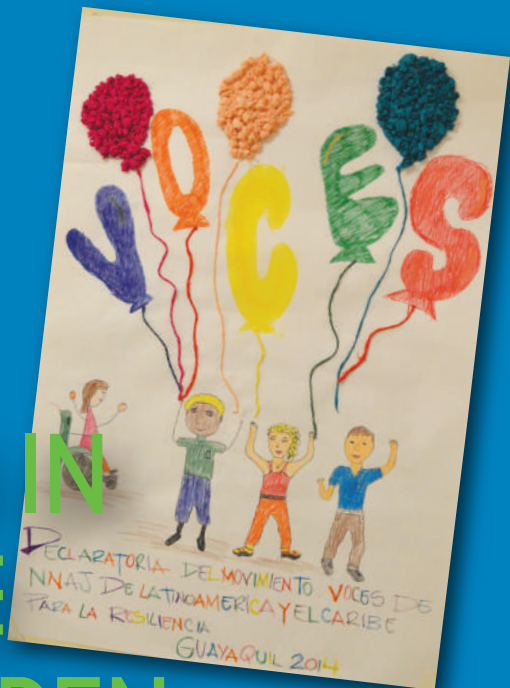


# PRIORITIES IN RESILIENCE FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN



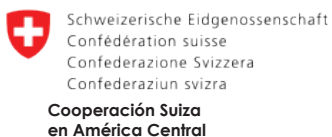
Guayaquil - Ecuador  
2014

We delivered to the Region's authorities on disaster risk reduction the "Declaration of Children and Youth for the Resilience of Latin America and The Caribbean", which

was submitted at the Fourth Thematic Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas – Guayaquil 2014.



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During the first phase of the “Voices Movement” (2012-2013), CORELAC implemented four strategies in educational institutions and community youth groups in 15 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, engaging 18,701 children and young people.

The following were the four strategies implemented:

- “Voices of children and youth for DRR” campaign developed and promoted by the Plan International and UNICEF alliance under the DIPECHO VIII Project for Central America.
- Fun learning events for “information, awareness and empowerment of children, adolescents and youth in DRR”.
- “Consultation with adolescents and youth on DRR”.
- Consultation on “Children’s charter for disaster risk reduction -DRR”.

In the second phase, CORELAC organized a regional gathering as part of the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2014, with 58 children and youth of the “Voices Movement”, representatives from 13 countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru. The purpose of the meeting was to promote the genuine participation of children, adolescents and young in the organization and facilitation of the Thematic Session: “Children, Youth and Disaster Risk Reduction” (part of the Regional Platform), as well as to develop and submit to the authorities the “Declaration of Children and Youth for Resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

This session was promoted by CORELAC to share the knowledge and feedback gathered by children, adolescents and young during the two-year process, at which time the above four strategies were implemented.



The children, adolescents and young built the Declaration based on six thematic areas emerging or identified through the consultations held:

**1** The right to participate in risk reduction.

**2** Risk management in educational settings.

**3** The right to health and protection.

**4** Environmental protection.

**5** Social risk.

**6** Other issues related to gender and persons with disabilities.

# Messages written on the Quipu

A representative Quipu<sup>1</sup> was made with the demands of the children, adolescents and young from the “Voices Movement”.

*1 The Quipu (a Quechua term meaning knot) was a means of communication used during the Inca Empire, consisting of a system of knots encoding historical, economic, political, religious, and legal messages, among others.*

## We want to be heard!

The next step where the “Voices Movement” will be participating in technical and political forums will be the submission of a document expressing the demands detailed in the “Declaration of Children and Youth for Resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean” and the Regional Quipu in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 to promote and advance the articulation of a child and youth centered rights approach through the international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction.

CORELAC will also continue to support the expansion of the “Voices Movement” in all of the countries in the region, as well as all actions taken from its national bases.

Drafting and submission of our demands during the first thematic session of Children, Youth and Disaster Risk Reduction at the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas – Guayaquil 2014.

The children, adolescents and young call on authorities:

## OUR HOPES

We demand the assertion of our right to active participation, where we are informed, heard and are able to get organized in networks for a more resilient society.

**We want to be heard!**

We demand the inclusion of issues related to risk management in the educational curriculum, as well as safe and secure schools to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.

**We want to be heard!**

We demand care with equality, warmth, quality, and efficiency to reduce vulnerability in health and disability issues.

**We want to be heard!**

We demand more training and projects to combat environmental problems in order to help heighten awareness of environmental protection.

**We want to be heard!**

We demand safety and security plans and projects for children, adolescents and young and persons with disabilities to reduce social vulnerability associated with gangs, drugs, sexual abuse, human trafficking, etc.

**We want to be heard!**



We expressed our thoughts on the reality of many of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through a poem.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

("direct word for word translation")

May God spare us an earthquake  
because we are not prepared here,  
it is such a big deal in our countries  
because we have not been educated on this issue.

Flooding is very frequent,  
it causes losses to the State  
and it is the fault of our people,  
because they have destroyed the forests.

Fires caused by people  
create widespread devastation,  
let us not be indifferent  
to this sad situation.

Only the "Voices Movement"  
gives us training  
and we are glad to receive it,  
it fills my heart  
that we are all gathered today,  
I call on children, adolescents and young people  
to be aware, join hands and work together.



# Chorus

We chant our demands with great hope in different languages from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CORO

(Palms) (Palms)

Voices

(Palms) (Palms)

Voceis

(Palms) (Palms)

Rimaikuna

Horn

We want to be heard

Horns

Ñukanchikkuna apukkuna respetados

Horns

To live happily in a better world.



# Song

We wrote and sang a song as an anthem of our demands to the authorities:

## UNITED IN ONE VOICE

("direct word for word translation")

It seemed like just a dream  
and now it is real  
It seemed like just a story  
that has now come true

(Queqchí)

Naquj junta qétalil Sa liqá kalebaal  
(Equity in the community)  
Because we no longer want to see  
a girl crying  
for becoming pregnant  
at an early age

(Quichua)

Mana ña yurakuña Pitishka kachum  
(Tree felling)  
(Chorus)

AND WE CAME TO SING  
WE CAME TO CHANGE THE RISKS  
TO DREAM THAT THERE ARE NO FEARS  
HERE TO PREVENT

## DEMANDING RIGHTS

## IDEAS FOR SHARING

("direct word for word translation")

We do not want our rivers to run dry,  
with dead fish  
We want a better Brazil  
We want to warn those with white collars  
that their factories  
will contaminate us  
And above all will kill us  
Let us walk with the Voices group  
to thus preserve life

And we will care for all the world  
This group will not rest  
Views will be shared  
We need to be heard

# Thematic areas



## 1 The right to participate in risk reduction.

- Children, adolescents and young are the most vulnerable group and thus have the right to participate in DRR. We also bring new points of view, fresh and productive ideas, and are the future of humanity.
- We demand that our voices be heard, that they be respected and taken into account, and also ask to receive training to acquire knowledge and experience and be able to teach our communities how to respond to a disaster.
- Children, adolescents and young have the right to participate and for our views to be taken into account by the authorities and adults as we are the most vulnerable group before, during and after a disaster, otherwise would be a violation of our rights enshrined in legal, national and international legislation (Convention for children and adolescents, etc.), documents that provide that we have the right to participate and be protected on a priority basis.
- We therefore demand that authorities provide us with access to spaces with the conditions necessary to enable us to exercise our right to participation as citizens in our countries, focusing on risk management in case of any eventuality. By being well-informed through training, we will be multipliers and active rather than passive agents, safekeeping our lives and those in our communities.
- We have the capacity for reducing risks to prevent misfortunes through training, taking into account the experiences of people that have been affected so that aid can be delivered quickly, and also bearing in mind that we have the right to express what we feel in an emergency to avert a tragedy.
- Organizations must take note to provide training before, during and after adverse events to communities exposed to danger, taking into account the views and needs of children, adolescents and young.



# Thematic areas

## 2 Risk management in educational settings.

- The State must ensure training on risks in educational settings to be better prepared for any disaster and to know how to respond through practice and awareness.
- Building of adequate shelters for lodging affected people instead of occupying our schools and disrupting our education. The State must assume its role and ensure that all of the population is prepared for any adverse event and knows how to respond.
- We do not want our schools to be used as shelters because it takes away our right to study.
- We would have safety and security if the authorities and the community supported our schools.
- There should be organized committees in communities to share responsibility for the needs in schools.
- School teachers need to receive ongoing training on risk and disaster issues.
- Promote a continuing environmental campaign in our communities and schools for children, adolescents and young.
- Educational curriculum should include courses on DRR.
- Schools need to have a DRR committee.
- I need to be a good example and a role model.

# Thematic areas



## 3 The right to health and protection.

- We will have a good life through prevention campaigns.
- Boy and girl entrepreneurs and no underage pregnancies.
- We want teachers in schools to provide students with information on adolescent and youth pregnancy prevention through educational and motivational campaigns aimed at protecting them from such problems that occur throughout the world.
- Caring for me (as children, adolescents and young) is caring for yourselves.
- Hospitals and primary health care centers need to be improved and maintained with quality and warmth.

## 4 Environmental protection.

- Considering the present context in which we live in regard to global climate change, children, adolescents and young believe it is important to safeguard our environment as we depend on our trees, lakes, seas, and other natural resources. When we neglect them, we harm ourselves and increase existing vulnerabilities.
- We demand that governments include environmental education as an additional course in the learning curriculum. In so doing, children, adolescents and young can learn about the importance of taking care of our natural resources and the adverse impact when we neglect them, and also implement ongoing public awareness-raising campaigns to build a resilient society.
- We must not pollute nature.
- Prevent tree felling to avoid risks.
- Not wasting the natural resources in our communities.
- A culture of recycling resources is needed.



# Thematic areas

## 5 Social risk.

- We as young people feel that we need more support from the authorities as we are exposed to more dangers and risks in and out of our educational institutions. Drugs are sold and used within many educational facilities.
- There should be an appropriate control over the police and relevant authorities to provide us with proper protection as many communities do not have security controls and there is a lack of protection.
- Cultural centers need to be established for children, adolescents and young to fill their free time. Sports activities with appropriate resources should also be provided.
- Ideas from both children, adolescents and young and parents or adults should be taken into account to seek solutions without excluding anyone.
- We want prevention and awareness campaigns for all, especially for children, adolescents and youth, who are the most vulnerable.

# Thematic areas



## 6 Other issues related to gender and persons with disabilities.

- It is necessary to create friendly spaces where information is provided to children, adolescents and young on sexual and reproductive rights, as well as in emergencies such as natural disasters, while promoting equal rights to end bullying and other social issues such as machismo, crimes, drug addiction, and human trafficking.
- Ensure public policies for the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights.
- Sound security needs to be provided in educational centers with the involvement of youth organizations in order to promote participation and good preparation to overcome problems in society.
- Children, adolescents and young are committed to working with respect and equality with public and private institutions and the rest of the community. We demand that these institutions also work with us in the same way and ensure our access to services during disasters.

# Diana

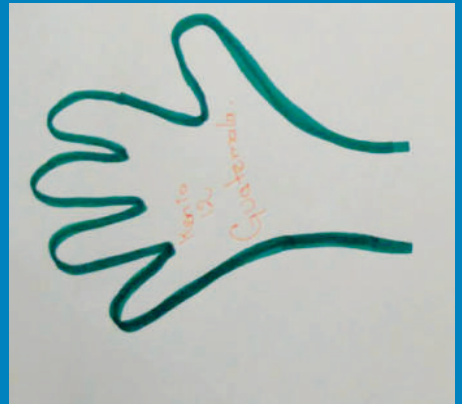
"Children, adolescents and young have the right to be heard on risk related issues."

# Victor

"I wish children, adolescents and young can be a part of the solution in risks and disasters."

# Mario

"I want to study marine biology to protect the marine environment."



# Madeline

"I wish for enterprising and happy children in my community. We do not want aerial fumigation on banana plantations because we want to enjoy our rivers without worrying about getting skin diseases."

# Carlos

"To receive training to prevent disasters."



# Yesenia

“We need to work together for a well-prepared and enterprising country. We need to be valued for who we are and not for what we appear to be.”

# Kerli

“The right for children, adolescents and young to participate.”

# Javier

“I wish schools had meeting points and security.”



# Adriana

“As soon as I get back to my community I’m going to tell them about the project on risks and disasters, about knowing Guayaquil and the friends I made.”

# David

“All children, adolescents and young have the right to be heard.”

# Tania

“No to child abandonment and child abuse.”

# María

“I wish there were specific shelters and that schools are not used.”

# Valeria

“For children, adolescents and young to receive clear and accurate information about DRR in schools and that teachers are properly trained.”



# José

“I wish my school would receive training on risks in my community.”

# Yesica

“I want support with everything I know.”

# Pamela

“For adults to listen to us because we can give opinions and solutions. They need to hear our voices.”

# Dayana

“I wish health care was available in my community because some people get very sick and die.”

# Luisa

“Less intolerance towards us as children, adolescents and young.”



# Malena

“For children to have the right to receive an excellent education in their schools.”

# Jonatan

“For authorities to provide training on first aid issues to children, adolescents and young.”

# Noelia

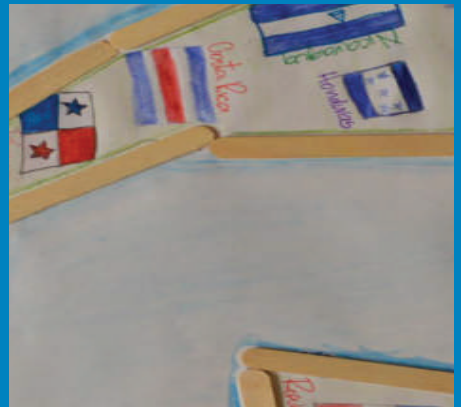
“My wish is that a shelter would be built in my community as my school is susceptible to flooding in winter and it is used as a shelter, disrupting classes for children in the community, which are greatly needed.”

# Dayana

“I would like to have the yard in my school cleaned up because it is full of weeds and an animal could bite children.”

# Edwin

“We have rights.  
Our duty is to enforce them.”



# Sandra

“I dream that my community will be fairer, more equitable, filled with prosperity, and less dangerous.”

# Josué

“Let us not use schools as shelter centers.”

# Nancy

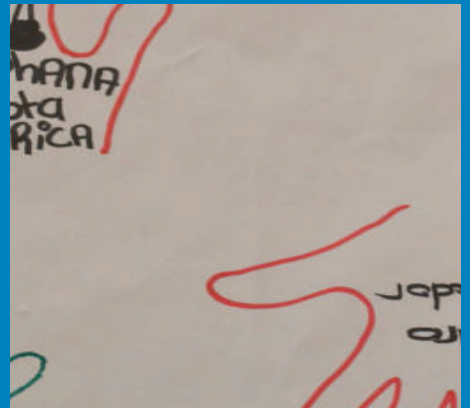
"I want to receive good information about the forms or types of risks that I face by not knowing how to respond in a disaster and how I can help in my community."

# Sebastián

"We want peace and more education around the world."

# Nicole

"I do not want any more forest fires in Ecuador."



# Luis Carlos

"Let us be a fairer and more equitable world where children, adolescents and young are fully integrated into society. This is how we will build a safer and better environment for all. Pura Vida!"

# John

"We need more well trained teachers in my country."

# Daysi

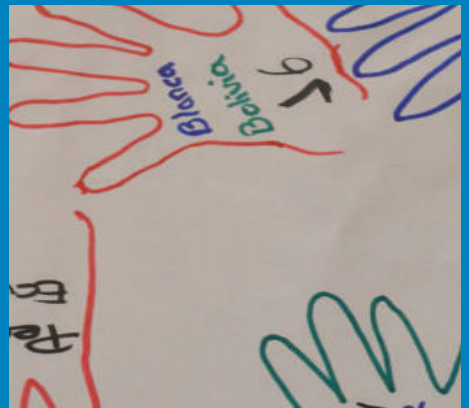
“I wish everyone in Ecuador received continuous training in risk reduction and disasters response and that there were no deaths due to lack of planning and support in emergencies.”

# Alejandra

“I want children, adolescents and young to live safe in a risk free healthy environment.”

# Dennys

“I want my country to be more secure with safer streets.”



# Marcela

“Children, adolescents and young are active agents of change that promote resilience and we therefore demand that our voices be heard and taken into account by the authorities.”

# Débora

“We are unique and valuable. Take care of your [children, adolescents and young's] life.”

# Miguelina

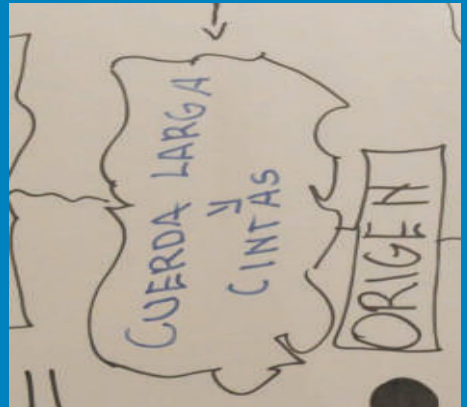
“For the rights of people with disabilities to be respected, and for societies to include the rights of persons with disabilities in their programs.”

# Andrea

“I want more child protection in my country.”

# Carlos Xavier

“I wish schools and communities were trained, especially in DRR, [to be prepared] for any emergency.”



# Luis

“I want to learn about my rights as a child and [associated] obligations.”

# Fanny

“More participation of children, adolescents and young.”

# David

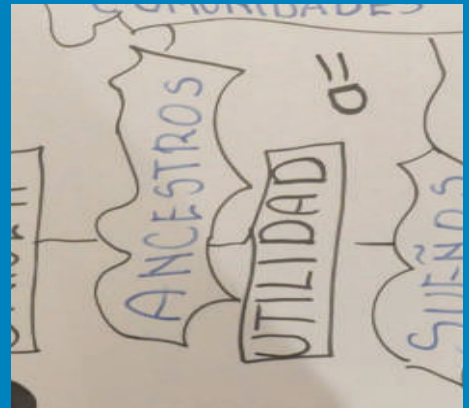
"To hear our voices and not pollute our world because we want a safer world for our future."

# Paoli

"I want drugs to be eliminated in Ecuador."

# Jessica

"For the voices of young people to be heard by everyone with equality and respect, as well as better quality of education for all."



# Werlem

"To build a better world for everyone and for children, adolescents and young."

# Peter

"Here us, damn it!"



# Kenia

"I would like a school in my community."



En el presente documento  
queremos compartir con ustedes  
como autoridades gubernamentales

# Anthony

"The right to participate for children,  
adolescents and young."

