

GNDR Factsheet

ABOUT GNDR

What is GNDR?

The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) is the largest international network of organisations committed to working together to improve the lives of people affected by disasters world-wide.

Purpose

GNDR is a voluntary network of civil society organisations, associations and individuals who are committed to working together, and engaging with partners and other stakeholders, to increase community resilience and reduce disaster risk around the world.

Vision

A vibrant, active, collaborative civil society supporting people and their communities, particularly poor and vulnerable groups, to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from disasters, and adapt to hazards and a changing climate.

History

The genesis of GNDR was at the *UN World Conference for Disaster Reduction* in Kobe, Japan in January 2005, which adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)*. Many of those who would become GNDR's founding members were present at the Kobe conference as representatives of civil society organisations, to observe and influence the policy negotiations to ensure the HFA adequately reflected the day-to-day realities as experienced by people most at-risk to the impact of disasters around the world.

An underlying concern of these civil society representatives was to ensure high-level frameworks and policies were relevant and actionable at the community level – where people vulnerable to disasters live and work. It was recognised during the conference that civil society would be a more effective stakeholder in giving a strong voice to affected populations and contributing towards the formulation and implementation of policies and practices by working together in a coherent and collaborative manner. As a result, over the following two years, discussions and meetings led to an agreement to form the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), which was formally launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva in May 2007.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Global Board

GNDR members are represented by a Global Board that functions as the executive decision-making body responsible for setting the strategic direction and oversight of GNDR's development, including the approval and monitoring of annual work plans and budgets. Serving on the Board are 12 regional representatives, and 2 Independent representatives, and four UK-based charity trustees.

Trustees

The trustees serve as GNDR's legal custodians and have specific responsibilities for ensuring GNDR's strategic objectives, work plans and budgets are compliant with the organisation's charitable mandate and UK legal requirements.

Secretariat

GNDR has a small secretariat with a support team operating through a global hub in London, UK, and regional hubs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The GNDR Secretariat is registered with the Charity Commission of England & Wales (Reg. No. 1141471) as a charitable organisation that provides support, and coordinates governance and structure, to a world-wide network of civil society organisations working together to improve the lives of people affected by disasters.

FACTS & FIGURES

Established

Launched in Geneva in May 2007.

Membership

GNDR membership currently comprises of more than 850 full member organisations, spread across more than 140 countries, represented by more than 1,500 individuals affiliated to community-based organisations, faith-based groups, and local, national, regional and international non-governmental organisations, including civil society networks and associations working on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, climate change and other development-related issues.

Head of the organisation

The head of GNDR is currently the regional representative of South Asia, Ms. Farah Kabir, who acts as Chair of GNDR's Global Board. The Board has two Vice-Chairs: Ms Graciela Salaberri (South America representative) and Mr. Peter Akanimoh (West Africa representative).

Headquarters and regional offices

The Secretariat of GNDR provides support through a global hub in London, UK with regional hubs in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Secretariat staff

At present, the Secretariat has 22 staff serving under the leadership of its Executive Director Mr Bijay Kumar.

Support

Support for GNDR comes from a range of strategic partners and donor governments, not only as financial support but also in-kind contributions of time, energy and expertise provided voluntarily by members and collaborators.

Strategy

GNDR's current strategy is called 'Stronger Together', it was developed and approved by its members, and runs from 2016 to 2020.

CHALLENGES & STRATEGY

Challenges

Since its foundation in 2007, GNDR growing membership has undertaken a range of collaborative actions designed to influence policies and practices at international, national and local levels including policy monitoring (*Views from the Frontline*), policy advocacy (*Reality Check*), action-research programmes and awareness raising campaigns (*365 Disasters* campaign).

By sharing experiences and knowledge gained during these collaborative actions, GNDR has identified a series of key challenges still to be addressed:

- Achieving greater inclusion and engagement of citizens in governance processes to ensure that policies take into account local realities, such as complexity and fragility.
- Closing the implementation gap that exists between national policies – what is intended, and local practices – what actually happens.
- Increasing domestic accountability and political ownership for policy commitments.
- Developing coherence and mutuality across inter-related development policy frameworks.
- Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination mechanisms.

GNDR's medium-term objectives

In response to the challenges faced by its membership, the strategic objectives of GNDR are laid out in the document “Stronger Together: GNDR Strategy 2016-2020”. The strategy is based on three parallel, mutually reinforcing objectives:

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

This will be achieved by:

- Enhancing evidence-based policy advocacy at all levels
- Strengthening public education campaigns and awareness raising at all levels of society
- Strengthening monitoring of public policy implementation

Enhance collaboration capabilities of civil society and cooperation with other stakeholders

This will be achieved by:

- Strengthening GNDR Governance and Secretariat institutional and operational capacities at all levels.
- Institutional strengthening of existing civil society networks and facilitating the formation of new networks where needed.
- Enhancing the capabilities of GNDR membership to coordinate and partner with each other and with other actors.

Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge

This will be achieved by:

- Generating knowledge through collaborative action-learning.
- Enhancing the sharing of new and existing scientific and indigenous knowledge, information and practices amongst members and other stakeholders.

COMMUNICATIONS

GNDR members work together mainly through email and mailing lists, and importantly through online and face-to-face meetings whenever possible. The network reaches out through a website and social media channels:

- **Website:** www.gndr.org
- **Twitter:** @globalnetworkdr
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GNDR.org/>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/GNDRorg>

CONTACT

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