

World Vision's statement to the Global Platform for DRR, Cancun Mexico, 2017

Mr. Glasser, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The following is a statement by World Vision International, the world's largest NGO and active partner in building resilience and improving child wellbeing in nearly 100 countries. World Vision (WV) recognizes the strength of the Sendai Framework and its 7 targets and 4 priorities for action to focus within and across sectors at all levels. With specific attention to Sendai target C (economic loss) and E (DRR strategies), we urge governments, NGOs and the private sector to prioritize *how* to integrate DRR into development processes to address underlying drivers of disaster risk. Together we can transform the systems that keep vulnerable people at risk from disaster devastation.

Children are disproportionately affected by shocks and disasters. Over half a billion children live in zones of extreme flood occurrence, nearly 160 million children live in areas of high drought severity and 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas. Also, many of the countries deemed most vulnerable to climate change are among the fastest-urbanizing. The physical, economic and psychological impacts of climate-related shocks exacerbate existing inequalities between children in nutrition, health and long-term achievements. With access to knowledge and skills development, children can contribute to DRR and build community resilience. We encourage the inclusion of children and youth in country reporting.

WV's extensive experience has taught us that:

1. Long-term engagement with communities increases trust, accountability and ownership in development planning and implementation.
2. Children's resilience to disasters is built through integrated approaches to risk reduction education at school and home.
3. Vulnerable communities perceive and experience risks in integrated ways. Hazards can interrupt life and undermine the safety and security of people, families and livelihoods.
4. Participatory methodologies (i.e.: community driven vulnerability and capacity assessments) ensure local level delivery of services.
5. Collaborative partnerships with government and other service providers create local level platforms for integrated risk reduction planning.

WV is known for solid partnerships with various stakeholders in several thematic DRR areas including school safety, urban DRR and data information management. We support vulnerable communities through capacity building in weather information systems, sustainable agricultural practices to enable caregivers to provide well for their children, and empower families with cash transfers and savings groups training. In addition, we provide microfinance through Vision Fund for economic empowerment during times of hardship and to support faster recovery. We developed a methodology toolkit for Resilient Practices for children and families to thrive in adversity. WV's Citizen Voice and Action approach in working with local communities and governments facilitates community dialogues on environmental degradation, supports community development plans and makes changes to local

government to include initiatives for DRR. This grassroots and inclusive model can be used for Sendai Framework monitoring.

With increasing disasters, conflict and climate change, more dedicated action must be a multi-hazard; multi-sectoral; inclusive people-centered preventative approach to disaster risk. Resources should be mobilized towards conflict prevention as part of our commitment to address vulnerability and strengthen child and community resilience. The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report indicates a trend towards DRR funding becoming more available in-country within state budgets. We encourage actors to intensify this trend and provide access to funding for in-country NGOs prioritizing DRR programming.

World Vision is committed to the Sendai Framework, SDGs and the World Humanitarian Summit outcomes and through implementation and monitoring partnerships with other concerned actors we hope to achieve loss reduction. As part of the WHS, we have committed to the following, which aligns with our commitments to the Sendai Framework:

- 1) We aim to reach 20% of all affected children when responding to natural disasters through prioritizing child protection and education in emergencies.
- 2) We will empower children and youth as agents of change by investing in a global campaign to address violence against children including in natural disasters and protracted crises.
- 3) Our privately funded global development portfolio is worth over USD 1 billion per year; to help bridge the relief-development divide, we will allocate up to 20% of development funding as a crisis modifier to prepare and respond to disasters.

Thank you for this opportunity.