FOREWORD

Our Global Board Chairs and Executive Director take on our last year’s efforts towards a risk-informed and resilient society.

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

The key figures and achievements of GNDR in 2018–19.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACTIVITIES

The activities we undertook as a network that have led to our impact this year.

OUR PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

GNDR operates under six guiding principles. This is how we put them into practice last year.

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Our members’ own account of the positive changes GNDR achieved in society, in collaborations and in the members and communities themselves.

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OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR

Our members have played different key roles this year to contribute towards the four priorities of the UN’s Sendai Framework for DRR.

CHALLENGES

This year we had challenges hindering our progress towards a risk-informed society, and we have learnt the lessons for next year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our income has almost doubled from the previous year, reflecting the trust of our donors and the valued partnerships we have formed with them.

PEOPLE

Our global board
Secretariat staff
Members

GNDR’s 1000+ members’ network is led by our Global Board and is supported by a vibrant and committed team in the Secretariat.

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It is our privilege to share with our members, colleagues and friends this year’s main achievements and challenges of GNDR, as well as our network’s humble but steady progress towards our vision of a vibrant civil society working together with communities at the forefront, in particular the most vulnerable, to reduce their own risk and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

Disasters are increasing and they are having a harder impact on those who also live in contexts of fragility as well as climate insecurity. The lives lost and the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa, the 2018 tsunami in Sulawesi, Indonesia or the ongoing Rohingya crisis in South Asia are constantly in our minds. Yet, whilst global and state focus has turned more towards the nearing deadlines of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement this year, not enough attention has been given to how disasters are holding back the achievements of these processes. As long as development fails to take into account the disaster risks we all face, development will be ineffective and may even exacerbate threats and vulnerability further. Therefore, it has been a critical year for GNDR to start focusing its advocacy, learning, and local action on risk-informed resilient development.

In this reporting period, April 2018 to March 2019, we have witnessed the impact of GNDR at all levels through the direct effect of our work with communities as well as on the civil society organisations that form our membership, and in establishing meaningful partnerships with local and national governments, with other networks, and with funding organisations. This year, in particular, has been very much member-driven. The capacity assessment in mid-2018 has set GNDR up with a list of ambitious goals to build the capacities of our members in key areas such as fundraising and advocacy for the rest of the year and beyond. And these efforts are already paying up. We saw members becoming increasingly thought leaders when they delivered seminars at our May 2018 Global Summit and our members are regularly speaking now on behalf of our network in global events worldwide. Members are more connected than ever before through the Community Platform that was launched in October 2018, where GNDR members now meet, work together, learn from each other and share opportunities for fundraising.

The highlight of our programme this year has been, no doubt, the launch of the project Views from the Frontline 2019. Up to 51 countries are now collecting local perspectives on risk and resilience from 52,000 people that will empower 750 communities worldwide to create local level action plans in 2020 and advocate at a local and national level.

As a network, GNDR has expanded its programme during 2019 into work streams that reflect the need to strive for risk-informed development as the norm. For example, GNDR has assumed a new leadership role as the Sendai Stakeholders co-chair of the High-Level Political Forum for the Sustainable Development Goals. Also, GNDR has launched this year the project “Role of CSOs in Influencing Coherence” to raise awareness of the interconnections of the diverse needs of communities and to demonstrate how civil society can take a leadership role in aligning policies and practices at all levels to ensure that the broader community needs are addressed in unison, efficiently and effectively.

We are happy to say that we are now financially secure network, and to see that in 2018-19 a great portion of the available funds have been allocated to our members for local activities such as national coordination meetings, and for supporting the local implementation of community DRR sustainability plans, thanks to CBDRM seed funds. None of this would have been possible without the support of our partners, of course, so we would like to thank, among others, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID, the Swiss Development Cooperation Office of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, UKAid, Australian Aid, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Also, we must humbly recognise that this year we could have done more and better in pursuing our mission. Our success in some areas has contributed to specific challenges that have slowed our progress. Limited capacities to keep up with our success in attracting larger, global projects, together with our expanding programme and membership, have created the need to recruit more staff of a high calibre in a very short period. A bigger membership globally, now more than 1,000 organisations, has brought the need as well for higher inclusion across all regions. Further, GNDR’s increased attention towards a risk-informed development requires diverse funding to expand our areas of work around coherence and localisation, and to engage in a wider range of global political events such as the HLPF and the Climate Change COP. You may want to read in this report how GNDR will be working specifically to overcome these and other challenges next year.

Looking ahead at the next 12 months, the GNDR Global Board and Trustees are very excited to see how our network will start to use the Views from the Frontline programme to bring about change at all levels, to keep implementing tailored capacity-building, and to continue to collaborate for risk-informed sustainable and resilient development.

Without further to say, we invite you now to read and enjoy this engaging report and discover the impact that our network has had on the ground, at grassroots level, through the eyes and the voices of our own members who have kindly contributed with their own stories, in their very own words.

In Solidarity
Farah Kabir, Chair of the Global Board
Rumana Kabir, Chair of the Trustees
Bijay Kumar, Executive Director

Together as a global network we completed one more year in our pursuit of a risk-informed resilient development agenda. It is an honour for us, the Chairs and Executive Director, to provide the foreword to this Annual Report 2018 – 19.
85% of members say GNDR has strengthened their ability to generate and share knowledge.

GNDR members ran 24 national coordination meetings around the world.

98% of Global Summit attendees committed to creating new partnerships.

We trained 1,045 people (in collaboration, sustainable CBDRM, proposal writing, gender mainstreaming, participatory risk assessments and more).

82,000 people from 44 countries took part in our Views from the Frontline survey (incl. CSOs, local governments and community members).

1,036 member organisations working in 109 countries.

85% of our members say GNDR has made them more influential.

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1,700 active members on our online Community Platform.

Our website received 253,000 page views.

92 people took part in CBDRM South-South country exchanges.

120 stakeholders from 70 countries attended our Global Summit (incl. members, donors and governments).

13 MEMBERS were supported to attend global and regional advocacy events and share the voices of the most vulnerable people.

80% of our members say GNDR has made them more influential.
A strong network of capable organisations

Regional and global advocacy

Locally-led disaster risk reduction
Capacity-building that responds to needs
We’re committed to increasing the capacity of members. In our 2018 membership survey, 85% of respondents stated that GNDR had improved their skills in collaborative working.

The survey also highlighted a wide variation in the knowledge and expertise of our membership, as well as organisation size, and the funding opportunities available to them. Members identified key areas for future capacity-building: influencing policies, local resource mobilisation, forming partnerships, implementing new approaches like ecosystems-based DRR, and building resilience in conflict settings. We now have plans to build the capacities of our network with tailored learning activities starting in July 2019.

A growing global network
We have grown our network to over 1,000 civil society organisations in 109 countries. We now have three types of membership: full members (civil society organisations); affiliates (individuals who are affiliated with a member organisation); and associates (individuals with an interest in GNDR who are not affiliated with a member organisation e.g. those from UN agencies, academia, private sector or governments).

A recent re-categorisation project has given us a clearer and simpler membership model. We can now better target resources to our members and ensure that members are committed to working together to achieve GNDR’s vision.

An online platform to connect and collaborate
GNDR has launched a new website for members to connect, share knowledge, and access learning resources and fundraising opportunities. The Community Platform is available to all GNDR members and associates from UN agencies, donors, the private sector and academia. The platform is a great way for individuals to network and raise their profile.

As a result of their engagement on the platform, some regions have seen a dramatic increase in membership numbers. For example, in Eastern Africa, Regional Advisory Groups recruited 131 new members. This was aided by a small fund that allowed them to travel within their country to meet with current and potential members, and to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the people they represent.

Members of each Regional Advisory Group act as representatives of the wider network. They also play a two-way role: sharing information from across the network with members in their country, and providing strategic guidance to the Secretariat informed by their contact with members.

Greater support for members
We’ve invested in growing the Secretariat staff team in order to better support the needs of the network. This financial year, eight new positions were created: Views from the Frontline (VFL) Coordinator, VFL Officer, Project Administrator (VFL), Finance & Grants Officer, Translation Projects Administrator, Regional Assistants for LAC and West Africa, and an East Africa Regional Development Coordinator. Staff have also received training in how to organise campaigns, strengthen partnerships and manage funding grants from the European Union. As a result, we’re better able to support members and their needs.

Above
Gathering for the presentation of the participatory risk-map of the community, Mihinpurwa, Uttar Pradesh, India
Photo: Geoff Crawford
All of our advocacy messages were supported by evidence from member activities on-the-ground, including views from the frontline and formal exchange visits between members in different countries.

Of particular note was our input into the African Plan of Action, which outlined the role of civil society in the region, and provided guidance to governments ahead of the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. At these regional events we promoted local leadership through the organisation of Local Leadership Forums. We selected five inspirational champions of community-led DRR in each region, who then presented their lessons on how to institutionalise community-led processes.

United advocacy messages for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
In February GNDR organised and hosted a workshop with regional civil society networks and key partners. The workshop provided a space for participants to share advocacy messages, identify overlaps and join forces where possible, in preparation for the 2019 Global Platform for DRR. We worked together to map common priorities and identify a shared objective to increase development actors’ accountability for community resilience. We outlined a theory of change to help us achieve it and drafted an action plan for increased visibility and success in our advocacy work at the Global Platform and beyond.

The Sendai Stakeholders Group is formed of all actors from civil society, the private sector and local authorities who are involved in promoting DRR and resilience in development.

This is now one of the recognised groups under the official mechanism for stakeholder engagement in the global discussions around sustainable development (the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism).

Members of the group work together in preparation for, and during, the annual High Level Political Forums on Sustainable Development to advocate for risk-informed development. We want to ensure that DRR and the Sendai Framework are considered when reviewing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
Views from the Frontline

After a successful pilot across Tonga and the Philippines, GNDR’s Views from the Frontline (VFL) programme is back. The 2019 iteration provides monitoring, local perspectives of risk, and data to help guide stakeholders to achieve the targets of the post-2015 development frameworks, particularly the Sendai Framework for DRR.

VFL increases the accountability of governments, intergovernmental agencies and other stakeholders, to local communities. The programme is being implemented in 51 countries. The data can be explored on our new microsite www.vfl.world.

As an example of impact, the data collection in Tonga – and subsequent local action planning – has resulted in new initiatives being established to help women feel safe in their neighbourhoods.

Mainstreaming successful community initiatives

We’ve produced a new global publication that demonstrates how community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) initiatives can be institutionalised and made sustainable. Styled in the form of a cookbook, this handy resource outlines the key ingredients for success, as well as recipes (i.e. case studies) from around the world that show the ingredients in action. Key ingredients identified include proactivity and collaboration between local leaders and community members, particularly women; plus, accountability, and political and community buy-in.

The CBDRM Cookbook has been shared at three Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, along with a range of other national, regional and global events. In addition to the printed publication we’ve launched a CBDRM microsite (www.cbdrm.org) that provides information about the project, upcoming activities, as well as an extensive library of resources developed and collected throughout the project.

Exchanging knowledge across countries and continents

In 2018 we organised six south-south country exchange visits between community-based organisations. These unique learning opportunities were held between India and the Philippines, Burkina Faso and Niger, and Chile and the Dominican Republic.

The aim was to share experiences of successful community-based disaster risk management projects, and understand what had, and would continue to make them sustainable and institutionalised.

Participants from the Philippines learnt about a trans-border early warning system between a remote community in India and the hydro-meteorological department in Nepal. In exchange, GNDR members from India learnt from a community in the Philippines who had set up local disaster preparedness organisations that engage both the most at-risk communities along with local authorities.

In Burkina Faso members from Niger had the chance to see how the harvesting and production of shea butter was being used to protect the environment. Those from Burkina Faso visited a community in Niger that had reforested a 77-hectare area of land in order to reduce the threat of flooding and simultaneously retain drinking water.

A community organisation from Chile learnt about local empowerment and all-of-society approaches to disaster risk reduction in the Dominican Republic. In exchange those members learnt how community members had self-organised a disaster risk management training course in Chile.

Each of the learning exchanges resulted in the joint design and implementation of six sustainability plans for community-led disaster risk reduction projects.
GNDR’s organisational strategy 2016–20 identified six guiding principles to abide by while we pursue our vision. Throughout the year we’ve been putting them into practice.

1. Start at the local level
Recognise the local context and understand local perspectives of risk
As part of our Views from the Frontline programme we’ve spoken with 75,000 people about their local resilience priorities. These community perspectives will now form the basis of all subsequent local, national and global actions and campaigns.
We supported 40 members to attend regional and global events so that they could bring voices from communities directly to these fora and help international actors understand risk from the perspective of those at the frontline of disasters.

2. Partner and collaborate
Work with and across all groups and levels
Our advocacy is informed by the belief that we are stronger together. We held a workshop with 16 organisations to design a joint campaign ahead of the Global Platform for DRR. We also held joint campaign events at UNDRR’s Regional Platforms for DRR in Africa, the Americas and Asia. We believe that collaboration is vital. At our Global Summit we trained 90 members on how to broker partnerships. 95% of participants stated that they now plan to collaborate with other members after the Summit.

3. Leave no one behind
Strive for equity-sensitive approaches that ensure the inclusion of all groups, particularly those most at-risk
Views from the Frontline purposefully targets the most marginalised people, and the findings can be filtered by age, gender and disability. This will help us ensure that governments address the specific needs of the most marginalised people, for example women, children and youth, and people with disabilities.

4. Mobilise local resources
Build on existing capacities, knowledge and other sources of resilience
Many GNDR members contributed to our newly published Community-based Disaster Risk Management Cookbook, which outlines ingredients that support communities to be able lead resilience-building activities themselves, even after external support has withdrawn. We also organised six country exchanges between communities so others could transfer lessons from these innovative local recipes.

5. Align across policies
Ensure coherence across disasters, climate change and other development activities
We collected nearly 100 case studies of where CSOs have helped implement the agendas of the post-2015 frameworks coherently. These will provide the basis for our future publication: The Role of CSOs in Coherence Cookbook.

6. Hold institutions and individuals to account
Enhance accountability to affected populations
More members are now empowered to hold their governments to account on their 2030 Agenda commitments. This is the result of training on advocacy, and the analysis of a survey monitoring the targets of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

GNDR’s approach to build resilience is very wide and inclusive, by gathering perspectives from all stakeholders, not just from civil society.

Jozias Blok, DEVCO
OUR IMPACT
THIS YEAR

What have members been able to achieve this year because of their engagement with GNDR?
We have separated this impact into three categories, each linked to one of GNDR’s strategic objectives. The following sections present examples of these changes from around the world.

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

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

3. Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge
   **Behavioural change**
   Examples include:
   - Communities changing practices to build resilience
   - Members changing their operations to better meet needs of the most marginalised

Reshma, 50 year old widow enrolled in one of our members’ programmes, Shastri Nagar, East Delhi, India

Photo: Lambert Coleman
Local data collection through programmes such as Views from the Frontline or Frontline has provided convincing evidence to decision-makers to make policies and structures more risk-informed. In the Philippines, the evidence and networks created as part of our Frontline project led to a new government Department for Resilience this year. This was due to the hard work of GNDR member organisation, the Center for Disaster Preparedness. In the Dominican Republic, SSID, a member organisation focused on poverty reduction, persuaded other local organisations to shift their policies to be more prevention-focused rather than relying on response, after demonstrating the results of our Frontline survey.

Events that provide a space for sharing success stories and new approaches to risk reduction from around the world have allowed members to learn transferable lessons to pitch to policymakers. In Mali, the government development plan now addresses risk. This is the result of GNDR member REFED sharing lessons with the Department for Planning. They learnt these from members from other countries at our 2018 GNDR Global Summit and the annual West and Central Africa Regional Advisory Group meeting. GNDR member, Burundi for Resilience, picked up new ways of lobbying from our online Community Platform. They subsequently presented these ideas to the Burundi National Platform for DRR, who then worked together to lobby the government for a ‘National Fund for DRR.’

Our advocacy tools and training have also helped members bring about changes in policies and institutions. In Uganda, DENIVA, along with other members, successfully brought a new DRR Bill to be debated in parliament. The evidence they collected through our Frontline project, and the training they received on how to use evidence in advocacy, helped them to achieve their goal more effectively.

In many cases, working as a group was critical to bringing about changes in policy. Our messages have had more weight because more CSOs have stood behind them. National meetings of GNDR members have helped create these strong advocacy partnerships. A national workshop in Nepal supported by GNDR was instrumental in demonstrating joint expertise on mainstreaming DRR into development. Many municipal authorities now request the support of GNDR member NSET, and others, to integrate DRR into Municipal Development Plans.

As a network we’ve been busy this year influencing national policies, regional plans and international processes. Some of this influencing has taken time. Members have patiently worked their way through bureaucratic processes. But many report that collaborative advocacy, evidence-based statements, and systematic planning of tailored messages, are the key lessons they’ve learnt in their quest to change policies.
In spite of international agreements such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Uganda’s vulnerability to disasters, my country does not yet have a national law governing disaster risk reduction and management, in alignment with the new international thinking.

“My organisation, DENIVA, has been advocating for a while for a Disaster Risk Reduction Bill in Uganda. However, following the collection of Frontline data last year and the insights obtained from the analysis of the results with the communities, we will ensure that the DRR Bill caters for the local priorities as evidenced by the Frontline findings.

“Now, in partnership with Disaster Risk Reduction-Uganda (DRR-U), our advocacy efforts have finally been taken to the next stage: more is invested in reducing and preventing disasters in the medium and long-term, as opposed to managing the impact disasters as a short-term response.

“It is also in the spirit of the Sendai Framework to involve multiple stakeholders in disaster reduction, so a platform that includes civil society has been established to engage with the government to discuss the drafting of the DRR Bill.”

Fredrick Olinga

Our advocacy efforts have finally been taken to the next stage.

“Being a GDNR affiliate member and project partner has enabled me to participate in various activities from the national to the global levels. The first was the Views from the Frontline (VFL) programme, and currently, I’m involved in the Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRM project.

“Participation in VFL has enhanced my research capacity and provided me further experience in data-gathering and learning new tools for data tabulation. It has really challenged me as a researcher in terms of data collation and the development of report analysis. These skills have helped me become more effective in other research projects implemented by the Center for Disaster Preparedness with other partners such as UNESCO, JICA, Save the Children, USAID, APN and ADRC.

“The lessons and insights from VFL were also very useful in the development of project proposals and advocacy messages for the enactment of the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act (RA 10121). The Act shifted the policy environment and the way the country deals with disasters from mere response to preparedness.

“When I served as the head of the Advocacy, Partnership and Networking programme of CDP, we did the Sunset Review of RA 10121 and, in the data-gathering process, we were inspired by the approach of VFL, where you have to get in touch with the community, civil society organisations and the government to really understand the context of disaster risk reduction implementation.

“For policy change, the VFL research has helped CDP in the development of the policy recommendations for the amendatory bill of RA 10121, which is currently being reviewed.”

Fatima Gay J. Molina

This Philippines-based NGO has developed the skills to advocate for a shift in the national policy environment from disaster response to disaster preparedness.

We were inspired by the approach of Views from the Frontline.
Most GNDR members are local, grassroots organisations for whom the issue of funding is a real concern. In 2018-19, members benefited from a fundraising section of the newly-developed online Community Platform. Here they can access grants opportunities and news from donors. Members are already seeing the fruits of GNDR membership in fundraising applications, either by collaborating with other members or as support from the Secretariat.

For example, Action Directe pour la Protection de l’Environnement Bonferey was able to secure funds from the Global Environment Facility thanks to the support they received from GNDR’s Regional Development Coordinator in West and Central Africa. The ability of members to come together at the national level in Burkina Faso has enabled them to secure new funds and foster new partnerships with other members such as Christian Aid and Diakonia to implement their advocacy action plan.

In Niger, collecting case studies from around the country as part of our Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRM project led to local NGO, JVE, being seen as expert leaders of DRR in their country. As a result, the French Embassy has provided them with funding for a new project.

Members have also benefited from GNDR’s ability to introduce them to like-minded organisations and to support them in establishing new networks and partnerships. In early 2019, GNDR mobilised funds for a number of meetings of members at the national level, with the aim of supporting them to influence national policy-making and to build coalitions.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, one member stated: “The thing that has changed in my communities, thanks to the support from GNDR, is the inclusion of small local organisations in more networks and local NGO platforms. The communities have understood that this union gives them power and that local NGOs should come together... to improve their ability to campaign to change things.”

These new networks and relationships, though often hard to measure, are considered by members to be one of the biggest advantages to GNDR membership. As a member from Pakistan puts it: “The impact for me does not come from a specific event or activity. It comes from the deeper links formed inside the network for years.”

The implementation of national coordination meetings in 2019 has encouraged our members to develop joint workplans and projects. For example, in Colombia, it allowed Fundación Azimuth, along with other members, to discuss opportunities for collaboration and to commit themselves to the co-production of certain activities.

In addition, in those countries where Views from the Frontline is being implemented, the member leading the project has been responsible for setting up a National Advisory Committee that includes a range of stakeholders at the national level – academia, other NGOs, the private sector and national government.
Bonferey Action Directe pour la Protection de l’Environnement (ADPE)

Being a member of GNDR has helped Nigerien CBO, ADPE, to lead local DRR efforts, fundraise, and improve their organisational structure.

“...first time we heard about GNDR was from one of its member organisations, JVE Niger, the regional coordinator of the CBDRM project. JVE invited us to a meeting in Saly, Senegal, in April 2018 to share case studies of successful community-based disaster risk management.

‘Attending that meeting was an eye opener. I was surprised to learn that there are other organisations doing the same work as us. We had the opportunity to exchange ideas and programme experiences with other African members.

‘Later, we received some modest funds from GNDR. This allowed us to purchase stabilising cord for anti-erosive works and other reinforcements at the Féri-Féri hill – an area prone to flooding in our local community.

‘We also learnt a lot from the GNDR-organised country exchange trip to Réo, Burkina Faso in August 2018, where we visited the shea butter producing sector. During the Tillabéri exchange trip, GNDR members helped us establish our sustainability plan, which we are currently implementing. Also, thanks to GNDR, participating in the Africa-Arab Forum on DRR in Tunis in October 2018 allowed our organisation to increase our visibility beyond Africa.

‘Now as members of GNDR, we keep in regular communication with other members of the network, which has helped us in our planning and implementation. GNDR has also helped us with fundraising.”

Alzouma Mounkaila

I was surprised to learn that there are other organisations doing the same work as us.
“Different parts of a community are now able to work united, and along with the local government, not just in a participatory way but in an inclusive way too.

“In the last two years, at Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas, we have participated in several GNDR events, which have impacted us in a positive way, both at a personal level and in our work with the communities.

“My colleagues and I have participated in trainings and exchanges that have allowed us to bring to international spaces the voices of rural communities exposed to disasters in the Dominican Republic. The knowledge gained in GNDR trainings has been shared with community-based and civil society organisations, and with both local and national government offices.

“As a result of our participation in GNDR, many things have changed in our day-to-day work in the communities, such as concepts, methodology and approach. We used to work in a participatory way. Now we work in an inclusive way and look for the sustainability and institutionalisation of community initiatives. Another positive change has been in our institutional policy, having moved from a disaster assistance response to a practice of continuous prevention.

“We have increased our willingness to work in networks and alliances, and observed greater integration among the associations that make up SSID, and their greater participation in initiatives in favour of the community. Our associations show a positive attitude towards greater integration, openness, and inclusion of the different actors in the community.

“Before, it was difficult for us to achieve alliances, develop plans and implement joint actions. There were misgivings about space, leadership and opportunities, but after GNDR induced change in our disaster work practices, there has been a willingness to work in unison. This attests to the importance and usefulness of trainings as a key component in facilitating positive change in organisations and communities.”

Lidia Ester Santana

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“We used to work in a participatory way. Now we work in an inclusive way.
In communities around the world, resilient approaches and practices are being taken up as a result of the work of GNDR members. In some cases, this is due to them directly implementing GNDR projects in their communities. For example, the Bonferey community in Niger constructed a new stone wall using sustainable local materials, to protect themselves against runoff water from excessive rain down the slopes of the Féfé-Féré hill. The participation of GNDR member Jeunes Volontaires pour l’Environnement Niger in the project Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRM, and the distribution of seed funding to the community as part of the project, has been critical in them bringing about this more sustainable change in approach.

Local communities in Unity Quarter, Cameroon, living on the slopes of a volcano are now planting trees to prevent landslides. This is the result of the action planning conducted by local GNDR member, GEADIRR, as part of our Frontline project.

In other examples, changes in community behaviours have been the result of members passing on lessons they learnt from other members at trainings or country exchanges. After attending a GNDR regional workshop and learning about how to collaborate with different actors, member GAPAFOT returned to the Central African Republic (CAR) and started a partnership with the Meteorological Department to set up forecast bulletins to give farmers more accurate, useable and timely information. Farmers now have larger yields from their crops.

Members have also changed their own operations to better meet the needs of marginalised people. In the Philippines, staff from member organisation, the Center for Disaster Preparedness, have incorporated research and project management skills gained from involvement in GNDR projects into their other projects, making them more robust and effective.

The opportunity for the work of the JAD Foundation in Pakistan to be showcased at GNDR’s Global Summit this year inspired their volunteers to work in more communities. In DRC, CSOs from a national network are now adopting new ways of working to build resilience in a coherent and inclusive way. This is thanks to member organisation, Community Actions for Integral Development, learning new approaches from GNDR webinars and sharing these with the other members of the DRC network.

We are thrilled to hear of so many members scaling out their learning from the network, ensuring that the work of their own organisation, and that of their partners and the communities in which they work, more effectively build resilience for the most marginalised people.

GNDR members have been supporting communities to undertake more resilient practices and have also reflected inwards and changed their own practices. This impact comes as a result of the implementation of joint community projects and by learning lessons from other members at GNDR events.
JAD Foundation has been a member of GNDR since 2007. We’ve been actively involved in the network and supported policy formation, governance and the development of the membership.

During the current year, we had the opportunity to meet with GNDR members from across South Asia and discuss our common challenges and potential solutions.

At the national level we’ve been able to interact with numerous organisations who are members of GNDR, as well as other civil society organisations. We have been able to share what we’ve learnt from GNDR and other members with various networks in Pakistan, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, the National Humanitarian Network and the Pakistan Humanitarian Network.

During the last year, we’ve fully engaged in GNDR activities as a national focal point for Pakistan and attended the Regional Advisory Group meeting. We used the knowledge we acquired from the national and regional interaction with GNDR members in our organisation’s own capacity-building, planning, coordination and collaboration with both national and international organisations in the region and beyond.

The Disaster Risk Governance project we launched in Chitral, Pakistan, is one example of how we’ve put our learning into practice. The tripartite agreement between the Barcelona Provincial Government, District Government Chitral, and JAD Foundation is a unique case study to localise global funding for the well-being of the local community.

At the national level, we’ve established a more collaborative working relationship with other CSOs, as well as state institutions. And we now know how to use the strength of the network to influence policies and decision-making organisations.

“Our learning from the GNDR network has built our capacity: we can now mobilise other organisations and the government to work on a collective and inclusive basis to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Syed Harir Shah

Connecting with GNDR members at the national and regional levels means JAD Foundation can utilise the strength of the network to influence decision-makers.

We can now mobilise other organisations and the government to work on a collective and inclusive basis to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
When we wanted to reduce the risk from disasters for the Thankot community in Nepal, we decided to partner with GNDR on their Frontline programme.

The programme involved local risk profiling and the preparation of participatory action plans based on the risk profiles identified by the community. People identified earthquakes as their top threat and training in non-structural mitigation (NSM) was one of the priority actions. In simple terms, NSM is fixing things around homes to avoid getting hurt if an earthquake strikes.

Focused on the most vulnerable groups, the Frontline process was designed in such a way that it did not only facilitate women to find out their top five threats but also the potential solutions to those threats.

"Leveraging previous knowledge, the women’s network of the municipality started to apply their learning in their own kitchens and bedrooms by fastening cupboards, frames, freezers, or gas cylinders, to reduce their own non-structural vulnerability. However, they did not stop there. Women started to conduct NSM works in their community and even beyond their locality. The initiative has been a step towards achieving a safer community through safer homes, safer schools and safer medical centres.

"Traditionally, women in the area only do sewing and craft works. Supported and encouraged by their family members, the experience has boosted their confidence and improved their social recognition and respect as community mobilisers. They are probably the foremost skilled women’s group working on non-structural earthquake mitigation in the country.

Empowered with important new technical skills they are now engaged in new income-generating activities. This has enabled them to play new leadership roles in their community as they are actively contributing to mitigating the risk of earthquakes.

"The initiative has helped to translate and transfer technical information to the household level. In turn, this has led to a transformational change in this society, and credibility for working in DRR has been enhanced."

Nisha Shrestha
“Perhaps it was 2011, when I was approached by a member of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, who reluctantly asked me if our organisation could conduct a small survey without receiving any money in exchange. I said: ‘money is not a problem.’ That was my first introduction to GNDR and their Views from the Frontline programme.

“In 2013 GNDR invited me to its Global Summit in The Hague and since then Pattan Development Organisation has conducted all the subsequent Views from the Frontline surveys.

“Since then my involvement has deepened. I was elected co-chair of the GNDR Regional Advisory Group for South Asia. And our organisation was appointed as a National Coordinating Organisation for Pakistan. Because of my involvement with GNDR, I got the opportunity to share our work at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015. I also wrote a case study about a Views from the Frontline partner community that was published by the Disaster Prevention and Management journal. In March 2018, I presented our Views from the Frontline work at the annual UK Alliance for Disaster Research conference.

“For me, the impact of being a GNDR member does not come from a single event or activity. It comes from the deeper links formed inside the network over years.

“GNDR gives us the courage and strength to make our governments accountable within and outside of the country. With GNDR, I don’t feel alone. I feel part of a global community. The disaster risks we face in Pakistan are not unique. The similarities, despite the specificities, provide us with a common ground. But most importantly a common bond to bring about meaningful change.”

Sarwar Bari

Pattan Development Organisation has been involved with GNDR for a long time. Membership has brought opportunities to share their work and create in them a sense of collectiveness.

THE VALUE OF LONG-TERM MEMBERSHIP

With GNDR, I don’t feel alone. I am part of a global community.
The work of the network this year has contributed significantly to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. As civil society organisations, we have done this collectively by playing a number of different roles: implementer, knowledge broker, capacity-builder, connector, advocate and monitor.

**OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**PRIORITY 1**

**Understanding disaster risk**

GNDR has helped decision-makers understand risk from the perspective of those communities on the frontline of disasters. Members have conducted over 52,000 participatory risk assessments with local people as part of the Views from the Frontline project. This local data can be explored by anyone online and used to inform their DRR actions.

Our members have also been sharing local perspectives of risk with each other at national coordination meetings, Regional Platforms for DRR, and our Global Summit.

**PRIORITY 2**

**Strengthening governance to manage risk**

This year we identified the ingredients that help institutionalise community-led risk management. These are things that governments can do to create an enabling environment for communities to lead in their own resilience-building.

We have held Local Leadership Forums where community leaders have showcased their approaches to successful local governance.

**PRIORITY 3**

**Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

This priority emphasises the need for coherence in the activities and monitoring systems for DRR, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and humanitarian action. We collected nearly 100 case studies of where CSOs have helped implement the agendas of the post-2015 frameworks coherently. This will inform our forthcoming Cookbook on the Role of CSOs in Coherence.

Knowing that coherence requires partnerships between different sectors, we’ve trained 90 members in how to broker partnerships.

**PRIORITY 4**

**Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to ‘build back better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

GNDR has entered into a new partnership with the University of Edinburgh and Kings College London to conduct detailed analyses of disasters in cities around the world. In-depth investigation will be carried out into the structural and governance issues causing disaster impact. These will then be used to inform more disaster preparedness and response and recovery guidelines.
Due to our limited organisational capacity, we’ve focused our advocacy efforts on the international disaster risk reduction community. But next year we’ll extend our attention to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Engagement in new agendas
We’ve observed a few trends this year: more attention is being given to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Investment in humanitarian response is rising. And disasters are increasing.

The challenge we face is that development interventions and crisis responses still don’t adequately consider long-term resilience-building.

GDHR has a vital role to play in ensuring that disaster risk is at the forefront of everyone’s mind. Unless development and recovery initiatives are risk-informed, they will be ineffective and may even exacerbate threats and vulnerabilities.

So far, due to our limited organisational capacity, we’ve focused our advocacy efforts on the international disaster risk reduction community. But next year we’ll extend our attention to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. We plan to allocate resources for member and Secretariat engagement in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, and their respective regional preparatory meetings.

The foundation for this increased engagement was laid this year: we established the Sendai Stakeholders Group as part of the HLPF Major Group system. And going forward we’ll develop a Cookbook on Coherence and offer training on this critical topic. We’ll identify the key ingredients for CSOs to apply in their work to eliminate poverty, adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk in an integrated way.

Diverse funding
Our income from institutional donors has increased over the last 12 months. But the challenge we face is in diversifying our funding. Broadening our funding sources is essential if we’re to expand our niche areas of work, particularly around coherence and localisation, and ensure our long-term sustainability. In 2019–20 we will map the priorities of relevant foundations and others types of donors, so that we can target our funding applications successfully.

Speaking the right language
We put accessibility at the centre of our work. This year we provided disability access to all sessions at our Global Summit. We produced French and Spanish translations of all publications, plus simultaneous interpretation at every GNDR event.

This inclusive approach requires good coordination and resources. At the moment we operate in three languages (English, French and Spanish), but this limits the engagement of members in a number of global regions. So next year we’ll prioritise raising funds to produce our publications in additional languages.

Safety and security
The safety of our members and staff is our number one concern. Occasionally this year project activities or travel have had to be cancelled due to natural hazards, conflict or other threats. Next year we’ll systematically plan ahead for these potential threats, and ensure alternative plans are ready to implement if these external risks threaten our work.

Measuring impact
In this annual report we’ve communicated the impact of our work for the first time – not just the outcomes of our activities. Impact is what members have been able to achieve because of their engagement in our network. From April 2019 we plan to go even further by regularly working with members to collect in-depth stories that focus on the positive impact their work has on communities at risk.

Change management
GDHR has grown: there are more members in the network, and we’ve received more grants for larger projects. To support this development, we’ve significantly grown the size of the Secretariat staff team. We have new roles in network development, communications, finance and project coordination.

With this growth comes challenges: in the clarity of our roles, in the way we work as a team, and in recruiting permanent staff. To ensure we’re an effective, efficient and resilient team going forward, we’ll review all policies and job descriptions, increase our recruitment efforts and develop new ways to work together.

Our carbon footprint
We know that as we expand our work – particularly in advocacy around the SDGs and Paris Agreement – we’ll need to travel more. But we don’t want this to come at the cost of the planet.

We’re committed to minimising our carbon footprint. New policies require all staff and members to use public transport during events; we organise meetings back-to-back to reduce the number of flights; and we have reduced the use of single use plastic at GNDR workshops.

Yet we want to do more. Our current funding cannot be used for carbon offsetting, but we’ll work to get funding so that we can. And in 2019–20 we will develop an Environmental Plan for reducing our impact on the environment.

Left
Sarvinder Sigh, a resident generating awareness about keeping their neighbourhood clean and using the dustbins.
Shastri Nagar, East Delhi, India
Photo: Lambert Coleman
FINANCES

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is pleased to be one of GNDR’s main donors and to contribute to GNDR’s Global Summit in 2020 both financially and with strategic insights.

Sergio Pérez León, SDC

WHAT WAS OUR INCOME THIS YEAR?

USAID OFDA, USA
£688,202

SDC, Switzerland
£234,155

GIZ, Germany
£435,226

DEVCO, European Commission
£766,356

Sida, Sweden
£323,025

DFID, UK
£28,450

Other income
£5,193

HOW HAS OUR INCOME CHANGED?

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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.
£735,220

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, including the Global Summit.
£1,421,832

OBJECTIVE 3
Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge
This included funds for webinars, local leadership forums and other knowledge exchange activities. It also included the production of guides and cookbooks on emerging resilience themes.
£333,739
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James Heyward-Chaplin
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Mohammad Abdur Rouf
Regional Development Coordinator for Asia & Pacific

Nick Scarborough
Communications Officer
GNDR is a key partner of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to advance the inclusion of disaster risk reduction into the sustainable development in practice. GNDR brings a much needed bottom-up approach to the multilateral policy dialogue. A network such as GNDR, by the people and for the people, provides valuable evidence that helps to raise the communities’ voices.
Sergio Pérez León, SDC