

THE RESILIENT FUTURE WE WANT!

An easy-read summary of the research by Plan, Save the Children, World Vision and UNICEF on the Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction

What's the Children's Charter for DRR?

The Children's Charter for DRR is an action plan for reducing disaster risks – developed by children, for children. In 2011 the Children in a Changing Climate coalition consulted with more than 600 children in 21 countries. These children spoke up about the following five priorities for reducing disaster risks:

1. Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted.
2. Protecting children must be a priority before, during and after a disaster.
3. Children have the right to be included and to access the information they need.
4. Community roads, buildings and other structures must be safe and building these back after a disaster must help to reduce future risks.
5. Disaster risk reduction must reach those children most at risk from disasters

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

WHEN?

In 2012, the Children in A Changing Climate Coalition wanted to go back to children to see if progress had been made on the charter and what other issues children were finding about disasters.

WHO?

The coalition interviewed 1,299 children and young people to find this out.

WHERE?

These children and young people were in 17 countries around the world in all continents, including: These included: Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Bolivia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua.



WHY?

To show the relevance of the Children's Charter to children, to find out how people are trying to address priorities of the children's charter in their communities and to make sure Plan, Save the Children, World Vision and UNICEF are on the right track for supporting you to secure the resilient futures you want! Read on.....

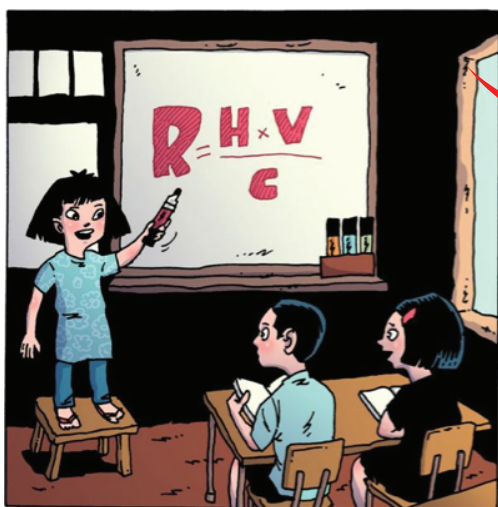
WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

The Children's Charter talks about 5 priorities children have for disaster risk reduction all over the world... and you told us that they are still relevant! BUT how are we all getting on as we try to address them in the work we do?

1. Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted:

When we first spoke to children in 2011, they about how their schools are damaged by disasters; how they have missed days, weeks and sometimes months of education as a result of a disaster; and how they may not be able to safely get to school. During the consultations in 2012, children once again identified safe schools and uninterrupted education as their top DRR priority.

Children across Africa, Asia and Latin America expressed concerns about schools not being safe in their communities, and more needing to be done to make sure schools stay standing during and after disasters.



2. Protecting children must be a priority before, during and after a disaster:

Children in a number of countries explained how protecting children, such as exploitation and abuse, had still not been solved in their communities and tend to get worsen during emergencies.

However children also provided some examples of things improving in terms of child protection in their communities. For example in Ethiopia children spoke about child protection clubs in their communities which helped everyone know about risks to children during emergency and non-emergency situations, and was helping to reduce harmful traditional practices.

3. Children have the right to included and to access the information they need:

This was one area where all the children were keen to talk about and their views showed that there has been great progress in some areas but less progress in others. Some children felt that they were not listened to and had very little opportunity to participate, while others expressed high levels of participation. In all countries children spoke how the important contribution they could potentially make to reducing disaster risk in their communities!



4. Community roads, buildings and other structures must be safe and building these back after a disaster must help to reduce future risks:

In the consultations, children across Africa, Asia and Latin America consistently said not enough progress has been made in their communities on safe structures. They said time and money is preventing people doing this . They also said that when work is done, not enough monitoring is done and that is unsafe. Much more needs to be done on this priority!



5. Disaster risk reduction must reach those most at risk from disasters:

Across the countries, children consulted were very concern in terms of DRR reaching the most vulnerable – they often mentioned disabled people and elderly people as being excluded in their communities. They wanted to see more effort made to include vulnerable people in DRR initiatives such as children who are not in school or in the poorest communities.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO TELL THOSE WHO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

Based on the input of young people like you, we made some recommendations for policy makers and people who work on disaster risk reduction... there are lots of details but basically they can be put into three things we can do better!

WORK TOGETHER

that means involving all the right people at all the right times, making sure vulnerable and quiet and marginalized people are supported to contribute, and making sure that the people who make decisions in governments are part of the action too so that we're all coordinated and we all benefit.

MAKE RULES AND ROUTINES

This means that although we do good work, it is not part of our routine, they are often one off successes that don't get shared or improved or repeated. With rules and routines we can make sure that successes can reach more people and mistakes can be avoided in the future!

SPEND MONEY IN THE RIGHT PLACES

A lot of the time, people say there isn't enough money to do the work they want to do to protect people from disasters. So we recommend that the people who decided which money goes where, pay more attention to reducing disaster risks and enhancing people's resilience to disasters so that we can all live strong, healthy, happy lives.

BANGLADESH

“Children are very good at raising awareness, which is a really important task”- Child interviewed in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh children have been taking part in awareness raising campaigns to inform people about risks including going door-to-door in their communities. Their opinion has also now been taken into account by local government people who are in charge of local disaster risk reduction plans! It was someone from the local government who said the quote above. By taking part, children have achieved some great things including adults now taking them more seriously when thinking about DRR, and actual changes in behavior among adults and children in their communities.

ETHIOPIA

“When there is water, we feel protected”- Child interviewed in Ethiopia

Children in Ethiopia have been learning about risks and their living environment, and making links between the different charter priorities. In Ethiopia one of the main risks is to do with not having enough water. This affects health and well-being, it means that sometimes there is not enough food to eat, and sometimes it even means children cannot go to school. In some schools they have started to try gardening and growing fruit and vegetables, to eat and to sell for the school DRR club. Different types of gardening are being tested to protect plants from drought and also other hazards like frost. And what’s the main thing you hear the children saying? “Plant more trees!”

WHAT NEXT?

When the Children’s Charter for DRR was developed, Plan, Save the Children, World Vision and UNICEF began to use it to see what they were already doing that was important to children. These four organizations are now basing a lot of their DRR work on the five priorities of the Children’s Charter, and advocating that other people do the same.

We are also using what we find out to inform what we say to national governments and international debates about disasters and climate change. In 2015 lots of important decisions will be made- governments will agree a new strategy on dealing with disaster risk called the HFA 2, and new agreement for all countries on how to grow and develop called the post 2015 framework will also be decided. We think its important that the views and role of children such as yourselves are included in these important decisions to ensure all children grow up in safe future!

Before all that, in May 2013, people are coming from all over the world to a meeting in

Switzerland, to discuss disaster risk reduction. We will be there too, with the findings of this report, telling everyone who's there how much children know and can contribute, advertising the five priorities of the Children's Charter, and making sure everyone knows that just like children developed it in 2011, children told the truth in 2013 about just how important it is.

None of this would have been possible without your knowledge, your confidence to share it, and your determination to give time and action to DRR. Wherever you are in the world, you can be proud that you made a difference. Thank you, and well done!



[**www.childreninachangingclimate.org**](http://www.childreninachangingclimate.org)