

Project Brief:

Role of CSOs influencing coherence

Introduction

The following section explains the background for the need to bring about coherence of the different policy areas of the various international development frameworks.

1. Executive summary

In following through the global development agendas such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), COP21's Paris Climate agreement, WHS commitment to actions and the New Urban Agenda, there is an issue of the lack of understanding of the commonalities and overlaps of these agreements. Since the implementers at the local level in each country is the local government department, there is a need for coherence for better understanding of how DRM fits in order to achieve these targets. The idea of coherence at the local level between these agendas is a novel one, in which the GNDR network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) formed of individuals, community-based organisations, faith-based groups and INGOs working or with an interest in DRR have a major role to play. GNDR has a vast reach through its network of 850 organisations. This proposal aims to provide a CSO lens to the problem. Although Local governments have the responsibility to be the implementers of the global development frameworks, the CSOs play an important part in realising this objective as in many cases they are the ones closely connected to the reality on the ground.

To achieve this we will start by collecting data from our network on the understanding of coherence and on the role of CSOs in coherence building up to how CSOs can support DRM in coherence at the local level.

2. Problem statement

Between 2005 and 2015 *“more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected”*.¹

Disasters and disaster risk are on the rise worldwide. Over the last few decades, the world has experienced an increasing number of catastrophic earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, storms and droughts. The officially reported figures do not include the impacts of recurring small-scale disasters that particularly affect communities, households and small medium

¹ SFDRR Paragraph 4 Preamble

enterprises. Losses resulted from small scale everyday disaster constitute a high percentage of all losses but often go unreported and unaddressed. This trend is expected to continue as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Given the changes in population growth demographics and urbanization patterns, impact of climate change will increase. The poorer you are the more losses you experience and the less you are able to deal with adversity. Between 2004 and 2014, 58% of deaths from disasters occurred in the top 30 most fragile states. There has never been a greater need to enhance coherence and coordination between UN Frameworks to reduce risks and exposure to all hazards.

The synchronous adoption by various governments of the UN agreements like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), COP21's Paris Climate agreement, WHS commitment to actions and the New Urban Agenda has created a rare but significant opportunity to build coherence across different but overlapping policy areas².

This coherence will serve to strengthen existing risk fragility and resilience frameworks for multi hazard assessments, and aim to develop a dynamic, local, preventive, and adaptive urban governance system at the global, national, and local levels. The agreements represent a major turning point in the global efforts to tackle existing and future challenges in all countries. Specific emphasis is apparent to support resilience-building measures, and a shift away from managing crises to proactively reducing their risks. In order to respond efficiently to all of the post 2015 agreements (included but not limited to SFDRR, SDG, Paris Climate agreement etc.), effective use of best available knowledge, innovative thinking, leadership, coordination mechanisms and partnerships are vital. Synergies between policies, programmes and institutions, need to be highlighted and supported by the alignment of actions. This will require the engagement of stakeholders at all levels, as well as the breaking down of traditional silos to be replaced by more integrated partnerships that reflect a more holistic approach to risk management.

The Agenda 2030, Sendai Framework, Habitat III and the Paris Climate Agreement all show that the world is in fundamental agreement on the most important global challenges. Though implementing these four agendas is a daunting task. The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have an important role to play here in ensuring this coherence relates to local realities on ground.

Reason for establishing coherence:

- Overburdened Local Government Units (LGUs) due to multiple planning and monitoring procedures to follow
- LGUs are confused with different types of assessment and planning tools introduced
- Budget prioritization and allocation become challenging in the LGUs' Annual Investment Programming (AIP) if different frameworks are considered separately

² The Global Platform outline on 'Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, the Climate Agreement, New Urban Agenda and World Humanitarian Summit, and the role of science in their implementation.'

3. Project description

GNDR aspires to provide a perspective from the lens of civil society on the ‘ideal coherence’ of the various global development frameworks. In doing so, we will engage our network of civil society organisations in providing inputs on the **a)** roles of CSOs in coherence **b)** steps CSOs can take to support coherence in DRM **c)** strengthening of capacities of both the local government and civil society organisations in supporting coherence and **d)** need of advocating at global platforms to build commitment to support coherence. We will do so through desk-based review; global participatory survey; case study collection; multistakeholder focus group discussions; trainings; and advocacy, utilising our vast network of civil society organisations.

4. Expected Outcomes

Selected international and national, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders are strengthened in their effort to achieve coherence with regard to planning, implementing and reporting disaster risk management in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and other international agendas, such as Agenda 2030 and Habitat III.

Key outcomes:

1. Increased understanding of what coherent disaster risk management looks like
2. Increased reflection/awareness of coherence by local communities, local CSOs and local government
3. Increased understanding of what CSOs should do to build coherence in disaster risk management
4. Increased capacities of CSOs and local governments
5. Increased commitment/accountability to support coherence

5. Links to existing GNDR programs

Cookbook series

We are producing a cookbook for institutionalised sustainable CBDRM under a USAID-OFDA funded project. Recipes and key ingredients on sustainability and institutionalisation of CBDRM activities will be prepared, based on a collection of case studies from Asia, LAC and Africa: this cookbook will serve as a toolkit for organisations to learn more about successful CBDRM projects, to understand what elements need to be embedded in similar activities to make them sustainable and institutionalised. Similarly, a coherence cookbook will collect and present key ingredients and good recipes for ensuring coherence among multiple agendas, sectors and levels, when it comes to implementing resilience activities.

Views from the Frontline (VFL) 2019

VFL remains the largest independent global review of disaster risk reduction at the local level. GNDR is currently piloting the new *Views from the Frontline* programme in two countries with roll-out to a further 48 countries starting in August 2018, with funding from the European Union. The pilot has specifically adopted the [Frontline](#) approach of collection,

reflection and action, as well as the four *Frontline* questions. The roll-out will do the same, allowing us to continue to collect and collate local perspectives on risk and resilience in our global database, monitoring change and progress in the *Frontline* countries and comparing with additional countries. Further, lessons captured in the evaluation have specifically been incorporated into the design of the VFL 2019 methodology including advice on the selection of partners, and the level and type of support required for partners at various stages.

The VFL series so far has reached out to a total of 95,000 stakeholders in 129 countries. The 2018-21 period represents a particularly significant time for the VFL programme as it accelerates ongoing progress of the global development targets of the Sendai framework, and the SDG target 1(1b) among other resilience focussed targets in Agenda 2030. “By 2020, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”, which explicitly recognises the need to empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities.

6. Activity description and methodology

Stage	Activities; Indicators; Methodology	Outputs/Mean of verification	Outcomes
Stage 1: What are we aiming towards?	Desk based review of 'ideal coherence' Dissemination of paper to GNDR membership (1000 individuals reached)	Short paper on what coherence looks like	Increased understanding of what coherent disaster risk management looks like
Stage 2: What role can CSOs play?	Case study collection from across GNDR membership (850 organisations in 145 countries) Analysis of case studies Inclusion of questions on coherence within Views from the Frontline survey in 48 countries	Short paper on role of CSOs in coherence across: - 8 planning cycle stages - 4 geographical levels And current barriers Revised VFL questionnaire VFL global report with section on current perspectives on coherence	Increased reflection/awareness of coherence by local communities, local CSOs and local government
Stage 3: What steps can CSOs take?	Multistakeholder focus group discussions in 2 focus countries, including with members of GNDR in each country	Cookbook on 'How can CSOs support coherence in DRM'	Increased understanding of what CSOs should do to build coherence in disaster risk management

	Key informant interview with CSOs and government actors in 2 focus countries Analysis of case studies		
Stage 4: Capacity building on how to support coherence	Presentation of Cookbook at Global Platform for DRR 7 regional trainings on cookbook (175 CSOs trained) Webinar on cookbook (offered to 1000 individuals in membership on GNDR's community platform)	Webinar video for CSOs	Increased capacities of CSOs and local governments
Stage 5: Building commitment to support coherence	Partner Forum on coherence ³ (GNDR-led event with our donor, academia, local government networks, and INGO partners to promote changes in ways of working in line with our cookbook)		Increased commitment/ accountability of supporting coherence

Geographic scope

The scope of the project is global and member inputs from the entire GNDR network will be collected for the purpose of this project.

Mexico and the Philippines will be the focus countries for in-depth analysis.

7. Target group/Stakeholders

GNDR member CSOs: These are community-based organisations, faith-based groups, and INGOs working or with an interest in DRR. The project activities will be undertaken by the CSOs who are members of the GNDR. They will provide a perspective from the lens of civil society on local realities on coherence of the global development agendas. As part of this project a cookbook on coherence will be produced and a training be conducted on it with CSOs.

Local Authorities: These are the State institutions closest to citizens with key responsibilities for the implementation of national policies at the local level. They are a key stakeholder group and will be consulted in the design of the Project's actions to encourage

³ Though currently not budgeted, resource and time permitting, similar event will also be organised at COP and HLPF to promote changes in ways of working in line with our cookbook.

their participation, including collaboration with civil society in evidence-based policy advocacy and monitoring.

National Governments: State authorities have the overall responsibility for the safety of their citizens although it is a shared responsibility between governments and other relevant stakeholders such as civil society and UN agencies. Where appropriate, the Project's actions will involve national governments as a key target group with unique responsibilities for the development of national policies, laws and legislation, mobilising resources and creating an "enabling environment" supportive of whole-of-society engagement and inclusive local risk governance.