would you like the national government and international decision makers to do about climate crisis and disaster risks?

On actions to be taken, participants could choose more than one (1) answer. Children's and youth's top recommendations for the national government and international decision makers on climate and disaster risk include: "Development of policy to protect environment (i.e. ban of diesel-derived vehicles, promote energy and water efficiency, impose strict charges or penalties on waste management) (14.44%) and "Support and participate in global action on climate change" (14.17%), accounting for two thirds of the responses.

Figure 21. Recommendation to National Government and International decision makers



Other top recommendations include "Allocate more money to prevent climate change and reduce disaster risk" (12.15%), and "Fund education programs-support educators and develop and disseminate innovative tools for knowledge on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation using technology, applications and games" (11.95%) (Figure 21).

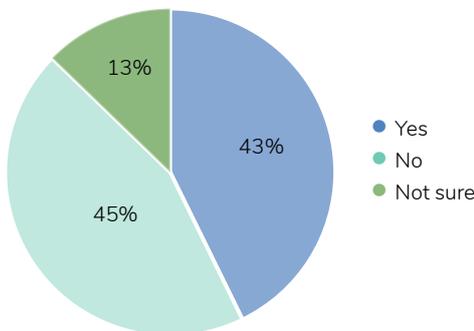
These children and youth also identified the following activities that need to be considered: Education and awareness raising, carbon tax implementation, decommissioning fossil-fuels, make corporations accountable for their contribution to climate crisis, make people especially in the rural areas aware of the climate changes and what it can be done by appointing of influential people in the village to facilitate the activity to improve the environment, rather than acting at the time of disaster and act early in a responsive manner.

Alternatively, respondents suggested more intellectual studies to tackle issues, start systematic movement on DRR, make plan of any developmental work considering the DRR, stop unmanaged road cutting into hill areas, support poor countries, influence through movies, technology advancement, the government to create policy where the energy plants (electricity power plant) would be replaced by alternative energy, renewable energy and eco-friendly energy. Additionally, for transportation and vehicles, there should be alternative source of energy to reduce CO₂ (carbon dioxide) production, air pollution and money consumption, and children and youth want to share this message to their friends and family members.

2 Do you think that children and youth with disability are given enough support to prepare for disaster?

This question pertains to the level of support given to children and youth with disability to prepare for disasters, in order to measure the support needed by the most vulnerable children and youth by addressing their concerns and gaps and strengthening their capacity to address challenges before hazards strike and to bounce back quickly after a disaster.

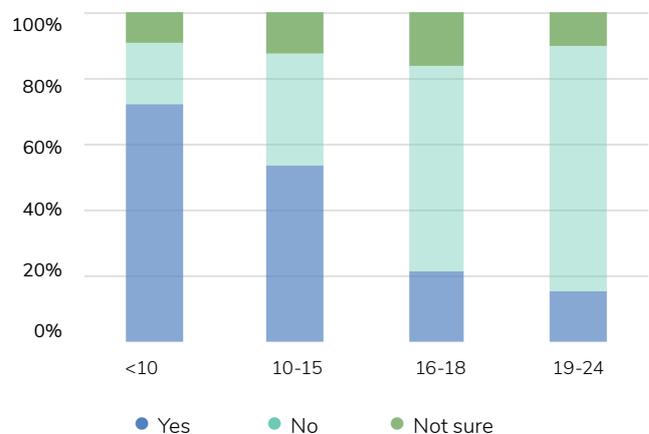
Figure 22. Perception on support to children and youth with disability



Overall, 43% answered “Yes”; 45% perceived “No”, and 13% “Not sure” (Figure 22).

It is important to note that while most respondent pointed out insufficient support, the proportion of children and youth choosing “No” increases according to the age groups (Figure 23). There is a need for a more inclusive approach for policies, plans, programmes, and projects on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction.

Figure 23. Perception on support to children and youth with disability by age



- Children speaking their mind about climate crisis issues in Indonesia. 16 children and youth representing 12 cities attended national level consultation workshop in Jakarta, while 2,759 participated in online consultation.

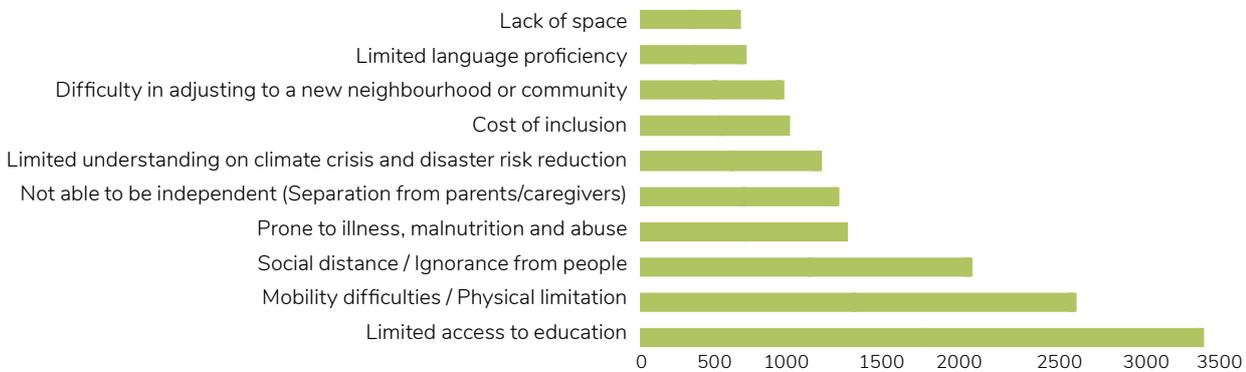


3 What are some of the particular challenges for children and youth with disability in your community in the context of disaster risk reduction?

Following the previous question, challenges for children and youth with disability in the community in the context of DRR were identified by children and youth (<10-24 years old) and more than 1 answer could be given (Figure 24).

“Limited access to education” (23.86%), “Mobility difficulties or physical limitation” (18.27%), and “Social distance or ignorance from people” (13.89%) were considered the top 3 challenges. They were followed by “Prone to illness, malnutrition and abuse” (8.62%), “Not able to be independent (separation from parents/caregivers)” (8.18%), “Limited understanding on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction” (7.34%), “Cost of inclusion” (6.17%), “Difficulty in adjusting to a new neighbourhood or community” (5.75%), “Limited language proficiency” (4.19%) and “Lack of space” (3.9%).

Figure 24. Challenges for children & youth disability in the community in the context of DRR

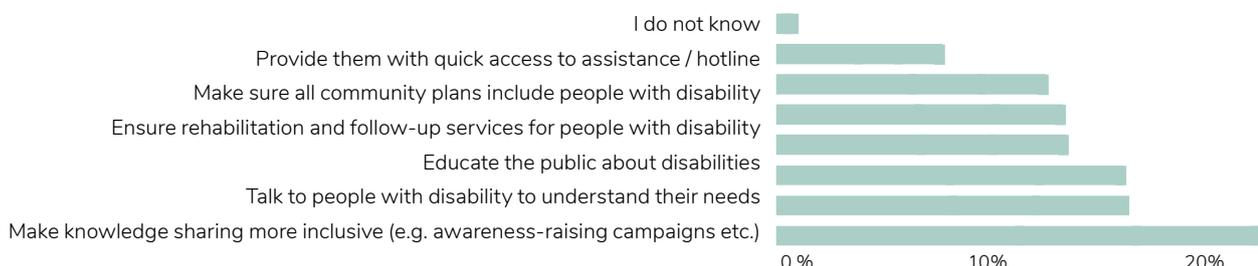


They also identified the following as particularly concerning for children and youth with disability: Difficulty in maintaining health and hygiene especially for menstruating girls, discrimination, lack of proper medical assistance, lack of proper rehabilitation assistance from government after a disaster, delay in providing financial assistance for rehabilitation, less care provided by the community, lack of support and aid assistance, not being able to voice out opinions and no encouragement because they are not taken seriously, and children who have disabilities get discriminated.

4 Which is the best way to support children and youth with disability to prepare for disasters?

For children and youth, the best way to support those with disability to prepare for disasters centers on making knowledge sharing more inclusive (e.g. awareness-raising campaigns) (22.05%), consulting people with special needs on DRR policies (16.03%), talking to people with disabilities to understand their needs (15.77%) (Figure 25). Participants could choose one or more answer and a total of 8,879 responses were received.

Figure 25. Best way to support children & youth with disability to prepare for disaster



Educating the public about disabilities (13.11%), ensuring rehabilitation and follow-up services for people with disabilities (12.93%) and making sure all community plans include people with disabilities (12.15%) were also considered as important ways.

Note that most of the selected options are related to pre-disaster preparedness and post-relief rehabilitation. Few respondents chose “Provide them with quick access to assistance/hotline”, which is more focused on the emergency relief phase.

5 What are the good ways for NGOs or governments to collect opinion or feedback from children and youth, including those with disabilities, on DRR projects or initiatives?

The preferred ways for NGO or governments to collect opinion or feedback from children and youth, including those with disabilities on DRR projects or initiatives are: “Children and youth forum” (18.49%), “DRR Student clubs” (13.46%), “Children and youth be represented in governmental ministerial meetings on DRR policies” (10.26%) and “High school/university assignment based on DRR” (9.60%), and “Contest/competition (e.g. debate, art, literature)” (8.37%) (Figure 26). A total of 11,108 responses were collected.

Other suggestions identified by the respondents include adoption of DRR studies in curriculum, increasing awareness of climate change, giving them the platform however small it may be to express their opinions by conducting various programs in small communities, meetings, awareness sessions, social services, and youth DRR groups.

Figure 26. Ways for NGOs or Governments to collect opinion or feedback from Children and Youth, including those with disabilities

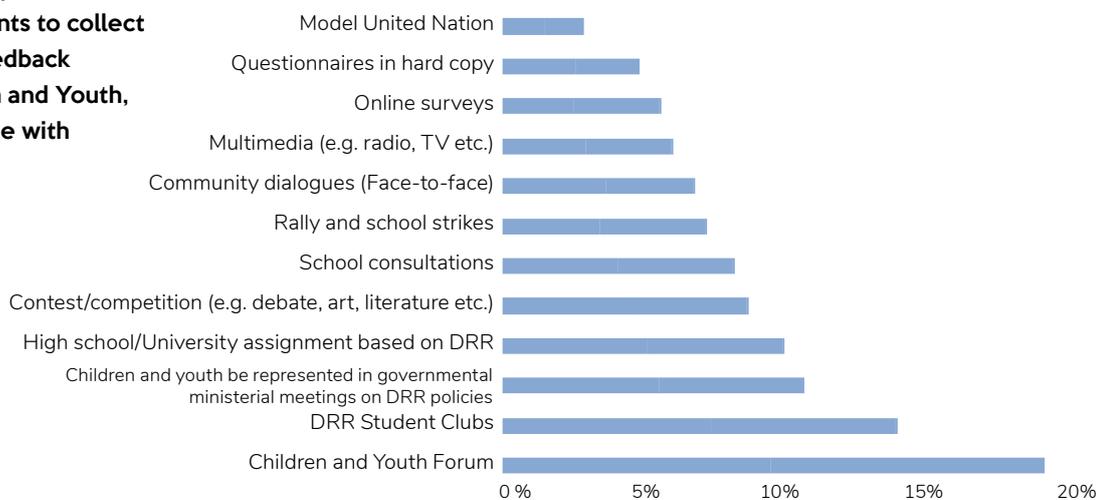
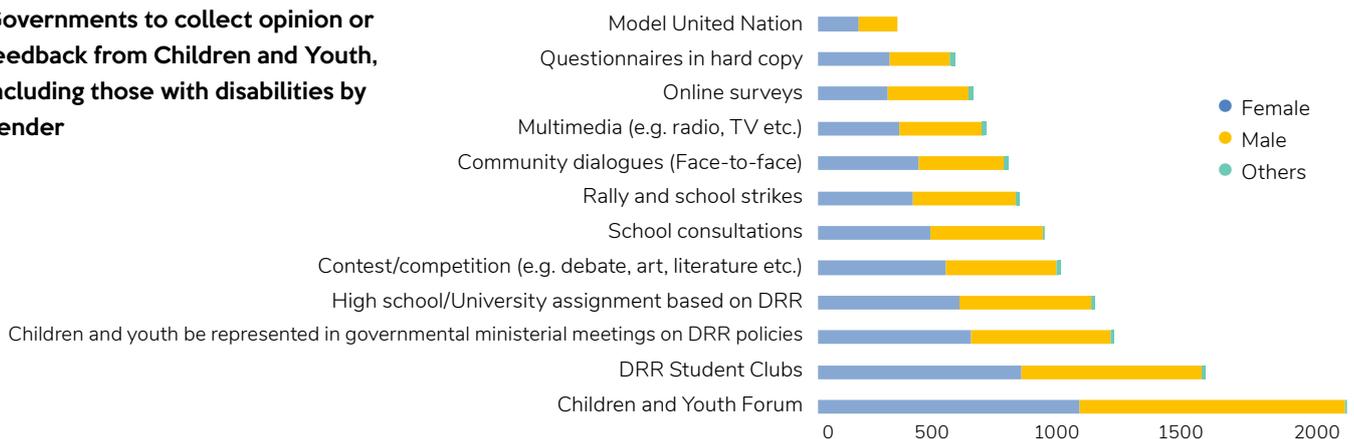


Figure 27. Ways for NGOs or Governments to collect opinion or feedback from Children and Youth, including those with disabilities by gender



Part 3: Addressing Climate Crisis and Disaster Risks

The third part of the survey has seven questions (two questions moved to Annex 1) that concentrates on addressing the climate crisis and disaster risks. The proposed initiatives are tackled in this section including recommendations for actions, and children’s and youth’s contribution to help address the climate crisis and disaster risk.

7 What kind of infrastructure does your community need? How could it incorporate climate and disaster risk considerations as it is being built? What ideas do you have for climate and disaster resilient infrastructure?

Children and youth aged 10–24 years old were given a total of 15 ideas to choose on how to build climate and disaster resilient infrastructure, of which respondents could choose more than 1 answer. The top preferred actions are: “Local safe house area with child friendly space, equipped with enough water and food that is sustainable with indoor crops plantation” (15.68%), “Improved water supply and waste management facilities” (10.76%), and “Strong construction of buildings with storm and climate proofing” (9.91%), see Figure 28.

Figure 28. Ideas for climate and disaster resilient infrastructure



► Lucy and her classmates creating awareness in school on how volcanoes are formed and causes earthquake or other forms of a disaster. They are also part of their school's DRR Club under World Vision's Child Focus DRR project in Papua New Guinea.

The ideas above also received significant responses: “Retrofitting of schools and hospitals with tighter safeguards and enforcement of building codes” (7.53%), “Evacuation centres/shelters” (7.43%), “Establishment of early warning communication systems of large coverage with internet/ Bluetooth” (6.75%), “Hold mangrove

conservation and replanting programme” (6.30%), “Resilient transport system (road, rail, ports, airport)” (5.75%), “Public transport powered by renewable energy and incorporate cashless payment” (5.55%), “Renewable energy infrastructures (e.g. wind farms, solar plants)” (5.22%), “Disaster proof telecom systems-underground cabling” (4.60%) and “Locate new facilities of energy generation outside high-risk zones” (4.21%).

“Green building/community park” (3.83%), “Enhance carbon sink/carbon capture and storage power plant” (3.45%), “Adjust design criteria for transmission lines (e.g. increase transmission tower height, strong electricity poles)” (2.59%) received less than 500 responses.

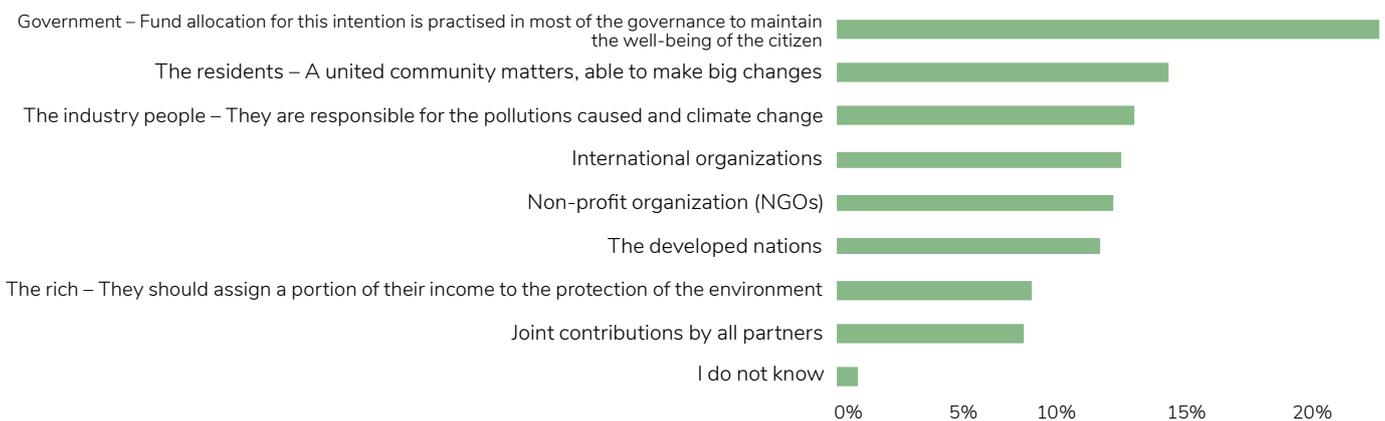
Other proposed actions for building resilient communities identified are alternative electricity (renewable energy), context base initiatives such as cyclone shelter, flood shelter, “earthing” in schools, education and awareness programs for local builders about resilient infrastructures, locate with new facilities, making cities less car friendly and more cycle based, proper awareness to children, and extra preparedness plan with complete emergency equipment.

2

Who do you think should pay for the initiatives to be taken to reduce disaster risk and adapt climate change in your community?

Children and youth think that the following should pay for the initiatives to be taken to reduce disaster risks and adapt climate change in the community (Figure 29). Respondents could select one or more answer and an accumulated total 8,493 responses were collected.

Figure 29. Who should pay for the initiatives to be taken to reduce disaster risk and adapt climate change in the community?



The top three perceived payers are “Government – Fund allocation for this intention is practiced in most governance to maintain the well-being of citizens” (22.72%) “the residents- A united community matters, able to make big changes” (13.89%) and “the industry people – They are responsible for the pollutions caused and climate change” (12.39%). “International organizations” (11.89%) “Non-profit organizations (NGOs)” (11.55%) and “The developed nations” (10.94%) received similar votes, raking 4-6. “The rich – They should assign a portion of their income to the protection of the environment” (8.08%) and “Joint contributions by all partners” (7.77%) received least votes.



► After attending the Training of Trainers workshop by World Vision Myanmar, teachers use DRR Teacher Toolkit to teach students how to protect themselves during earthquake by “drop, cover, hold”. Peer sharing and learning is effective under support of teachers.

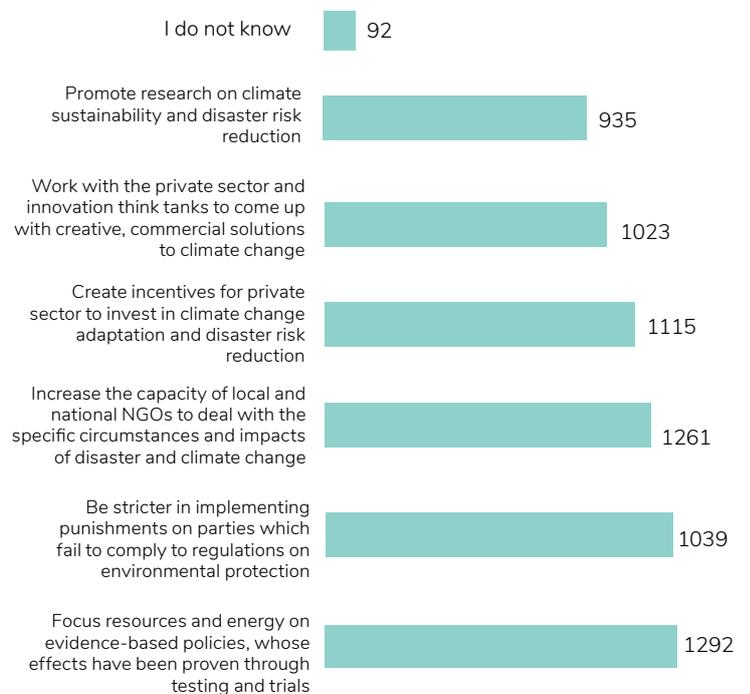
3 Which of the following should the government begin with as the key focus step to solve climate crisis?

Children and youth gave recommendations to governments to solve climate crisis, as they were asked to identify one key action.

Listed below are the five (5) main priorities identified, chosen by over 1,000 respondents: Governments needs to “Focus resources and energy on evidence-based policies, whose effects have been proven through testing and trials” (18.62%) , “Be stricter in implementing punishments on parties which fail to comply to regulations on environmental protection” (18.18%), “Increase the capacity of local and national NGOs to deal with the specific circumstances and impacts of disaster and climate change” (17.34%), “Create incentives for private sector to invest in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction” (16.07%) and “Work with the private sector and innovation think tanks to come up with creative, commercial solutions to climate change” (14.98%).

“Promoting research on climate sustainability and disaster risk reduction” (13.48%) was also identified as a close priority by 935 respondents.

Figure 30. Government to begin with as the key focus step to solve climate crisis



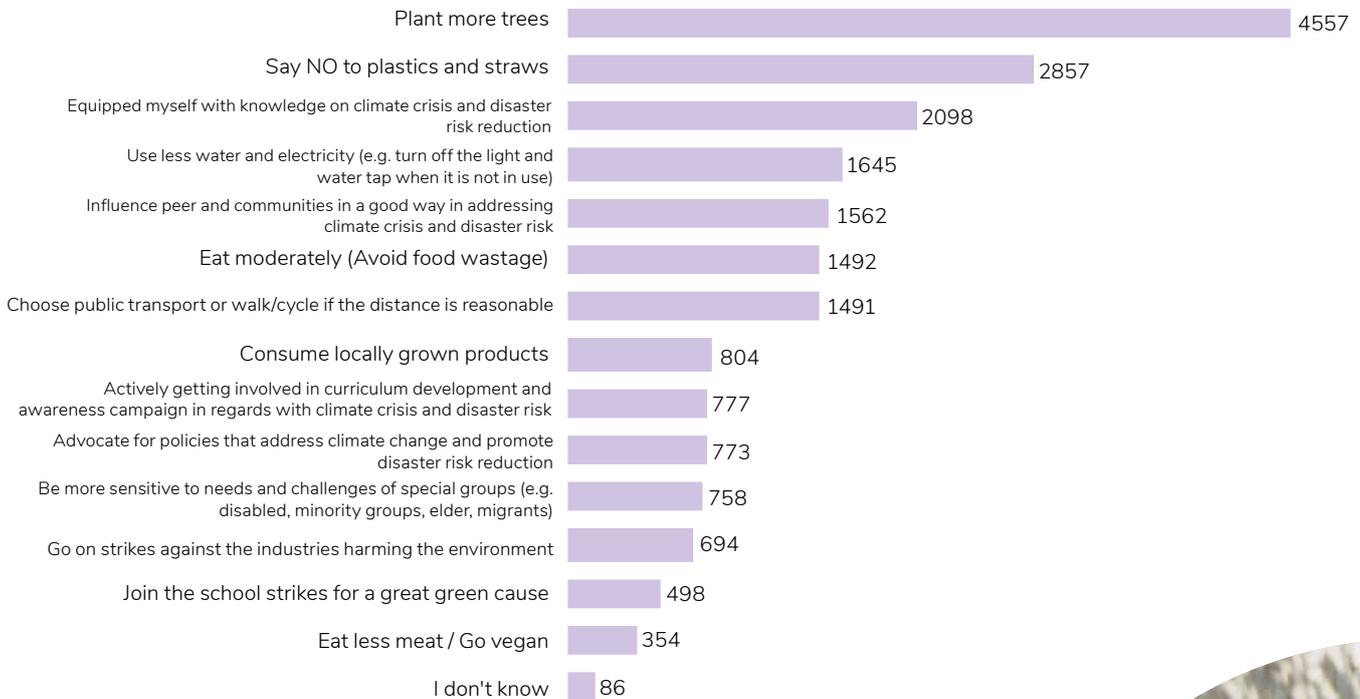
Others answered by respondents include: “Construction and development based on Sustainable Development (Goals)”: ”Don’t just plan to make things work and happen, as political leaders the citizen rely on you as our voice kindly listen to us and act now”; “Infrastructures for development”; “Protect and restore key ecosystems”; “Support small agricultural producers”; “Promote green energy”. “Combat short-lived climate pollutants” “Bet on adaptation, not just mitigation”; “Start from the local level”; “Sustainable Development Goals and Strategy based development activities.”

Interestingly, the distribution of responses did not vary much across other answers. This may indicate that children and youth feel that many steps needs to be taken, and there is no one-single solution.

4 What can you do to help address climate crisis and disaster risk?

Respondents were asked to select one (1) or more actions they would do to address the climate crisis and disaster risks issues. “To plant more trees” ranked as the number 1 action (21.91%), receiving significantly more votes than any other option, almost doubling that of priority 2 (Figure 31).

Figure 31. What can you do to help address climate crisis and disaster risk?



Other priority action that children and youth are willing to take, in descending order, are to “Say no to plastics and straws” (14.04%), “Equip with knowledge on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction” (10.31%), “Use less water and electricity (e.g. turn off the light and water tap when it is not in use)” (8.09%), “Influence peers and communities in a good way in addressing climate crisis and disaster risks” (7.68%), “Eat moderately (avoid food wastage)” (7.33%) and “Choose public transport or walk/cycle if the distance is reasonable” (7.33%); all receiving above 1,000 response.

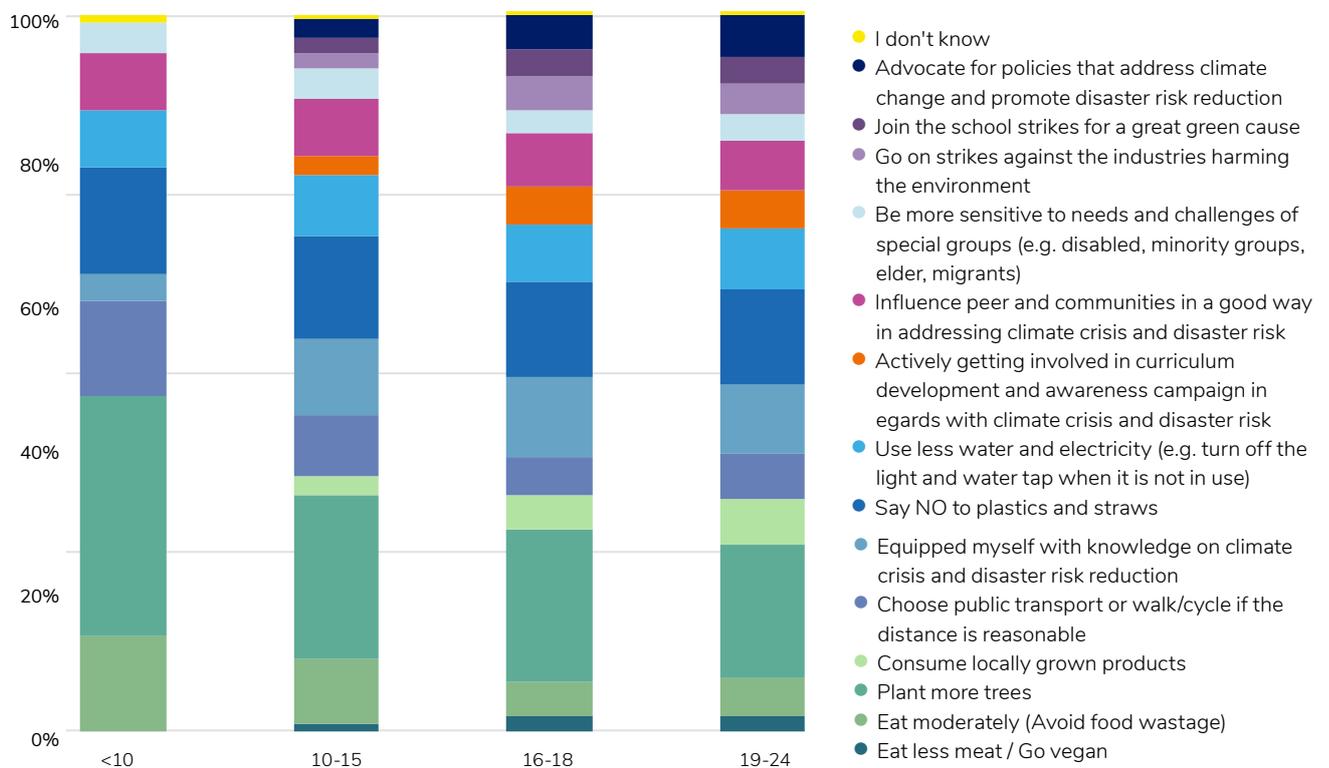
► A student planting trees in their school garden in Myanmar. After attending a workshop organized by World Vision, children organizes Child Group in schools and wards to grow trees. They also suggest the authorities to grow plants and trees in Mandalay.



Other proposed answers from participants, are to avoid over population, focus on cleanliness, recycle things, avoid using air conditioners, indoor heaters and other energy-consuming and polluting appliances, try to reduce carbon footprint through various methods. Avoid using energy-consuming and polluting appliances like air conditioners and indoor heaters, donate money as well as necessary materials to disaster victims and survivors, be the change I want to see the world, do not throw waste in the water, do not use vehicles that emit smoke, focus on Sustainable Development Goals, judicious use of all non-renewable natural resources, make more green cities, sensitization programmes to help people to understand sustainable development in proper way, use of solar energy and use of electric vehicles.

Figure 32 also shows that while there is not much difference among gender groups, children and youth of different ages show varied ways to contribute to help address climate and disaster risk issues.

Figure 32. What can you do to help address climate crisis and disaster risk? (% by age group)



The top 2 choices are the same among all groups, with everyone prioritizing “Plant more trees” (18-34% in all groups), followed by “say NO to plastics and straws” (13-15% in all groups).

For children under 10, the remaining priorities are “Eat moderately” (13.37%), “Public transport/walk/ cycle” (12.98%), “Influence peers and communities” (8.13%), “Use less water and electricity” (7.86%) and “Be more sensitive to needs and challenges of special groups” (4.46%).

Children between 10-15 years old, chose the following: “Equipped myself with knowledge” (10.31%), “Eat moderately” (8.8%), “Choose public transport/walk/cycle” (8.38%), “Use less water and electricity” (8.16%), and “Influence peer and communities” (8.06%).

For 16-18 years old, their choices are “Equip myself with knowledge” (10.87%), “Use less water and electricity” (7.89%), “Influence peer and communities” (7.57%), “Choose public transport/walk/cycle” (5.45%) and “Eat moderately” (5.18%).

Lastly, for youths above 19 years old, they prefer “Equip myself with knowledge” (9.63%), “Use less water and electricity” (8.32%), “Influence peer and communities” (6.83%), “Consume locally grown products” (6.7%) and “Choose public transport/walk/cycle” (6.2%) .

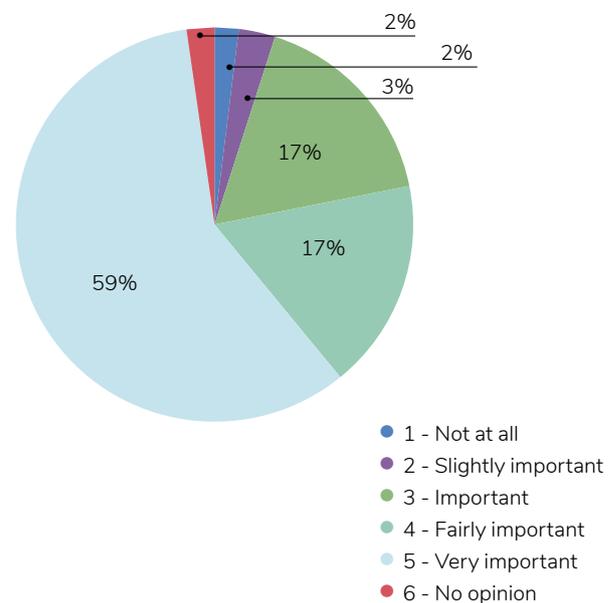
5 How important is climate change adaption and DRR to you?

All <10 to 24 year old children and youth were eventually asked about their perceived importance of climate change adaptation and DRR, ranging between 5 as Very Important and 1, Not at All.

Majority of the respondents chose 5-Very Important, with 3,785 responses (Figure 33). Followed by 4, Fairly important with 1,112 responses. “Important” and “Slightly important” received 1,093 and 192 responses respectively. Only 126 responded that they did not consider these them important.

The proportion of children and youth (>93%) acknowledging the importance of climate change adaptation and DRR in relation to them is overwhelming. While increased education and media coverage around the topic might contribute to the predominating perception, it may also imply that children and youth are already seeing the consequences and many are worried about the future.

Figure 33. Importance of climate change adaptation and DRR to Children and Youth



Case Study:

Australia's *Our World, Our Say*

Using the same consultation guidelines, a coalition of Australian organizations surveyed 1,500 young people aged 10–24, then recruited an advisory panel of young people aged 13–24 to analyse the survey data. Their report will be published in August 2020, entitled [Our World, Our Say](#).

Young Australians believe in climate change – 83% think there is a connection between climate and hazards. While females were 12% more concerned than males about climate change and views varied between states and across rural/urban divides, a majority in every geographic and demographic group are concerned about the climate.

Most young people are already feeling the effects of increased natural hazards and climate change and adopting resilient behaviour as they feel disasters present a real threat to lives and livelihoods. Ninety percent reported experiencing a natural hazard in the last three years, with 61% accessing emergency warning and alert systems. Half of all rural respondents had prepared their properties for dangerous weather, and nearly two thirds (63%) of young people believed hazards are occurring more often. Yet young Australians feel under-prepared to face hazards by schools. There is a disconnection between the kinds of disasters taught at schools, and the disasters they experience, and 95% learn about disasters from sources outside of school.

Young Australians want the Australian government to listen to scientists' advice on climate change and transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. However, only 2% felt they were consistently listened to by the Government, and 13% felt listened to at all, compared to 67% that felt listened to by parents.

Highlighted comparison to the Asia-Pacific Regional Online Consultation

Key issue	Asia-Pacific young people	Australian young people
Recent climate risks experienced	#1 Extreme temperature (41%) #2 Floods (28%) #3 Intense rain (27%)	#1 Extreme heat (93%) #2 Hailstorms (93%) #3 Bushfires (79%)
Do you think climate-linked disasters are becoming more frequent?	78% more often, 19% not more often (in local area)	63% more often, 29% not more often (in general)
Who is most at risk in disasters?	#1 Young people (18%) #2 The elderly people (17%) #3 People with disabilities (14%)	#1 Homeless people (61%) #2 The elderly (59%) #3 People with disabilities (57%)
Personal level of understanding of disaster risks	50% positive (4 or 5/5) about disasters in general	57% positive (4 or 5/5) about disasters in their area
Top sources of climate & DRR info	#1 School (21%) #2 News (15%) #3 Social Media (13%)	Other than school: #1 Internet research (62%) #2 Social media (59%)
Which climate & DRR organisations do you know?	#1 UNDRR (20%) #2 None (18%) #3 School Strike (12%)	#1 School Strike (49%) #2 Paris Agreement (34%) #3 None (27%)
How important is Climate Change and DRR to you?	93% view climate change and DRR as important	78% concerned about climate change
What governments should do to solve climate crisis?	#1 participate in global action on climate change	#1 Transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy



“

I am organizing a group in our school to grow many trees weekly and monthly. I would like to suggest the authorities to grow plants and trees in Mandalay.

I think plastics are the major contributor to the climate change. It is hard to decay in the soil and when we burn them, the smokes and harm human health and pollute the air.”

Cherry Win, 16, a youth representative, supported by World Vision Myanmar.

Face-to-face Consultation Key Findings

Demographics

A total of 1,413 children and youth participated in the face-to-face consultation. Ten countries participated: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands . During the 2019 Asian Children Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, 50 children and youth represented 21 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

Apart from proportional representation of both boys and girls, children and youth with disabilities were also invited to the consultation events in some countries.

Children and youth were consulted on the issues and their experiences on disaster risk reduction and climate crisis in their communities. Through this platform, they expressed their contribution in the society in addressing disaster risks and climate crisis and provided their recommendations to the legislators, governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders who can help address the issues of today and the future.

Children and youth from the countries of the Asia-Pacific region admit that they have little knowledge on the global agreement on climate change and disaster risk reduction. However, given their experiences in disaster situation, the children and youth have suggestions and recommendations to governments, policy makers, and other stakeholders to instil resilience building in the community.

These young people have different perspective in life, particularly on DRR and climate change. Young as they are, they were able to express their concerns on the current situation in their respective countries. Part of their concern is that people will lose their lives because of disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. They are also concerned that more flooding incidents will happen because of deforestation. Furthermore, they worry that there will be no more trees in the future. Listed below are the main concerns of children and youth.

- Poor sanitation and waste management leading to poor hygiene, water pollution, diseases and destruction of aquatic habitats.
- Release of toxins, particulate matter, smoke and emissions leading to air pollution, diseases and corrosion of monuments.
- Extreme temperature and glaciers melting leading to the rising of sea level and occurrence of natural disasters.
- Removal of forests and vegetation leading to destruction of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem.
- Children and their families do not have enough choices to apply sustainable options for livelihood and food source. They experience disasters and have less capacity to deal with it.
- Health-related concerns.
- Air pollution.
- Physical and mental trauma.
- Economic crisis.

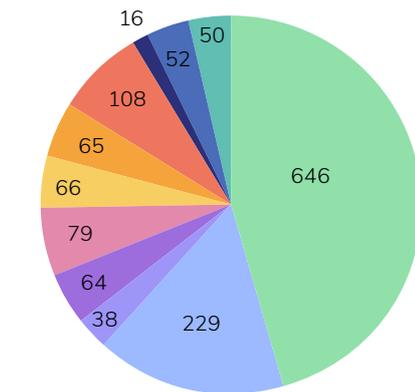


Figure 34. No. of Face-to-face Consultation Children & Youth Participants



Recommendations

Children and youth think that the following are all responsible to act on disaster risk reduction and address the climate crisis:

Actors	Responsibility
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be strict: Make sure that the law is being implemented. • Limit the number of logging and mining in the country. • Reduce gas emissions. • Make strong policy and plans for DRR and CCA. • Invest and allocate resources for DRR and CCA initiatives. • Build proper water supplies for communities. • Advocate for risk informed development of infrastructure. • Evaluate and inspect facilities and infrastructures for safety issues. • Build resilient structures and infrastructures that includes school facilities, eco-friendly spaces and inclusive shelters. • Conduct vulnerability assessments. • Conduct information dissemination and communication campaigns. • Include children and youth participation, listen and hear the voices of children. • Provide platforms for children to speak
Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop curriculum towards resilience building. • Include disaster risk reduction and climate change topics in school curriculum/syllabus. • Invest in disaster risk reduction activities. • Build resilient school facilities. • Raise awareness of teachers, staff and students on disaster risk reduction plans and contingency plans of schools to hazards • Ensure that every child (including children with disabilities) knows about the safe places within the school building including emergency exits. • Make school safety planning compulsory in every school.
National NGOs & local CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide linkages to the government and people. • Conserve the environment. • Conduct eco-friendly activities. • Provide training programs, IEC (Information, Education and Communication), and seminars on DRR and climate crisis. • Ensure participation, listen and raise the voices of children.
UN & INGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide platform for children to speak. • Include participation of children and youth in the consultations for regional and global platforms.
Private sector & industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the environment. • Should be given heavy taxes on non-renewable resources. • Should provide subsidy on installation and price of clean energy sources. • Contribute and help in mitigating greenhouse gases.
Children & youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise children and youth voices to adults. • Listen and learn from lectures in school. • Share knowledge on DRR and CCA to peers. • Attend and actively participate in trainings, forums and seminars on climate change and disaster risk reduction. • Be involved in climate action and eco-friendly activities.
Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in environmental conservation. • To be aware on the issues of disaster risks and climate crisis. • To be involved in the activities to lessen impacts of hazards. • Participate in campaigns to inform others. • Protect the environment. • Proper waste management: Reduce, reuse, recycle, recover. • Be involved in eco-friendly activities: plant more trees.



For a better future we must work together.”

Solomon Islands

Highlights and Vignettes

In 2020, children and youth call for an “inclusive” approach to DRR and CCA processes, increased participation on the policy and framework for DRR and CCA and their involvement in DRR and CCA activities. The experiences and thoughts of children and youth in the Asia and Pacific region point towards the need to continue empowering their group and the recurring theme is that they be given the opportunity to be heard and be involved. Several countries had established policies and plans on Disaster Management as a solution to address disasters and climate crisis. Children and youth see the need to strengthen policies and plans to reduce disaster risks and address further risks. Current initiatives of governments to prevent and mitigate disaster risks and climate crisis are observed but are not enough. There is a strong call to governments to collaborate with different stakeholders and include the most vulnerable groups, especially children and youth, and children with disabilities in addressing the negative impacts of hazards including climate crisis in every country.

While children and youth have identified concerns, stakeholders and action steps regarding climate crisis and disaster risks reduction, they also encountered some questions during their discussion. In the regional level consultation at the Asia’s Children Summit, apart from sharing their recommendations, children and youth also summarized their unsolved problems into four questions, presenting to adults to think about:

- How do we bring about cross-country collaborations while holding governments, especially of developed countries accountable for their actions and failure to uphold their promises?
- While most countries have some sort of legislation of advocating climate change, we aren’t seeing any affects, how do we assure empowerment of such laws?
- When actions towards climate change collide with religious and culture practices of the people, how do we find common ground?
- When many economies depend on fossil fuels, how do we balance economic and environmental priorities?



We are here because we realize the urgent need for empowerment of the youth and children of our country to be highly involved and consulted in disaster risk reduction and management and climate crisis planning and programming.” Philippines

The children and youth appeal to the government to support and listen to their voices, and make sure they are heard.” Solomon Islands

Systematic process to put the voice of the children.” Nepal



- ▶ 16-year-old Cherry is a member of the Youth Group in Mandalay, Myanmar, supported by World Vision. Her youth group are cleaning drains and streets and hopes the waste disposal system can be more systematic and the gov't can educate the community about the environment.

Consolidated voices of Children and Youth

We, the Children and Youth in the Asia-Pacific region, were consulted by the following leading organizations: World Vision, UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. We were gathered to share our thoughts and have our voices heard on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction, particularly our recommendations and monitoring of government actions and issues related to inclusive approaches for participation of children and youth.

We were gathered because we realized the urgent need for the empowerment of the children and youth of our country and the need to be highly involved and consulted in DRR and on the climate crisis.

We recognize our vulnerability to disasters and our potential as agents of change among our peers. Our families, schools, and communities contribute to community resilience building, averting and mitigating the climate crisis.

We have identified the following contributions and recommendations, as agreed upon during the discussions of children, youth, non-governmental organizations, and development partners, in the process of mainstreaming and localization of children and youth in DRR and climate discussions through this forum.

With this engagement, we recommend and present these solutions to our local and national governments, states, and non-state actors so we can step forward in our mission to reduce impact of disaster risks and develop climate adaptation, as we commit to support and take action on the Asia Regional Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the localization of the Paris Climate Accord.

We, the Children and Youth in Asia-Pacific, hereby commit to work on DRR and climate actions in support of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.



Aliya is playing with her sister at her house before going to school. She is a member of World Vision's Children Club, where she has attended DRR training.

Our contributions include:

Disaster Risk Reduction

- We commit to share knowledge to our peers which we have acquired through others. We commit to listen to lectures in school, execute, and communicate awareness in our communities.
- We commit to attend and actively participate in more trainings, seminars, and capacity building about disasters and conduct similar activities.
- We commit to inform other people the importance of being prepared, and to prepare a contingency plan to lessen the impact of a disaster, in case a disaster occurs.
- We commit to do our best to disseminate and apply the knowledge that we have to our communities.
- We commit to be responsible in volunteering on trainings on DRR and help fund raising campaigns to be used in responding to calamities.
- We commit to volunteer and help rehabilitate the communities affected by disasters to the best of our abilities and available resources.
- We commit to promote the application of the “build back better” principle.
- We commit to do more researches and assessments for disaster risk reduction. accelerate the shift to cleaner energy alternatives and greener development.”

Climate Crisis

- We commit to be involved in climate action and eco-friendly activities (clean-up drives, tree planting activities, reducing the use of plastics, recycling paper, proper maintenance of water storage, and practicing the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) and afterwards disseminate information about climate crisis.
- We commit our willingness to learn by attending forums about the climate crisis and to inform people about the effects of climate change.
- We commit to do our best to lessen the effects and impacts of climate change.

Our recommendations to Policy Makers/ Legislators, Governments, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Crisis

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Governments must invest/allocate resources and advocate for risk-informed development planning, including infrastructure.
- Governments must conduct regular evaluation and inspection of facilities and infrastructure for safety issues (i.e. proper fire equipment and drainages).
- We recommend governments to build more inclusive shelters, strong resilient school facilities, and child-friendly spaces to ensure children’s safety to hazards.
- We recommend governments and stakeholders the establishment of psychosocial support and include follow up therapy sessions for the affected population in distress situations.
- We recommend governments and stakeholders to support and help affected children, especially children with disabilities during an emergency.
- We recommend to ensure inclusion of children representatives as DRR advocate during Disaster Risk Management planning.
- We recommend that support is provided by governments and stakeholders to install early warning systems and patronize early warning device ideas by citizens and with safety signs in the cities or provinces translated to local dialects.
- Schools, villages and cities/municipalities should do more drills, seminars, simulation activities, and trainings to lessen the risks of disasters, and to further capacitate the people with regards to disaster prevention.
- We recommend legislators, governments and stakeholders to conduct more drills, inform more people, and provide more equipment and materials (e.g. emergency kits) to people.
- We recommend governments to enhance

vulnerability assessment and timely response to the need of the disaster affected population especially the vulnerable people.

- We recommend government to build more evacuation centres and ensure they are children/youth friendly.
- We recommend conducting information dissemination and communication campaigns on disaster preparedness.
- We recommend the use of social media platforms for effective information dissemination.
- We recommend governments and legislators to provide/require household-based DRR planning and provide transparent evacuation maps.

Climate Crisis

- We recommend governments to increase access to climate funding and strengthen accountability in terms of full implementation and enforcement of existing environmental protection laws.
- We recommend governments to limit the number of mining and logging activities in country.
- We recommend that governments and the Department/Ministry of Education to invest in reviewing the school curriculum and teaching the younger generation about the science behind climate change and disasters so we can also help in addressing it.
- We recommend governments to promote the conversion of biological wastes to biofuel and exchange of biological wastes to incentives.
- We recommend to all to promote 4Rs- Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Recovery.
- We recommend governments and stakeholders to conduct eco-friendly activities such as tree planting activities, practicing proper waste segregation, and minimizing the use of plastics.
- We recommend governments and stakeholders to provide training programmes, information, education and communication (IEC) campaign, and seminars on the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction and to increase knowledge and awareness on the global agreements.
- We recommend governments maintain and upgrade existing sewerage system.

- We recommend governments to use social media platforms.
- We recommend that governments invests on research and allocate time and effort in providing eco-friendly facilities.
- We recommend governments and stakeholders to invest on renewable energy and replace power plants with windmills or solar panels.
- We recommend to all to provide a budget for planting of trees and to conserve electricity to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- We recommend to national governments and stakeholders to conduct information drives regarding DRR and climate crisis at the grassroots level or in villages.
- We recommend to the local, national, and world leaders to conduct coastal clean-up drives.
- We recommend barangay (village/district) councils and municipal/city governments to establish children's organizations for DRR and CCA.
- We recommend governments to prohibit the settlements of residents near water reservoirs.
- We would like governments, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to include participation, listen and raise the voices of children and youth on DRR and climate issues in international, national and local forums and platforms.
- We recommend governments to consult children and youth in the community and raise awareness on existing DRR and CCA policies so that we may also participate in the implementation.
- We recommend to all state leaders to prioritize the future of children living in your country and join hand in hand to help other country that is experiencing crisis/disasters as well as working together to reduce the risks.

“

Right here, I demand my future.”

Conclusion

A total of 9,681 children and youth from over 12 countries; plus one regional level meeting, participated in the face-to-face and online consultation from September 2019 to January 2020, voicing out their views and perspectives related to disaster risk reduction and climate crisis adaptation.

The online and face-to-face consultations served as a platform for children and youth to discuss a common understanding on DRR and climate crisis and come up with suggestions to countries on how governments can engage with children and youth in building resilience contributing to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

To direct and strengthen all actions on DRR and climate crisis, children and youth are looking forward on the following:

- [Inclusive platform for C&Y to speak and contribute in decision making process](#)

In seeking the views of children and youth on disaster risks and climate change, and their hopes for the future, both online surveys and face to face consultations have clearly shown that there is a need for governments and relevant stakeholders to provide different types of platform for children, youth including children and youth with disabilities to participate and contribute. For an inclusive process, the government and relevant stakeholders should encourage children and youth participation in the processes of policy making, planning and implementation of DRR and climate change programmes at the national and community levels.

- [DRR/CCA formal education in school curriculum, with improved access for disabled C&Y](#)

In raising awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction and climate crisis among children and youth, the online consultation shows that most of children and youth learned about DRR and the climate crisis through formal education and schools but children and youth with disabilities continue to have limited access to education. On the other hand, the face-to-face consultation results clearly pointed-out that the department/ministry of education should include topics on DRR and climate crisis in the school curricula/syllabus to strengthen and deepen the knowledge of children and youth in dealing with disaster risks and climate crisis. At the same time, governments and relevant stakeholders need to promote awareness raising campaigns on DRR and CCA in schools and communities.

- [Empower C&Y to take actions to address climate crisis and disaster risks](#)

During the face-to-face consultation, children and youth expressed that they wanted to have a deeper involvement on DRR and in carrying out actions on climate crisis; they wanted to be empowered to raise their voices; share their knowledge to their peers; attend and actively participate in trainings, forums and seminars; and be involved in climate crisis and seco-friendly activities.

Lastly, the children and youth acknowledged the importance of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. They also acknowledged that they still need to learn in order to do more and contribute to disaster risk reduction and actions combating the climate crisis. Despite the challenge, these children and youth are willing to learn and understand disaster risks and the climate crisis as shown in both the online surveys and face-to-face consultations. The issues on DRR and the climate crisis are evident, and glaring given the fact that they experience disasters in the past and that it concerns their future.

► Child delegates actively sharing their thoughts at 2019 Asian Children's Summit.



Recommendations

The children and youth recommend that governments and stakeholders strengthen the mechanisms on DRR and climate adaptation and mitigation by including the following for policy and funding and programmes.

1. Increased investment and allocation of resources towards DRR and CCA priorities by governments and partners

Education:

- o Skills-based learning to children incorporated in curriculums
- o Community-focused advocacy around DRR and CCA for awareness raising, including Early warning and community-based disaster risk management training

Response preparedness and capacity

- o Psychosocial support service in disaster responses
- o Inclusive services for children with disabilities in emergencies

Prevention:

- o Risk informed development programmes and resilient infrastructure
- o Community preparedness and structural resilience

Innovative solutions:

- o Financial investments in innovative tools to address DRR and CCA, especially to engage with children and youth
- o Support research to inform appropriate and effective DRR/CCA programmes

2. Enforcement of climate and environmental laws and development of sector-specific policy and regulations

- o Increased restrictions on environmentally degrading activities, including mining and logging.
- o Enforcement and full implementation of environmental protection laws
- o Improved mitigation goals, including climate actions targeting reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and investments in renewable energy
- o Waste Management: Improved sustainable use of waste for energy and improved sewage systems

3. Meaningful engagement with Children and Youth

- o Consultations with children and youth during CCA and DRR processes
- o Creating platforms and avenues for children and youth participation at national and subnational levels
- o Prioritizing the needs of children and youth including most at risk and people living with disabilities and ensuring their rights

“

We are the future of our nation. We have the right to speak up. And it is our right to be heard by the government and agencies. So do not be afraid to voice out our demands. We are the future, we are the now. We can start the change with ourselves. We can be good examples to one another.” Philippines



Reflection and Learning

Reflecting on the Asia Pacific Region's C&Y Statements since the Sendai Framework for DRR adoption in March 2015

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2016-2030 in March 2015, two Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) were held as a platform to discuss and monitor the progress of the Sendai Framework implementation in Asia. In 2016, the first AMCDRR since the advent of the Sendai Framework was held in New Delhi, India, aimed to shape the implementation and monitoring of the SFDRR in the Asia Pacific region. The second AMCDRR was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in 2018 and highlighted DRR as a key instrument to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In both these Ministerial Meetings, the Children and Youth Stakeholders Group in Asia submitted its Regional Statement to ensure that the children's and youth's concerns and voices are emphasized in the Ministerial meetings.

The 2020 Conference aimed to look at the region's progress in the Sendai Framework implementation and set the course of the Asia Pacific's disaster resilience for the next decade to ensure the achievement of the SDG and SFDRR 2030 targets. This Report is part of the preparation effort to the Conference, which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to craft the Stakeholder Group's Regional Statement. A brief review and reflection on the previous C&Y Statements (2016 and 2018) were undertaken to help strengthen the context and firm-up the recommendations stipulated in the C&Y Regional Statement for the APMCDRR 2020 later.

Below are some reflections and learning points from the Asia Pacific Region's C&Y Regional Statements to the AMCDRR2016, AMCDRR2018 vis-a-vis the Report for the upcoming APMCDRR2020:

- The common call in the two Regional Statements to the APMCDRR and this Report is for C&Y to have genuine participation in DRR and CCA and recognize them as “agents of change.” While the 2016 and 2018 C&Y Statements generally highlighted this child participation call, the 2020 Report provided more concrete recommendations for governments, such as the need to continue build capacities and empower the C&Y in the Asia-Pacific to be heard and effectively contribute on DRR and CCA in their communities or localities.
- All three C&Y Regional Statements/Report capture and extensively tackle a specific concern or issue that is most pressing during the Statement's development. For the 2016 Statement, the C&Y recommendations revolved around the need for stronger awareness-building and information sharing, as well as a comprehensive integration of DRR into the Education sector (i.e., Comprehensive School Safety) due to the global call for integrating DRR into different sectors. The 2018 Statement, on the other hand, covered several themes from C&Y awareness and capacities to child protection, mental health, and psychosocial support, safe infrastructure, inclusion, and localization, to align with the AMCDRR's discussion on the identified seven (7) SFDRR Target Areas which is the focus of the year's Ministerial Conference. Finally, for the 2020 Report, climate change adaptation was the most pressing concern of the C&Y due to the recent calls of the C&Y globally for immediate climate actions to reduce the risks from the global climate crisis.

- The C&Y Stakeholder Group Statement/Report identified recommendations and discussion on disability-inclusion on DRR in 2018 and 2020. The C&Y 2018 Statement specifically proposed formulation of a disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction measures and the development of information materials on DRR. In the 2020 Report, the C&Y online consultations results identified disability-inclusion as one of the primary concerns of C&Y (e.g., awareness-building, disability-inclusive DRR measures, preparedness and response support, protection, education, access, participation, decision-making, etc.), even though there was little specific recommendations to authorities stipulated in the face-to-face consultation Consolidated Voice.
- Like disability-inclusion, localization was only tackled more extensively by the C&Y Stakeholders Group in the 2018 Statement to the AMCDRR and 2020 Report. Both documents encourage implementing the SFDRR at different levels (village-level, sub-national, national, etc.) and emphasizing community-centered and people-centered approaches for DRR and CCA.
- Only the 2018 C&Y Regional Statement explicitly identified child protection as a priority for C&Y during disasters and emergencies. The 2020 Report, on the other hand, emphasized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to the C&Y during and after disasters.
- All three C&Y Statements/Report identified the integration of DRR in the education sector (i.e., resilient & safe school facilities, integration of DRR & CCA formal curriculum, training and awareness building, and School-based DRR & CCA) as an essential approach to ensure that children are safe in schools and communities, and equipped with better knowledge and capacities to genuinely engage in DRR & CCA implementation in schools or communities.
- Information dissemination, building capacities among C&Y, and investments in strengthening inclusive and localized policies and plans for DRR & CCA were the common recommendations of the C&Y group to authorities and other stakeholders, appearing in the three C&Y Regional Statements/Report.
- While the C&Y Regional Statements/Report evolved and gradually become more specific and comprehensive through the years, based on the emerging issues, and trends, there is an increasing need for the Stakeholder Group to set up a mechanism to monitor its progress against its identified commitments as well as the governments' actions in addressing the identified concerns of the group. The 2016 C&Y Statement, for example, provided several commitments of the C&Y Stakeholder Group that are needed to be followed through.

Learning for future C&Y Consultations

The section summarizes lesson learned from these consultations, serving as a reference for future initiatives. Establishing an online consultation platform using survey questionnaires for the 2020 C&Y consultations has been effective in reaching a broader population of children and youth, particularly in places where there are limitations to implementing face-to-face meetings (ex. Funding limitation; travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, etc). This approach can be further enhanced (i.e., provide longer survey period; additional questions items, etc.) and possibly be widely implemented to reach out to children and youth for concerns or topics other than DRR and CCA (e.g., education issues, health issues, Out-of-School youth, child protection, Children's rights, etc.).

The below summarized learning from the online consultation:

1. Use common platform for online consultations and survey to enable consolidation and matching of the results and analysis.
2. Recommend standard questionnaires among participating countries.

However, face-to-face consultation still has its irreplaceable strengths and could provide more in-depth perspectives from children and youth, which the online surveys could not. The platform also allows for the exchange of ideas and experiences between different children and youth, allowing the development of analysis and recommendations from children and youth that are more comprehensive.

The below summarized learning from the face-to-face consultation:

1. Suggest standard format on the consultation process for online and face-to-face to facilitate easy consolidation and analysis of the results.
2. Provide comprehensive approach in consulting children and youth through the face-to-face consultation. Detail recommendations are as follows:
 - a. Encourage mobilization and participation of children and youth facilitators to lead the discussion and presentation of topics to their peers during the consultation.
 - b. Empower children and youth facilitators through an adult subject matter expert before the conduct of the consultation.
 - c. Stakeholders will facilitate and support the resources needed by children and youth and discuss issues and recommendations for ways forward.
 - d. Encourage the participation of government and stakeholders during the presentation of consultation results in country to understand and respond to the concerns and commitment of the children and youth for DRR and climate crisis.

There are also some learning points applicable regardless of approach of consultations adopted:

1. Set a significant target number of children and youth in every country who will participate in the online and face-to-face consultations.
2. Consider translation of the online and face-to-face consultations results in local and English language to facilitate easy understanding of the context.
3. Propose specific age groups (i.e. 10-14, 15-18, 19-24 years old).
4. Disaggregate data of participants according to age group for both online and face-to-face consultation to allow deeper analysis of the results.
5. Encourage to carry forward the consultation process to more local levels according to places with specific hazards and vulnerability.

“

We learnt that for a tsunami to be created the epicenter of the earthquake has to be in the sea and the signs of tsunami will be an unusual withdrawing of sea water into the deep ocean after an earthquake. When we see this sign, we have to warn members of our community and we all have to run to the nearest high ground for safety and wait there until we receive official announcement from authorities that it is safe to return to our communities.”

Lucy, 16, member of the Disaster Risk Reduction Club supported by World Vision Australian Humanitarian Partnership project, Papua New Guinea



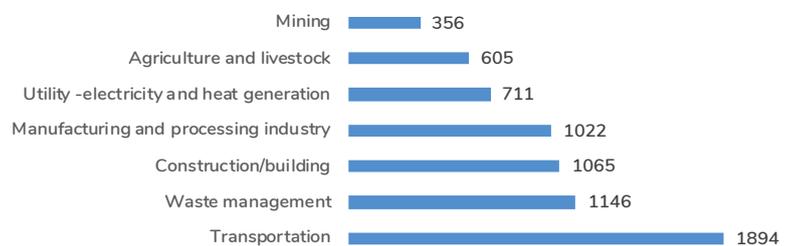
Annex 1: Other Online Findings

Part 1: Understanding DRR and Climate Crisis

8 Which of these areas, do you think, produces the most greenhouse gases in your country?

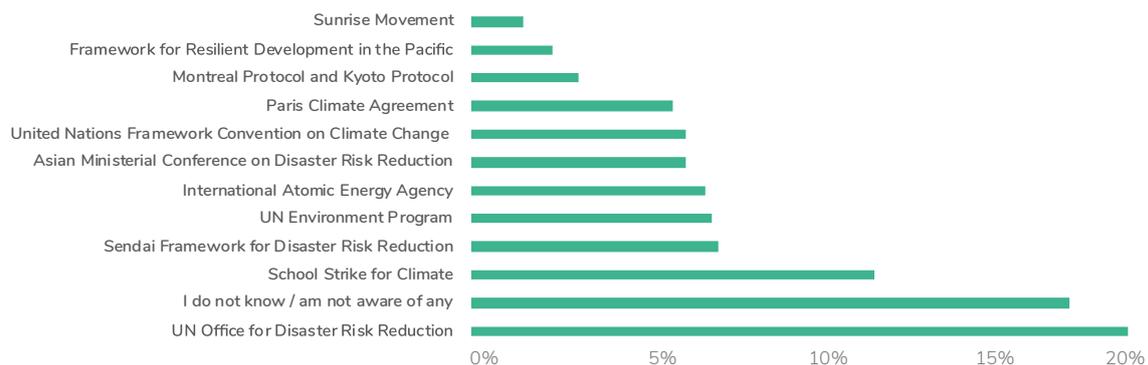
From the perspective of children, “Transportation” ranks first with 28% responses as the party that produces the greenhouse gases the most (Figure 35). Second is “Waste management” with 17%, third is “Construction or building” with 16% responses. Fourth is “Manufacturing and processing industry” with 15% responses. Fifth is “Utility, electricity and heat generation” with 17% responses. Other responses identified are carbon dioxide gas, dumping grounds, forest fire, losing trees, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels in energy use, slash and burn practice.

Figure 35. Areas which produce the most greenhouse gases



9 Which of the following have you heard of? (UN Agencies and Legal Instruments on DRR)

Figure 36. Children and youth awareness of UN Agencies and International Instruments on DRR



School strike for climate change (12%) is an activity which resonates well with children and youth. They were also able to identify the Sendai framework for DRR (8%) and the UN Environment programme (7%).

There is a relatively low awareness among children and youth of the following: International Atomic Energy Agency (371), Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (341), United Nations framework convention on climate change (340), Paris Climate Agreement (321), Montreal protocol and Kyoto Protocol (173), Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (131) and Sunrise Movement (86).

A good number of children and youth (18%) were not aware of any of the agencies or the related documents.

10

How is the UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) contributing to our understanding of DRR and climate crisis? Do you know anything about the following UNDRR work?

The question captures the knowledge of children and youth on how the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is contributing to their understanding of DRR and the climate crisis and how children and youth know about the UNDRR's work. Participants could choose more than one answer.

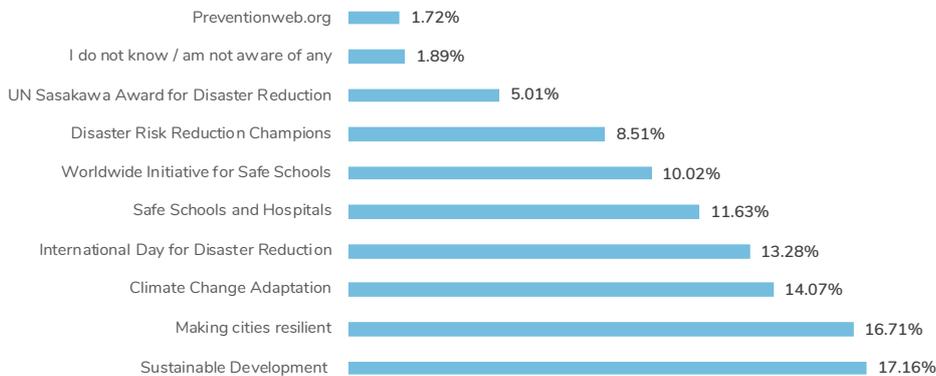


Figure 37. Children and youth's understanding UNDRR's role in DRR and Climate Crisis

As shown in Figure 37, out of 2,914 responses, children and youth know about UNDRR's work on Sustainable Development (17.16%), Making Cities Resilient (16.71%), Climate Change Adaptation (14.07%), International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13.28%), Safe Schools and Hospitals (11.63%), and Worldwide initiative for Safe Schools (10.02%).

Part 3: Addressing the Climate Crisis and Disaster Risks

6

What themes do you think should be included in future conferences related to disaster risk reduction and climate crisis?

Shown in Figure 38 are the themes considered by children and youth, who could choose one or more options, to be included in future related conferences. Of the 7,840 responses, in descending order, they are "Inclusion (youth, gender, disability, indigenous people)" (20.54%), "Disaster and climate resilient infrastructure" (17.61%), "Children and adolescents as change agent" (14.32%), "Applied science and technology for DRR and climate adaptation" (14.25%), "Financing Disaster Risk Reduction" (12.70%), "Localization/local action" (11.52%), and "Needs/challenges of small island developing states" (8.14%).

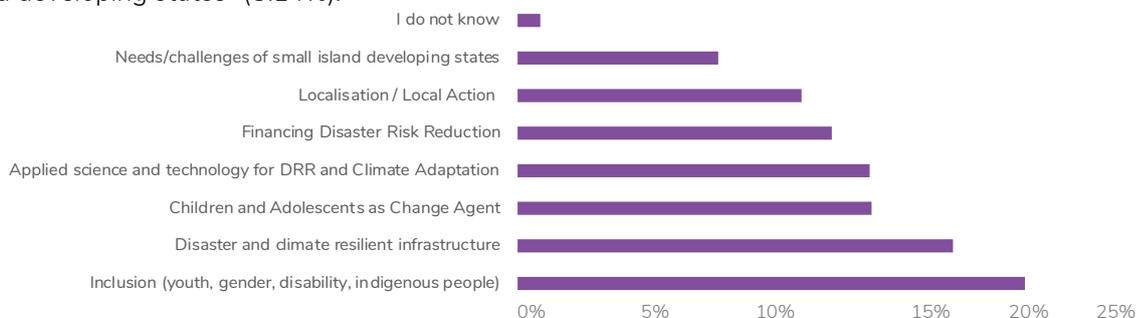


Figure 38. Themes to be included in the future conferences related to DRR and Climate Crisis

In addition, there are others who suggested alternative source of electricity and the energy used by cars, development of necessary infrastructures, research and development, use of media /social media to bring change and increase awareness on a larger scale.

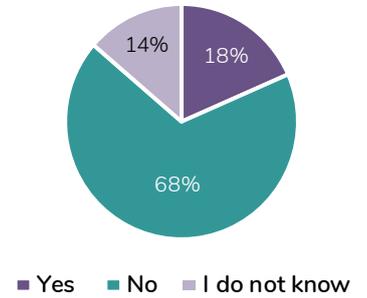
7

Do you think there is enough money for your community to take any initiatives to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change?

In terms of availability of financial resources, 1,777 (68%) children and youth answered that there is not enough money for the community to take initiatives to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change.

While, 482 children and youth answered “Yes”, 358 respondents were not sure (Figure 39).

Figure 39. Availability of money for the community to take any initiatives to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change



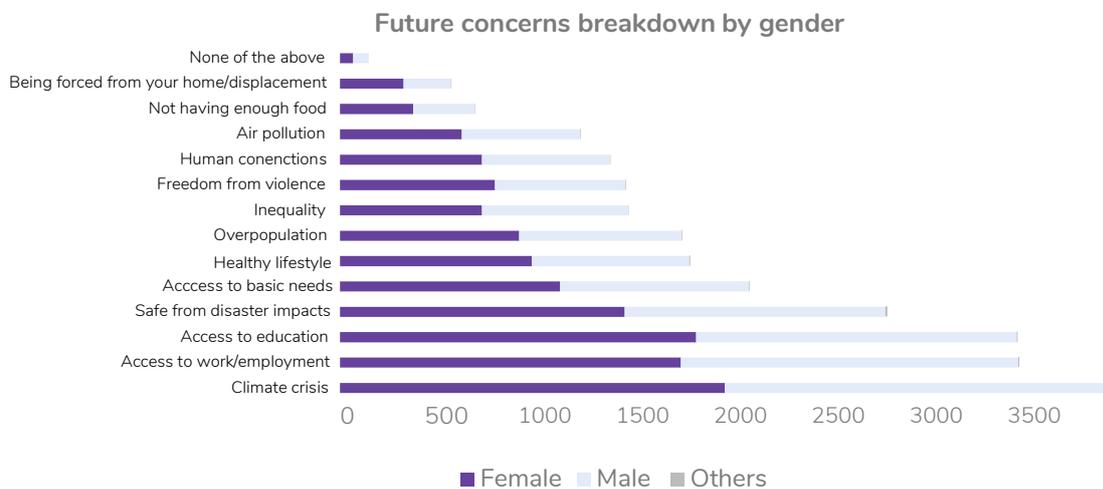
Annex 2:

Gender and age disaggregation of online consultation results

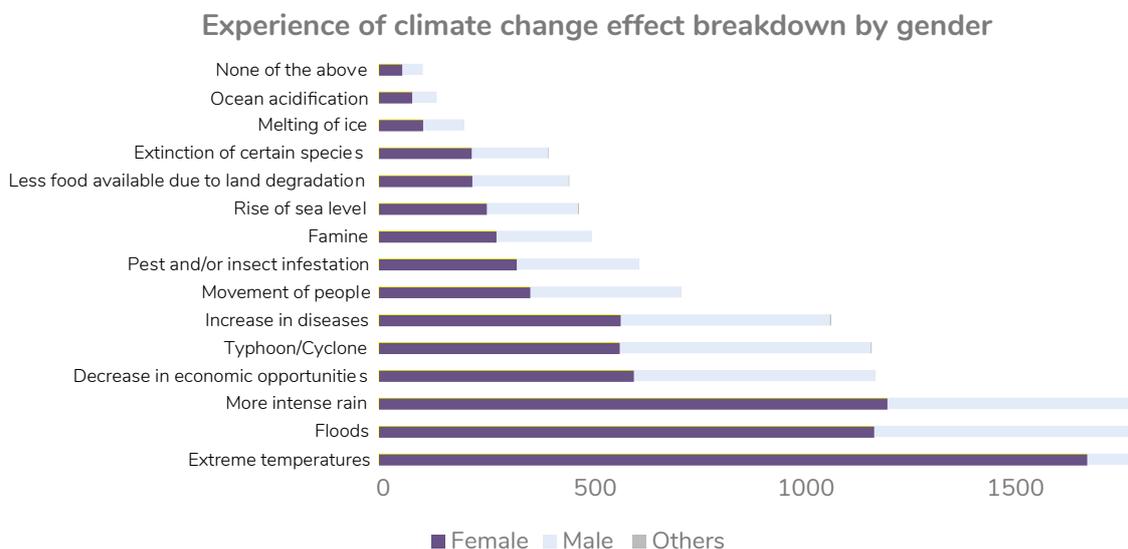
Part 1: Understanding DRR and Climate Crisis

The first part of the online survey consists of 9 questions that intends to know the level of understanding of children and youth aged <10-24 about climate crisis and disaster risk.

7 What concerns you most about the future? (may choose >1)



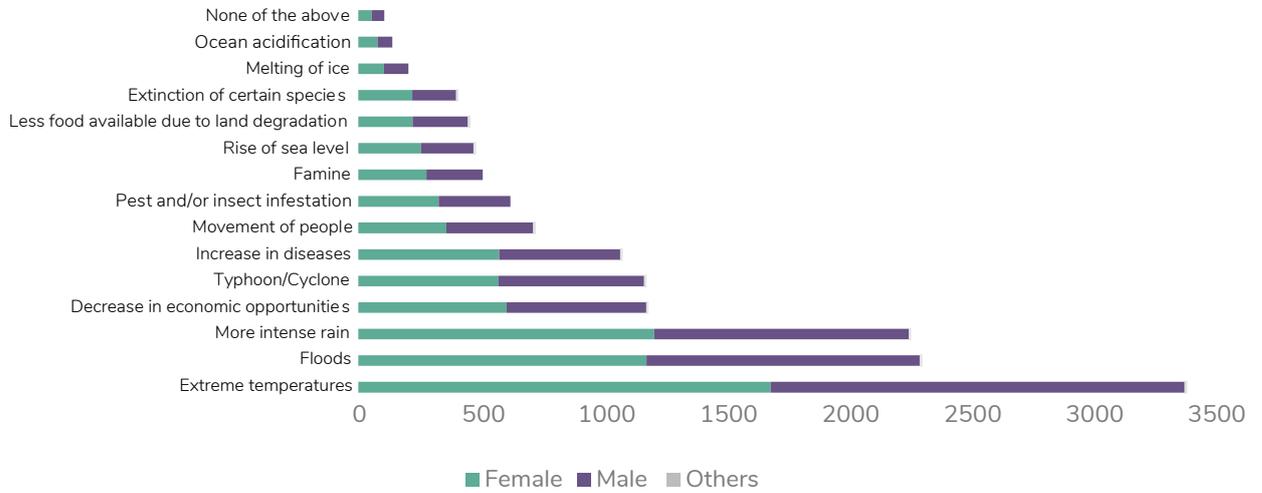
2 What effect(s) of climate change do you experience in your community in the past 12 months?



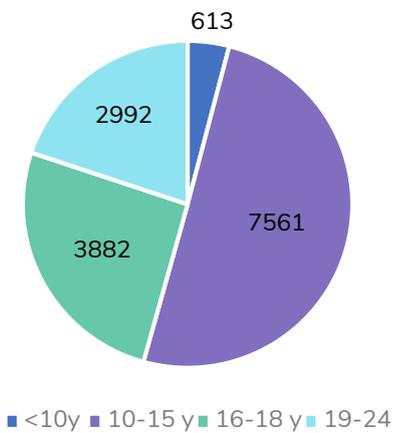
3

Which disaster risk(s) have you experienced in the last 12 months including current risks? (may choose >1)

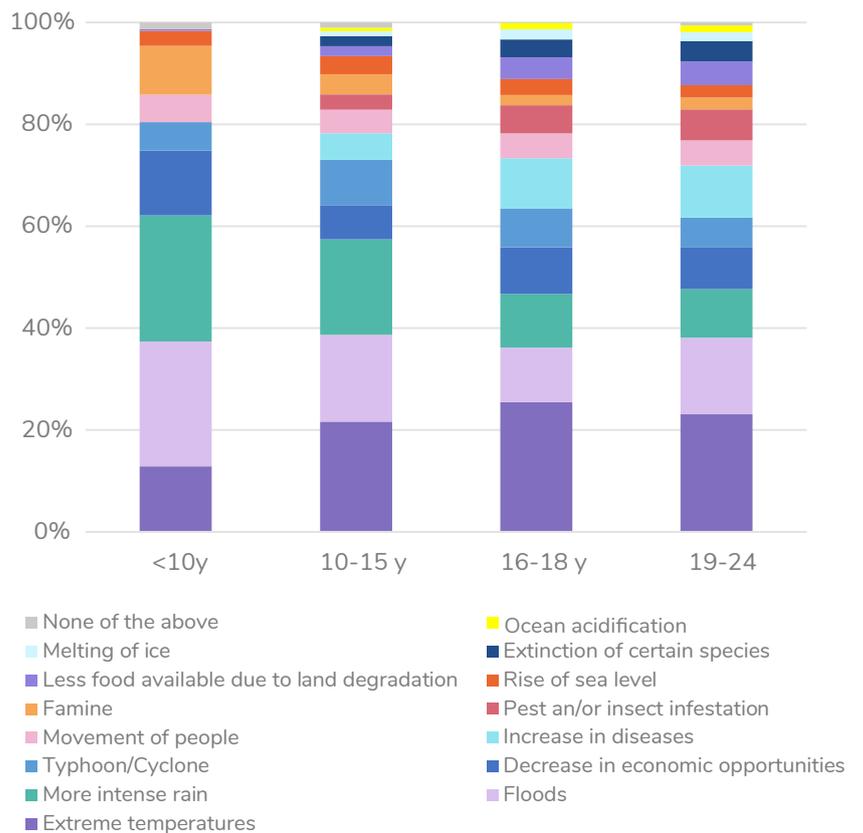
Disaster risk experience in breakdown by gender



Age breakdown of no. of responses on disaster risk experience

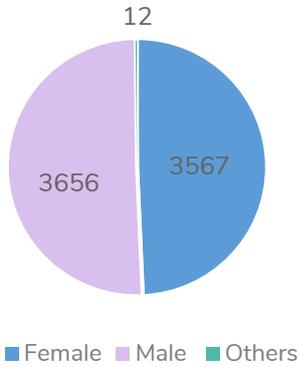


Disaster risk experience breakdown by age group

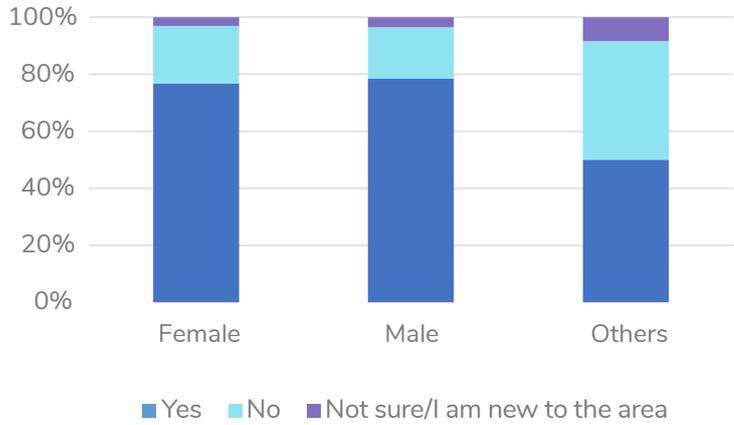


4 Have you noticed more climate change related disaster locally over the last two years?

Gender breakdown of no. of responses on increase of local climate change related disaster

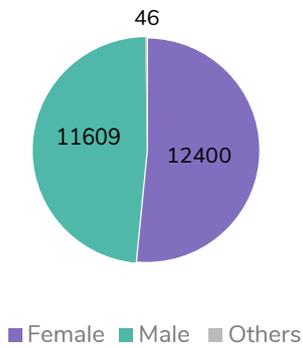


Perceived increased experience of local climate change related disaster, by gender

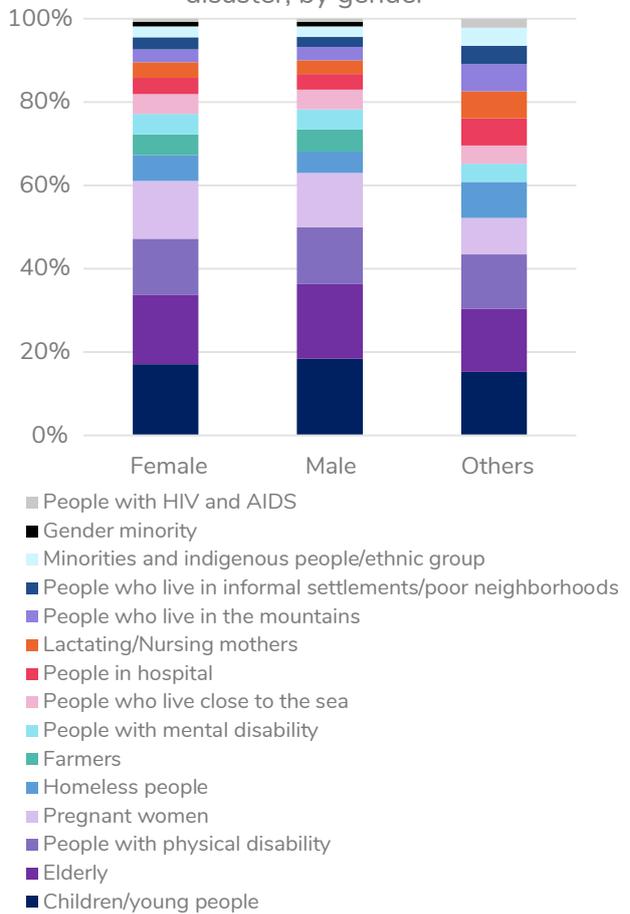


5 Who in your community is at most risk during disasters?

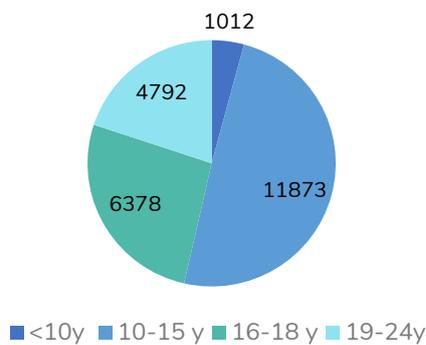
Gender breakdown of no. of responses on perceived vulnerable groups during disaster



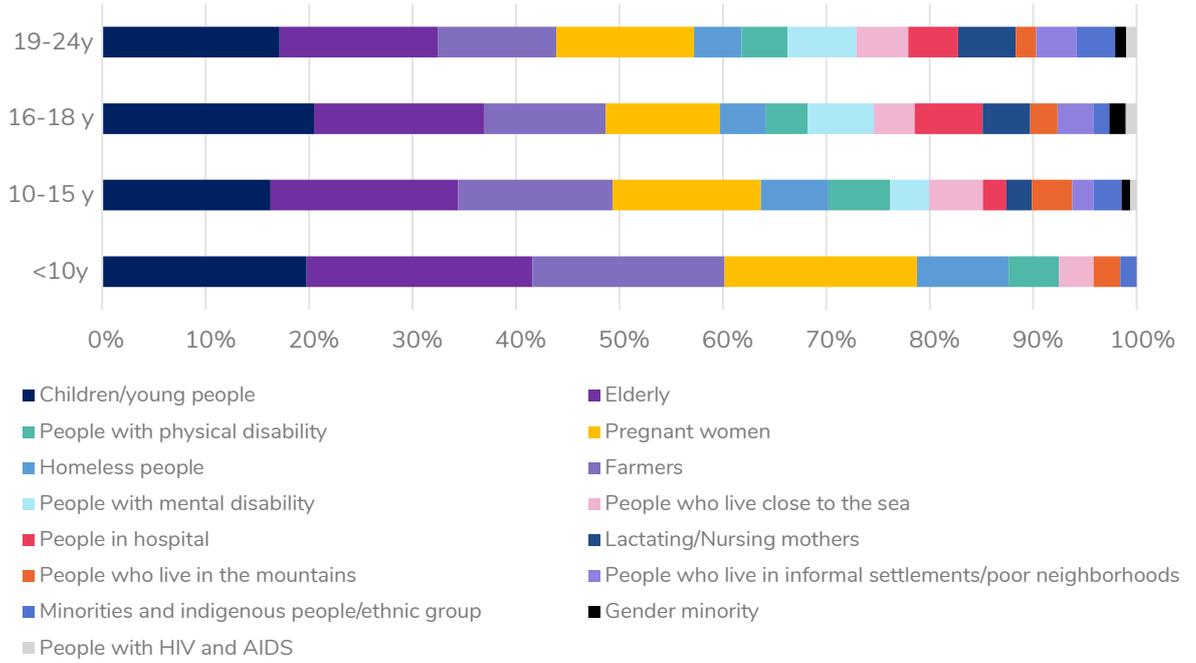
Perceived vulnerable groups during disaster, by gender



Age breakdown of no. of responses on perceived vulnerable groups during disaster



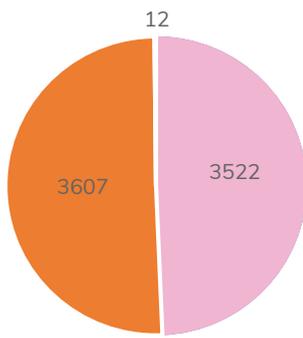
Perceived vulnerable groups during disaster, by age



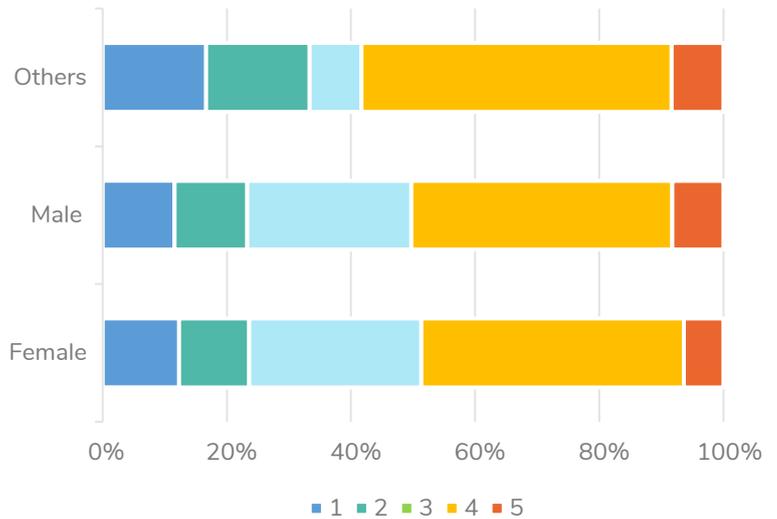
6

How would you rate your level of awareness/knowledge on understanding of climate crisis and DRR?

Gender breakdown of no. of responses on level of understanding n climate crisis & DRR



Female Male Others

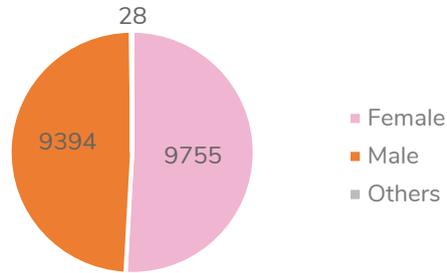


Level of understanding on climate crisis & DRR, by gender

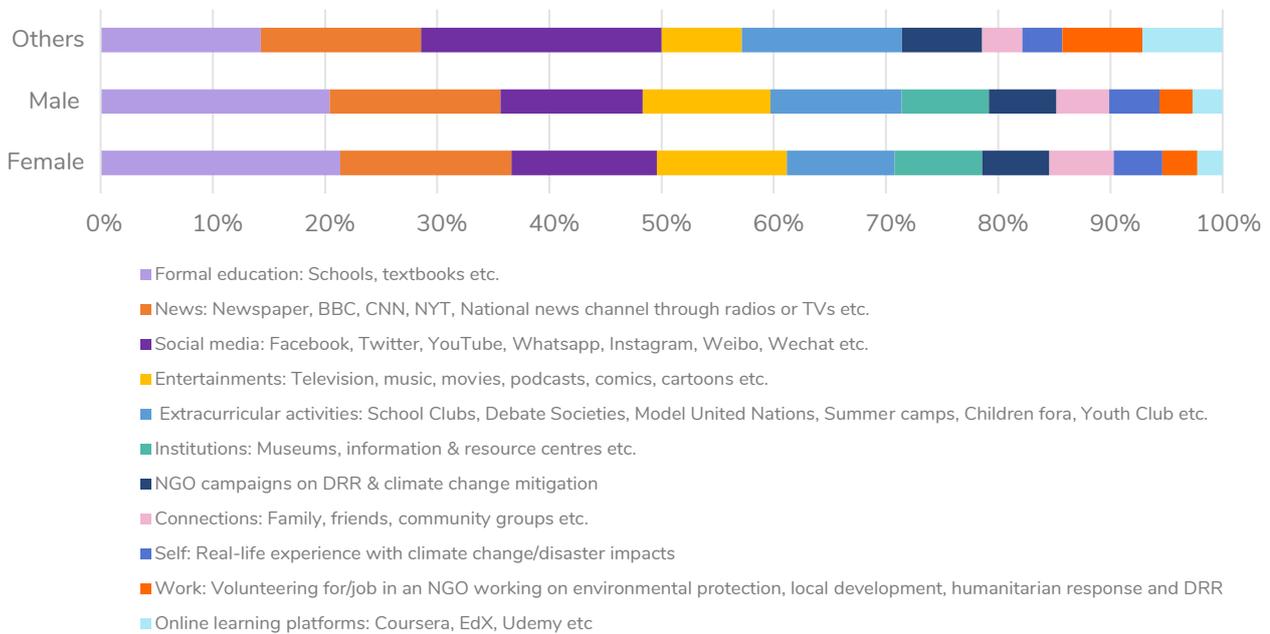
7

From where have you learnt about climate crisis and disaster risk?
(may choose >1)

Gender breakdown of no. of responses on learning channels for climate change & disaster risks



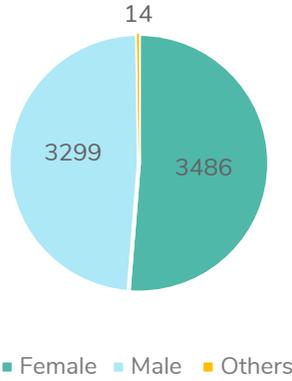
Learning channels for climate change & disaster risks, by age



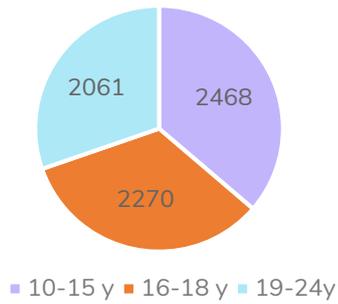
8

Which of these areas, do you think, produces the most greenhouse gases in your country? (may choose >1)

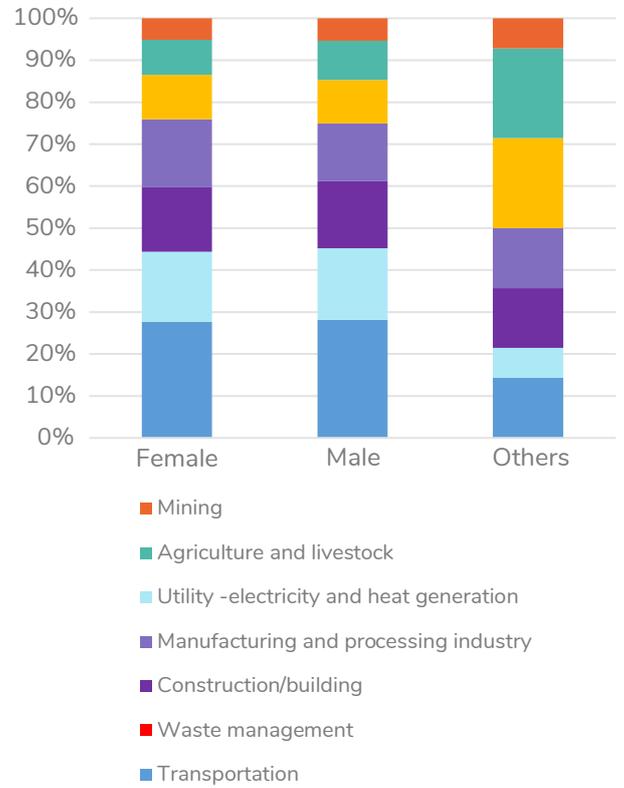
Gender breakdown of no. of responses on perceived greenhouse gases contributor



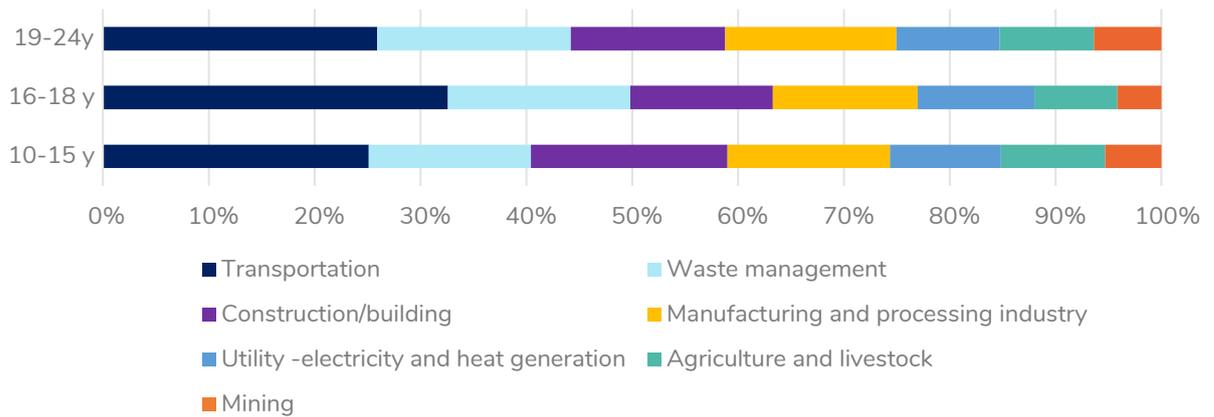
Age breakdown of no. of responses on perceived greenhouse gases contributor



Perceived greenhouse gases contributor, by gender



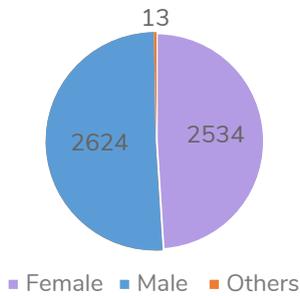
Perceived greenhouse gases contributor, by age



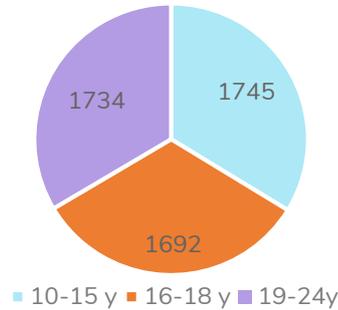
9

Which of the following have you heard of? (UN Agencies and Legal Instruments on DRR) (may choose >1)

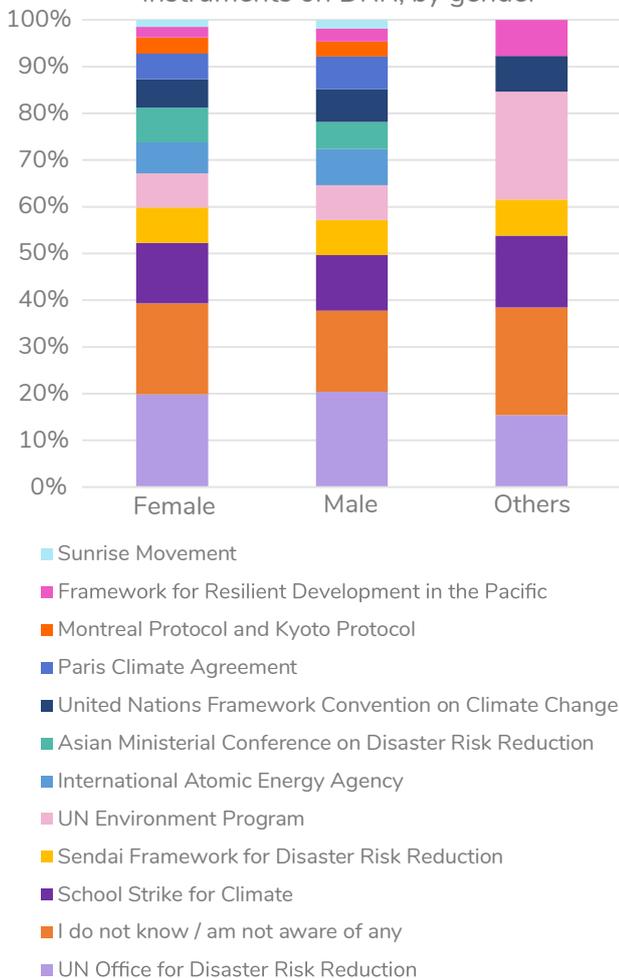
Gender breakdown of no. of responses on heard UN agencies & legal instruments on DRR



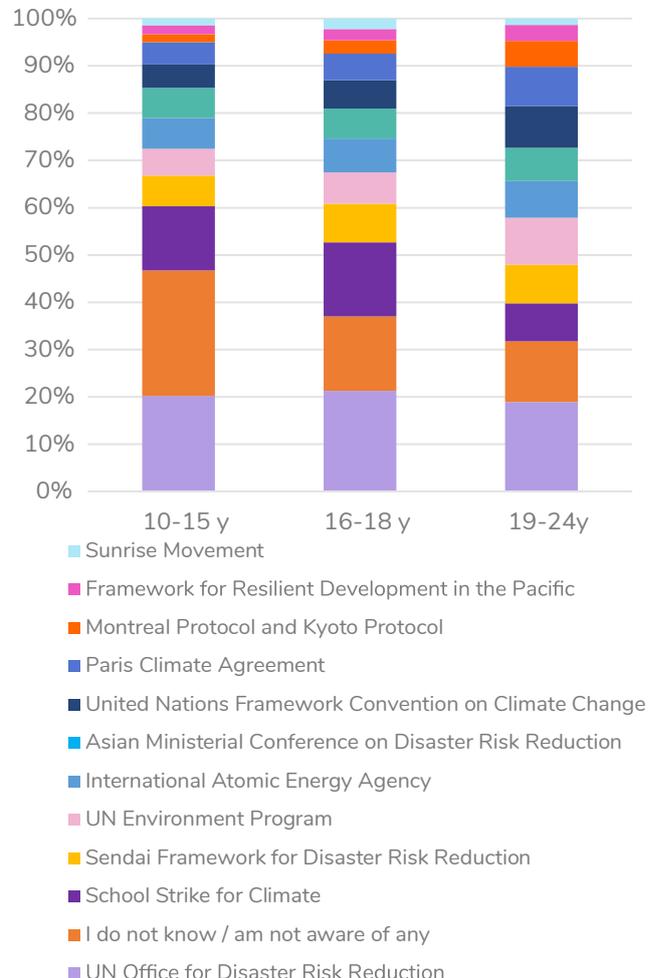
Age breakdown of no. of responses on heard UN agencies & legal instruments on DRR



Awareness towards UN agencies & legal instruments on DRR, by gender

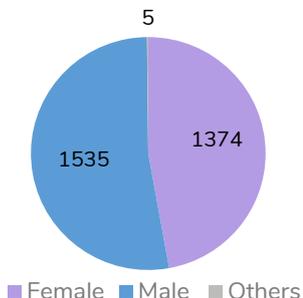


Awareness towards UN agencies & legal instruments on DRR, by age

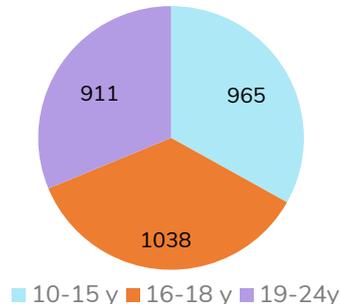


How is UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) contributing to our understanding of DRR and climate crisis? Do you know anything about the following UNDRR work? (may choose >1)

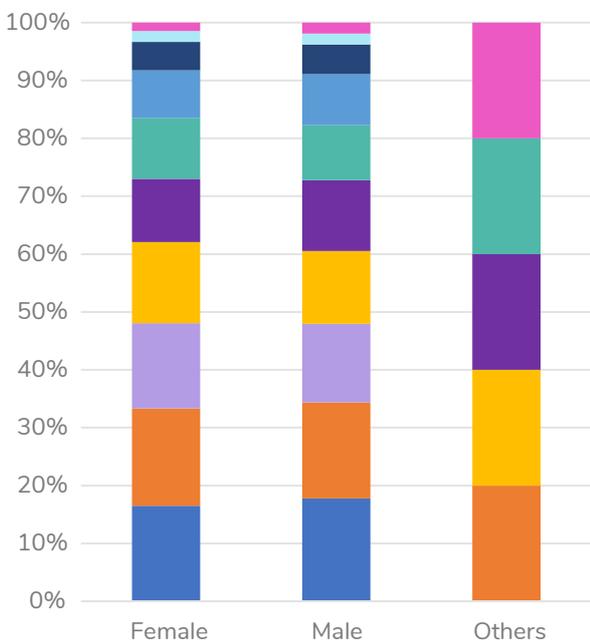
Gender breakdown of no. of responses on aware UNDRR work



Age breakdown of no. of responses on aware UNDRR work

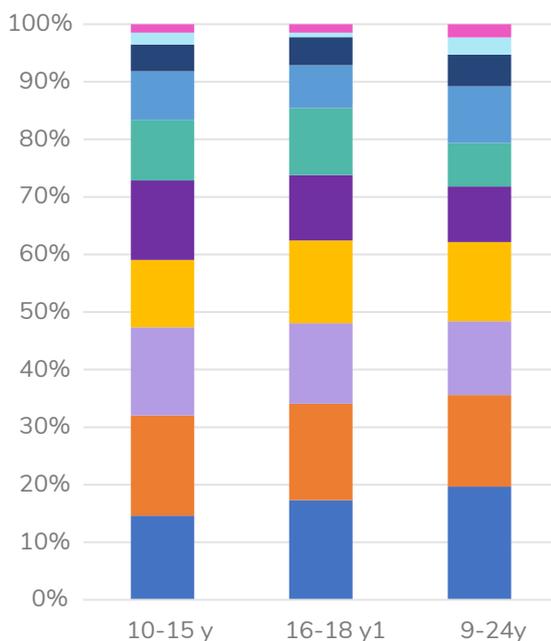


Awareness towards UNDRR work, by gender



- Preventionweb.org
- I do not know / am not aware of any
- UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
- Disaster Risk Reduction Champions
- Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools
- Safe Schools and Hospitals
- International Day for Disaster Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Making cities resilient
- Sustainable Development

Awareness towards UNDRR work, by age



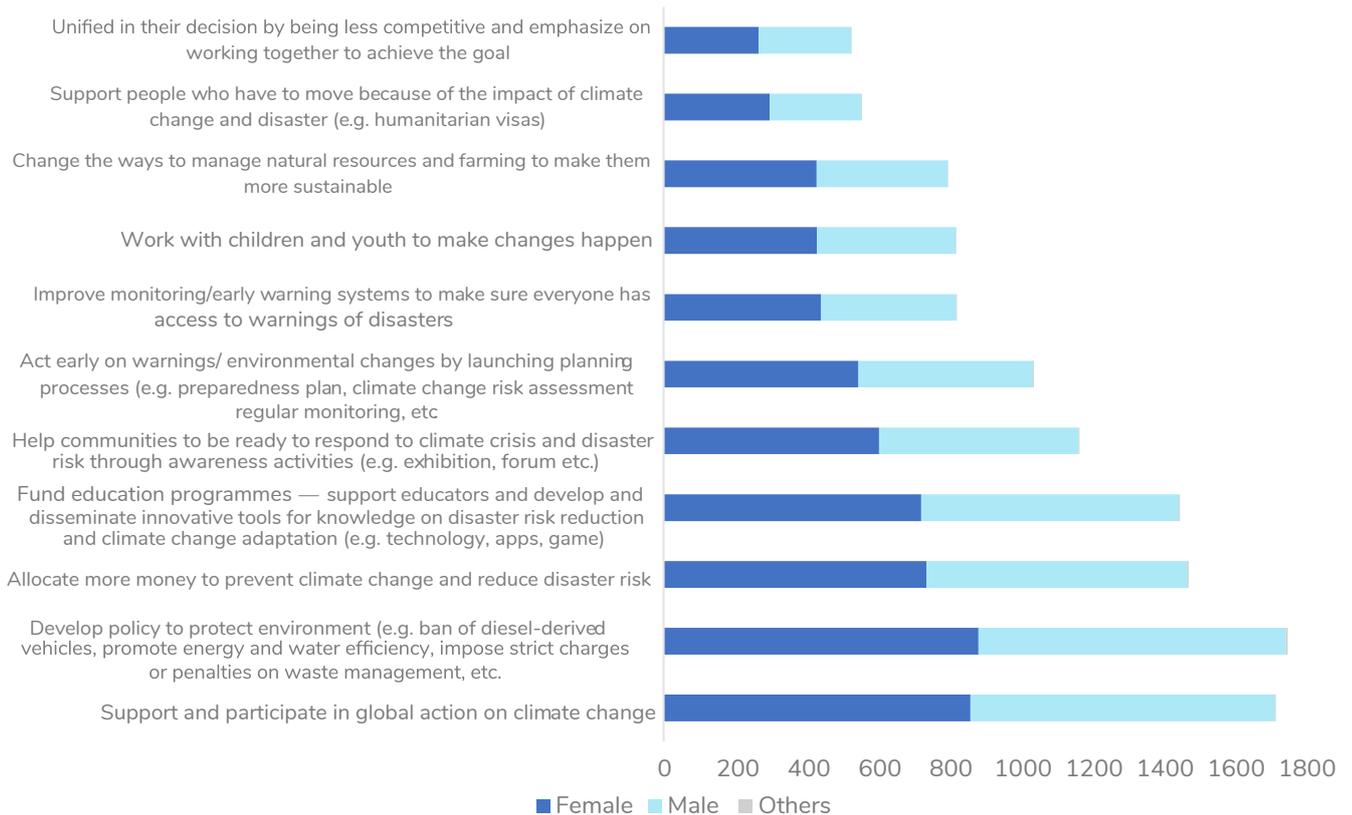
- Preventionweb.org
- I do not know / am not aware of any
- UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
- Disaster Risk Reduction Champions
- Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools
- Safe Schools and Hospitals
- International Day for Disaster Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Making cities resilient
- Sustainable Development

Part 2: Recommendations to Governments and Policy Makers

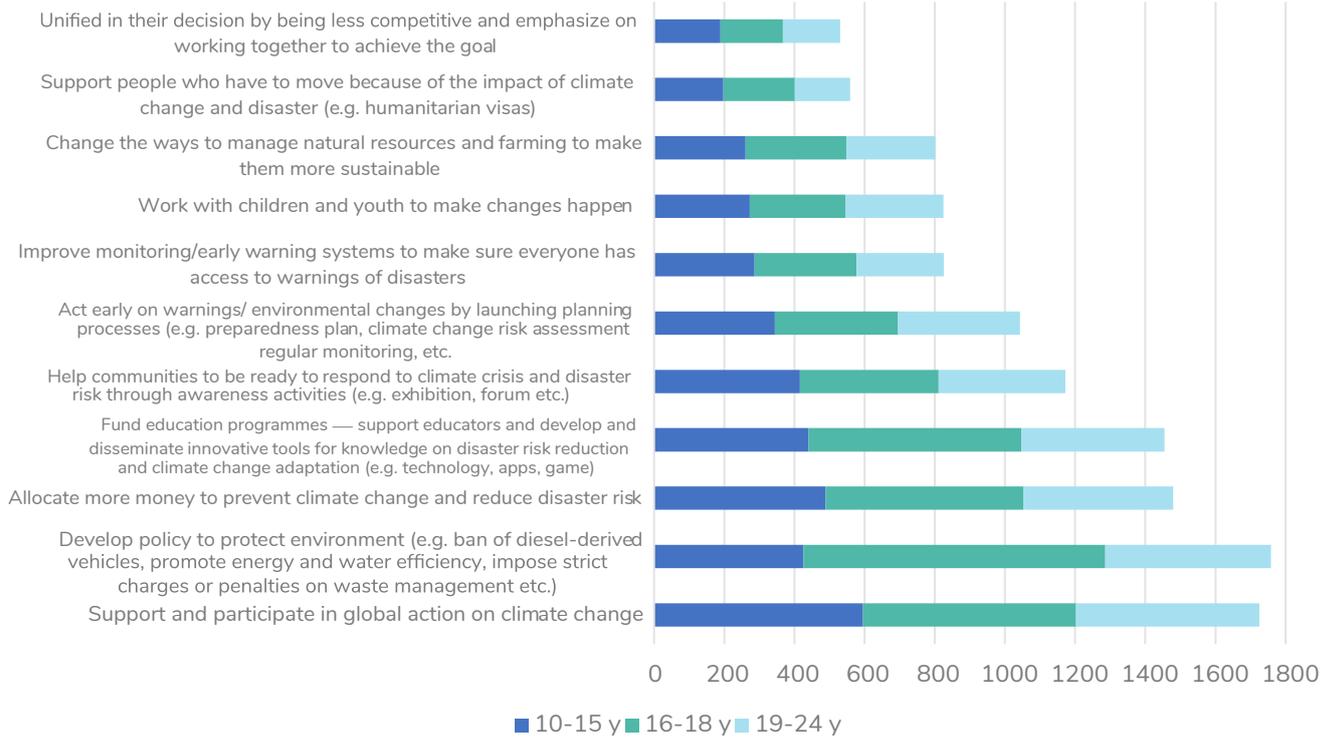
Second Part composed of five (5) questions that is focused on the recommendations to government and policy makers and stakeholders in addressing the gaps, challenges in addressing climate crisis and disaster risk and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

7 What would you like the national government and international decision makers to do about climate crisis and disaster risk? (may choose >1)

Preferred actions by national govt & international decision makers, responses by gender



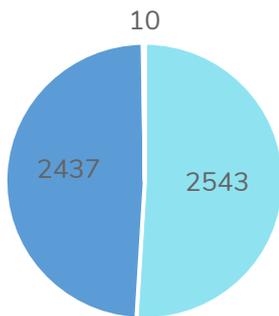
Preferred actions by national govt & international decision makers, responses by age



2

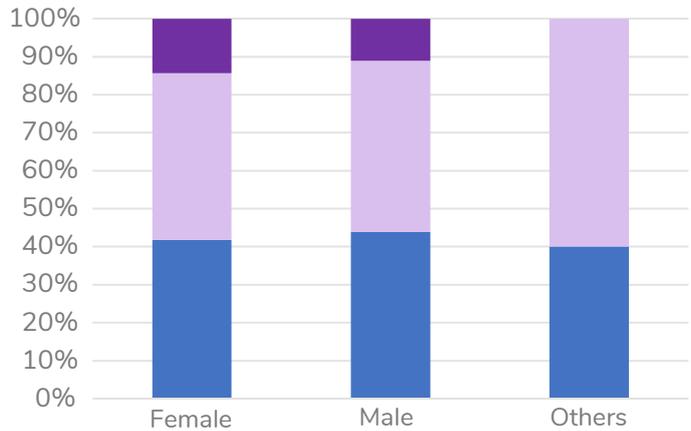
Do you think that children and youth with disability are given enough support to prepare for disaster?

Gender breakdown of no. of responses on perceived sufficient support for children & youth with disability



Female Male Others

Perceived sufficient support for children & youth with disability to prepare for disaster, by gender

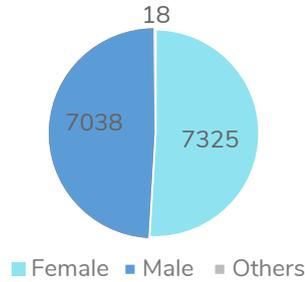


Yes No Not sure

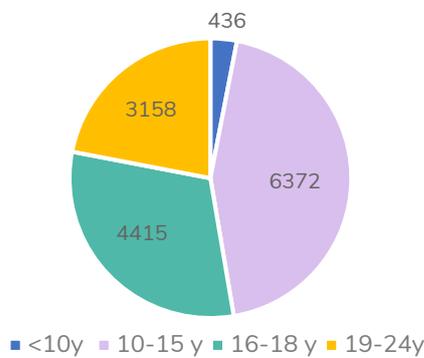
3

What are some of the particular challenges for children and youth with disability in your community in the context of disaster risk reduction? (may choose >1)

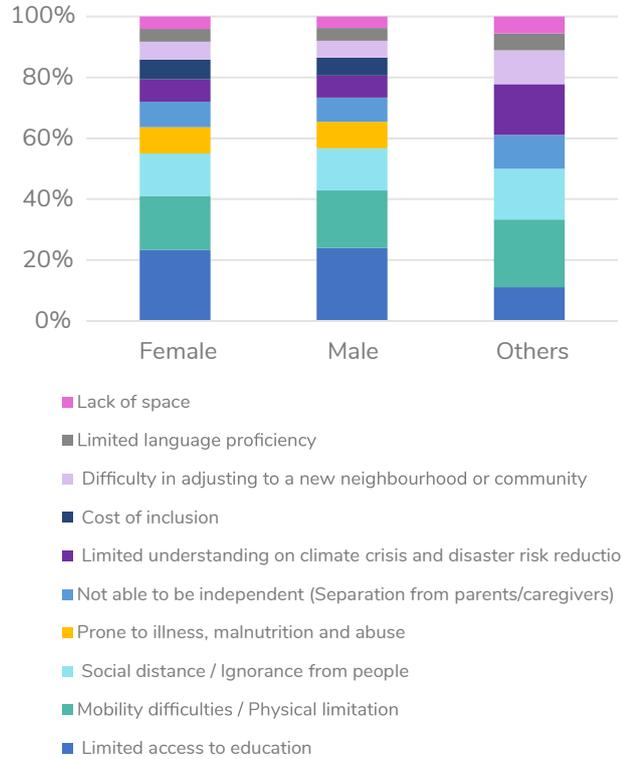
Gender breakdown of response on challenges for children & youth with disability



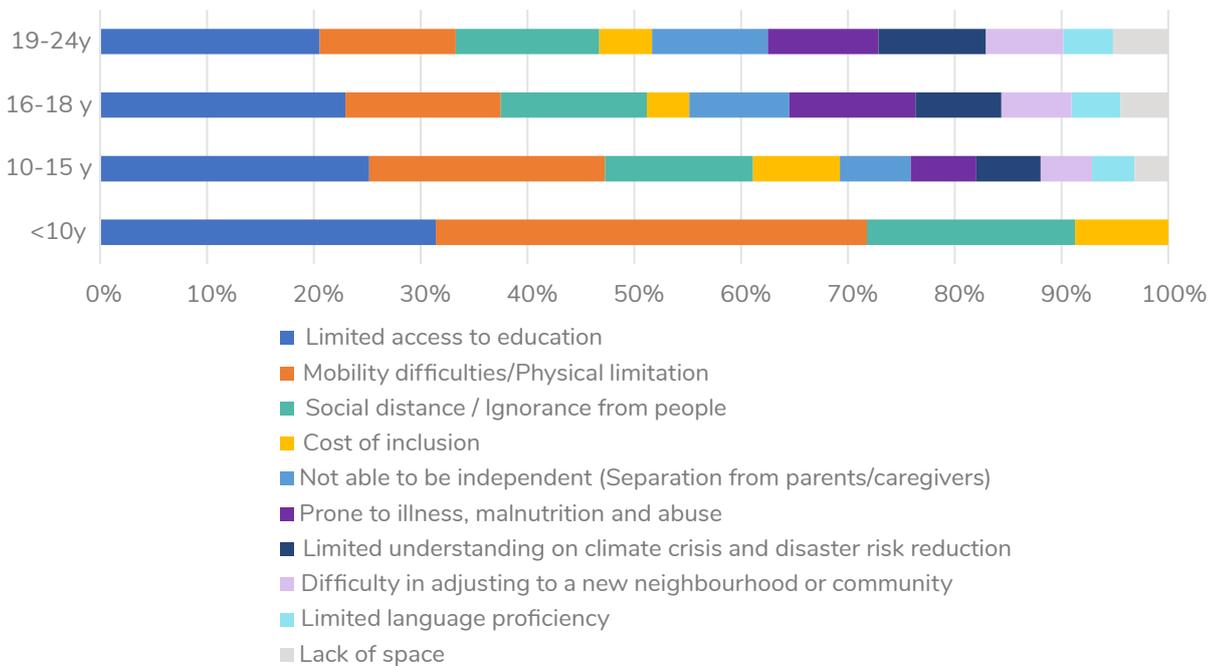
Age breakdown of response on challenges for children & youth with disability



Perceived challenges for children & youth with disability, by gender



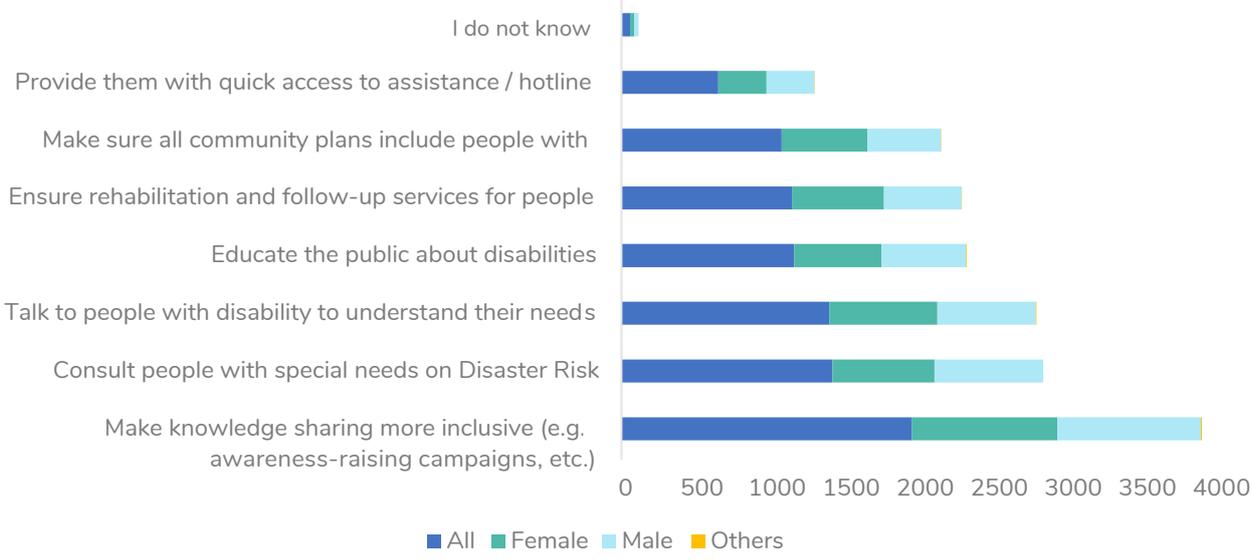
Perceived challenges for children & youth with disability, by age



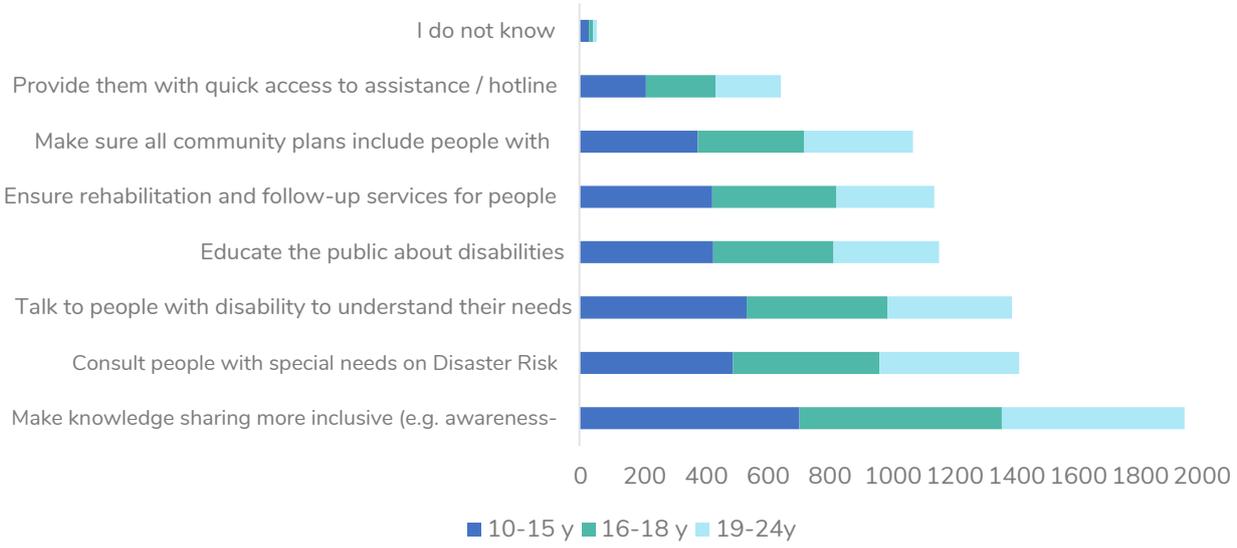
4

Which is the best way to support children and youth with disability to prepare for disaster? (may choose >1)

Preferred ways to support children & youth with disability to prepare for disaster, responses, by gender

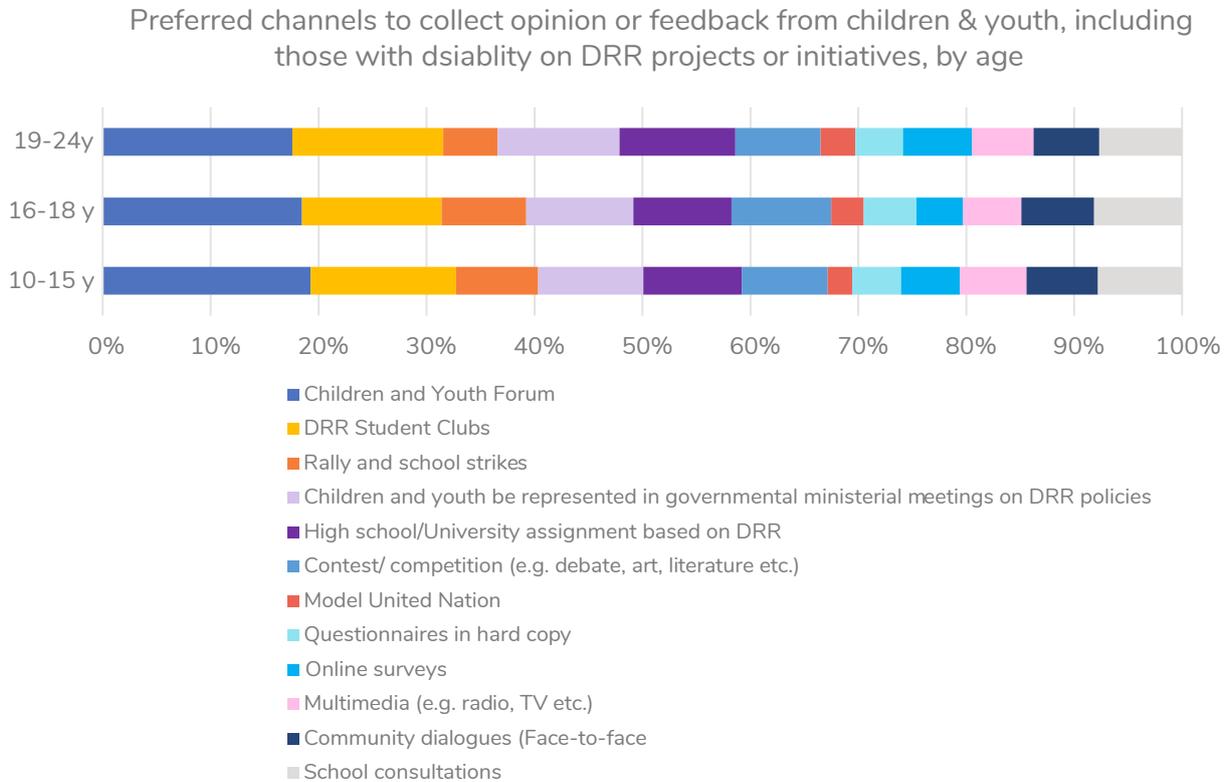


Preferred ways to support children & youth with disability to prepare for disaster, responses, by age



5

What are the good ways for NGO or government to collect opinion or feedback from children and youth, including those with disability, on DRR projects or initiatives? (may choose >1)

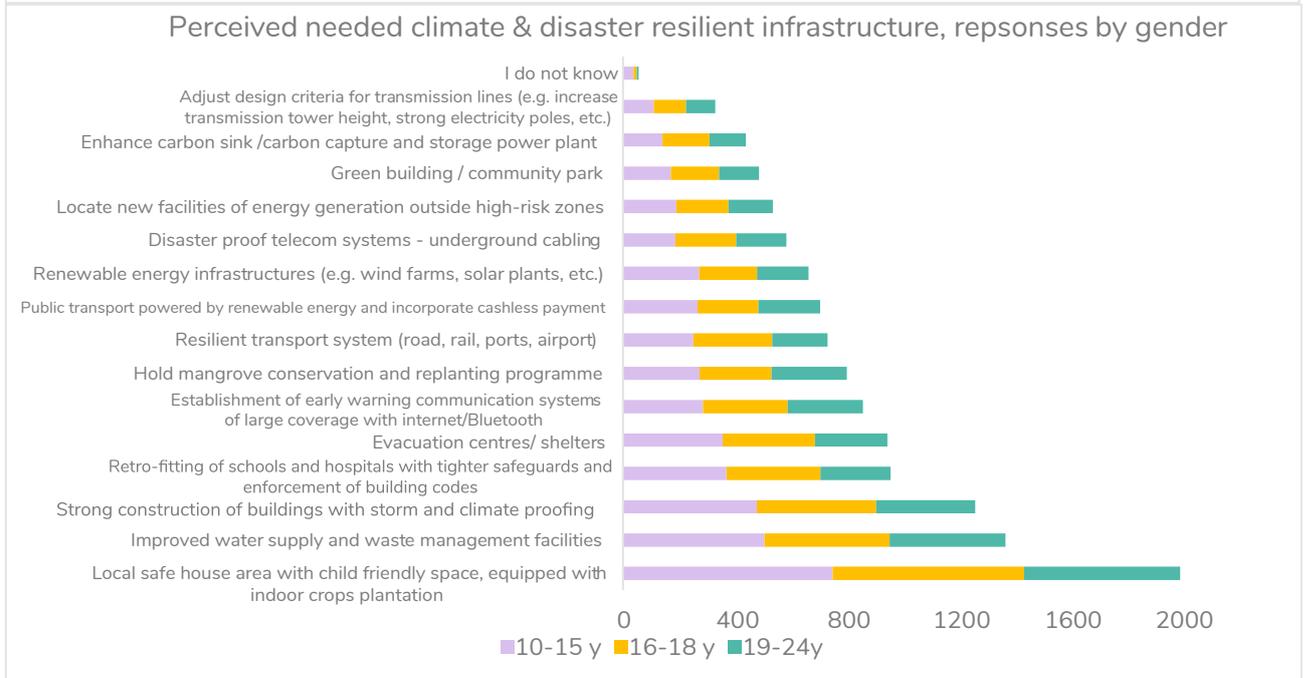
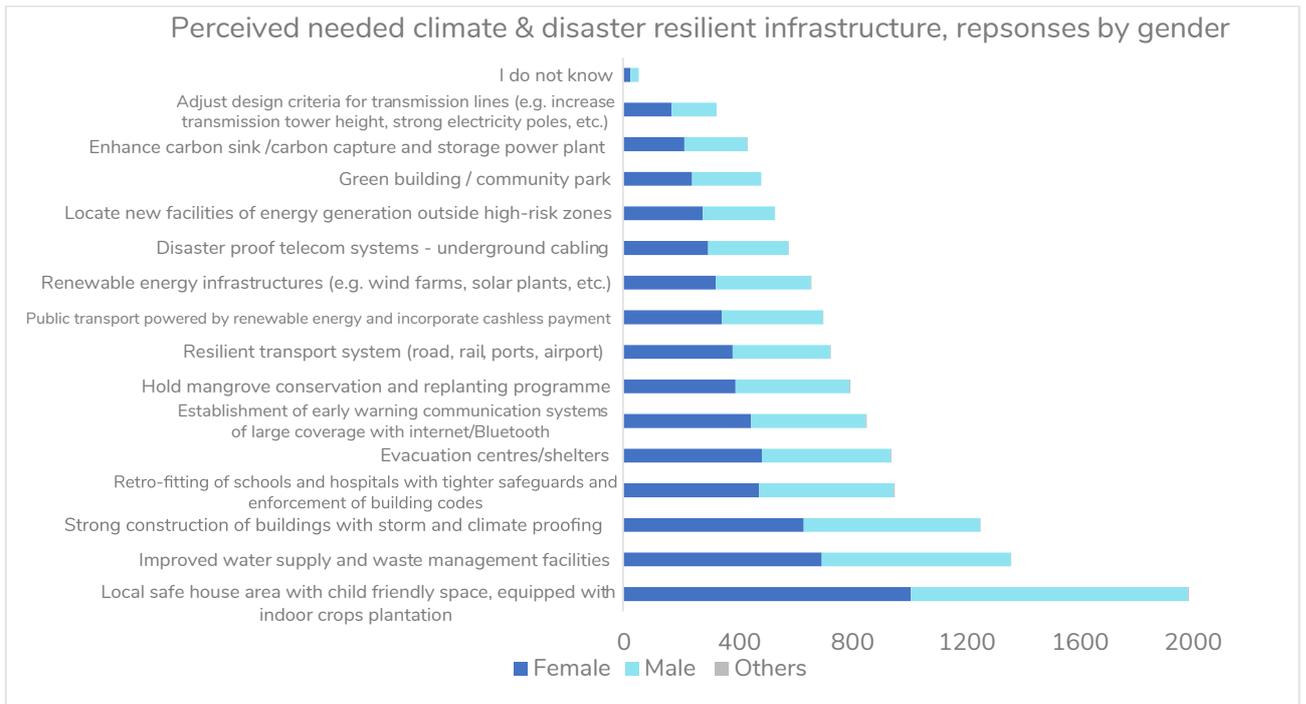


Part 3: Addressing Climate Crisis and Disaster Risks

Third part has 7 questions that concentrates on addressing climate crisis and disaster risk.

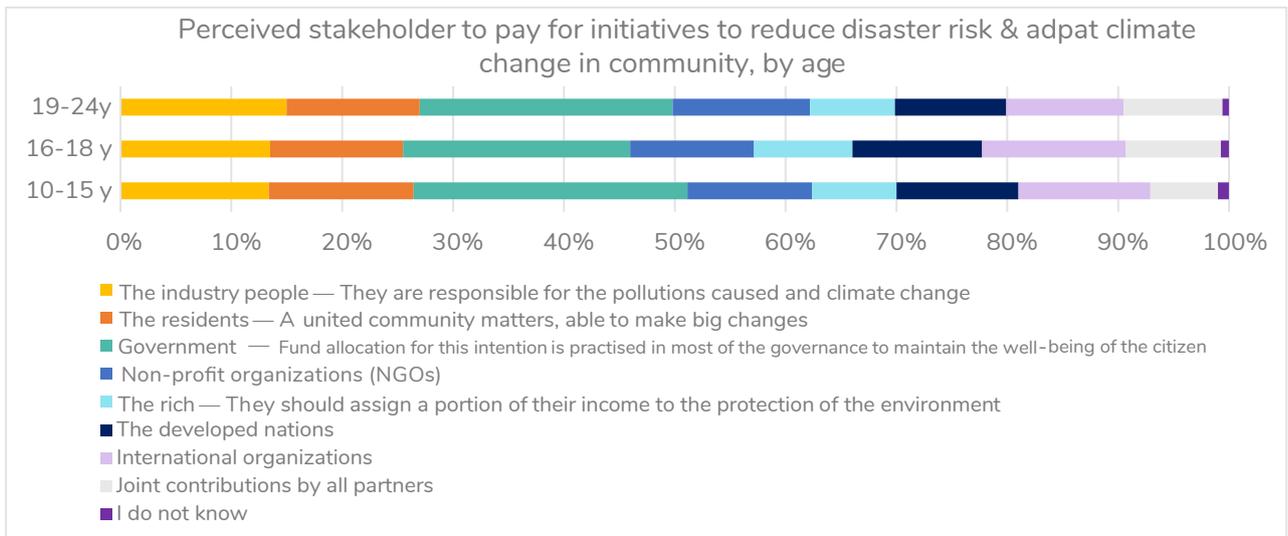
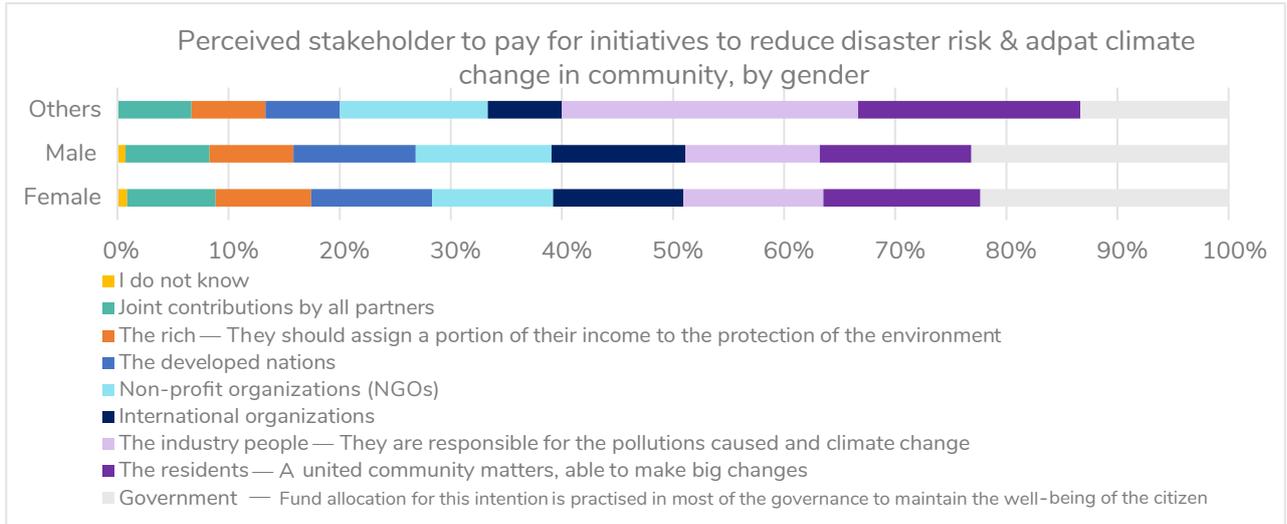
7

What kind of infrastructure does your community need? How could it incorporate climate and disaster risk considerations as it is being built? What ideas do you have for climate and disaster resilient infrastructure? (may choose >1)



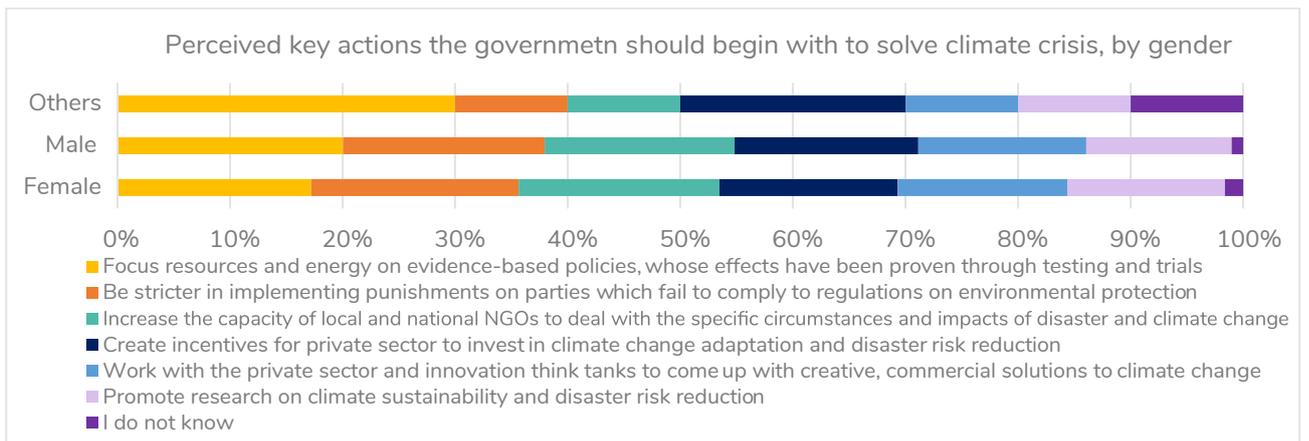
2

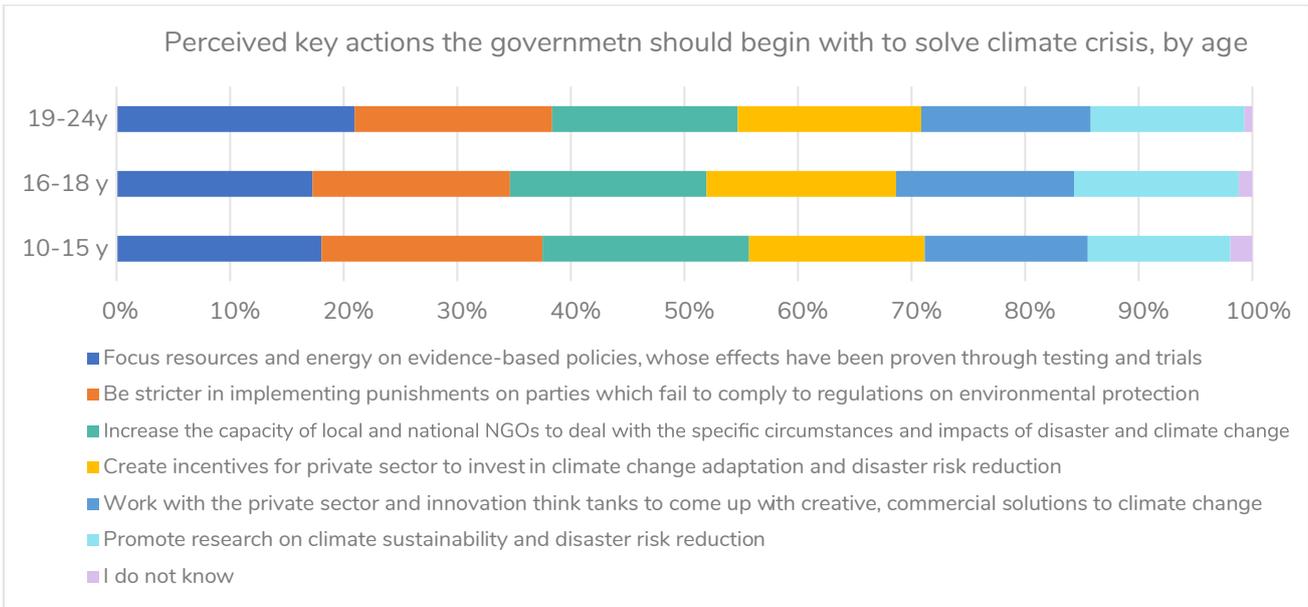
Who do you think should pay for the initiatives to be taken to reduce disaster risk and adapt climate change in your community?



3

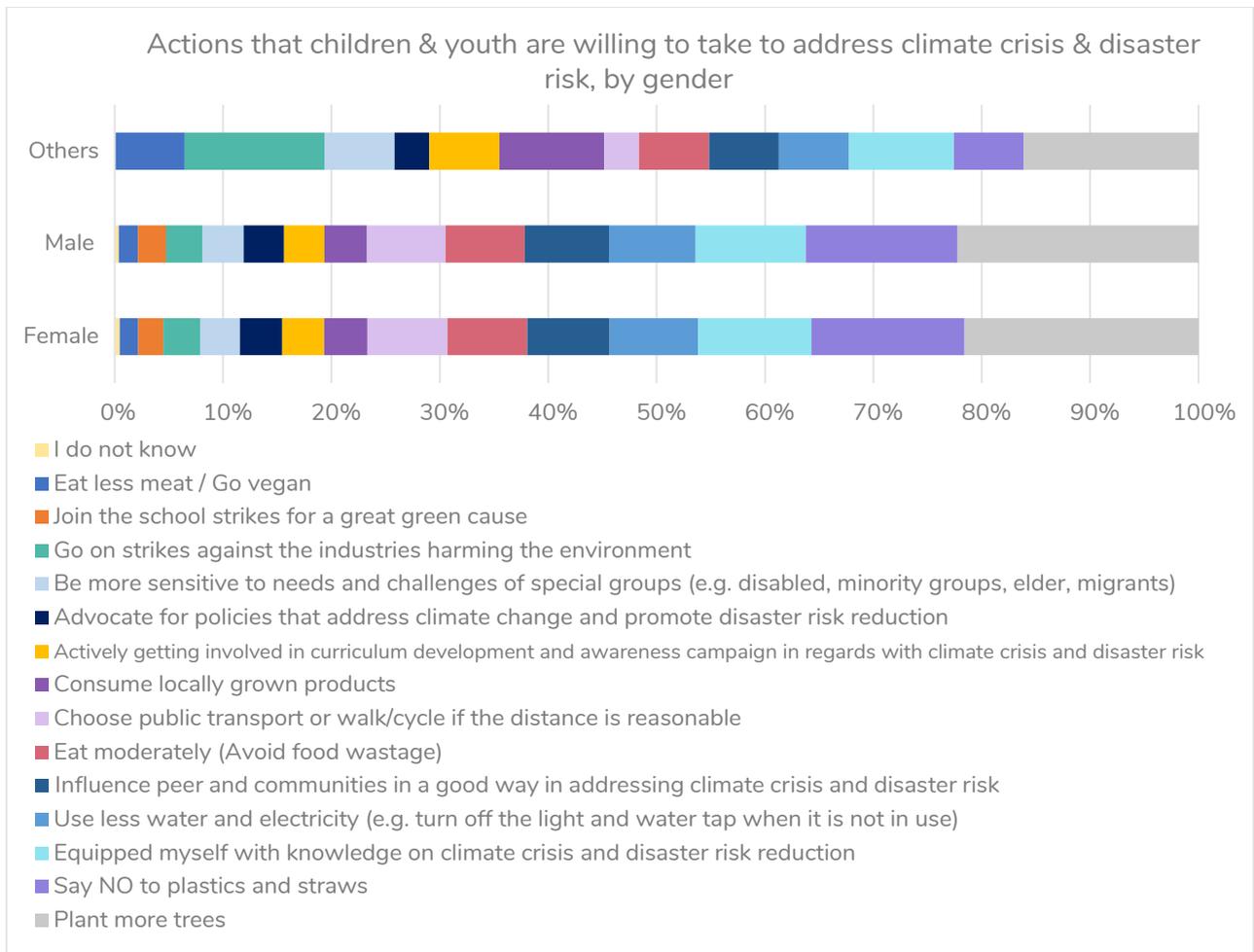
Which of the following should the government begin with as the key focus step to solve climate crisis?





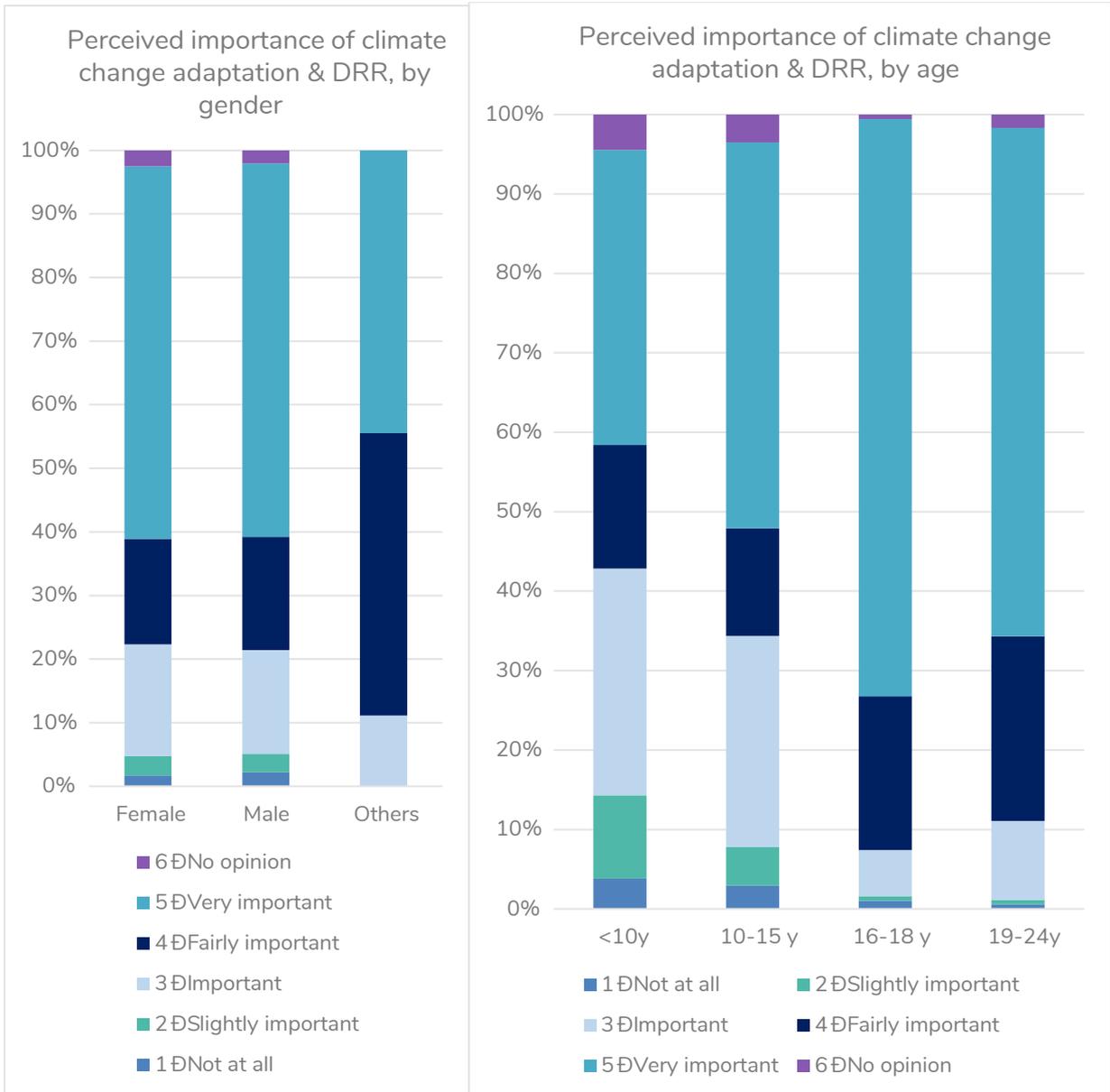
4

What can you do to help address climate crisis and disaster risk? (may choose >1)



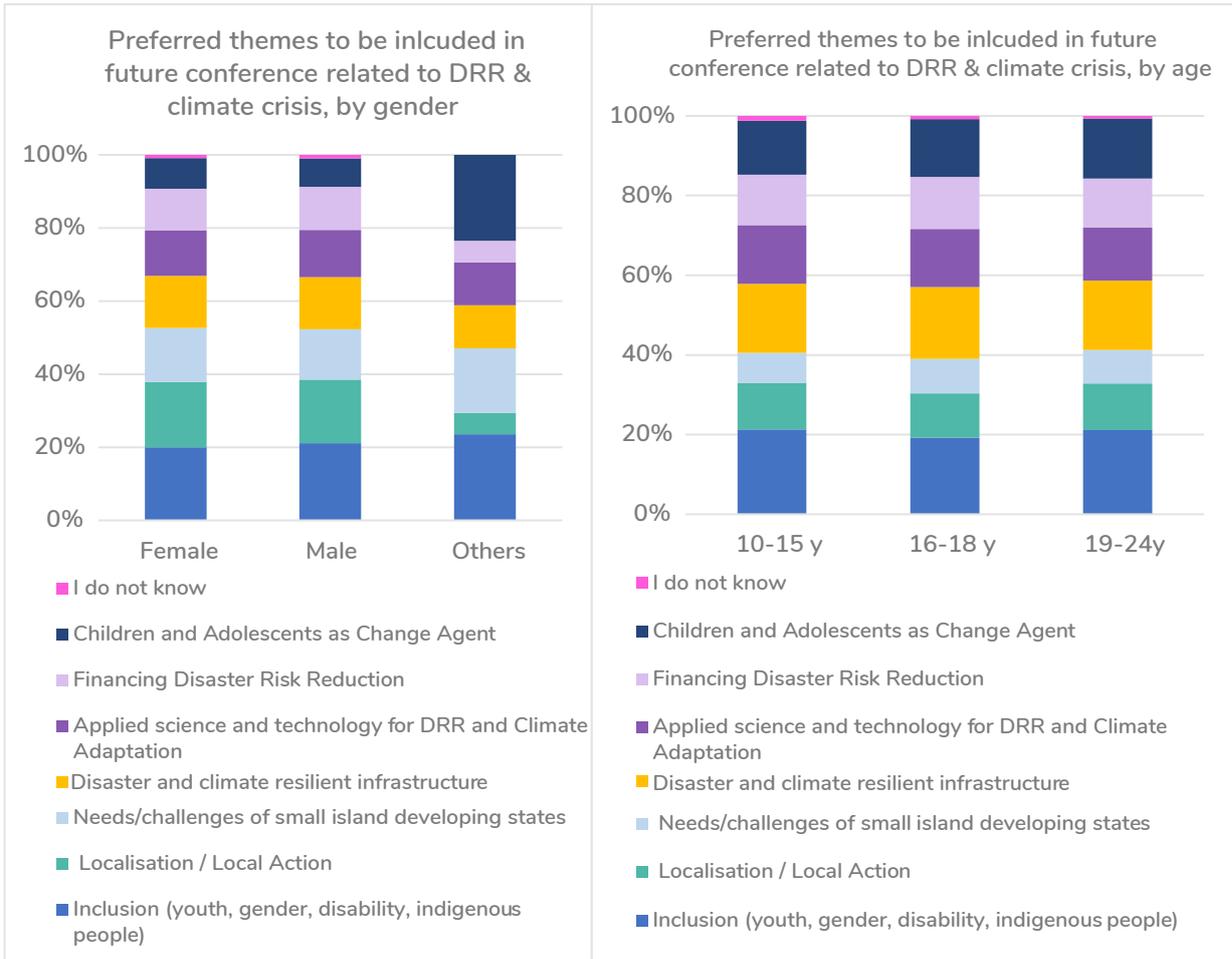
5

How important is climate change adaption and DRR to you?



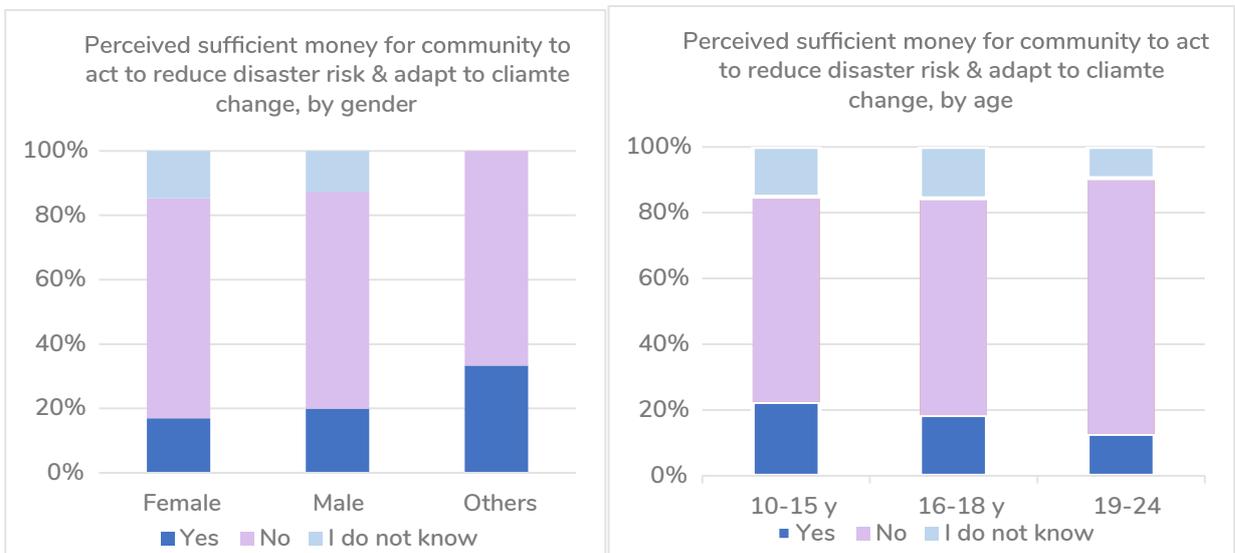
6

What themes do you think should be included in future conferences related to disaster risk reduction and climate crisis? (may choose >1)



7

Do you think there is enough money for your community to take any initiatives to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change?



Annex 3:

C&Y Consultation Guidelines

Online C&Y Consultation Guideline can be accessed at <https://storyhub.wvi.org/Share/m8w1rnp4vmc16t8ljadl1gohsv677xjq>.

Face-to-face C&Y Consultation Guideline can be accessed at <https://storyhub.wvi.org/Share/qj46dw412p8j7kl23u418o1053d613y0>.

Annex 4:

C&Y Consultation Report

If you wish to get copies of the national C&Y consultation reports, please contact World Vision International, Asia-Pacific Region Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs Specialist, Christabel Chan at christabel_chan@wvi.org.

For details of the national consultation, you may contact the leading agencies who co-organized the C&Y consultation events.

Country	Leading agency
Asia Child Summit	World Vision International (Asia-Pacific)
Bangladesh	World Vision Bangladesh
Cambodia	Save the Children
Laos	Save the Children
India	Save the Children/World Vision India
Indonesia	Wahana Visi Indonesia/UNICEF
Mongolia	World Vision Mongolia
Myanmar	World Vision Myanmar
Nepal	World Vision Nepal
Philippines	World Vision Development Foundation
Solomon Islands	Save the Children

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