

## **World Vision's statement to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Fourth Session, Geneva, Switzerland, 2013**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The following is a statement by World Vision International, the world's largest NGO, and an active partner in building resilience and a better life for children in the 97 countries where we work. World Vision recognises the strength of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and its five pillars clarifying *what* needs to be done to reduce disaster risk and the significant progress made to date in implementing the framework across countries and regions. With only 2 years left to implement the HFA and looking forward at a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework, we urge governments, NGOs and private sector companies to bring a new focus on *how* to integrate disaster risk reduction into development processes to address underlying drivers of disaster risk. Together we can transform the systems and relations that keep vulnerable people at risk from the devastation of disasters.

Children are particularly vulnerable to disasters; according to WHO, 30-50 % of fatalities in natural disasters are children, because of this, children need to be protected before, during and after a disaster, and DRR interventions need to be designed to take children's needs into account. With access to knowledge and skills development, children can contribute to DRR and build the resilience of their communities.

Through World Vision's extensive experience working with vulnerable children and communities around the world we know that:

1. Long-term engagement with communities increases trust and accountability in development planning and implementation.
2. Children's resilience to disasters is built through an integrated approach to risk reduction education and learning at school and at home.
3. Vulnerable communities see risks in a completely integrated way. Whether social or natural, all hazards have the ability to interrupt life and undermine the safety and security of people, their families and their livelihoods.
4. Participatory methodologies such as community driven vulnerability and capacity assessments are ensuring delivery of services at the local level.
5. Collaborative partnerships with local government and other service providers create a pragmatic platform for integrated risk reduction planning at a local level

With little progress on Pillar Four on Drivers of Risk as well as the missing link of engaging sub-national level government in disaster risk reduction, we see long-term engagement and accountability models through partnerships at the local level as crucial to integrating disaster risk reduction into development plans.

World Vision's work with more than 100 million people in the communities we support demonstrates that by adopting long-term relationships with communities and participatory methodologies, the voices and energy of citizens can influence duty bearers through constructive dialogue for safer and more resilient livelihoods. Building on local knowledge and working together over the long-term, even the poorest communities are able to increase their resilience to changing hazards and transform the relations that keep them insecure.

**Based on this experience, World Vision calls for the Post-HFA framework to:**

- 1) Promote specific initiatives that build the disaster resilience of children through a comprehensive approach to risk reduction education, school disaster management systems and safe school facilities and environment.
- 2) Concentrate more on the How to (and less on the Why and What) by supporting 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 a local level.
- 3) Expand the scope of hazards to incorporate the impacts of climate change, conflict and other situations of violence in both rural and urban contexts.
- 4) Promote concrete changes in the Post HFA National reporting mechanisms that include peer-reviews and citizen round tables to enhance accountability and local ownership.
- 5) Develop a set of indicators that address HFA Priority 4 focussing on the reduction of underlying risk factors. This would include an explicit focus on:
  - a. Impact of disasters on education
  - b. Community participation in DRR includes participation of girls and boys
  - c. The rights of children to protection from the effects of disasters

Thank you very much for this opportunity, Madam Chair.