On the margins of the UN High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Changing our Future:
Children are taking action to end violence against children by building resilience and addressing Climate Change

Date: Wednesday, 17 May 2023 | 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM EDT
Venue: Church Center of the United Nations

Introduction

Children are taking actions across several issues that affect their lives by mobilizing and elevating their voices. Some of the key issues are disaster, climate change, education, ending violence against children among others.

World Vision, ChildFund Alliance and Save the Children will be celebrating children as Changemakers by affirming the continued advocacy and leadership of children and young people. In mid-May 2023, World Vision offices across dozens of countries will carry out actions to put a spotlight on these children and the issues they are advocating.

As part of this May Global Moment and on the margins of the UN High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Vision, ChildFund Alliance and Save the Children are convening a side event with the participation of children and young people. They will be sharing about actions they are taking in their communities that are contributing to resilience-building advocacy to influence policies, be better prepared when disasters hit and safer communities.

Robust evidence provides greater understanding between natural disasters and violence against children. Child protection in disaster risk reduction narratives and strategies have provided an opportunity for children and young people to elevate their voices and create greater awareness on the large impacts to their physical and mental health as well as exposure to violence when disasters occur.

Engaging children and young people in disaster risk reduction and resilience building is critical. Hence the importance to support them by bringing their voices to the forefront to include them at every
stage of the conversation at national, regional and global level, as well as planning and execution of solutions that will ultimately impact their lives.

**Changemakers May Global Moment in New York**

The event will focus on ending violence against children highlighting its linkages to resilience and disaster risk reduction, featuring the in-person participation of two young leaders from Solomon Islands and Cambodia; and the virtual participation of two other young leaders including one from the Philippines as keynote speakers. The young leaders will share their experiences on how they are contributing to change in their communities by raising awareness on violence against children and climate change. Additionally, they will share their views on actions and key asks to step up the pace to end violence against children.

The event will also feature key speakers who will be addressing issues of child protection, climate actions and resilience as well as reaffirming the importance of engaging children and young people in disaster risk reduction strategies.

**Objective:**

- Affirm children as change makers as they mobilize in their communities to influence policies and programmes around issues affecting them such as disasters, climate change, violence, etc.
- Elevate voices of children through their direct engagement in global conversation related to disaster risk reduction strategies.
- Encouraging messages from key stakeholders regarding the importance of engaging children and young people on issues that impact their lives.
Preliminary Program

The event will feature a moderated interactive panel discussion followed by a discussion among all present participants.

Introductory remarks (2 minutes – pre-recorded video)
- Dana Buzducea, Global lead on Advocacy & External Engagement, World Vision

Keynote speakers: (20 minutes)
- Yaru - young leader from Cambodia (5 min)
- Roy - young leader from Solomon Islands (5 min)
- H.E. Mrs. Eat Sophea, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the UN (5 min)
- Representative of Solomon Islands UN Mission – TBC (5 min.)

Messages from children and young people (pre-recorded) (6 min.)
- Azumi – young leader from the Philippines (pre-recorded video) (3 min)
- Maimouna – young leader from Senegal (pre-recorded video) (3 min.)

Speakers: (20 minutes)
- Meg Gardinier, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance (5 min.)
- Andrew Hassett, Director, Communications and Advocacy | Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (5 min) -
- Paloma Escudero, Special Adviser for Climate Advocacy, UNICEF (5 min)
- Pablo Espiniella, Chief of Staff, SRSG-VAC Office – (5 min.) –

Open discussion (15 minutes)

Wrapup

Moderator: Arelys Bellorini, Senior United Nations Representative, World Vision

Format of the event
- In-person event
- The event will also be live streamed via WV YouTube Channel
- Light lunch will be served
INVITATION
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777 United Nations Plaza, 2nd fl. NY 10017

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