Participation of children and youth in national DRR activities

80% Children and youth targeted DRR activities.

5% DRR partnerships with youth led organizations.

15% Work with schools on certain DRR activities.

85% Regularly consult youth organizations on DRR planning.

5% Do not engage children and/or youth.

69% of countries do not have mechanisms for children and youth to directly influence DRR decision-making processes at the national level.

65% of countries confirmed that their national DRR strategies include a dedicated focus on children and youth.

85% of countries refer to children and youth as at-risk groups, beneficiaries, or special target groups, rather than active and engaging stakeholders.

None of the surveyed countries engage youth organizations in the collection of DRR-related data, monitoring or evaluation.
Do you have a recovery strategy or on-going recovery programs that include children and youth?

Yes, we have recovery programs that target children and youth, considering their specific needs.

We have a general recovery program that pays consideration to all stakeholders.

We have a strategy but it does not have a children and youth focus.

We do not have a recovery strategy or on-going programming.

16 Responses

| 2 (12.5%) | 10 (62.5%) | 4 (25%) |

Challenges to participation

**Political obstacles**
- Limited political representation as "children and youth" are not a homogenous group.
- Dependence on the discretion of those in positions of power to implement youth-led policies and recommendations.
- Lack of a culture of democratic dialogue involving children and youth, despite growing awareness on the importance of inclusion.

**Institutional challenges**
- Lack of structures and guidelines for meaningfully engaging children and youth in DRR governance.
- Uneven access to disaggregated DRR data at local and national levels.
- Inadequate involvement of youth in monitoring DRR programs.

**Resource and capacity constraints**
- Resource limitations hinder engagement with youth stakeholders.
- Insufficient capacities for adults to involve youth stakeholders.
- Age constraints limit youth advocacy.

**Other barriers**
- Cultural diversity can impact engagement (e.g., language).
- Lack of incentives for families to participate in voluntary civil protection activities.

**Key recommendations**

**Actively consult children and youth:**
Create spaces for young people to meaningfully contribute to shaping DRR strategies. They can join as national platform members, advisors, or experts to drive program design and priorities.

**From beneficiaries to partners:**
Elevate children and youth as partners in DRR. Empower youth organizations to propose and lead programs, and collaborate on communication campaigns and local data collection.

**Equip tomorrow’s leaders:**
Develop mentorship programs for young DRR advocates. Strengthen their skills and capacities to influence decision-making processes.

**Design with youth, for youth:**
Involve children and youth in designing and evaluating DRR programs targeted at them. This will enhance the effectiveness of resilience-building activities.

Engaging Youth in Resilience Building at the Local Level

MCR2030 Resilience Hubs demonstrate effective mechanisms for engaging youth and children in building resilience. For example, in the city of Matosinhos, Portugal, the local government collaborates with youth organizations to jointly determine local DRR programming for children and youth, and engages them in collecting data, and monitoring and evaluating programs. This inclusive approach ensures children and youth have a meaningful role in DRR decision-making processes.

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SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

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