



September 10th 2014

Comments on the Pre-Zero-Draft of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

We, the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) are grateful for the support and opportunity to contribute to the process towards the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. We take our role and mandate seriously. Together, we have all embarked on a journey towards a transformative agenda that will usher our joint and individual actions of disaster risk reduction into the coming era, and aiming to reach our shared vision of a resilient society, tackling drivers of risks and addressing the root causes of vulnerability. This is the comments on the [Pre-Zero-Draft](#) from MGCY.

General comments on the Pre-Zero-Draft

We are pleased to see the following being addressed in the Pre-Zero-Draft:

- We are pleased to see the increase of substance and indicators included in the Pre-Zero-Draft, but we wish to see even more increase of this, as it is crucial in order to assure an impact of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR;
- We are pleased to see the role of technology included and standardised approaches for information collection and dissemination;
- The inclusion, in both meeting the needs of all groups in society and in establishing the requirement for inclusive participation in DRR;
- Children's participation is explicitly specified: "Children and youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are to be fully engaged in the determination and implementation of policies" (12 d);

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft:

- A simple summary of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR, which communities, school teachers, youth workers, families and individuals can relate to; and realise the important role they play in disaster risk reduction;
- More clarity on articulation of Purpose, Principles, Action Areas, Targets and Stakeholders;
- Child and youth centred approach implicitly supported through explicit mentioning of differential impact on children and youth;
- Strengthening the recommendation of greater investment in resilience building (20), addressing that DRR should be mainstreamed appropriately into development assistance programmes, by setting a donor target for DRR funding to be mainstreamed into other thematic areas;
- Increased coherence, consisting of mutual reporting periods, goals and targets, between Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change Goals, and Humanitarian Goals;
- Include recognition and balance of addressing both extensive risk (everyday disasters) and intensive risk corrective actions;
- Focus more on tackling drivers of risks and addressing the root causes of vulnerability;
- More explicit focus on people centred DRR, on social issues and on human rights and peace principles;



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- Increased attention on risk management strategies relevant for fragile, insecure and violent contexts;
- Emphasize the development countries economic and environmental responsibilities and address their special needs due to their technical capacities and the special risks this may results in;
- Tackle the metrics and thereby address the timeframe, governance targets, investment and accountability;
- Specify details of accountability and reporting mechanisms, beyond the call for states to make them available, within their capacities (15b);
- Assure that reporting of progress against targets must move beyond self assessment;
- Multi-stakeholder task forces are involved in progress reporting;
- Make governments to be the primary responsible for managing disaster risk, but assure and clarify the accountability of other stakeholders including civil society, UN agencies and donors concerning responsibilities for contributing to DRR, as set out in paragraphs 22 – 25.
- Specify the purpose and monitoring of stakeholders commitments;
- Beneficiary accountability mechanisms be included in the preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction (16) and should ensure effective feedback for communities affected by disasters, and is an opportunity for children and youth to participate;
- Clarity on how the implementation of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR will align with the work of other UN agencies engaged in resilience work, including UNDP, UNEP, UNOCHA and UNESCO.
- Clarify the timeframe of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR, with 10-15 year timeframe and periodical review process every five, measuring progress and make necessary changes in social, economic and environmental conditions and risk in the framework;
- Clarify concerning vocabulary and its references: 'periodic', 'reduce mortality', 'reduce number of affected', 'reduce economic loss', 'reduce disaster damage'.

Preamble

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section preamble:

- We agree the Hyogo Framework for Action, as the first framework, has been an important tool in raising awareness and action on disaster risk reduction and would like to emphasize the importance of future frameworks being accessible, easily understood and using language that is fully empowering to all members of society to take deliberate and tangible action on;
- Stronger wording in order to encourage member states to provide necessary and sufficient support for all parts of society to contribute and communicate the role everyday people have in taking action on disaster risk reduction;
- We endorse and support member states taking a long term, 50 year view, for all planning. Planning must consider the realities of climate change;
- Stronger action to address vulnerable groups;
- Stronger emphasis on people's vulnerability needs to be balanced with their empowerment and rights;
- Include inequity as a key driver, in addition to address inequality;
- Improve the wording of the text 'risk may affect people's safety and security'.



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Purpose, Scope, Outcome, Goals

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section purpose, scope, outcome and goals:

- We support a broader vision to be incorporated into the purpose of the Post-2015 Framework for DRRs. We believe the framework should not not strive to “manage” risk, but “reduce” both existing risk and creation of new risk;
- Include a complementary purpose by rephrasing the wording “the substantial reduction of disaster losses” to “halt the creation of new disaster risks.”;
- We support the proposed five global targets with ambitious indicators above 60% in a ten year period, though we wish to see more global targets to assure a global impact. One addition, sixth, global target we would like to explore is allocation of funding; ensuring that funding is distributed to both risk reduction as well as response;
- Enhance the second strategic mutually-reinforcing goal incorporating preparedness for disaster recovery as well as response, and how to integrate DRR approach in response and recovery;
- Enhance the third strategic mutually-reinforcing goal striving to recover to a stronger position than before a disaster, rather than simply ‘recovering’ to a similar vulnerable position;
- Assure that the Post-2015 Framework for DRR include the devastating nature of conflict and biological disasters;
- Develop section B in order to include plans of tackling the effects of violent conflicts;
- Reference to multi-risk approaches and enhance the attention to the relationship between natural disaster and conflict risk;
- Extend the purpose to include resilient systems and in addition to resilient people and community approach.

Guiding Principles

We are pleased to see the following being addressed in the Pre-Zero-Draft section guiding principles:

- Inclusion of vulnerable groups in decision making, planning and implementation; viewing them as more than victims;
- Engagement of children and youth in policy and practice is recognised as important;
- Recognition of differential risk profiles, including disability, at local level.

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section guiding principles:

- Add that states “share the responsibility” in point C.12.A in order to enhance the degree of implementation;
- Change the language from “managing risk” to “reducing and managing risk” at C.12.B, in order to emphasize that in general risk is created by man, and can indeed be prevented;
- Unify the language from “disaster risk reduction” and “disaster risk management” to include “disaster risk reduction”, and thereby align with stronger vision;
- Complement the wording “broad understanding” by using “leadership and management” at C.12.D;
- Incorporated the term “shared responsibility” rather than “aligned responsibility” in C.12.F, and thereby include impact of social networking, spontaneous responses and certain technological advances, and assure that DRR is a problem to be shared, and mutually progressed across all sectors not “aligned” to a particular department, ministry or person;
- Rephrase C.12.G to include effective and adaptive DRR policies and practices;



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- Enhance the attention to human right based approach, managing the risk of disasters should also be aimed at protecting persons, their livelihoods and property, while respecting their human rights;
- Include sex and age disaggregated indicators for reporting on children and youth affected by disasters;
- Strengthen the implementation of national legislation and frameworks on child and youth protection in disaster-prone areas;
- Pay attention to peace promotion as an action of disaster risk reduction;
- Clarity in 12B concerning recognition, articulation and alignment of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, including volunteers;
- Enhance and clarity in the role of UN, concerning their overall role and develop more detail action plan.

Priorities of Actions

We are pleased to see the following being addressed in the Pre-Zero-Draft section priorities of actions:

- Sex, age and disability disaggregated data;
- Health, education, food security;
- Strengthening Governance to Manage Disaster Risk;
- Aspects of Safe Schools and Hospitals.

General comments on Priorities of actions

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section priorities of action:

- Clarity in the argumentation and definition of the vocabulary 'preparedness for response';
- Enhance the attention of addressing economic resilience;
- Enhance actions to assure successful and sufficient early warning as well as capacities to ensure early actions;
- Assure adequate support and actions to meet the need of capacity development for national staff working in DRR related sectors;
- Greater emphasis in terms of ensuring risk assessment capacities exist to inform delivery of basic social services;
- Enhance emphasis on DRR public education and awareness as well as well as integration in school curricula and non-formal education;
- Comprehensively address protection and safety of children and you, including maintaining their human rights in disasters scenarios and social protection;
- More emphasis to the compliance and enforcement of regulatory frameworks;
- Assure a multi-stakeholders inclusion in the conceptualisation, design and implementation and support of UNISDR campaigns;
- Strengthen the linkages between DRR, social protection, ecosystems management and social services, in order to contribute to investment in social, economic and environmental resilience;
- Include targets to monitor progress of governance of disaster risk management and include recognition of sub-national/district level government which is critical in scaling up risk reduction;
- Transform drivers of risks and thereby tackle drivers of risks;
- develop the target of health and education to include reduction in mortality within education and health facilities due to disasters, by strengthen of critical public facilities and infrastructure, particularly schools (17 c), and promote the inclusion of disaster risk education in curricula (14j).
- Promoting of regular disaster preparedness exercises (16 c) should include safe school implementation;
- The call for investments in resilience (17) should include a full section point on disaster risk reduction in the education and health sector;



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- Systematically incorporation of child and youth protection into DRR systems, including prevention of physical dangers, separation, child trafficking, child labour and sexual violence;
- Interoperate action plans that seek to reduce and mitigate protection risks;
- Additional measure under preparedness at the national and local level (paragraph 16) on strengthening existing national child and youth protection systems to be able to operate effectively in emergencies.

Understanding DRR

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section priorities of action - understanding DRR:

- Develop a framework with more clear and simple language, which does not rely on academic interpretation, overuse of acronyms and jargon;
- Suggestion of additional target: Children Adolescence and Youth, as well as displaced persons are supported to meaningfully participate in local level DRR and development planning and implementation processes.

Governance

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section priorities of action - understanding DRR:

- Disaster risk reduction being a crosscutting issue which transcends all national and local government departments, policy positions and decision making; rather than being housed as a separate agency, department or committee;
- Youth representatives in disaster risk reduction governance, in international, national and local level.
- Additional target: Cross government working to plan and budget for risk reduction based on vulnerability and capacity assessments must be conducted every year;
- Additional target: Scorecards based on targets are reviewed and linked to budgets at the local and district levels;
- Additional target: Donors, governments, private stakeholders and civil society organisations review participatory measurement of progress against the action areas and targets for a joint monitoring report every X years;
- Additional target: All national child and youth protection legislation and policies recognise and address the sex and age disaggregated impact of disasters on children.

Preparedness

We call for the following to either be elaborated or implemented within the Pre-Zero-Draft section priorities of action - understanding DRR:

- Enhance private funders supporting disaster preparedness initiatives at a greater or equal level as disaster response;
- institutionalization of monitoring of actions and outcomes in preparedness, prevention, response and recovery periods at agency and governmental level;
- Investments in risk reduction by the private sector should not only be a benefit on the social level but also financially prudent;
- Action by members of society should not just be promoted, they also should be supported and incentivised.
- Both current and future risks have to be addressed;
- The inclusion of vulnerable groups need to include concrete actions to improve their skills to handle disasters;



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- Disaster simulation and interactive activities for children and young people are highly valuable and should be encouraged and supported;
- Additional target: The number of children and youth living outside family care as a result of shocks and stresses is reduced by 50%;
- Additional target: States must adopt the School Safety framework to ensure uninterrupted safe education, integrated DRR into curriculum;
- Additional target: States must ensure that no child or youth dies due to disaster in a school built/modified after 2015 and school days missed as a result of shock or stress reduced by 50%;
- Additional target: By the end of the implementation of the post-2015 framework, all educational spaces promote a culture of resilience and protection of the environment, and implement DRR plans.

Investment

- Provide support to young people to drive preparedness initiatives as a cost effective and impactful use of funds;
- Additional target: Empower children and youth with specific life skills that will enable them to better apply their creativity and innovation;
- Additional target: Increase access to basic services & assets.

Role of stakeholders

- Enhanced governmental support and actions in partnership with new media forums and technological change makers;
- Cross-sectional inclusion of children and youth in DRR decision making, planning, implementation and monitoring on global, national and local level;
- Develop, implement and maintain customized national institutionalized Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction programs;
- See and address youth unemployment as an underlying risk;
- Provide transitional spaces that foster innovation, entrepreneurship and collaboration after disasters;
- Inclusive and explicitly promotes role of women, children and youth;
- Enhance and clarify the role of supporting implementation of policy and roll out, as well as capacity building through all administrative levels of govt;
- Improved mention of specific vulnerable groups in PZD;
- Reinforce children and youth and include disaggregated data for different groups

International Partnerships

- Support and provide an international children and youth in disaster platform, which builds important future capacity and networks should be established and supported in partnership with existing actors in disaster risk reduction;
- Maintaining democracy and community led recoveries that utilize modern day consultation, partnerships and existing knowledge.

Transition Phase

- Compile community asset registers and community informed assessments aiming to find the strengths, priorities and needs of communities to better inform such national priorities and strategies throughout such revision.