“Don’t live with it – deal with it”

GNDR Global Conference
20-21 March 2013, The Hague, Netherlands

CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of this report
This short summary report captures headlines from the GNDR Global Conference, offers links for further information, and highlights the immediate next steps.

It is designed to provide conference participants with a record of proceedings, to support them in their regional, national and local conversations, as well as provide GNDR members unable to attend the conference with an overview of what took place.

To watch all plenary presentations in full, and related plenary discussions, please visit www.globalnetwork-dr.org

All PowerPoint slides used during the conference are available for download on www.globalnetwork-dr.org

Photographs taken during the conference are available for download on www.globalnetwork-dr.org

This document is also available in Spanish and French – see www.globalnetwork-dr.org

Results of voting that took place during the conference are available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org

For further information about The Hague conference please take a look through the materials on the GNDR website or contact regine.nagel@globalnetwork-dr.org.
Summary

More than 130 delegates, coming from 70 different countries, joined together in The Hague for this global GNDR conference, which had 5 objectives:

1. Explore the latest from Views from the Frontline
2. Formulate recommendations for a post-HFA framework and develop a joint advocacy strategy to share these recommendations
3. Establish the next steps for the Views from the Frontline programme and launch the Action and Learning research programme
4. Present the new GNDR governance structure to strengthen regional and national activities
5. Provide an opportunity for active GNDR members to connect together

The conference was designed to be informal and inclusive, seeking to generate ideas, questions, challenges, to share different experiences and perspectives and to enable participation from all delegates – which included a diverse range of people from grassroots leaders and practitioners active at the local level, national and international NGOs, academics, UN and other international agencies and donor governments. ¹

The conference was broadcast live via the GNDR website enabling people who were unable to join in person, to follow proceedings. 100 hits on the web streaming were recorded over the two days.

“This was the most participative conference I’ve ever been to.”

Participant feedback

¹ A list of conference participants is available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org
Overview

Marcus Oxley, GNDR Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the conference highlighting the efforts that many had made to be there – some as far away as the Pacific Islanders had set off 4-days earlier to be there – and inviting everyone to make the most of this opportunity to achieve the key objectives.

He also emphasised the support provided to the network from the Netherlands – financial funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as logistics support from CordAid and the Netherlands Red Cross, whose help had made this conference possible.

Rob Swartbol, Director-General International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands then gave a Dutch welcome and formally opened the conference. He highlighted the commitment of the MOFA to disaster risk reduction and the critical role of civil society networks such as the GNDR.

Andrew Bidnell, Conference facilitator, then ran through the agenda, style and tone for the conference, and set the scene for the next 48 hours.

During the two days, various activities and discussions were held seeking to achieve the conference objectives. To enable inclusion and participation, activities were varied to encourage individual thinking, work in pairs, discussion in small groups, break-out regional groups, plenary presentation and discussions. Conversations were generated inside the main conference room, in small rooms, and outside the conference facility through evening activities. Voting equipment helped to enable everybody to share their view on particular questions. Most delegates stayed together in the same hotel enabling opportunities for further conversations outside of the conference rooms.

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2 See Appendix for conference agenda
Objectives, outcomes and next steps

1. **Views from the Frontline (VFL) – next steps for the 2013 survey, consultation process and subsequent report and communication materials**

   Terry Gibson, GNDR Operations Director, briefed the conference on the purpose of VFL, the development of the programme and its growing impact since 2008. Participants were reminded of the headlines from the 2009 and 2011 reports.

   Many people in the room have close connections to the VFL programme, but some were learning about it for the first time. A quick plenary vote provided a breakdown of connections to VFL felt by participants in the room with 70% of people having been a key part of running the survey – either as regional coordinators, national coordinators or a participating organisation running the survey in 1 or more localities:

   **Voting question: What best describes my connections to VFL?**

   - National Coordinating Organisation (55%)
   - Participating Organisation (2%)
   - Regional Coordinating Organisation (13%)
   - UN agency (2%)
   - Government (5%)
   - Academic (2%)

   The headline findings and themes emerging so far from the VFL 2013 programme were presented and the first draft VFL 2013 report offered to delegates for feedback, comment and further ideas.

   The VFL 2013 survey has been conducted in 57 countries by 450 civil society organisations (of which many of the national coordinating organisations were represented at the conference) drawing together 21,455 views. The views, together with outputs from online GNDR member discussions, regional workshops held in Nairobi, Potchefstroom, San Salvador and Yogyakarta, and present a picture of the local reality for those most vulnerable.

   Headline findings from the 2013 survey and consultation programme include:

   - 57% of people perceive that disaster losses are increasing rather than decreasing – the same number as the 2011 survey

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3 Further information and materials relating to the Views from the Frontline programme are available at www.globalnetwork-dr.org
• The poorest groups report the higher losses with only those who perceive themselves as economically better off reporting a reduction in disaster losses;
• The VFL process offers continuing value in terms of enabling conversations with different stakeholders at the local level;
• The majority of losses are from ‘everyday disasters’ - this is the starting point, the context, for the most vulnerable;
• Understanding what it means for people to build resilience at the local level - how they absorb shocks and stresses and adapt to them – is critical to being able to reduce the impact of disasters;
• One critical way that people build resilience is through ‘action and learning’ – by getting together, identifying actions that they can take and building on their own learning.

Following a plenary presentation, regional breakout groups explored the VFL 2013 findings to provide further input from a regional, national and local perspective and to offer views on the forthcoming Views from the Frontline reporting materials – title, content, style. This conference offered an invaluable opportunity to invite members to work together on the contents and style of the reporting materials.

Next steps

The May UNISDR Global Platform will be the first of many opportunities to share the VFL findings, themes and resulting recommendations. The GNDR secretariat will now use the feedback received to produce a GP focused report designed to communicate VFL findings, themes and recommendations for a post-HFA framework to donor governments, HFA focal points in national governments, international organisations and UN agencies – particularly UNISDR.

Following the Global Platform, further work will be undertaken with different regions to produce a wider VFL report that can be used at regional, national and possibly local levels, as well as beyond the DRR community – to engage other sectors including climate, environmental, conflict, development specialists.
2. **Recommendations for a post-HFA framework and development of a joint advocacy strategy to share these recommendations**

Perspectives on a post-HFA framework were shared in a lively plenary discussion on the afternoon of Day 1, which provided the opportunity for different, sometimes opposing views to be shared. Marcus Oxley, GNDR Executive Director, and Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction opened up the discussion following which various participants raised questions, offered ideas, and provided challenges.

Marcus highlighted that the origins of GNDR lay in the 2005 Kobe conference, Japan where the value of having a coordinated civil-society perspective on HFA was identified. The subsequent development of the VFL programme has focused on providing a clear local-level perspective on the extent of the impact of HFA on those people most affected by disasters, what can be done to enhance that impact, and how local-level impact can be more effective.

With the current post-HFA framework consultation process underway the importance of establishing a united and coherent civil society position is clear. To be effective a post-HFA agenda must be informed by a bottom-up, people-focused process to ensure the framework adequately represents the local realities of those directly affected by disasters - particularly low-income households in low-income countries.

Civil society has an important role to play in strategy formulation and execution, ensuring that the priorities and needs of everyone are reflected and that ‘national ownership’ is inclusive of all individuals and social groups, especially the marginalised and vulnerable.

Margareta Wahlström provided an insight into the challenges of developing HFA beyond 2015 and encouraged GNDR to continue developing the VFL programme as an important means of reflecting the local perspective on HFA. She observed that differing perspectives are converging around the same issues now: how can natural hazards be mitigated and how this can be done at the community level?

Margareta challenged GNDR members to re-read the HFA, emphasising that if there was only one global framework that would take care of all the ills of the world it would be the HFA. The people behind it didn’t realise the breadth and the depth of the framework that was designed. If we would put focus on it my message would be to unpack Priority for Action 4 – many of the issues highlighted by Marcus sit within PFA 4 but we have not gone back often enough to the HFA to ask how do we put implementation behind all these issues. For example, Margareta highlighted local government as an enormous mobilization instrument.
UNISDR hopes to have a strong partnership with GNDR that will develop much stronger policies to help us develop our own progress. VFL has been incredibly important to providing a community perspective and highlighting what civil society organisations can do. Margareta encouraged GNDR to keep developing VFL and presenting this local perspective. Can you say 8 things that we can drive for 10 years? Should there be an action plan? There seems to be a strong wish to have targets, at least regionally or nationally. How can we improve HFA measurement?

At the GP-DRR May 2013 the post-HFA framework will be extensively discussed and the VFL 2013 report will be one of the documents used to help inform what has been done and to provide a focus on the future. Regional conferences, drafts, studies and consultations will continue to occur ahead of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Japan, March 2015.

Following plenary questions and challenges, participants broke into regional groups to explore and articulate key themes felt to be important for post-HFA framework thinking.

Work overnight by the GNDR Steering Group and conference team then integrated these themes with those emerging from network members through recent online discussions and regional workshops in Nairobi, Potchefstroom, San Salvador and Yogyakarta. A list of 19 themes was provided to regional groups to tackle in the morning and each group invited to seek to prioritise their top 7 from the group and/or highlight themes that were missing. Following compilation of the outputs from each region a plenary perspective was provided to draw on areas of consensus.4

Each region then nominated a representative to join a small drafting committee who, with the goodwill of the conference through applause and wishes of good luck, were tasked with pulling together a list of core recommendations representative of the conference.

4 A breakdown of the themes emerging from discussions in different regions is available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org
Following intense work by the drafting committee 10 recommendations and themes were distilled and presented back to the conference.

Using the individual voting handsets, all conference delegates were then invited to rate their level of agreement or disagreement with each of the recommendations and to provide a sense of the extent to which these themes and recommendations should form a unified civil society position on post-HFA thinking.

Subsequent work by the GNDR Steering Group to clearly articulate these recommendations took place immediately after the conference with a final draft of recommendations achieved.

Headline recommendations:

**Outcome**

Communities that are resilient to extreme shocks and stresses of any type

**Recommendations**

1. Prioritise the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised people
2. Ensure the scope of the framework includes all types of natural and human-derived disasters - including small-scale recurrent “everyday” shocks and stresses
3. Prioritise tackling the causes of vulnerability and exposure
4. Strengthen and resource local risk governance
5. Place rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders at the core of the framework
6. Establish clear goals, standards, baselines, targets and indicators
7. Institutionalise the role and strengthen the capacity of civil society
8. Demand clear commitment from the private sector to strengthening community resilience

Key points under each recommendation are set out in the Civil Society Recommendations document available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org.
In terms of advocacy, Maria “Malu” Fellizar-Cagay, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Disaster Preparedness and Lead Convenor, DRRNetPhils shared valuable insights, experiences and challenges from the Philippines.

Takeshi Komino Head of Emergencies CWSPacific, provided reflections from his experiences in supporting the establishment of a National DRR Platform in Afghanistan.

Following questions and answers, delegates were invited to reflect on their own learning and share advocacy ideas from a local, national or international perspective.

Next steps

• The Civil Society recommendations on a post-2015 DRM framework are now being shared across the GNDR network and beyond.
• They will form a key part of the VFL Report being prepared for the Global Platform in May.
• The intention is that these recommendations form an agreed common position and important reference point for GNDR members to use in their post-2015 HFA advocacy activities – at international, regional and national levels. These activities will be taking place in the lead up to, during and after the 2013 Global Platform.
• Further work is needed to develop a clear and shared advocacy strategy. Priority will be placed on securing support in the GNDR secretariat to build on the advocacy discussion and network expertise at local, national and international levels.

5 Outputs from this exercise were captured on flipcharts – see these pictures on www.globalnetwork-dr.org
3. **Action at the Frontline**

A key part of VFL over the coming months is Action at the Frontline. Terry Gibson, GNDR Operations Director presented the headlines followed by an informal discussion:

- Action at the Frontline is a programme of local action research activities (already ongoing and newly initiated) based on our model of reflection, knowledge and action cycles
- Simple methodology guidelines will be shared that can be adapted locally
- A process for capturing learning at local level during the projects will be established
- The learning will be shared also with a core team (drawn from GNDR members with some advisers and researchers also assisting).
- The core team will manage a practitioner/academic collaboration to conduct analysis and understanding of the learning at a global level
- The analysis, reports, presentations, case studies etc will shared across the network as they become available and also be used for wider understanding and advocacy.
- The programme will be focused on a milestone of February 2015
- It will provide qualitative inputs to VFL 2015 (which will also include a major survey assessing progress since VFL 2009, and possibly encompassing wider resilience indicators to form a baseline for beyond 2015)
- The programme may continue with further work beyond that date

There was great enthusiasm for this programme and in an evening session on the final evening of the conference, 27 participants from 24 different organisations immediately registered their interest in participating in a workshop that will design and mobilise the programme. Those at the meeting were mainly from the Southern Africa South, South Asia, South East Asia and Pacific region with a few from other regions. Latin America regions were not strongly represented in the meeting due to other parallel meetings.

**Next steps**

- The *Action at the Frontline* workshop will take place just before or soon after the Global Platform in May 2013. Location to be confirmed.
- The 57 'Action at the Frontline' case studies need to be analysed to identify learning as well as gaps in knowledge and to help in narrowing down the research questions for further work
- GNDR should establish a 'community of practice' within the network to encourage sharing of learning and expertise on an ongoing basis
- There is an open invitation for members who weren’t at the conference to find out more and get involved. Email Terry.Gibson@globalnetwork-dr.org by the 2 May 2013 if you are keen to take part.
  - Depending on how many people want to participate in the workshop, there may be a need to restrict numbers, but the plan is to involve everyone who wants to in the programme itself.
4. Governance update

The evolution of the GNDR network over the past 5 years, the increasing membership, the greater stability offered by government funding, and the growing expectations from members for VFL and related activities has led the GNDR steering group and trustees to focus on seeking to establish a stronger, more representational governance structure. A governance sub-group has been looking into this challenge and is part way through tackling this challenge.

Marcus Oxley, GNDR Executive Director and Vishaka Hidellage, GNDR Steering Group member, presented the headlines and thinking so far in a plenary presentation followed by an opportunity for comments, challenges, clarification and questions.

A passionate exchange ensued highlighting the importance of prioritising governance as a key topic to be resolved. Different and sometimes opposing views were shared on governance including perspectives on regional representation, the importance of accurately reflecting countries in specific regions, the need for greater clarity on the current and any future governance structure, the importance of ensuring members are clearly at the heart of any future structure, the challenge of ensuring constituency groups are represented, the pros and cons of geographical representational, the optimal size of a steering group that works effectively, and the legal requirements which need to be adhered to.

Next steps

The GNDR steering group met for an immediate post-conference session on 22 March and the importance of speeding up progress on establishing a clear governance structure suitable for this growing network was emphasised.

Part of the challenge lies in getting the balance right between regional representation and the need to maintain a broader international focus. Another challenge lies in establishing the capacity to lead on and follow through the necessary governance changes. Within the current budget the GNDR secretariat has outlined plans for a Network Development Officer role to provide more dedicated capacity. Recruitment will be prioritised and a key deliverable of this role during 2013 will be to tackle this governance challenge.
5. GNDR members – action and connection

The conference closed with an invitation for all participants to individually reflect on the conversations, discussions, ideas, questions, challenges raised during this event – both inside and outside the conference room. Participants were invited to identify one activity that they will be undertaking as a result of the conference and to share that on a post-it note with the wider network.

A wide range of activities were identified, including:

- Sharing the outcomes from The Hague with regional forum
- Organising a similar conference at regional or national levels
- Contributing further to the GNDR governance
- Encourage local partners to get involved with GNDR
- Following up on Action at the Frontline activities

The full list of individual actions is available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org

Through a series of activities inside and outside the conference room, GNDR members were able to meet, share stories, question, challenge and most of all get to know each other a little better. As part of monitoring and evaluation of the conference everyone was invited to vote on their perceptions of progress made against conference objectives during the final session on Day 2.

Feedback received has been very positive about the opportunity to connect together; perhaps best summarised as: ‘Lots achieved. Lots more to do.’

Marcus closed the conference with some reflections on progress over the two days

“\textit{I am excited - there is a lot of consensus here. We have made tremendous progress.}"

\textit{Many different views have been shared and there has been a positive healthy discussion. I am very very positive and I think we have made a step in the right direction. We had a lot of objectives to cover in 2 days and we have all worked hard. It has been a positive experience and I am very inspired and committed to be working with this network.}

\textit{Thank you to each and every one of you.”}

\footnote{After the conference, a follow-up survey was issued online to invite further feedback to help guide future workshops. Feedback is available on www.globalnetwork-dr.org.}
Appendix

1. Conference Agenda

“Don’t live with it – deal with it.”

Our second GNDR Global conference takes it’s theme from the words of Greta Mathews, the National Coordinator for the Global Network for Disaster Reduction in Haiti. In his work at a national and local level, he is seeking to ensure support gets through to people living at the frontline trying to tackle disasters - caused by a range of natural, social and economic shocks and stresses.

“Haiti is well known for the earthquake of 2010 which killed a quarter of a million, but there are also many smaller-scale disasters that hit our towns and villages repeatedly - rains and storms, crop failures, disease, poverty and more. Many of these disasters are unreported, under-researched, ignored. What do people do? Often their answer is ‘This is how it is – we just have to live with it’.

The huge investment of effort and money from agencies after the earthquakes, rains and storms could make things better, but often just helps people live with it. What we really need is support for people to deal with it – preventing disasters happening in the first place; that means change. Helping people to get organised to improve their buildings, their agriculture, their water supplies, their land management; to strengthen their communities and their local economies - dealing with things so that when disasters strike they don’t get knocked over; give up hope; go to the cities and face bigger problems. People-centred resilience is not just about bouncing back but also about building better lives. That’s why we say ‘Don’t live with it – deal with it’.

That’s our message, too, to governments and to all in the international community who really want to make a difference”

The objectives for our GNDR Conference

- Explore the latest Views from the Frontline findings, outputs from regional and online consultations and formulate recommendations for a post-HFA framework.
- Develop a joint advocacy strategy to put forward these recommendations at national, regional and international forums, including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May.
- Establish the next steps for the Views from the Frontline programme and the launch of our Action and Learning research programme.
- The VFL report will comprise data, analysis and case studies, the discussion, conclusions and recommendations from the Global Conference, and the list of all those giving their names to this report. The report, and associated materials will then be taken forward to GDRR and others, for continuing advocacy on the post-HFA framework and related BSL challenges.
- An action plan for continuing VFL research will comprise action research at the frontline and the associated collaborative practitioner/ academic research on community resilience.
- Present the new GNDR governance structure to strengthen regional and national activities and maximise our influence.
- Provide an opportunity for active GNDR members to meet, swap notes, understand what each other is doing and connect so that ongoing contact between members, independent of the GNDR structure, is easier.

www.globalnetwork-dr.org

DAY 1 – THE CURRENT SITUATION

08.00 ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION

09.00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE 2013
  - Findings and themes emerging from our latest VFL work

13.00 Lunch

14.00 SHARING PERCEPTIONS ON POST-HFA
  - Building our understanding of what happens post-Hyogo Framework for Action
  - Influencing next steps
  - Identifying how VFL can support post-HFA thinking

17.00 DAY 1 REFLECTIONS & NEXT STEPS

17.30 CLOSE

18.30 EVENING CONNECTIONS

A Dutch introduction to tan-pin bowling

Dinner

DAY 2 – CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

08.30 ARRIVAL

09.00 DEALING WITH IT

- Planning our approach on influencing activity at local, national and international levels
- THE GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE OF OUR NETWORK FOR MAXIMUM INFLUENCE

13.00 Lunch

14.00 MOVING FORWARD
  - Building momentum in our countries
  - Building the GNDR timetable of activity 2013-15
  - Sharing next steps

17.00 DAY 2 REFLECTIONS & CLOSING THOUGHTS

17.30 CLOSE

18.30 GLOBAL MUSIC & DANCING – “BELGIAN BRUNO” STYLE

Dinner
2. Civil Society Recommendations for Post-2015 DRM Framework
Outcomes from the GNDR Global Conference, The Hague 20-21 March 2013

This document draws together the core recommendations made by Civil Society in the GNDR Global Conference, held in The Hague, 20-21 March 2013. They build on findings from the Views from the Frontline programme, experience of civil society organisations around the world, and a programme of consultation culminating in The Hague conference. They are designed to support the work that is underway to develop a post-2015 DRM framework. For further information see www.globalnetwork-dr.org

OUTCOME
Communities that are resilient to extreme shocks and stresses of any type

A post-2015 disaster risk management framework must strengthen the resilience of people and their communities to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses of all kinds: short and long-term; natural and human-derived; rapid and slow onset; rural and urban; economic, social, environmental and geopolitical. Community resilience is the basic building block and foundation of national resilience and should be considered the overall outcome of a post-2015 disaster risk management framework.

EIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A POST-2015 DRM FRAMEWORK

1. Prioritise the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised people
Disasters affect all societies whether in high, medium or low-income countries. However, they have a disproportionate impact on poorer countries with weaker governance, on poor and marginalised communities and on demographic groups such as women and children. Therefore, whilst a post-2015 framework should be designed as a comprehensive agreement to support a global agenda across all countries, the framework’s strategic emphasis must recognise the different levels of vulnerability amongst different countries and societal groups based on principles of justice, equity and social cohesion. A practical step would be the disaggregation of relevant data at national and local levels for income and non-income related parameters including age, ethnicity, sex, disability, and minorities.

2. Ensure the scope of the framework includes all types of natural and human-derived disasters - including small-scale recurrent “everyday” shocks and stresses
Vulnerable people are exposed to a complex multi-dimensional risk environment where different social, economic, geo-political, climatic and environmental risks impact one another in unpredictable ways - particularly in areas of civil strife, conflict and fragility. In this complex, unpredictable environment, effective risk management strategies cannot address specific risk types in isolation from each other and must be holistic, flexible and long-term to adequately reflect local realities. At the community level, the dominant risk is from the under-reported and uncompensated small-scale recurrent disasters (primarily triggered by weather events), which are rapidly increasing in developing countries.

3. Prioritise tackling the causes of vulnerability and exposure
Ultimately, the success of a post-2015 framework will depend on its effectiveness in tackling the underlying drivers of risk. Building resilience is a change process that requires tackling the structural power imbalances between different social, economic and demographic groups that underpin differential vulnerabilities within communities. These are critical influences of vulnerability and exposure.

7 The term ‘communities’ is used to describe groups of people, kin groups and neighbourhoods drawn from a localised area.
4. **Strengthen and resource local risk governance**

A capable, accountable and responsive local government that works collaboratively with an active civil society, the private sector and at-risk communities is one of the most important factors to accelerating implementation of risk reduction policies at a local level. Effective local risk governance requires investments in strengthening local risk governance capabilities, including enhanced human and institutional capacities, political authority, financial resources, accountability and partnerships.

5. **Place rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders at the core of the framework**

International laws, conventions and treaties provide frameworks that define rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders at all levels - from individual to institutional e.g. a human-rights based approach puts the relationships (social contract) between people (rights holders) and governments (primary duty bearer) at the centre of the process and provides a basis for the accountability and responsibilities of governments for the safety and protection of people. When basic rights to education, health and housing are denied for example, then vulnerability increases. Grounding a post-2015 framework in human rights standards and other legislative frameworks and approaches (e.g. climate, traditional and customary laws) will reinforce accountability by ensuring that commitments to people’ safety and protection are legal obligations.

6. **Establish clear goals, standards, baselines, targets and indicators**

An absence of accountability and transparency has been a limiting factor to achieving the goals of the current HFA. Broadly speaking, accountability refers to different actors being held to account for progress towards transparent performance standards and targets for which they have clearly delineated responsibilities – this includes civil society as well as other actors. In this respect, goals, standards, baselines, targets, indicators and associated monitoring and redress mechanisms are essential to measure progress and enable people to hold governments and organisations to account for progress towards specific measurable goals and standards. A prerequisite is a public national loss database, which records and disaggregates information about disasters and their impact.

7. **Institutionalise the role and strengthen the capacity of civil society**

Civil society has a critical role in strengthening community resilience and enhancing the ability to which people can hold the state accountable and responsive to their needs. Civil society organisations can proactively engage in policy analysis, gather and aggregate people’s perspectives, participate in strategy formulation, support policy implementation and monitoring, strengthen domestic accountability and drive the social change necessary for increased resilience based on experience and knowledge of working alongside grassroots communities. However, in many situations civil society struggles to fulfill this critical role as fully as possible. So, to ensure this potential isn’t missed, civil society calls upon all actors, including governments and international agencies, to institutionalize the role of civil society and ensure space and opportunities to contribute fully. Provision of external support to strengthen the capacity of civil society and to support networking is an essential element. This is particularly critical in fragile states and/or places where democracy is not yet mature. In these situations, greater emphasis is needed on sources of resilience outside state institutions.

8. **Demand clear commitment from the private sector to strengthening community resilience**

The private sector is influential in both creating and reducing risk - ranging from small and medium enterprises operating in the informal and formal sector through to large multi-national corporations. Businesses have not yet fully adopted resilience as an integral part of their strategies. Instead evidence shows that current practices can often create or enhance risks - particularly for those most vulnerable. A post-2015 DRM framework with a strong commitment towards public-private partnerships would require a

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8 Local risk governance is more than local government. It reflects the collaboration required between various stakeholders to tackle risks together - local government, civil society, private sector and local communities.
focus on ensuring clearer responsibilities in strengthening community resilience. This must include the role of small-scale informal businesses that account for 75% of total employment in developing countries.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

In addition to these eight recommendations, GNDR members also emphasised some critical success factors that apply across each and every part of a post-2015 framework and are an integral part of successful implementation. They create the environment which will enable people to participate more fully in social and economic life and ensure a sustainable environmental for present and future generations. These factors must be monitored just as that of any other element and can be used to measure the success of the framework as a whole. Three factors in particular have been highlighted:

Gender

Gender equality is one of the key forms of equality which must be comprehensively addressed in a future framework to strengthen community resilience. The framework must recognize gender-specific vulnerabilities – for example, women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters in part because of structural inequalities in terms of decision-making authority and leadership opportunities within households and communities. The exclusion and vulnerability of women is particular important to address given the key role women play in ensuring the survival and resilience of their families and as active agents of change within their communities.

Inter-generational and environmental sustainability

People, communities, society, the economy and nature are all part of an inter-connected social-ecological system. The commercial exploitation of natural resources linked with modes of production and consumption are fundamentally unsustainable and inequitable, leading to accumulating stresses within social-ecological systems. Increasing disaster losses and climate change impacts are indicators of these stresses. It is essential for the post-2015 framework to recognise and respect the core functions, critical interdependencies, thresholds and limits that sustain local ecosystem functionality and inter-generational equity.

Inter-cultural linkages

Culture has an essential role to play in terms of the strengthening community resilience. Individuals belong to different cultural groups or social networks. These networks and the connections between them play an important role in enabling communities to self-organise, to innovate, to share good practices and experiential learning supporting the creation, acquisition and retention of local knowledge. From a societal perspective, inter-cultural linkages can promote solidarity, support cross-border cooperation, connectivity and social cohesion. Self-organising, learning, connectivity and social cohesion are considered some of the core principles underpinning community resilience.