



Side Event: ENGAGING YOUTH IN BUILDING RESILIENCE

SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2017 12:45-14:15

KATARA HALL

DOHA, QATAR

PANEL SESSION DELEGATIONS

MODERATOR

Majid Shangab

International Cooperation Department,
Misr University for Science and Technology.

PANELLISTS

Mohamed Sabbah

Geographical Information System Expert.

Neeshad V.S.

Focal Point,
Climate Action Network – Arab States.

Ragy Saro

Programme Officer,
UNISDR Regional Office for the Arab States.

Luma Diab

Coordinator,
Education Above All.

Nehal Hefny

Under Secretary General for Programs and Projects,
Egyptian Red Crescent.

BACKGROUND

Most cities in the Arab Region are especially exposed to natural hazards and climate-related shocks, and the impact on cities has been aggravated by the rise in population density. Climate change is projected to lead to more severe events such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, cyclones and dust storms, and the Arab region, in particular, has recently experienced an increasing number extreme weather events.

In many Arab cities, there are indications that extensive risk (corresponding to high frequency and low severity hazardous events such as yearly floods and storms) is increasingly affecting the infrastructure in poor neighborhoods and slums, in both rural and urban areas, keeping it highly vulnerable to intensive risk (corresponding to low frequency and high severity hazardous events) such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted by UN Member States on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai City, Japan. The framework was also endorsed by the UN General Assembly in June 2015 under resolution #69/283. The Sendai Framework 2015 - 2030 uses a wide scale people-centered approach in disaster risk reduction that applies to both large and small scale disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological disasters. With seven

targets and four priorities for action, it aims Limit the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development. The implementation of the framework requires strong political leadership, youth engagement and commitment

ROLE OF ARAB YOUTH IN BUILDING RESILIENCE

Never before has the region had such a large share of youth, with young people between the ages of 15–29 making up around 30 percent of the population - or some 105 million people - in a region in which 60 percent of the population has not yet reached the age of 30 In addition, the proportion of Arab youth (aged 15-24 years) is increasing significantly in comparison to other age groups.

With new, youth-led and youth-oriented programs flourishing, and more young people utilizing information and communication technologies, Arab youth are now abler to voice opinions, address existing problems, and shape community priorities as well as actively partake in the process of building resilience.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recognizes the role played by the different stakeholders especially the youth in making the Disaster Risk Reduction process a successful one, and by extension building resilience:

19.d guiding principles: “Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;”

36.ii role of stakeholders: “Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula;”

OBJECTIVE

The side event will be in the format of a panel, with panellists providing their input either via presentations or dialogue with the moderator.

Each panellist will be afforded 10 minutes to discuss their input, followed by a question and answer session where audience will have the chance to ask questions on the floor, via twitter and via Facebook live.

The panel will focus on addressing the role of youth in the process of building resilience with a wholesome approach, stressing on:

1. Youth advocacy in building community resilience
2. Role of social media and new technologies in disaster risk reduction
3. Children and youth education in building resilience
4. Importance of engaging youth in the DRR planning process
5. Role of Youth Volunteers in DRR