

How to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction: Experience from World Vision

World Vision's projects and development programmes are designed to address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities for children and their families, including those in fragile contexts, so that they are protected before, during and after a disaster. World Vision's interventions are also designed to mitigate against climate change and to ensure stable family income and food security.

World Vision works with other child-focused agencies, local government, civil society and other service providers to ensure that children's views about disaster risk reduction are heard and incorporated into policy priorities.

In the context of increasing disasters, conflict and climate change, World Vision calls for more dedicated action towards multi-hazard, multi-sectorial, inclusive and people-centred preventive approaches to disaster risk. The approaches must bring together elements of resilience prior to a humanitarian response (through preparedness) and after a response (through recovery and transition initiatives).

World Vision's asks/priorities for the 2017 Global Platform

World Vision calls member states to support the implementation of Sendai Targets on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) strategies and economic loss through:

- a. **Strengthening integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters:** Commit to integrate participatory climate change mitigation/adaptation and disaster risk reduction into all relevant sector policy and programming to ensure coherence and effective implementation. Further investments are also needed to strengthen the consistent application of early action systems in countries that are susceptible to slow-onset, drought-related food and livelihood crises.
- b. **Building the capacity of affected communities to bounce back better:** Invest in local-level and district-level community disaster risk assessments and provide vulnerable groups (children and youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, and the poorest) dedicated avenues and capacities to monitor the implementation of the SFDRR at the local level.
- c. **Ensuring children participate in the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies:** Invest and expand children- and youth-centred risk assessment programmes at all levels in order to build their capacity to assess and mitigate the hazards and risks.

- d. **Increasing accountability:** Support accountability measures that give voice and ownership to vulnerable people, such as joint vulnerability and capacity assessments with plans that are implemented through collaborative partnerships at the local level.

Why focus on children in disaster risk reduction?

Children are disproportionately affected by shocks and stresses related to climate change and natural disasters. According to UNICEF (2015), more than half a billion children live in zones of extremely high flood occurrence while almost 160 million live in areas of high or extremely high drought severity. According to the Center for Research on Epidemiology of Disaster (CRED), 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas, of whom 300 million are under age 5.

Disasters and climate change pose a danger to child protection efforts. During and after disasters, displaced women and girls are at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, forced marriages, sexual exploitation and assault, as they try to meet their basic needs.¹

Experience from World Vision to achieve the Sendai Targets

World Vision is implementing various programmes globally in support of achieving the following Sendai Targets:

I. Reducing economic losses

World Vision is safeguarding children's health and well-being by adapting programme strategies to the immediate and long-term effects of climate change. Strengthening adaptive capacity and enhancing the natural resource base of communities are central to building long-term resilience.

Preparedness and early warning: World Vision is working to understand the nature and potential impact of hazards and vulnerabilities to enhance early warning and early action. In 2012, World Vision, with the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA), partnered with the Uganda National Meteorology Authority (UNMA)² to create a simple and easy-to-understand model that delivers seasonal weather forecasts and impacts to communities. The model was translated into 10 out of 56 local languages. Local-level feedback indicates that this helped local communities to make more informed decisions in response to climate information and climate change.

<http://community.accraconsortium.org/.59d669a8/uganda.html>

Climate friendly programming: In Humbo, Ethiopia, World Vision has been implementing farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) since 2005, a low-cost agro-forestry technique

¹ UN Women, *Climate Change, Disasters and Gender-Based Violence in The Pacific* (n.d.), <http://www.unclearn.org/sites/default/files/inventory/unwomen701.pdf>.

² ACCRA, *Climate Forecast Model* (2014), <http://bit.ly/2eNq2pn>.

to restore lost forest cover by re-establishing native, bio-diverse species. As a result, 13 water points (springs) were rehabilitated, and water began to flow in areas that were dry for over 40 years. A recent analysis shows that high soil moisture reserves in the FMNR project areas have mitigated the impacts of the recent El Niño-induced drought, with agricultural production in project areas largely unaffected.³

<http://fmnrhub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AFR100-Field-Trip-to-Tigray-26-Oct-2016.pdf>.

2. Build Back Better: Strengthened response and recovery

World Vision and its microfinance arm, VisionFund, help vulnerable children and their families with cash transfers, safety nets, training to establish savings groups and microfinance to economically empower and cushion them during times of distress and enable them to bounce back better.

World Vision DRR strategy in the Haiyan Response: In the Philippines, World Vision supported 10 municipal-level governments to assess and revise their DRR plans and to build the capacity of their staffs to implement preparedness and mitigation projects. At the beginning of the response World Vision supported 766,180 beneficiaries during the six-months relief phase and 35,475 during the recovery phase. Three years on, World Vision was able to reach more than 1.6 million Haiyan-affected people. World Vision's microfinance institution, VisionFund, also pioneered recovery lending in the aftermath of the typhoon by issuing over 4,800 loans. Almost all of the clients surveyed stated that the loans helped to restore their livelihoods; half said that they had fully recovered as a result of the loans.

https://issuu.com/myworldvision/docs/haiyan_3_year_report_final_nov9_low.

Cash transfers: In Rwanda, World Vision and the World Food Programme began piloting cash transfers in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs, UNHCR, I&M Bank, VISA and AIRTE, transferring cash to 14,063 refugees in Gihembe, 13,866 in Nyabiheke and 18,496 in Kigeme as a social safety net to ensure refugees would have regular, adequate, safe and nutritious food. In Ethiopia, following the 2015/16 El Niño effects of drought and severe weather situation, World Vision Ethiopia supported 1,153,973 communities in 33 districts with cash and food valued at US\$43.8 million.

Managing farming risks through microfinance: During the El Niño climate event, VisionFund offered recovery lending totalling US\$3.3 million to rebuild and establish new businesses in Kenya, Zambia and Malawi. This lending reached 14,000 families and 49,000 children. For example, Alice Mkumbadzala of Malawi, a dry-land maize farmer and a mother of two children whose livelihood was affected by drought, received a US\$70 loan to buy agricultural inputs for a horticulture garden. She had a successful harvest and managed to pay off her loan by October. *'If it weren't for the loan and these vegetables, we would have sold our goats and would have separated from the family to look for employment in town.'*

³ World Vision Australia, *FMNR Mitigates Effects of Drought in Ethiopia* (2015), <http://fmnrhub.com.au/fmnr-mitigates-effects-drought-ethiopia/#.V13x69lrLGI>.

3. Children participation

As the world's most vulnerable children are affected by countries that are fragile or affected by conflict, it is paramount to ensure that disaster risk management is embedded in fragile states and becomes part of a culture of governance and that children are seen as key players.

Methodology toolkit for resilient practices: In September 2014, World Vision published a toolkit to help girls, boys, adolescents, youth, their families and communities not only to survive but to thrive in the face of natural shocks, stressors, disasters or crises.
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/42651_42646resilientpracticesI.pdf

Child-centred disaster risk reduction: Since 2012, World Vision Ethiopia has been working with the Education Department and the National Disaster Management Authority to integrate DRR into the school curriculum (grades 1 to 8). In Latin America and the Caribbean Region, World Vision offices like Chile, Bolivia, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Peru and Honduras incorporated child-centred DRR in their plan, and created materials for child participation in community development programmes. For more information view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRREMI9PtNc&feature=youtube>.

4. Monitoring implementation of disaster risk reduction frameworks

World Vision uses Citizen Voice and Action as a social accountability tool for local-level advocacy to build the capacity of communities and networks to monitor delivery of public services.

Citizen Voice and Action: World Vision employed its Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)⁴ approach in Kenya to facilitate community dialogues on environmental degradation issues. It developed a set of recommendations for decision makers in Nakuru and Baringo counties, which led to the integration of FMNR approaches into some county strategies.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships: World Vision Mexico has been participating since 2013 in different networks related to DRR; these include civil society, the corporate sector and multilateral partners. The networks emphasise creating local solutions based on the community leaders' assessments and incorporating them to local development plans. The Alianza para la Reducción de Riesgos y Recuperación de Desastres has reached about 100,000 people in three years.
<http://www.sumadosparaprevenir.org/alianza>

⁴ World Vision International, *Guidance on Citizen Voice and Action for Resilience and Livelihoods Programming* (2014), <http://www.wvi.org/resilience-and-livelihoods/publication/guidance-citizen-voice-and-action-resilience-and-livelihoods>.



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For more information, see <http://www.wvi.org/disaster-risk-reduction>.