



**Name of Event: [Roundtable] Children for Resilience**

**Date of Event: May 12, 2011**

**Reporter: Antony Spalton**

**Contact Details: [aspalton@unicef.org](mailto:aspalton@unicef.org)**

**Panellists:**

- Ms. Sian Gardner (Facilitator)
- Dr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, India
- Mr. Alan March, Humanitarian Coordinator, Assistant Director General, AusAID, Australia
- Nisha, India
- Ramashis, India
- Tricia, Philippines
- Andre, Philippines
- Johnson, Kenya

**1) Outline**

Children represent 50-60% of those affected by disasters. Children from Kenya and Philippines demonstrated they have an important role to play as communicators of risks, analysers of risk & constructors of social networks. Children inspire and are a source of hope. By reaching children, we reach everyone, we protect future generations as well as the environment. They also called to have their voices heard and to participate. The government of Uganda demonstrated progress in local and national child-centred DRR in policy and practice; AusAID's policy on DRR gives priority to protecting education from disasters and SAARC demonstrated that regional governments can come together to listen to children and to advance a regional Children and Disasters framework that includes a focus on DRR.

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

In designing DRR policy and programming, the following are recommendations from children:

- Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted.
- Child protection must be a priority before, during and after a disaster.

- Children's right to participate and access to information must be met.
- Community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce future risk.
- Disaster risk reduction must reach the most vulnerable people including people with disabilities, children under 5 and children out of school.

### **3) Conclusions**

Investing in a safer future means that by 2015, at every level children's voices are heard in DRR policies and programmes, and in the 20 highest risk countries school and learning spaces are made safe and all children are reached through policies and measures that ensure their protection.