This document will provide examples of how the questions in the guide can be addressed. To address the questions, we have created a fictitious scenario involving a city planner, with no experience of working with children, who would like to involve children in their work.

## Step 1. Why child participation in DRR?

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

**Guiding Questions:  
Why is child participation important?**

I believe that child participation is important for several reasons. For example, children and young people’s self-confidence and sense of self can be significantly improved by participating in our activities.

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

Since children are impacted by disasters, I believe my organisation should involve children in our work. Children are among the most vulnerable, and it is clear to everyone involved in urban resilience work that their voices have received very little attention in the field. Children interact with the world around them differently from adults and can therefore offer different experiences. By leading a child-led initiative, our organization can demonstrate to other organisations that it is feasible.

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

The best argument I have in favour of child participation is that children have a *right* to be a part of these activities. This obligation to involve children comes from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC is a human rights treaty. The 54 articles in this treaty describe children’s rights and what must be done to uphold these rights. Article 12 of the convention says:

*“State partiers shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”* (Article 12, UNCRC).

Article 12 describes that children have a right to participate in all matters affecting them. Children and young people have been disproportionately affected by disasters, and their exposure is expected to increase in the coming years. Thus, respecting children’s views in the context of DRR is not just a model of good pedagogical practice, but a legally binding obligation, descending from the ratification of the UNCRC.

To sum up, the main reason why children must be allowed to participate in DRR-related activities is because they have a right to do so. Rights are inviolable, meaning that they must be fully respected. Therefore, children must be given the opportunity to participate in DRR-related activities.

As the previous section outlined, the primary reason to involve children in DRR-related activities is that they have a right to participate in DRR. This, however, does not mean that other reasons for including children in these activities are useless. When discussing with decision-makers, describing the positive utility of involving children can be a convincing approach. Pointing out the **positive consequences** of involving children can even be more effective than pointing to duties on behalf of the decision-maker. The following argument, highlights one of the – many! – positive outcomes of involving children.

Children and young people's self-confidence and sense of self can be significantly improved by participating in these activities.

When children see that their efforts are valued, their sense of self-worth grows significantly. Self-assured kids are more likely to become proactive adults who contribute significantly to society as adults. By giving children a feeling of agency, we are investing in the development of strong, capable future leaders who aren't afraid to voice their opinions and stand by their convictions.

**Argument 2**

Child participation fosters early community involvement and active citizenship. It has **long-term societal benefits.**

When children participate in decision-making processes, they learn about civic responsibility and the importance of contributing to society. By including children's perspectives, we create a more democratic society. By ensuring that children's voices are taken into consideration and acted upon where appropriate, child participation enhances democracy.

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

**Guiding Questions**:

**What are your colleague’s attitudes about child participation?**I am not certain about this; I haven’t surveyed them. But if I were to make a guess: I would say that the overall knowledge about child participation (CP) is not great. When we have discussed it, I have struggled to articulate why it is important and I believe that most people just find it more complicated to work with children than adults. However, there are exemptions, and some colleagues have expressed sympathy for the initiative and think it’s a splendid idea.

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

I guess I could do a lot of different things. For example, I could organise trainings on child participation and highlight the value of it. I think that one issue is that people are unaware of children’s right to participate and all the positive consequences of child participation. Although their right to participate does not hinge on the fact that it brings positive consequences, a human right should always be upheld, but it can push people in the ‘right’ direction. Trainings and awareness-raising activities in an efficient means to this end.

I can also ensure that it is incorporated into internal policy documents. Having specific documents stipulating that our organisation should work with child participation would be an excellent way to ensure the continuity and the recurrence of child participation in our organisation.

However, right now, these next steps are still ‘ideals’ and far away from where I am. Right now, I am trying to convince my superiors that it is worth doing and for that, I need to ensure that I have convincing arguments and can show the benefits of child participation for our organisation.

**What forms of child participation would enable long-term participation?**I think that an Advisory Board would suit us very well. There are many virtues of having a child advisory board. To name one: it facilitates child-led participation! Two adults will be there overseeing the activities and ensuring that everything runs smoothly, but an advisory board can serve as an independent unit.

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

We are looking for children who are interested in the topic, and this would be an excellent opportunity for them to gain valuable experience and understanding of the urban resilience processes. Moreover, they can have a real-world impact! Our projects are affecting how cities are developing, and the children can be part of this.