

# HANDOUT

## No. 1

World Vision

### UNPACKING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION KEY PRINCIPLES

Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 31 of the UNCRC  
are considered the “participation rights”

#### Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. States Parties 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.
2. For this purpose the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

#### General Comment No. 12

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child defines children’s participation, in their General Comment No. 12, as an:

... ongoing process, which includes information-sharing and dialogue between children and adults based on mutual respect, and in which children can learn how their views and those of adults are taken into account and shape the outcome of such processes.

#### Basic criteria

To be categorized as ‘children’s participation’ the following basic criteria need to be met:

1. Children have an opportunity to form and express their views freely
2. Children’s views are respected and taken seriously
3. Decision making processes are informed by children
4. Children see the results of their participation and understand how their contributions have been taken into account.