**Example replies/ suggestions for going forward with guiding questions**

**STEP 1**

**Sub-step 1.1: Consider why child participation is important in your DRR work**

**Why is child participation important?**

You might have read about the importance and/or have thought about different reasons yourself already. You could have considered that children are the future and should have the opportunity to engage from early on, that children and young people’s self-confidence and sense of self can be significantly improved by participating in our activities, ......, etc. There could be many more or other reasons you came up with.

You might want to consider legal, practical, and educational reasons and look at the importance of child participation from different angles - including your and their perspective.

**Why is it something that your organisation should work with?**

Whether your organisation works with children already or whether you have witnessed it elsewhere, you think that your organisation should do so because children and young people are affected by crises and disasters, and your organisation is in a position to bring meaningful change and participation about, .....

It might also be that you are not sure and want to consider this website for that very reason. You find an introduction, steps and further resources to get a clearer picture. You could moreover talk to child participation experts in your country to find the basis for your organisation to work with this.

**What is the best argument you know in favour of child participation?**

Your best argument should stem from your considerations to the previous two questions in combination with the rights of children to participate and the mutual benefits for you and the children.

If you are unsure, you can always keep in mind and start from the overall societal benefit of children being prepared in cases of crisis and disaster and being able to share and grow that knowledge for a more resilient society now and in the future.

**Sub-step 1.2: Think about ways to make participation sustainable in your organisation**

**What are your colleague’s attitudes about child participation?**

Have you spoken to your colleagues about child participation? Did it come up in team meetings or project and strategic discussions? Maybe you took notes during such activities that you can consult.

You can also start this discussion with your colleagues, and talk to them about their experiences and previous contact points with children in your work. If it is easier, send an email “survey” to ask for their feedback. Whether spoken or written – you might receive anything from more elaborate notes of previous experiences to short replies of non-interest or non-knowledge on the topic. Either attitude can indicate your way forward.

**What concrete steps can you take to ensure that child participation is more prioritised in your organisation?**

Take guidance from your “research” among colleagues. Is child participation a new topic or does your organisation have a consensus on the importance of child participation but does simply not know how to go about it?

If you start at the beginning, you can start by sharing about the topic of child and youth participation. You could write an email on the topic, share links to this an other websites, inform about the rights of a child, and collect and share good examples of child participation in other local, regional or national organisations. You could ask for a time slot at the next team or staff meeting to report on your interest and your findings on the topic. Build it up from there.

If your organisation is already more aware of the topic but needs to prioritise it more, you could introduce the Secure Kids project’s 10 steps and invite relevant colleagues to a brainstorming workshop (just an hour or two can already get y a long way). Try to bring a regularity to such discussions or reach out to different groups/ teams in your organisation until structures take form.

**What forms of child participation would enable sustainability?**

Do you have some ideas already? Perfect. Your ideas and attempts are very valuable.

Otherwise, if you ask us: any child participation structures or processes connected to and integrated into your work enable sustainability, but even a regularity is a good step forward. Regularity would be how often you have activities with children and youth – be it with youth you are connected to or with external youth that you reach through partner organisations (schools, etc.). A concrete partnership with such an organisation makes for a longer-lasting form of child participation. It is of course even more direct and sustainable when there is the opportunity to create a child participation structure in your own work and organisation; e.g. in the form of meaningful and informed child representatives at certain work meetings or in the form of a child board.

Finances of course enable sustainability – in case your organisation has the chance to financially support the work or can be part of projects which at least finance certain periods of child participation work.

Also, very crucial in our opinion is the feedback and connecting back to the children you worked with.

**Why would children want to participate longer-term?**

This connects very much to the last sentence above: in our experience, children want to learn about societal issues and their impacts on their lives. They then want to be taken seriously when discussing it together and making suggestions (that often prove to be out-of-the-box thinking) and very importantly, they want to hear about the results, the follow-up and reactions to their thoughts and work.