

World Vision Position Statement on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Preamble

World Vision engages in both humanitarian relief and long-term community development, and is committed to building the ability of communities and institutions to become more resilient to the ravages of major disasters and low level vulnerabilities. This experience has been gained from across the globe in areas of civil conflict, major natural disasters and chronic food insecure environments. WV has focussed on certain aspects of disaster management namely in the area of community and organisational preparedness and response systems, resources and mechanisms as well as investing in long term risk reduction work promoting community owned DRR initiatives with vulnerable communities

Whilst the long term approach to building disaster resilience is vital it is also important to recognise that disaster risk is sadly often only acknowledged following a major disaster event. The experience of a major disaster frequently provides a key learning opportunity when people are at their most receptive to new approaches and strategies to bring about behavioural and institutional change in Disaster Risk Reduction practice. As such, the post disaster recovery period requires a very “opportunistic” approach to be taken by policy makers and practitioners alike to capitalise on the chance to resource and subsequently enhance long term disaster resilience at a government and community level.

Key Positions

1. World Vision advocates for a wholesale **re-engineering of the humanitarian budget allocation process** whereby disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation funding are integrated into relief and recovery budgets. This would require a review of the relevant funding instruments and practices to ensure that those institutions most able to affect change had access to relevant funding brought under the umbrella of a broad DRR strategy led and facilitated by Local and National governments.
2. World Vision strongly promotes the value of **risk reduction partnerships and collaboration**. Practices that engage local government and civil society / NGOs in collective decision-making and tangible strategies to reduce risk and strengthen early warning at the local level are needed. Strong local partnerships must be complemented by interagency coordination at a policy-making level, and advocacy partnership must occur at both levels. The Emergency Capacity Building Project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is an example of such collaboration in practice.
3. World Vision promotes the **innovative role of children and young people in effective disaster risk reduction practice**. The development of school curricula and learning materials outlining school safety and hazard awareness has been proven to save lives and enhance the resilience of whole communities. Children’s involvement is not just a matter of education but of active participation in early warning and disaster preparedness activities like mangrove planting and radio broadcasting.
4. World Vision continues to advocate a minimum of 10% of development funding is set aside for risk reduction activities.