<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR PRINCIPLES IN ACTION</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BECOMING STRONGER TOGETHER</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR NEW STRATEGY</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHALLENGES AND LESSONS</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEOPLE</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERS</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION
FROM OUR CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL BOARD, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have become the network we are today because of the actions, expertise and commitment of GNDR members. This year we have grown to almost 1,400 civil society organisations (CSOs) in over 120 countries.

Collectively we have made great strides to strengthen the resilience of people most at risk, and prevent hazards from becoming disasters. We’re proud to present this annual report which captures just a few of the varied and far reaching achievements of members around the world. The impact stories in this report provide a glimpse into half a dozen examples where members have worked with communities to find sustainable solutions and build resilience.

GNDR members are often working on the ground, putting local approaches to risk reduction into action. In 48 countries nearly 200 organisations have worked with communities to understand the root causes of risk in our Views from the Frontline programme. By listening to members of the public, local governments and civil society organisations they have produced a wealth of evidence that is being used to advocate for change.

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was just one of the many events where we engaged with global decision-makers to show evidence gathered by members. In preparation for the UN’s 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, many GNDR members also got involved in their countries’ national reviews of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We have also worked within the UNDRR’s Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) to develop a position on urbanisation and DRR. This was brought to the World Urban Forum in February 2020.

Of course we know that our strength as a network lies in our ability to work collaboratively for change with active representation from across the globe. That’s why this year we focused on establishing national representations into our governance structures, by electing National Focal Points. We now have 103 National Focal Points who are responsible for coordinating with members in their respective countries. We also mobilised resources to support 42 national coordination meetings to discuss and engage on the national issues influencing both policies and practices.

GNDR members have played a leading role in new research on the role of local civil society organisations in coherence. This new publication provides a set of ingredients and recipes for CSOs to ensure that DRR, sustainable development and climate change adaptation are addressed coherently at the local and national levels. It has since been shared with global actors and provided the basis for training over 200 GNDR members globally.

Our approved governance manual further streamlined the effective oversight of GNDR by the members of the Global Board and Trustees. During the year eight Regional Representatives to the Global Board were elected by the members through a fair and transparent election process. One new trustee was appointed by the Global Board. We also registered a new trust in the Netherlands, Stichting GNDR primarily to retain our presence in Europe beyond Brexit.

Whilst we have made huge steps forward as a network, newly emerging disasters are a constant reminder that we must invest significantly more into risk reduction – particularly at the local level. The beginning of 2020 marked the emergence of an unprecedented global disaster: the Covid-19 pandemic. The health and economic impacts have already had a devastating impact in many countries. The worst may sadly be yet to come as the virus spreads to those communities that have consistently been denied access to the resources that would strengthen their resilience.

Many GNDR members have been responding directly to Covid-19 by supporting people with disabilities where they have no permanent homes in which to isolate, focusing on the safety of people in informal urban slums where there’s no running water for hand washing; giving refuge to women experiencing violence and threats during lockdown; and giving support to those with increased care responsibilities.

But in every disaster there are opportunities. Sometimes it can be a chance to build back better and to ensure that future development is risk-informed, just and greener.

Perhaps the very global nature of the pandemic will induce a renewed empathy for our fellow human beings challenging nationalism, populism and fundamentalism.

As a network we will continue to build our collective power and solidarity. 2019-20 marked the last stage of our five-year strategy, Stronger Together. We are now a globally connected group of organisations that come together, grow together, and collaborate together – every day, all over the world.

We are now a globally connected group of organisations that come together, grow together, and collaborate together – every day, all over the world.

In 2020-21 we will begin a new five-year strategy, Local Leadership for Global Action. As a global network we have a bold ambition to use our collective power to make significant strides forward in localisation, and ensure our demand for risk-informed development is heard and acted upon.

And together we build the resilience of the communities most at risk.
OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

REAL RESILIENCE

- Organised a global campaign:
  - 6 Regional Advisory Group meetings, 12 Regional Workshops and 42 National Coordination Meetings held
  - 132 National Focal Points elected
  - GNDR members were trained on “How to Identify Trends and Draw Conclusions” of which 50 organisations were further trained on how to take these conclusions back to the communities where data was collected, and jointly develop local resilience plans
  - Thematic webinars held, including on topics of DRR and education, DRR financing, and community-based disaster risk management
  - 8 trainings were organised with national government representatives including local CSOs and LGUs on institutionalising community-led DRM

- 21 members were supported to attend global and regional advocacy events and share the voices of the most at-risk communities

- 60 local resilience action plans developed using Views from the Frontline data

97% of members would recommend GNDR members to other CSOs working on DRR and resilience

84% of members agreed or strongly agreed that GNDR has improved their organisation’s ability to influence policies and practices at local, national and international levels

84% of members agreed or strongly agreed that GNDR has enhanced their organisation’s ability to collaborate and cooperate with civil society and other stakeholders

89% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that GNDR has strengthened their organisation’s ability to generate and share knowledge

2,000 logins on the Community Platform per month

243 organisations have been trained on the role of local CSOs in Coherence

219 grant opportunities shared with members on Community Platform

290 organisations took part in the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism
SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES
Last year we developed a “Cookbook” on how to make community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) the norm. This year, members from six countries exchanged ideas on how to train others to put these cookbook ingredients in place. They then went on to run national trainings with CSOs and local government on how to change policies to make it easier for community groups to lead, how to strengthen collaboration mechanisms to better include community members, and how to develop a culture of local ownership of disaster risk management activities. These trainings resulted in various commitments among participants to implement what they learnt about CBDRM in their specific contexts. A follow-up survey revealed that participants have changed behaviours and attitudes towards CBDRM.

National coordination meetings
This year, we organised 44 national coordination meetings, involving a total of 1105 people across the world. These meetings allowed members in the same country to get to know each other and the work they’re doing, discuss collaboration opportunities, and agree on how they’ll work together to achieve shared goals. These meetings also provided members with the opportunity to introduce GNDR to the representatives of their governmental disaster management offices.

Election of National Focal Points
This year, National Focal Points (NFPs) were elected for all countries where we have members, in order to lead and mobilise members to engage in the implementation of our new strategy in their countries. To ensure gender parity in representation, two NFPs (one male, one female) were elected from a total of 103 countries to represent in GNDR’s governance structures.

Strategy development consultation workshops
Twelve strategy development consultation workshops were held with our members, providing them with an opportunity to share successes and challenges associated with GNDR’s 2016-2020 strategy that should be taken into account in the development of the 2020-2025 strategy. Participants highlighted the priorities they wanted to see in the new strategy and proposed actions that could address those priorities. All ideas and recommendations that came out of these strategy development consultation workshops with our members were taken into account in the strategy development process.

Side event at GPDRR
The network was thrilled to present our CBDRM Cookbook at the Global Platform for DRR. Our side event took the form of a global food market, where local CSOs presented recipes for making CBDRM stronger in their communities. The event was attended by donors, ministries and CSOs alike and helped connect members to their government’s representatives.

Partners’ Forum on Coherence
In October, we worked with UNDRR and the German government to bring together international actors to determine how they could strengthen the structures, mechanisms and capacities needed to support CSOs in ensuring that local realities are being addressed coherently. Using the Coherence cookbook, donors, UN organisations, INGOs, academia, local government, networks and grassroots CSOs discussed common factors that contributed to successful case studies of coherence at the local level, along with the challenges faced by CSOs. Participants also explored what they could do as global actors to support CSOs in ensuring coherence, along with the challenges they face and the role a global network such as GNDR can play in helping overcome the barriers.

The training in Niger not only was sponsored by the Minister of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, who gave a keynote speech at the opening, but also received local, national and regional media attention.

Training on local resource mobilisation
Twelve trainings on local resource mobilisation were held with GNDR members across the world. The participants learnt about different types of funding sources along with what motivates donors to fund activities. Participants were given the opportunity to identify who may support their work, along with identifying how to sound attractive to donors. They also identified different fundraising methods and how they could move forward in their resource mobilisation efforts.

Development, launch and trainings on the Cookbook on Coherence
We worked with the German Government to develop a Coherence Cookbook: Building Resilience in an Integrated Way. This cookbook provides a set of ingredients and recipes for CSOs to ensure that DRR, sustainable development and climate change adaptation are addressed coherently at the local and national levels. The cookbook was launched at the Global Platform for DRR in Geneva and the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs in New York, and has been used in trainings and shared with local, national and international actors. GNDR members across the world attended trainings on the Coherence Cookbook. Participants discussed what is meant by coherence in policy and practice and why it’s important.

They also explored what coherence looks like in practice at the local level, along with the role of CSOs in ensuring coherence in their work. Using the Coherence Cookbook, the participants learnt about the critical success factors (ingredients) for coherence and the need to be able to identify the appropriate success factors to apply within different local realities.
This was used to raise national government attention to local priorities and key issues that might have been missed out of the reviews. As soon as Chad’s national review was published online, GNDR member LEAD put together a response to it, highlighting communities’ perspectives, and contributed to the formal intervention at the UN. LEAD also reached out to Chad’s national review focal point to further explore using VFL data for the next national review of progress towards the SDGs.

Local level data collection and analysis
Over the course of this year, much progress was made in the Views from the Frontline (VFL) programme. Data from 38 countries is now available on our VFL microsite and can be disaggregated by country, community, urban vs rural, gender, age, and disability. National level findings have been analysed, pulling out conclusions and recommendations for the local and national levels. Communities in these 38 countries are now working to develop local action plans based on their country’s VFL findings and recommendations. 12 new countries joined the programme this year and are currently working to identify the communities in which they will implement the programme and which local partner organisations will help collect the data.

Global presentation of local data at GPDRR
We showcased our VFL database and videos of communities at a prominent booth at the Global Platform for DRR in Geneva. This helped generate interest in VFL among key stakeholders such as representatives from the UN, national governments, national and international NGOs, along with bilateral agencies, universities and researchers. The booth was visited by Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR.

Faces from the Frontline
We worked with UNDRR and IFRC to make sure that community voices could be heard at the Global Platform for DRR. We shared video messages from people experiencing floods, earthquakes, and drought. We positioned portraits of community members around the venue. And we hosted live video calls with local communities in the Philippines, Chile, India and Uganda, providing Global Platform participants with the opportunity to better understand local risk realities.
1. **Start at the local level**  
Recognise the local context and understand local perspectives of risk  
82% of members agreed that GNDR’s work recognises the local context and understands local perspectives of risk  
Our mission at the 2019 Global Platform for DRR was to get local voices and faces visible. Our Faces from the Frontline initiative with UNDRR and IFRC saw the placement of large posters of community members around the venue, and live calls with at-risk groups in between sessions. This acted as a reminder to participants of whose lives we are trying to protect when we meet at international conferences.

2. **Partner and collaborate**  
Work with and across all groups and levels  
89% of members agreed that GNDR works with organisations from different regions and sectors, and brings together diverse stakeholders to achieve its objectives.  
From partnering with companies to run more advanced trainings, to advising universities on how to make research more impactful, GNDR has continued to recognise the value of collaboration in the work we do. We are particularly excited at the strengthened links with academia, to ensure research is undertaken based on what local actors need and is therefore more useful for end-users.

3. **Leave no one behind**  
Strive for equity-sensitive approaches that ensure the inclusion of all groups, particularly those most at-risk  
80% of members agreed that GNDR strives for equity-sensitive approaches that ensure the inclusion of all groups in its programming, particularly for those most at-risk. We wanted to ensure gender equality in the representation of members. As such this year every country elected both a female and male representative to be their National Focal Point, who will voice their countries’ priorities in Regional Advisory Groups.

4. **Mobilise local resources**  
Build on existing capacities, knowledge and other sources of resilience  
89% of members agreed that GNDR’s work builds on existing capacities, knowledge and other sources of resilience.  
As a network we developed a guide on local resource mobilisation for resilience activities, and held trainings on this guide with Change the Game Academy in 12 regions. Our Views from the Frontline project has led to 60 community resilience plans being developed so far, utilising seed funding that has also triggered financial and in-kind contributions from local businesses and NGOs.

5. **Align across policies**  
Ensure coherence across disasters, climate change and other development activities  
88% of members agreed that GNDR’s work ensures coherence across disasters, climate change and other development activities. We trained nearly 250 people on the approaches in our Cookbook on the Roles of CSOs in Coherence. Many members are now integrating these coherence ingredients into their work to ensure all development activities also achieve disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation objectives.

6. **Hold institutions and individuals to account**  
Enhance accountability to affected populations  
75% of members agreed that GNDR’s work enhances accountability to affected populations. Members have been able to use the data collected through Views from the Frontline to request their governments be more ambitious in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GNDR members connected with governments for their 2019 Voluntary National Review of SDG progress, and by sharing the perspectives of the most at-risk citizens in their country, they have been able to highlight where advances still need to be made.

Every country elected both a female and male representative to be their National Focal Point and voice national priorities.
2019/20 represented the last year of our Stronger Together strategy 2016-20. We worked to ensure that we completed our objectives as a network, addressing the outstanding outcomes as highlighted by an independent mid-term evaluation in 2018.

Whilst regional coordination has been strengthened with the establishment of robust Regional Advisory Groups, more work should be done to strengthen coordination at the national level.

A clear strategy is needed to identify how GNDR can tackle the lack of policy coherence between Sendai and other agendas such as SDGs and climate.

As the data for VFL 2019 has come in, we have helped connect our members to their governments so as to inform, and then monitor, the implementation of:

1. DRR strategies under Target E of the SFDRR
2. Policies reported in the Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs

We have made the membership survey an annual activity. The results are sent to members with responses from the Secretariat. This has helped direct our work in the remaining year of the strategy, in particular, identifying themes for knowledge exchange webinars and prioritising new communication methods and languages e.g. Arabic.

This year we have focused on establishing robust national structures, including the election of National Focal Points. We also supported 42 national coordination meetings, technically and financially.

This year we undertook research on the role of local CSOs in coherence and produced a Cookbook on the subject. 243 people have been trained on the Cookbook, and it has been shared at international events.

A comprehensive but relatively light-touch monitoring evaluation and learning framework is required to improve accountability to all stakeholders (members, donors and staff). An external-facing annual report could ensure accountability to members and gather the impact of the network.

A key element that may be more critical for GNDR as a network, than for other organisations, is a mechanism to receive feedback from its members. The member satisfaction survey conducted in July – August 2018 is an example of this and may be something to continue in order to ensure the last years of the strategy meets changing needs of members.

Thanks to the Frontline programme, which has advanced local data-informed actions to build resilience, GNDR has successfully highlighted the gap between global policy and local reality. VFL 2019 also monitors how commitments to engage communities feed through to the local level. As VFL 2019 progresses it should work to support tracking of implementation of policies.

An impact framework was established and stories of impact gathered from members. Our first Annual Report was developed in 2019 and has now become a regular feature of our monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning plans.
Here we present a snapshot of the impact that GNDR members around the world have been able to achieve because of their engagement with the network. Impact is split into three categories, each linked to one of GNDR’s strategic objectives.

**OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR**

1. Increase the impact of civil society in influencing policies and practices at local, national and international levels
   - **Changes in policy**
     - Policy adoption and amendment
     - Better institutional processes
     - Improved enforcement of policies

2. Enhance collaboration capabilities of civil society and cooperation with other stakeholders
   - **Joint work and partnerships**
     - Joint workplans and projects developed
     - New networks established
     - Members securing funds due to our support

3. Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge
   - **More effective action on the ground**
     - Communities changing practices to build resilience
     - Members changing their operations to better meet needs of the most marginalised

Photo: Etinosa Yvonne
GNDR members work tirelessly to achieve such policy changes through the work of their organisations: the network provides tools and knowledge to support the effectiveness of their work.

In Bangladesh, Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) works with GNDR to implement the Views from the Frontline programme. Thanks to their participation in this joint programme, PDAP now has a stronger understanding of the risks faced by people living in coastal areas. For example, in Talbaria (Chattogram), communities feel that floods and cyclones will not be a priority threat in the future, as a lot has been done to reduce this risk already: instead, communities feel corruption is on the rise and will lead to increased disasters in the future if not tackled. PDAP was able to share evidence coming from the communities with the Disaster Management Department.

Collaboration with other national CSOs was instrumental for GNDR member Association Mauritanienne pour le Développement et l’Alphabétisation (AMDA) in Mauritania to establish a connection with the local and national government. AMDA organised a national meeting of GNDR members, which was attended by government representatives. Since then, AMDA has been invited to contribute to several policy processes related to human rights and child rights.

GNDR members from Caritas in Chile and Reseau MARP in Burkina Faso have been able to advance their governments’ policies and plans through their involvement in GNDR’s “Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRM” project.

In Burkina Faso government representatives joined a national training on CBDRM as part of the project and pledged to integrate the outcomes of the training into their work. Following this, Reseau MARP has now been invited to provide input to Burkina Faso’s DRR strategies.

Caritas Chile leveraged the presence of national government representatives at international conferences to showcase the value of the CBDRM project as a tool to support the advancement of global commitments such as the Sendai Framework. While at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, they invited representatives of the National Office of Emergency (ONEMI) to familiarise themselves with the project and the work of the organisation at the local level. Once back in Chile, ONEMI started participating in the project activities in the country.

Similarly, the organisation Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU), from Indonesia, leveraged the presence of government representatives at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to introduce the VFL programme: showcasing structured data from at-risk communities was an effective way to increase the organisation’s influence on government policies. Following that exchange, YEU received an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring the evidence coming from communities at risk at a regional event on humanitarian assistance.

Influencing policies and decision making processes is a long effort whose outcomes are often uncertain. But when successful, this helps create institutional change that leads to better resilience building.
Typhoid fever, a bacterial infection that is endemic to the region, can cost up to a week’s income to treat. A poor farmer in Akwa Ibom, typically growing cassava or palm oil to survive, makes hard choices when illness strikes. Over 50% of people in the country live on less than $1.90 a day. Not being able to access basic services has an immediate health impact – and reduces resilience to future disasters, like the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Community-based Health Initiative (CBHI), a non-profit organisation, has worked directly with community members to develop a locally owned and democratically accountable health insurance system. Each person pays a community-set premium of $13 a year and gets free primary healthcare at the health facility, and secondary referral services at Cottage Hospital, Ukana.

The initiative, which targets the most vulnerable people within the catchment area of one clinic, has enrolled over 8,000 people. Since being set up, child immunisations for TB, polio and diphtheria have more than doubled amongst members of the community. Four times as many people now seek treatment at the facility.

CBHI facilitates the pooling of risk amongst an often neglected group of people. To ensure accountability, the project is supervised by stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, National Health Insurance Scheme and the Local Government Council. But the organisation hasn’t stopped there – it is now advocating for this community-based approach to be replicated across the state and nation.

The organisation has benefited from GNDR-led capacity strengthening sessions and participation at national and international-level workshops, enabling it to draw expertise from, and collaborate with, a wide network of civil society organisations working in similar environments.

As part of its effort to mark Universal Health Coverage Day and undertake direct lobbying, CBHI convened different stakeholders to meet with the state health commissioner in 2019 to advocate for a state-wide health insurance system. Those in attendance included the Akwa Ibom State and National Primary Development Agencies, the Community Health Dept of the University Hospital, the Red Cross, the State Doctors and Nurses Association, Traditional Birth Attendants, a WHO representative, World Bank Save One Million Lives state representative, CSOs, local media and others.

Their campaign has been successful: a bill was passed by the State House of Assembly for a state health insurance agency and awaits the Governor’s Assent. If the bill becomes law it would pave the way for universal health coverage – and fewer hard choices for vulnerable people who get sick.

Akaninyene Obot
Ukana West II Community-Based Health Initiative
One particular group of five female activists in Maily-Suu had been vocal in the past. Working with Bir Duino has enabled them to turn their words, often disregarded by authorities in the past, into evidence.

In 2019 Bir Duino convened community representatives, civil society organisations and national authorities, including the Ministries of Finance, Economy, and Emergency Situations.

In a series of three roundtable discussions they presented and discussed the new data. The result was a list of proposed solutions, agreed by the community and national stakeholders, to combat the threats of water pollution and unemployment.

This included investment in water piping, public awareness campaigns and infrastructure measures to reduce contamination. To address widespread unemployment government representatives agreed to support job creation opportunities and increase public sector salaries in the region.

Using the GNDR project methodology, Bir Duino has been able to build a bridge between the community and decision-makers. The solutions aim to reduce risk over the long term. And also to encourage the young people who left the old mining town to come home.

Murat Karypov
Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan

From the age of 16 onwards many migrate to neighbouring countries or Russia in search of a job. But unemployment isn’t the only threat facing those that stay – for that you have to dig a little deeper.

Clean water is sparse in the town and so groups of families often take it upon themselves to dig small boreholes in order to bring groundwater up to the surface for drinking. The effects of consuming the polluted water aren’t revealed straight away.

But then skin conditions appear, kidneys are damaged, and over time, stunted growth in children is observed. The water is contaminated with radiation, a consequence of the abandoned uranium mines nearby.

Coordinating the GNDR views from the Frontline project has enabled human rights organisation, Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan, to work with communities to collect data and analyse the multiple risks faced by residents.
According to the 2019 membership survey (555 members completed the survey), 84% of members agreed or strongly agreed that GNDR has enhanced their organization’s ability to collaborate and cooperate with civil society and other stakeholders. Engaging with the network last year enabled our members to collaborate, establish new partnerships, secure funding and engage in impactful joint projects and resilience-building initiatives.

The GNDR Community Platform was instrumental for establishing new partnerships this year. An organisation in Cameroon, African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, emphasised that through the Community Platform they partnered with four organisations to host a joint webinar mobilising CSOs to take action against Covid-19.

New partnerships and projects with local authorities arose for some members due to their participation in the Institutionalising Sustainable Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (ICDRM) and Views from the Frontline (VFL) 2019 projects. Being a National Coordinating Organisation for VFL 2019 helped Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd in Sri Lanka to now be viewed as a leading local organisation in DRR. This recognition helped them to win some consultancy assignments from their government, as well as partnerships with national and regional climate change initiatives.

GNDR’s regional workshops and National Coordination Meetings (NCMs) around the world have facilitated the establishment of multi-stakeholder DRR networks. Association Mauritanienne pour le Developpement et l’Alphabetisation from Mauritania reports that holding a NCM contributed to establishing collaboration forums with other organisations in their country, which helped to raise the profile of their organisation. As a result, they were invited to review draft laws related to children’s rights proposed by the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs. A member organisation from Turkey, Nirengi Dernegi, was able to hold a round table meeting with CSOs and public agencies working in DRR with the help from GNDR members and Secretariat. This resulted in a policy report and a joint work plan agreed by all participants.

GNDR members were also able to attract donor’s attention and secure funding due to their involvement with the network. Inspired by best practices shared within the network, Kikandwa Rural Communities Development Organization from Uganda took the lead in mobilising other CSOs to take action against Covid-19 awareness raising activities. This put their organisation in the spotlight and so they were given a permanent seat on their District Covid-19 Task Force as well as the Covid-19 Relief Management Committee, and encouraged a partnership with the German government.

It is exciting to hear of these new partnerships that have already helped to more effectively support disaster-affected communities. Many other partnerships are also in the process of being brokered following the joint work of the network.
Logging and clearing of the mountainous land for agricultural purposes saw the Central American country lose 26% of its forest area between 1990 and 2016. This, combined with heavy seasonal rains and hurricanes, means that landslides are a major threat.

The brown patches of eroded soil offer no protection against floodwaters and without the root tentacles of large trees the muddy land easily becomes unstable. Homes are often destroyed and people are displaced.

Taking part in the GNDR Views from the Frontline project has enabled over 150 young people living in the most at-risk communities to share their personal experiences of these hazards – and put forward solutions to reduce risk.

Young leaders sow the seeds of resilience in Guatemala

Young people living Alta Verapaz, a densely forested and landlocked district of central Guatemala have seen firsthand the impact of deforestation – and they’re taking action.

Led by GNDR member organisation, Food for the Hungry, the project surveys show that over 60% of young people believe that deforestation and landslides are a major threat. Rather than address all community members together, the foundation says the project has enabled them to understand the concerns of different community groups.

With this information they can now develop inclusive response plans.

In 2019 the organisation started working with young community leaders, in collaboration with local municipal authorities, on a reforestation plan. Together they are identifying target risk areas, where trees can be planted, and learning how to mobilise local resources.

The initiative is part of a wider programme which focuses on strengthening the community role in comprehensive project management.

In a country where the median age is 23, the foundation has recognised the importance of training young people as potential leaders so that they can develop projects that strengthen the resilience of their community. Young Guatemalans have witnessed the impact of deforestation – and now they’ve taken action.

Over 60% of young people believe that deforestation and landslides are a major threat.

In a country where the median age is 23, the foundation has recognised the importance of training young people as potential leaders so that they can develop projects that strengthen the resilience of their community. Young Guatemalans have witnessed the impact of deforestation – and now they’ve taken action.

Maria Azucena Ruano Cano
Food for the Hungry
Participatory decision-making in Sri Lanka’s wet zone

The central and southwestern region of Sri Lanka is commonly referred to as the wet zone. In Rathnapura District annual rainfall averages up to 5,000 mm. By comparison, most European cities receive less than 20% of this.

Major floods and landslides, caused by rain in September 2019 affected over 100,000 people. It’s no surprise that residents, government officials and civil society organisations in the most at-risk communities all report that floods are the biggest threat they face.

Over the last year Janathakshan (GtE) Ltd, a local civil society organisation, has collected valuable insights from communities on the threats they face, the actions that can be taken, and the barriers to change. As part of the Views from the Frontline programme, the research aims to promote inclusion and participation in disaster risk reduction activities.

Views from the Frontline participants say that awareness raising should be a priority action for dealing with floods and landslides. Lives are often lost because, although warning alarms are raised, many people choose not to leave their homes. Flood levels can often rise quickly leaving families stranded.

Following on from the research, Janathakshan has coordinated the creation of four community action plans to strengthen resilience. Seed funding provided by the project will support community engagement, training in rescue methods and the purchase and renovation of canoes used for reaching people marooned by floodwaters.

Chandrika Kularatna
Janathakshan (GtE) Ltd

The organisation regards the programme as a model for participatory decision making. They have collaborated with four other local civil society organisations who conduct community meetings in local languages. Together they have built trust with communities, as well as closer relationships with local authorities.

Rather than summarising all responses together the initiative disaggregates the experiences of different groups. This enables rural and urban dwellers to highlight their divergent perspectives and put forward solutions; and people with disabilities or elderly people can share their unique challenges.

Janathaksha has also utilised youth clubs as a gateway to encouraging young people to get involved in local resilience-building in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. Achieving community participation is always difficult when people are just trying to get by and survive. But since the surveys they are now working alongside young people on a project to plant trees to reduce impact of drought and salinity.

Chandrika Kularatna
Janathakshan (GtE) Ltd
Association des Volontaires pour l’Environnement Sain (ONG AVES), a GDNR member from Togo, has recently changed their programming to incorporate approaches that link disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change. This was as a result of attending a training on GDNR’s Coherence Cookbook at the West Africa Regional Workshop. At the same time as making these programmatic changes, they adapted their organisation’s strategic plan to make sure it supported gender equitable approaches, after hearing tips and lessons from other members at this workshop.

Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd is a member based in Sri Lanka and one of the implementing partners of the VFL project. The project has strengthened their skills in training grassroots organisations, including on how to conduct participatory risk assessments. As a result, they have built more sustainable relationships with local partner organisations, and empowered them to lead other small projects.

After hosting National Coordination Meetings of GDNR members, the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) based in Egypt has gained coordination and networking skills. With this experience, RAED now regularly initiates multi-stakeholder dialogues about emerging risks in North African countries with NGOs, government representatives, academia, women, media, and youth.

Knowledge sharing is one of the key tenants behind GDNR. As we face increasingly challenging contexts for our reduction of disaster risk, learning new approaches from others has been ever more important. Good practice continues to be shared in these dialogues, coordination mechanisms have been strengthened, and RAED has been selected to co-organise large global collaboration events.

It is clear from various regions that knowledge sharing is significant to ensuring risk-informed development. Analysis and sharing of knowledge has been made possible through online and face-to-face spaces for dialogue, partnerships, and joint projects. Through these open discussions, sharing of evidence-based information has led to more effective organisational practices and policies, empowerment of local actors, and new approaches being applied in communities.
‘You have to send a thief to catch a thief’, is a local saying, and so they have also involved the very influential perpetrators in peacebuilding efforts. Facilitated by the local government, Root of Generation brought the young ring leaders from each tribe together, face to face. Their first step has been to acknowledge the effects of the violence and the hunger it creates.

The group of stakeholders along with the communities have since penned a State Action Plan to guide organisations working in the region. It is a joint strategy that sets out how development interventions can support risk reduction.

Attending regional GNDR workshops has enabled the organisation to take a new approach. They have strengthened their skills in collaborating with different stakeholders, and integrating risk into development activities.

After previously working alone they have now mobilised UNDP, Justice Africa, Sudan Council of Churches, community members and representatives of the state government to try to solve the conflict.

For example, diversifying income opportunities for young men by investing in cattle by-products, meat processing and leather industries. It is not simply a plan – it’s an alternative future for the young boys tending to sheep and goats today, who are looking up at the older boys.

Grace Dorong
Root of Generations

Boys from the Toposa and Didinga tribes in the dusty eastern corner of South Sudan first learn to care for sheep and goats. They look up to the older boys tending the cattle, moving them from the plains to the hills as the seasons switch between rainy and dry.

A herd of cows are many things to a young man: a signifier of adulthood, a source of income and resilience against drought, food in the form of milk and meat, and status. Cattle are the prized possession at the heart of a years-long conflict between the two pastoralist communities – and it’s often the youths who lead the retaliatory raids.

Thousands of people have lost their lives in attacks on both sides. At first men from the opposing tribe were targeted, now women and children are regularly killed in the crossfire. Cows are stolen back-and-forth and grass-thatched huts are raised to the ground.

Roots of Generation, an NGO, has been trying to quell the division and reduce the risks families face. Food and water insecurity are widespread in the Kapoeta region, but development interventions are difficult in this context.

Sending a thief to catch a thief in South Sudan
Over the last two years almost a million people have been displaced in South Kivu, a province in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Conflict between armed groups and the Congolese army, as well as fighting between various militia and rebel groups, has forced many families to flee their homes. Rather than living in camps, the majority of displaced people live with host families. Violent cattle thefts prevent many people from livestock farming, meaning unemployment and food shortages are common. Cleaning clothes or selling fruits on the roadside are some of the few means of generating an income.

As part of their reintegration activities, Solidarity and Support for Development Action have created a simple self-financing agricultural model. They give 100 kg of seeds to a farmer, usually to grow corn or sorghum. Once cultivated, the crop produces a much larger batch of new seeds. The farmer keeps part of his yield, reimburses the NGO, and pays forward 100 kg of seeds to another farmer. It’s a solution that generates income and also creates solidarity within a community of people from different backgrounds. This self-financing approach is crucial in a region where development programmes are often underfunded. In addition, they provide training to young people in mechanics, welding, carpentry, sewing and food processing.

Since joining the network they have been supported by MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC, as well as Women in Africa Initiative and Vitamin Angels International. The organisation says that it’s important to pass on what they learn to other organisations, so they can access capacity building and funding opportunities. It’s not just the farmers that pay it forward, but also organisations working in the conflict zone.

Désiré Mapendano Wiganda
Solidarity and Support for Development Action

Planting corn in a conflict zone may seem like a slow solution to an immediate crisis. But a community-based approach by Solidarity and Support for Development Action, a local NGO, is helping build unity and economic development within the fragile country.

It’s a solution that generates income and also creates solidarity within a community of people from different backgrounds.
On 1 April 2020, GNDR adopted a new 2020-2025 strategy ‘Local Leadership for Global Impact’.

Our vision is a world in which everyone works together to strengthen the resilience of people most at-risk, and prevent hazards from becoming disasters.

To get there, we have outlined three goals on which the network will work together over the next five years:

1. Strengthen the collaboration, solidarity and mobilisation of civil society organisations
2. Champion a localisation movement
3. Strive for risk-informed development

Across these goals, our new strategy also prioritises tackling six drivers of risk presenting the most challenging contexts in which we do our work:

- Climate Change
- Conflict
- Gender inequality
- Food and water insecurity
- Urbanisation
- Forced displacement

The work the network has done over the last year has helped to build the foundations for our new strategy. Our members are now mobilising around the new strategy, building on our strengths and connections developed over the last 5 years.

Goal 1 aims to strengthen the collaboration, solidarity and mobilisation of CSOs. This will require CSOs to understand the benefits of collaboration over competition, as well as having structures and accountability for collaboration.

Goal 2 aims for localisation of DRR decision-making and resources.

To successfully strive for risk-informed development (Goal 3) we will need to build up a knowledge base on how to incorporate different risks into different sectors.

How we strengthened foundations this year: This year we started holding regular webinars on emerging themes, inviting speaker experts from within and outside the membership. Engagement levels have helped us understand which subjects are of most interest to members, and identify existing expertise on specific subjects within the membership.

Research is a stronger element in the new strategy. For example, the Decade to Get it Done activity will require multiple local action research streams.

How we strengthened foundations this year: This year we have built up a track record and mechanisms with our research project Role of CSOs in Coherence. This has set us in a good starting point to establish local action-research programmes around our six risk drivers.

How we strengthened foundations this year: The work this last year in our Views from the Frontline 2019 programme has set a baseline for local actor’s involvement in resilience processes (16% of the 96,000 sampled report being included effectively or with some limitations) and access to resources (13% of the 96,000 sampled report having limited or effective access). It has also directly supported local actors to lead through giving them funds to lead local risk assessments, design of actions, and implementation and monitoring.
OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

PRIORITY 1
Understanding disaster risk
GNDR members this year have started utilising the information on risk and risk governance, collected at the local level through the Views from the Frontline (VFL) programme. They are using this data to develop community action plans and evidence-based advocacy activities at national and global levels.

PRIORITY 2
Strengthening governance to manage risk
We developed a list of success factors for making Community-Based Disaster Risk Management sustainable. Six partners organised trainings with fellow CSOs and government representatives to ensure uptake in the government’s structure.

PRIORITY 3
Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
GNDR has channelled seed funding to 60 communities in Bangladesh, Uganda, Vietnam, and Indonesia so far to use for resilience building under the VFL programme.

PRIORITY 4
Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘build back better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
Many of the stories compiled in our Global Cookbook for Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRM showcased community-led preparedness activities: these stories were shared by members at regional and global events.

GOAL 1
Poverty eradication
VFL supports communities in 50 countries to strengthen their resilience. For many, this translates into actions to address poverty. Building resilience in those contexts means addressing poverty and its causes.

GOAL 5
Gender equality
GNDR members put a strong emphasis on gender equality. In Afghanistan, 45 GNDR members agreed to work together to strengthen the capacity of the female staff of the Community Development Councils, the local departments for humanitarian actions.

GOAL 11
Sustainable cities and communities
GNDR worked within the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) to develop a position on urbanisation and DRR. This was brought to the World Urban Forum in February 2020 through key SEM members.

GOAL 13
Climate action
Thanks to the expertise of GNDR members, we have developed a set of climate-related “policy asks” aligned to those of other networks that we brought to COP25. Policy asks included a call for integration between DRR plans and National Adaptation Plans, and better local-level monitoring of climate interventions.
Strengthening messaging outside of the DRR field

This year GNDR engaged extensively at UN’s international forums such as the Global Platform for DRR, the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs, the Conference of Parties on Climate Change, and the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. In many of these fora, members had the space to attend, speak on panels and get their priorities amplified. However, in others the spaces were particularly crowded so it was hard to get GNDR’s messages heard, or to find specific enough entry points. Common obstacles include:

- Shrinking time to collect enough stories from GNDR members to represent all regions and all experiences. In particular, we need to make our messages more specific, and collect more practical advice on how to implement the changes for which we are calling stakeholders to bring about.

- Not having enough human resource capacity to expand into all of these fora equally. It is very time and energy consuming to prepare for and attend these events, whilst the chances of succeeding in our objectives are uncertain.

Unequal access to funds for all regions

Whilst the Secretariat has been able to access more funding this year to support member activities, funding is not available equally for all regions. Donors tend to have ‘focus’ countries or regions, meaning that there are some locations they are not planning to support. Yet, most at risk communities exist in almost every country. To address this, GNDR prioritised grant applications where global reach is possible. Also, GNDR has increased its scanning and sharing on our Community Platform of grant opportunities for members in these donor-excluded countries.

Unequal engagement levels

As a network, we all rely on the inputs and knowledge from each other. The more experiences and lessons shared from around the world, the stronger our resilience-building activities can become. However, engagement levels vary regionally. We have seen less applications to partner in projects from Latin America and the Caribbean, for example. In order to fully tap into the knowledge of members from diverse contexts and incorporate these into the design of our work, we need to better understand the motivations for joining the network from these members and ensure these are being taken into account more in our joint work.

External instability

GNDR activities have faced some external challenges this year. Political instability in some South American countries such as Chile has resulted in the delay of some project activities, including national and regional campaigns on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management.

The global pandemic COVID-19 prevented our Global Summit occurring in March 2020 as planned. After a detailed risk assessment 3 weeks before the event we made the difficult decision to be leaders on risk-informed decision-making by cancelling it due to safety and financial concerns. Alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the Summit have been developed, including an online launch of the new strategy, a digital Summit, and national roll-out meetings.

Due to the network’s principle of empowering local actors, many of our activities can continue in spite of the pandemic-triggered international travel restrictions.
FINANCES

WHAT WAS OUR INCOME THIS YEAR?

OFDA (United States government)
£319,000

Swiss Agency for Development
£242,000

German Government
£573,000

DEVCO
£1,300,000

SIDA
£396,000

DFID
£34,000

HOW HAS OUR INCOME CHANGED?

HOW HAVE WE SPENT OUR MONEY?

OBJECTIVE 1
Increase the impact of civil society in influencing policies and practices at local, national and international levels

This included funds for members and staff to attend regional and global advocacy events to share the voices and asks of the most at-risk. It also included the collection of local data through our Views from the Frontline project, advocacy training and the production of campaign materials.

£795,360

OBJECTIVE 2
Enhance collaboration capabilities of civil society and cooperation with other stakeholders

This included funds for members to hold national coordination meetings, our annual Regional Advisory Group meetings and Global Board meetings. It also included trainings, exchanges and other capacity-building activities for members.

£1,538,740

OBJECTIVE 3
Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge

This included funds for webinars, trainings in every region and other knowledge exchange activities. It also included the production of guides and cookbooks on emerging resilience themes.

£361,038
GLOBAL BOARD

Ms Claire Tiffen
Trustee
Operational Lead for Eurasia and North Africa, Tearfund

Mrs Graciela Mercedes Salaberrí Vacani
Vice-Chair of Global Board & South America Regional Representative
Executive Director, Sociedad Amigos del Viento meteorologia ambiente desarrollo (AdelV)

Dr Emad Eldin Adly
North Africa & West Asia Regional Representative
General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

Ms Emma Hillyard
Trustee (Treasurer)
Finance Director, Blackwell’s

Ms Farah Kabir
Chair of Global Board & South Asia Regional Representative
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

Mr Emmanuel S. Seck
West & Central Africa Regional Representative
Programme Manager, ENDA Energie

Mr Jose Ramon Avila Quinonez
Central America Regional Representative
Executive Director, Asociación de Organismos no Gubernamentales (ASONOG)

Mr Lewis Makurumure
Southern Africa Regional Representative
National Coordinator Action 24

Ms Loreine B. Dela Cruz
South East Asia & East Asia Regional Representative
Lead Convener, Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc.

Ms Nicole Stolz
Europe Regional Representative
Head of International cooperation SWISSAID

Ms Farah Kabir
Chair of Trustees
Independent Consultant

Mr Lewis Makurumure
Southern Africa Regional Representative
National Coordinator Action 24

Ms Raula Ismailova
Central Asia Regional Representative
Chair, Human Rights Movement “Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan”

Ms Tolekan Ismailova
Central Asia Regional Representative
Chair, Human Rights Movement “Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan”

Ms Zenaida Willison
Independent Global Board Member
Senior Advisor, Center for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines

Mr Prime Nkemumukama
Eastern Africa Regional Representative
Executive Director, DUKINGIRE ISI YACU

Mr Rod Snider
Independent Global Board Member
Senior Associate, Tetra Tech

Mrs Ruiti Aretaake
Pacific Regional Representative
Executive Director, Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati

Ms Emma Hillyard
Finance Director, Blackwell’s

Ms Farah Kabir
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

Ms Nicole Stolz
Head of International cooperation SWISSAID

Ms Dorothea Hilhorst
Professor humanitarian studies, EUR Chair

Mr Keos Zevenbergen
Chief Executive Officer Cordaid Vice Chair

Ms Estone Chadburn
Head of Humanitarian Support, Tearfund

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mr Bijay Kumar
Executive Director

Mr Rudi van den Hurk, MA
Executive Director ActionAid The Netherlands (until 1 Jan 2020)

Ms Emma Hillyard
Finance Director, Blackwell’s

Ms Farah Kabir
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh

Ms Nicole Stolz
Head of International cooperation SWISSAID

Ms Dorothea Hilhorst
Professor humanitarian studies, EUR Chair

Mr Kees Zevenbergen
Chief Executive Officer Cordaid Vice Chair

Ms Oenone Chadburn
Head of Humanitarian Support, Tearfund
SECRETARIAT STAFF

Adessou Kossivi Nevaeme
Regional Coordinator
(West, Central, North Africa and Middle East)

Bijay Kumar
Executive Director

Julia Taub
Membership Engagement Officer

Shivangi Chavda
Project Coordinator

Aminata Some
Regional Assistant (Africa)

Domitille Francois
Team Administrator and Board Liaison Officer

Lucy Pearson
Head of Strategy and Development

Valeria Drigo
Policy Lead

Andy Morgan
HR Business Partner

Elise Belcher
Project Coordinator

Marilyn Mbogua
Regional Coordinator
(East & Southern Africa)

Nick Roberts
Head of Operations

Anna Parshina
Membership Engagement Coordinator

Florence Pasquale
Translation Projects Administrator

Nick Scarborough
External Communications Coordinator

Baranee Tongboonrawd
Regional Assistant
(Asia & Pacific)

Ipsita Sircar
Regional Coordinator
(South & Central Asia)

Nick Mohmand Abdur
Regional Coordinator
(SE Asia & Pacific)

Beata Hudakova
Financial Accountant

Jabran Ali
Finance Business Partner