Frontline

from local information to local resilience

GNDR

FRONTLINE

What is *Frontline*?

The *Frontline* programme has collected local information on risk and resilience in 22 countries globally and built the capacities of local and national actors to use this data to better protect those most vulnerable to disasters.

How does it work?

Between 2014-2017, a network of civil society organisations held structured conversations with 14,282 people from local communities, local civil society organisations, and local governments across diverse risk contexts. These participants reflected on their knowledge of critical shocks, their experiences of barriers to reducing risk, and what they identify as the most effective steps to address these obstacles.

This information has been coded and collated into a global database that can be accessed and analysed by anyone. Civil society organisations have worked with communities to use the findings to develop local action plans and work with governments to bring about changes in national priorities, services, and systems.

Figure 1:
***The* Frontline**
method

1. Participation

Local civil society organisations are identified as participating organisations in each country. They identify 5 diverse risk zones, and 4 communities within each risk zone, as locations for the work.

2. Contextualisation

Focus group sessions contextualise the *Frontline* language and method for the particular country setting, and establish a base set of codes for responses.

4. Coding conversations

Participating organisations code the responses from the conversations and record profile data (e.g. age, gender, economic status) using a simple data entry tool.

3. Mobilisation: *Frontline* conversations

Participating organisations select respondents at each location, ensuring a spread across age group, gender, economic status, and disability, with whom they conduct structured conversations.

5. Data analysis and visualisation

Coded data is collated at the national level and inputted into a global database by GNDR. The data is presented in an open source and interactive platform which can be disaggregated by country, community, age, gender and economic status.

6. Using the findings

In each community, participating organisations use the *Frontline* results for community consultations and action planning, promoting partnerships for action and advocacy.

At the national level, governments use the *Frontline* findings to inform policy and budgeting.

At the regional and global level, the findings can be used to monitor progress of development frameworks.

How does *Frontline* address risk reduction challenges?

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change all mandate that states and other actors need to work together to reduce risk and build communities' resilience to threats. But practitioners and policymakers face many challenges when trying to reduce risk. *Frontline* can address these gaps and constraints in the following ways:

Challenges to reducing risk	How *Frontline* addresses these challenges
Local and disaggregated data is often unavailable While there is often data on the general picture of risk in a country, detailed information on the specific local shocks and stresses in each community and how they affect different types of people is not readily available.	*Frontline* offers a credible evidence base on local risk that can be disaggregated by community, gender, age and socio-economic status.
Actors struggle to work across different sectors Many government departments and agencies are concerned with reducing risk and building resilience and sometimes it is unclear how they can work together coherently.	*Frontline* provides insights into cross-sectoral solutions.
Addressing risk in informal and fragile settings is complex Knowledge on how to address risks in informal, fragile and complex contexts is limited, and yet is more and more relevant.	*Frontline* provides insights into how to build resilience in complex real life situations.
Capacities can be limited Resilience requires different actors to work together, skills for which can sometimes be lacking.	*Frontline* builds leadership and collaborative capacities through its participatory data collection and follow-up processes.
Resources are scarce Resources for DRR are limited and, as disasters increase, supply cannot meet demand.	*Frontline* highlights where funds should be prioritised and how local resources can be better mobilised.

What's in this publication?

In this document we discuss 5 global findings from the *Frontline* programme and share stories of how collecting, reflecting, and acting on local information has built resilience around the world.

How has *Frontline* been developed?

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 worldwide. The growing network engaged in a shared action, *Views from the Frontline* (VFL). This initiative provided a local perspective of progress of the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction by undertaking interviews with community members, civil society organisations (CSOs), and representatives of local government. It reported in 2009, 2011, and 2013, and gathered over 85,000 views across 69 countries. Reviews of the process highlighted that local knowledge is an important but missing component in understanding and strengthening resilience at the decision making and policy levels. Drawing on the experiences of VFL, *Frontline* has been developed as a means of gathering and sharing local knowledge to strengthen resilience.

FINDING 1: All dimensions of risk affect people simultaneously

Frontline data reveals a wide range of threats faced locally (Figure 2). Flooding is by far the most predominant single threat. Other threats prioritised locally include climatic and geophysical threats such as droughts, landslides, earthquakes, climate change impacts and severe storms. Social and economic threats include insecurity, poverty, environmental contamination, crime and alcoholism. The data reveals 113 other threats alongside these 'headlines'.[1]
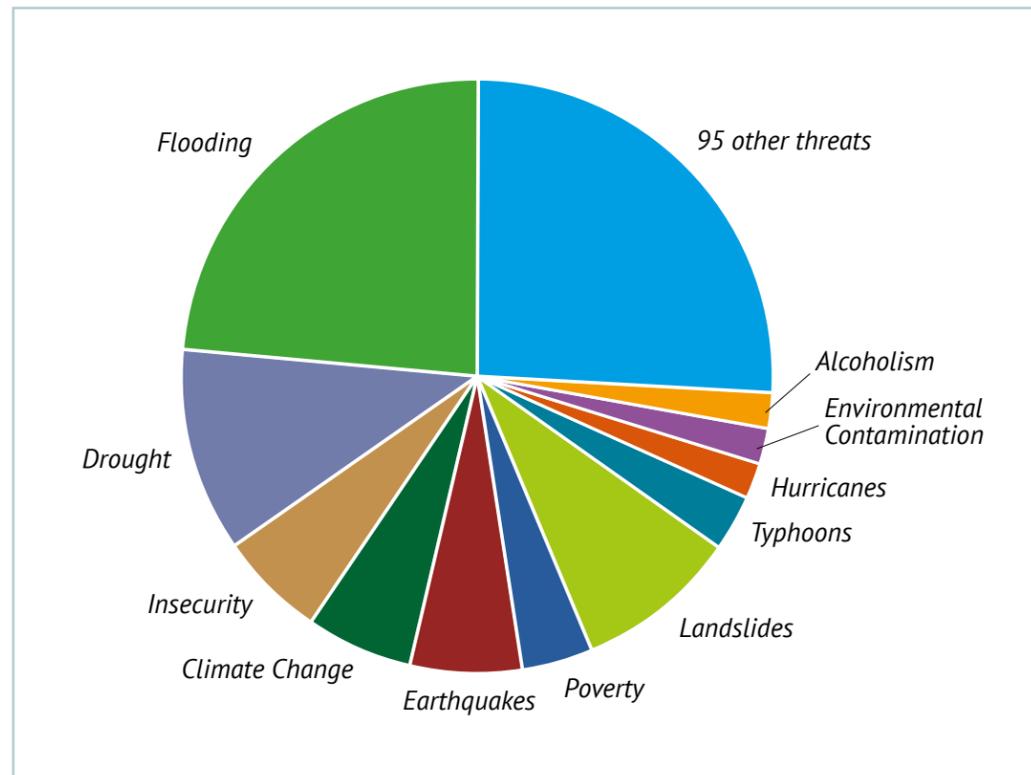
Even when focusing on particular localities, the diversity of threats still exists. Country reports talk of communities struggling to prioritise one threat, or to separate out distinct threats from one another. This emphasises the fact that people are concerned about the impact of a whole range of threats and that we need to consider multiple threats and to take integrated action to respond to them, rather than focusing on them separately.

Recommendation for policy and practice

Support integrated programmes to reduce risk that build overall resilience rather than resilience to a specific disaster.

This recommendation reinforces the SFDRR's Guiding Principle: 'Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach'.

*Figure 2: **What is the highest priority threat you face?***

95 other threats

Flooding

Drought

Insecurity

Climate Change

Earthquakes

Poverty

Landslides

Typhoons

Hurricanes

Environmental Contamination

Alcoholism

FINDING 2: Small-scale and recurring threats are prioritised

As well as the threats people face, *Frontline* also captures the consequences of those threats. Figure 3 shows the five highest priority threats and the highest priority consequences of each. Whilst loss of life is mentioned as a consequence of some threats, respondents repeatedly prioritise loss of assets including crops, livestock, housing and livelihoods, as well as health issues. These impacts are observed again and again by communities as a result of small-scale recurring threats, which are comparatively low in impact but high in frequency.

When we zoom into specific countries and communities, we see that these small-scale, recurring threats are often of most concern to members of communities. Many of the community participants decided to develop action plans to address these extensive threats, prioritising them over high impact but low frequency events.

In other words, small-scale is large-scale in local experience. However, the extent of these small-scale threats is often missed in national and global assessments and databases. According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), there were 574 disasters reported worldwide in 2015, affecting 116 countries.[2] But during a similar year-long period, GNDR's 365 Disasters Campaign collected reports from local communities of 663 different disasters across 149 countries. The majority of these were unreported small-scale threats that impacted livelihoods, as continuously raised by *Frontline* participants. Recent studies by UNISDR and Desinventar are consistent with *Frontline* findings in suggesting that many shocks and stresses result from small-scale events.[3] Indeed, UNISDR has found that 99% of disaster records are attributed to extensive risks.

Recommendation for policy and practice

Increase investment on understanding and addressing the nature and impact of 'everyday disasters'.

Considering the large proportion of affected people from small-scale disasters, this investment is essential to achieve the SFDRR expected outcome: 'The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health…'.
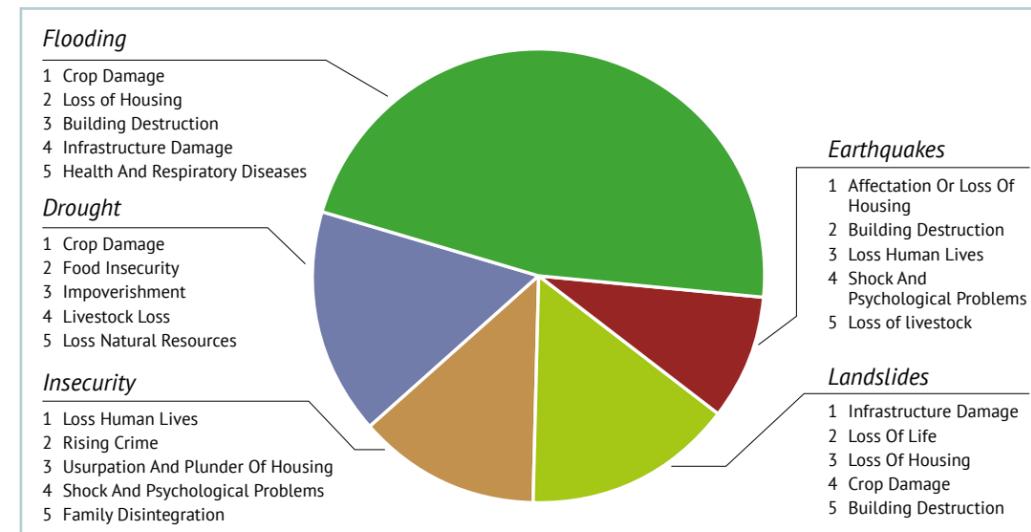
*Figure 3: **What are the highest priority consequences of the threats you face?***

Flooding
1 Crop Damage
2 Loss of Housing
3 Building Destruction
4 Infrastructure Damage
5 Health And Respiratory Diseases

Drought
1 Crop Damage
2 Food Insecurity
3 Impoverishment
4 Livestock Loss
5 Loss Natural Resources

Insecurity
1 Loss Human Lives
2 Rising Crime
3 Usurpation And Plunder Of Housing
4 Shock And Psychological Problems
5 Family Disintegration

Earthquakes
1 Affectation Or Loss Of Housing
2 Building Destruction
3 Loss Human Lives
4 Shock And Psychological Problems
5 Loss of livestock

Landslides
1 Infrastructure Damage
2 Loss Of Life
3 Loss Of Housing
4 Crop Damage
5 Building Destruction

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[1] Findings are based on a global dataset of 14,282 responses spanning Asia, Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. More information on the source data for these findings is available at www.gndr.org/frontline

[2] As reported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their World Disaster Report 2016
[3] See GAR 2015 report Chapter 4 'Extensive Risk' http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/GAR_2015/GAR_2015_91.html

FINDING 3: Disasters are a development issue

Frontline consults people on the actions they can take to reduce risks in addition to potential barriers. The highest priority actions identified globally are shown in Figure 4. Many of these are concerned with social and economic progress, addressing infrastructure, health, education, poverty reduction and community awareness. They are concerned with human development rather than just disaster preparedness and response.

Interestingly, when the *Frontline* findings on perceptions of losses in each country are compared with countries' positions in other large-scale risk and development assessments, we see stronger correlation with the Human Development Index, the World Happiness Index, and the Multidimensional Poverty Index, than with the World Risk Index. This is because the priority losses raised by communities link closely with the indices measuring development and poverty, rather than World Risk Index's focus on large-scale natural hazards which has limited exploration of complex underlying drivers of risk.

However, at global, national and local level we often observe disasters and development being addressed by different institutions, following detached frameworks, and with separate budgets. This siloed approach means that people mandated to reduce disaster impacts often do not collaborate, or are in competition, with those addressing the development issues that are exacerbating disasters.

Recommendation for policy and practice

Increase investment in addressing the underlying drivers of risk identified by local actors.

National and local governments must not tackle disaster risk in isolation, but must align targets, activities and budgets across departments working in education, public works, health and disaster management.

Donors should prioritise the funding of projects that take a holistic and cross-sectoral approach to reducing risk.

These recommendations echo the SFDRR Priority 3 emphasis on building resilience rather than just addressing disasters, and the guiding principle of 'Addressing underlying risk factors cost-effectively through investment versus relying primarily on post-disaster response and recovery'.

1
Campaigning

2
Education

3
No actions possible

4
Investment In Infrastructure and Mitigation

5
Poverty Reduction and Job Creation

6
Improving Farming Techniques

7
Intersectoral coordination of Health, Education, etc.

8
Advocacy

9
Community Awareness Raising

10
Health System Improvement

Figure 4:
Priority actions to address threats and consequences

FINDING 4: Disaster impacts are local and context specific

Frontline can zoom in from global to national, subnational and even to community level. By zooming in closely, one can observe that even areas that experience the same threats may experience very different impacts. As an example, below we zoom in to two cities in the Philippines: San Mateo in the north of the islands, and Cotabato in the south.

Both have substantial urban populations, and *Frontline* data reveals common challenges the two cities face. Both cities experience flooding as a dominant threat. They also prioritise social and economic threats including unemployment and drug abuse.

However, the communities have identified very different priority consequences of these shared threats. In San Mateo, the economic impacts caused by the floods are most critical as well as the increase in water-borne diseases. However, in Cotabato, communities are more concerned with the interruption to education caused by the floods.

As much as the impacts of threats are specific to each locality, so are the views on the actions needed. In Cotabato, the communities prioritise the clearing of waste, as this leads to clogging of drains which exacerbates flooding. However, in San Mateo the communities say the most important thing is to build the capacity of the municipal government, as the city's informal sector is growing rapidly and actors don't know how to address the complex challenges surrounding this.

Figure 5:
Comparison of two cities in the Philippines

SAN MATEO	COTABATO
URBAN POPULATION **205,255**	**271,786** URBAN POPULATION
COMMON CHALLENGES	
〰️ **FLOODS** **UNEMPLOYMENT** **DRUG ABUSE**	
IMPACTS	• Economic impacts	• Interruption of education	IMPACTS
• Water-bourne diseases		
ACTIONS NEEDED	• Build capacity of municipal government	• Clearing of waste	ACTIONS NEEDED

Recommendation for policy and practice

Local governments must be tasked and allocated the budget to develop locally specific strategies for DRR in collaboration with community members so that they are informed by communities' perspectives of the realities on the ground.

This recommendation echoes the SFDRR guiding principle: 'Accounting of local and specific characteristics of disaster risks when determining measures to reduce risk'.

FINDING 5: **Local knowledge guides effective action**

Figure 6: Recommendations emerging from the Frontline findings for building resilience in Carles, Philippines.

Frontline consults local people on actions that can be taken to reduce risk and the barriers that they are experiencing. This information can be used to identify locally specific next steps to build resilience. Looking at perspectives across a region or globally can in turn give direction for critical regional or global steps to build resilience and achieve the targets of the SFDRR, SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

An example of this is given in Figure 6 below, showing recommendations that emerged following exploration of the data in Carles in the Philippines.

THREATS

Carles is located on the northern most tip of Panay Island and has been in the path of major typhoons, one of which was Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013. As well as typhoons, communities also raised particular concerns about illegal fishing using dynamite, and disease, which communities attributed to the lack of access to health and birthing facilities or water on the isolated islands. Earthquakes and traffic accidents also dominate the islands, of which the latter was attributed to the fact that 90% of drivers do not have licences nor wear helmets.

CONSEQUENCES

Frontline respondents prioritised the loss of livelihoods caused by these threats, in particular the damage to fishing boats by typhoons. This then leads to food insecurity as people cannot source fish to eat. Damage to households and loss of lives were also discussed, in particular infant and maternal mortality.

ACTIONS

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
• Barangay-level preparedness, early warning, and pre-emptive evacuation led by the barangay council and disaster risk reduction and management offices.

SEEKING EXTERNAL SUPPORT
• Community residents look for other sources of livelihoods, and ask for support from external agents including government, NGOs, and INGOs.

SHELTER CONSTRUCTION
• Houses damaged by Typhoon Haiyan were reconstructed through the support of the municipal government and volunteerism among residents.

VILLAGE REGULATION
• Ordinances were put in place to institute proper waste disposal and segregation; prohibition and penalization of illegal fishing; and regulation in motorcycle licensing.

BARRIERS

PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS
• Some residents refuse to prepare and evacuate nor do they heed calls from barangay officials to move and secure their boats.

UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION
• Lack of coordination among agencies that provided help in 2013 (Typhoon Yolanda), led to an uneven distribution of aid within the community.

DISTANCE AND ISOLATION
• People's access to basic services such as water and medicine is difficult as these have to be accessed in the mainland. Hard to reach are their sources of living too.

LACK OF RESOURCES
• Livelihood opportunities and programs are limited. There's also deficiency in pharmaceutical resources, including supplies and stocks during typhoons.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT EMERGE

Local actors met to analyse the *Frontline* findings. Drawing on the community's suggestions for actions, and taking into account the barriers of lack of resources, distance and isolation, lack of coordination, and psychological barriers, the following recommendations for the local area emerged:

Households to create emergency "go bags". Civil society groups are advocating for the public to take up this low cost preparedness method.

Assign someone responsible for ensuring the emergency patrol operates on a regular basis. This will help people to evacuate the remote islands.

Municipal Health Office to assign a permanent midwife who will be able to attend to the needs of pregnant women on the islands during and after emergencies.

Barangay Councils to designate a taskforce that will monitor and enforce the disaster management and solid waste management activities on the islands. This coordinated enforcement will help to overcome the obstacle of residents' apathy to prepare for threats.

Barangay Local Government Units to revise their road and traffic regulations. Groups are advocating for penalties to be issued for not observing the speed limit; improper use of helmet; having more than 2 passengers per motorcycle; and driving whilst drunk.

Impact so far: using local knowledge to build resilience

After collecting the local information, civil society organisations in each country have worked with the communities to utilise this information to bring about changes in policy and practice at different levels in order to strengthen local resilience. This has been done through local action planning, advocacy, and coalition building. This section shares case studies of this work, across which we see some shared factors critical for success:

Addressing disaster risk can seem a big and costly task, out of reach of local actors, but it can be achieved if a wide range of actors are engaged from the start, including communities and different government agencies. Engaging these diverse actors from the start through collaborative workshops has been demonstrated as vital, as actors can discuss local information together and provide complementary stories from their own experiences to triangulate the findings. Such workshops ensure cross-sectoral ownership and allow for actors to identify shared objectives, joint accountability and potential collaborative actions. In some cases, the designation of clear roles and joint accountability has been ensured by the formation of networks or alliances.

The process of talking to community members to collect local knowledge generated momentum for action. Critically, the process must allow for joint reflection and not extraction. In the majority of these cases, participants of the survey were so keen to bring about change after reflecting on the threats they face that they instigated initiatives themselves. However, competing priorities and busy schedules mean that sometimes momentum can be lost and previous agreements no longer prioritised. This can be overcome with continued lobbying and awareness-raising efforts, rather than just an initial outlay into advocacy.

Despite limited resources, resilience can be built by mobilising local resources. However, all initiatives could have been scaled out and impact increased if further resources were available at the local level.

Building resilience through Community Savings Associations in Uganda

In Namabasa, Uganda, the community members identified that recurrent floods are their main priority, regularly causing losses of property, lives and crops. DENIVA, a network of indigenous populations, worked with STEP-UG to undertake the surveys and organised a community feedback session to design a local action plan. The 200+ meeting participants, which included women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, identified that a lack of local funding was holding back risk reduction actions. Therefore, as a group they decided to form two village savings associations to collect money to be used to prepare for floods in emergencies. Each Saturday when community members deliver their savings of UGX1000 (around US$0.35), they take the opportunity to chat about issues affecting the community and potential solutions. Through the savings, communities have been able to purchase seeds for storm resistant plants and plant local tree species to act as a barrier to storms.

 "We did not know that there are certain things we can do on our own to reduce disaster risks. But with training from STEP-UG and DENIVA we realised that if we planted trees we would reduce the blowing away of our roofs whenever storms come." Community member

It has further opened the minds of the community in terms of using their own local resources to respond to their day to day threats without necessarily waiting for government or development partners. With a clear plan and drawing on each other's skills, the community has been able to cause change.

Using games to change attitudes on safe construction in Indonesia

Karangwuni village in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, is not only prone to natural threats such as earthquakes, heavy rains, and ash fall from the nearby Merapi volcano. The *Frontline* surveys also highlighted that the village prioritises issues relating to the unsustainable urban development. Community discussions about these urban hazards, in addition to a groundwater level survey (conducted by Yogyakarta DRR Platform, the Disaster Management Study Centre of Pembangunan National University, and the Natural Disaster Study Centre of Gadjah Mada University), concluded that the unregulated development of apartments has led to a significant decrease in water quantity and an increase in air pollution.

The local community of Karangwuni along with Yakkum Emergency Unit, Yogyakarta DRR Platform, and the students of Indonesian Art Institute created an evidence-based campaign using art to promote zero-risk development in Yogyakarta. Amongst a range of activities, the team designed a pop-up coffee shop which sold items with names related to high risk development, such as "Bitter Coffee", which only has a dribble of water due to the water shortage. They also created an alternative monopoly game with rules on construction and building codes. With these innovative and impacting lobbying techniques, local communities and local governments have been brought together to discuss how future construction can be zero-risk.

Communities dredge river and prevent flooding in Cameroon

The Lower Motowoh community faces damaging seasonal flooding. Houses are inundated every rainy season, livelihoods are destroyed and roads are damaged, causing high levels of road accidents. The *Frontline* surveys found that the flooding is caused in part by the rivers being blocked by rubbish. This means that when rains fall, the water levels rise quickly. The surveys also highlighted another issue: that the community's frequent request for support from the local government was not heeded due to a lack of decentralised resources allocated for DRR work.

The NGO leading the *Frontline* process in Cameroon, Geotechnology, Environmental Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (GEADIRR), led a series of meetings with community members and local government to reflect on the findings from the surveys. They decided that a concrete step to reduce the impact of heavy rains would be to dredge the river of the mud and rubbish. By coming together and discussing a joint solution, the representatives from the community, the local CSOs and the local government all recognised that they had a role to play in the solution and that together they could all contribute something towards this activity. A digger was hired to open up the Njengele river waterway, clearing the course for faster water flow. As a result, in 2016, the community did not suffer floods during the last rainy season.

Women's groups protect their community from earthquake impacts in Nepal

Women in Chandragiri, Kathmandu, have demonstrated their vital role with their implementation of non-structural earthquake mitigation measures. During the *Frontline* survey, residents in Chandragiri identified earthquakes as the top threat in the community and non-structural mitigation as one of the priority actions that has to be implemented. A group of women who had previously been trained by the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) to protect their own homes using non-structural approaches, such as screwing cupboards, photo frames and their fridges to the wall, were mobilised by NSET to implement their skills across the community. Now, they are implementing the mitigation measures in their locality as well as outside their community, including in 10 different schools across Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur and a hospital.

Not only has this initiative been a step towards achieving a safer community, but it has boosted women's confidence and empowered them with important new technical skills and new leadership roles in their community. Furthermore, the demonstration of these skills has led to women being engaged in new income-generating activities outside of the standard handicraft work.

Advancing small island resilience by working across sectors and boundaries in the Philippines

The Gigantes Islands, found in the municipality of Carles, is vulnerable to various hydro-meteorological hazards such as typhoons, as well as socio-economic threats such as unsafe livelihood activities and a lack of access to health and birthing facilities as a result of poverty.

Through the leadership of UP Visayas Foundation and the Centre for Disaster Preparedness, *Frontline* has contributed to enhancing the implementation of the RISE Gigantes Project, a post-Typhoon Yolanda rehabilitation intervention for the islands. The inclusive risk profiling revealed shared underlying drivers of risk across the islands, such as unsustainable tourism, illegal fishing, and an unregulated transport sector. To help Gigantes address these development issues, a Convergence Strategy was designed to develop a clear division of responsibilities among stakeholders, reduce duplication and address gaps in coverage and quality, and gauge the extent to which needs are being met collectively. One of the main outcomes has been the formation of the Island Sustainable Development Alliance Inc., an umbrella organisation of 12 community-based groups in Gigantes working together to undertake participatory risk assessments, capacity building, and natural resource management.

Embracing a collective approach paved the way for dialogues and good relationships, resource mobilisation, and shared responsibility among stakeholders. It also helped strengthen governance mechanisms, evidenced by the support of local leaders and the inclusion of key sectors in local governance processes. Diverse priorities and coordination mechanisms meant that consolidating the barangay development councils was sometimes a challenge; however, the actors were helped to see their shared aims and joint accountability, and are now clear that the benefits of convergence are worth replicating.

Raising stone barriers together to boost agricultural production in Senegal

The *Frontline* project found that disease and flooding are the two major threats for the Kolda community in Senegal. The population has always faced a high degree of climate variability and over the last two decades, Senegal has seen temperature rises, variable rainfall and an increase in extreme events due to climate change. This has put additional pressure on agricultural production and the already degraded natural resources in communities within the area. Increased temperature reduces the humus content of soils due to faster mineralisation. Further losses of fertile topsoil occur through water and wind erosion. Degraded soils infiltrate less water, have lower water storage capacities and produce less food and fodder. Restoring soils, improving soil fertility and enhancing water availability therefore increases and stabilises agricultural production.

During the *Frontline* consultations, local community members agreed to mobilise themselves to local action and learning, using traditional knowledge to build their resilience to floods and soil erosion by erecting stonewalls around farmlands they feel are vulnerable to floods and soil erosion. These stone walls act as permeable structures that act like a filter, trapping waterborne sediment and organic matter. The local technology has had positive environmental impacts. Degraded lands have been rehabilitated, crop yields have increased in the communities where the walls were constructed, and the entire *Frontline* process has resulted in increased attention to land use planning and the environment by villages. Ongoing awareness-raising efforts by the lead organisation, Shalom International, were also critical to ensure farmers' continued participation.

Empowering communities in Nigeria to protect themselves from floods

Gbekuba community is one of the most flood-prone areas in Ido, Nigeria. In June 2016, the flooding was particularly devastating, leading to loss of lives and damage to properties. Livelihoods were also seriously affected and there were significant socio-economic impacts in the community. The *Frontline* survey found that 43% of respondents thought that recurrent flooding is the priority threat faced by their community. Community respondents said a critical action needed was to raise awareness of the ways that the flood impacts can be reduced in communities and awareness of citizen rights before, during and after emergencies. The Centre for Disaster Risk and Crisis Reduction (CDRCR) therefore organised a meeting for communities and CSOs to design a campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of the recurrent floods and the ways that the risk can be reduced.

As part of the campaign, impacting flyers were shared that highlighted the steps to take before, during and after a flood. Community members went from door to door informing their neighbours about simple steps they could take to reduce damage, and a rally was held to draw attention to the responsibilities of government departments who can help during disasters. As a result, residents have developed personal contingency plans, organised local flood response teams tasked with providing the government with information before upcoming floods, and built relationships with different actors dealing with flood management. Sometimes it was difficult to hold meetings and open door rallies, so they often had to be flexible to adapt to changing situations.

Kenyan civil society join hands to address drought, deforestation and insecurity

Action for Sustainable Change Kenya (AFOSC Kenya) organised a community meeting in Mandera West County to discuss how to address identified threats through local action and advocacy. Local communities were sensitised on the outcomes of the *Frontline* survey and mobilised to conduct low-cost, feasible actions to build resilience to disasters. Local coalitions composed of women and youth groups and community-based organisations were established to build a movement for change at the sub-county level. These groups, with the support of AFOSC Kenya, undertook lobbying efforts targeted at the County officials, local Members of Parliament and other stakeholders to raise awareness on local disasters using the evidence generated in the *Frontline* Survey. This included seminars, 'peace caravans', and live talk shows. The efforts to build a network at the sub-County level were later expanded to build a nationwide network for change, when 14 Civil Society Organisations were mobilised to define priority disaster events and a joint advocacy plan to bring realistic and desired change.

Formation of Local DRR Committees to address underlying drivers of risk in the Dominican Republic

Faced with the impact of flooding, the Dominican Republic has created national, sectoral and local emergency plans. The challenge is that beyond emergency response, many of the consequences of flooding at the local level reflect issues of pollution, waste management and vulnerability resulting from poverty, and plans have not been developed to address these consequences. *Frontline* findings suggest a lack of coordination by both local authorities and local communities, and propose local action to strengthen awareness, collaboration and coordination. As a result of these findings and recommendations, meetings have been organised by Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID), a national NGO, to bring together communities, leaders and local authorities. Local Disaster Risk Reduction committees are being formed, which are identifying laws and policies which can be used to improve local risk reduction. While large disasters, such as the mudslides and floods which struck Jimani in 2004, attract national response, recent *Frontline* findings suggest that localised threats, for example water pollution in the Jimani urban area, are a more regular concern. It is these locally specific threats that the Committees intend to address.

Next steps to scale up impact

The *Frontline* project has highlighted how local knowledge and capacities are critical to effectively build resilience, a desired outcome shared by all the post-2015 frameworks.

We have stories of how the process of gathering, reflecting and acting on local knowledge can lead to changes in policy and practice towards addressing underlying drivers of risk. These stories have demonstrated the value of collaboration between communities and governments in the design of policies, plans and actions to build resilience. By working with local actors, governments have ensured their investments were value for money. Without identifying local priorities and working with local actors, actions may be inappropriate, ineffective, and an inefficient use of resources.

This impact can be achieved with limited resources, as seen in the stories shared from around the world in this publication. However, more resources are needed to scale out these impacts and to invest in systematic collaboration in countries.

What are we planning to do now?

Capture more learning. GNDR and its members will continue to share further case studies of how local actors can work together to successfully build resilience to the threats prioritised by communities. To explore the data yourself and the stories of impact so far please see **www.gndr.org/frontline**

Evaluate community-based DRR initiatives and build capacities of actors to scale out sustainable approaches. GNDR now plans to
work with its partners to analyse how community-based DRR initiatives can be scaled out sustainably, build capacities to implement community-based DRR approaches, and advocate for changes in policy and practice towards more sustainable CBDRR.

Launch our *Views from the Frontline* 2017. Learning from the *Frontline* programme, *Views from the Frontline* 2017 will monitor the extent to which local actors are included in the resilience process at the local level, and the extent to which an enabling environment for this collaboration is created at the national level. It will mobilise our network to utilise the same reflection-orientated process as *Frontline*. It will be piloted in a small selection of countries, and GNDR then aims to roll out the monitoring in up to 50 countries worldwide. If you are interested in supporting this local monitoring programme then please contact GNDR at **info@gndr.org**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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