

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22





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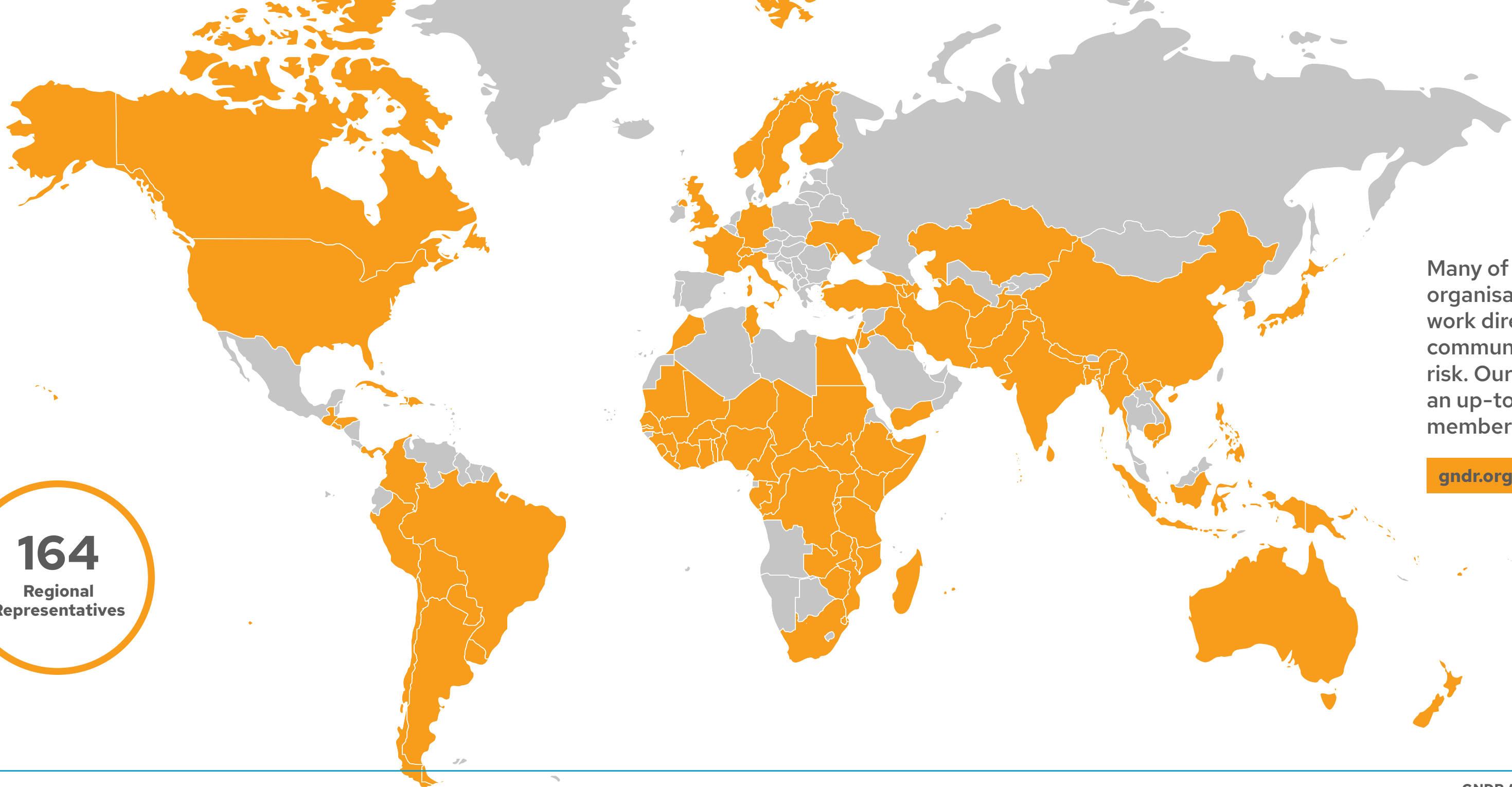
PEOPLE

58



A global network

We are the largest international network of civil society organisations working together to strengthen the resilience of communities most at risk of disasters.



Many of our member organisations work directly with communities most at risk. Our website has an up-to-date list of all members.

gndr.org/directory



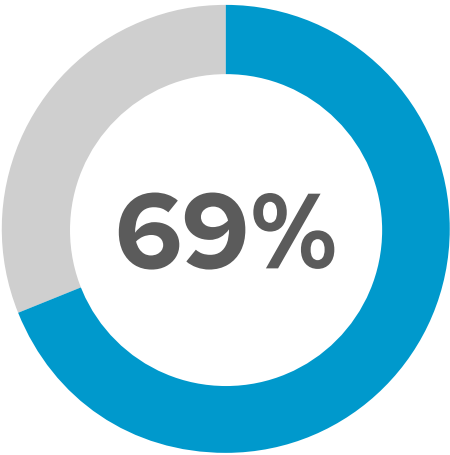
OUR VISION

Photo: UNDRR/Homeline Media

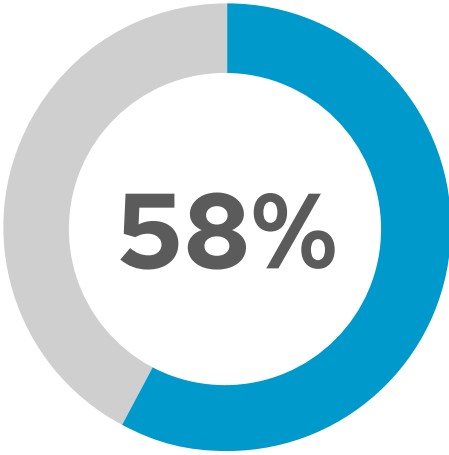
A world in which everyone works together to strengthen the resilience of people most at risk and prevent hazards from becoming disasters.

gndr.org/strategy

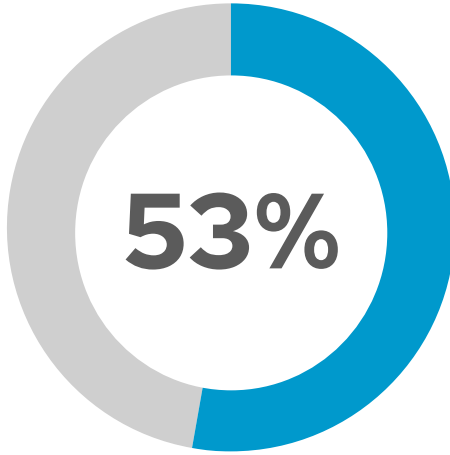
Our year in numbers



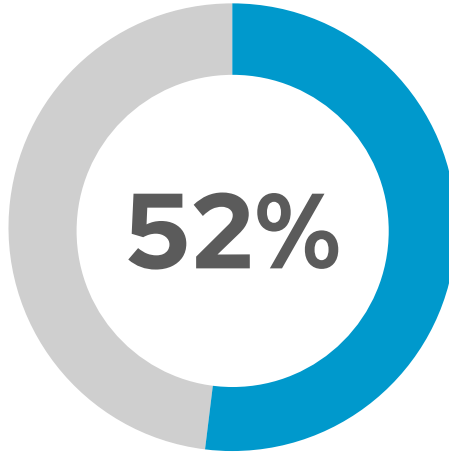
Members agree that GNDR has increased their understanding of the benefits of collaboration.



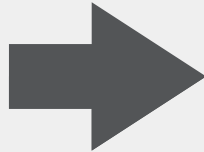
Members agree that GNDR ensures that it is accountable to local communities most at risk and challenges others to do the same.



Members agree that GNDR has increased their organisation's knowledge on how to do risk-informed development.

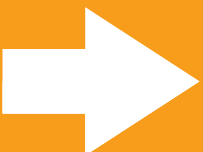


Members agree that capacity strengthening opportunities have increased their organisation's capacity to lead.



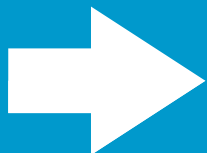
104

Members took part in our local leadership academy



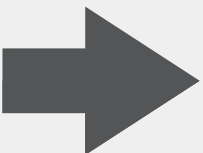
60

Members joined our women's mentorship programme



690

Communities in 48 countries are now working with civil society organisations to take action to build resilience



102

Members were tasked with advocating to their governments for both immediate and long-term solutions to climate change

Our principles

At the heart of the growing local, national and international influence of our members are seven guiding principles.

1

Include all groups

Ensure the inclusion of all groups, particularly those most at risk

2

Promote gender equality

Implement gender-transformative approaches

3

Partner and collaborate

Work with and across all groups and levels to pursue the interests of people at risk

4

Start at the local level

Recognise the local context and understand community perspectives of risk

5

Mobilise different resources

Share resources, build on existing capacities, knowledge and other sources of resilience

6

Align policies with practices

Ensure coherence across disaster risk reduction, climate change and other development frameworks and activities

7

Be accountable to local communities most at risk

Ensure that we are accountable and challenge others to do the same

Our roles

A core strength of our network is the diversity of experience and expertise that members bring.



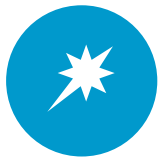
Amplifier

We mobilise, we harness local voices and we use our collective influence to lobby and campaign for the needs and priorities of people most at risk.



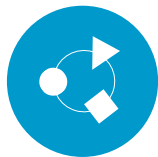
Capacity strengthener

We strengthen capacities and capabilities through member-to-member and member-to-partner support.



Catalyst

We spark action and energy across and beyond this movement of civil society organisations to speed up an all-society approach for resilience; we facilitate and support local action by working in solidarity with people most at risk.



Convenor

We develop and strengthen relationships and partnerships by connecting local, national and international actors, working across different levels, agendas and frameworks.



Reporter

We strive to ensure greater accountability and transparency through monitoring, reporting and evaluating local-level progress.



Thought Leader

We research, gather, generate and share knowledge, including indigenous expertise and innovations.

Introduction

Over the last year our network has grown to over 1,400 civil society organisations in 127 countries.

Globally we have 164 regional and national volunteer representatives who coordinate our collective efforts to build local leadership for global impact. Collaboration over competition has been at the heart of our recent successes. Members have come together to advocate for policy changes, implement projects and mutually build their capacities to deliver our five-year strategy.

For example, in Indonesia members are co-researching low-cost technology solutions to build local resilience. In Africa, members have submitted joint funding proposals together. And in Latin America and the Caribbean, members have together advocated for risk-informed development – as one voice – at regional platforms for disaster risk reduction.

Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in many countries, our flagship projects have been able to deliver real change on the ground. In the final phase of our *Views from the Frontline* project, 690 communities in 48 countries worked with civil society organisations to build resilience.

Locally led initiatives include everything from developing early warning systems and reforestation projects, to conflict management and sharing climate-resilient agricultural practices – all of which have directly fed into our policy influencing work, together, at the local, regional and global levels.

2021-22 has been a strong year for our research and communications. In January, we published our new, comprehensive guide to risk-informed development for civil society organisations and communities most at risk. In April, after completing surveys with nearly 5,000 displaced people, we launched our global report on forced displacement which set out ways forward to address displacement from the perspective of those most at risk. And marking 15 years since our establishment in 2007, we launched a new GNDR brand and website in order to position ourselves as a leading, professional network advocating for risk-informed development and localisation.

Our advocacy work has been at the forefront of achievements this year. Members and secretariat staff collaboratively championed the inclusion of local voices at COP26 and other international conferences. Members have also been working at the national level to advocate for the inclusion of at-risk communities in resilience building plans and projects, with notable successes in Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Of course, the strength of our network comes from the actions, expertise and commitment of GNDR member organisations around the world. And as we move forward together we will continue to build our collective power and solidarity. We will bring the voices of communities most at risk to more global conversations and we will champion the role of local leaders, particularly women, in shaping and delivering risk-informed development for all – in practice, evidence and policy.

Graciela Salaberri
Chair of the Global Board

Peter Curran
Chair of Trustees



GOAL 1



Strengthen
the collaboration,
solidarity and
mobilisation of
civil society
organisations

Photo: Jjumba Martiny/GNDR

**We must continuously
re-energise and harness
the commitment and
dynamism that members
bring to the work they do.**

National coordination meetings give GNDR member organisations the opportunity to network, collaborate and share knowledge as they deliver our global strategy in their country.

Members develop action plans, often focused on national advocacy, with the aim of shifting power to local communities. In 2021-22, 43 national coordination meetings were held across all of our global regions.

This year at each meeting members were given bespoke capacity strengthening on risk-informed development using our new guide and toolkit. These local and national civil society organisations now have practical skills to engage in transformative planning processes with communities most at risk. Knowledge of how to do risk-informed development is also being passed directly on to communities: a number of members in Tanzania and Zimbabwe are now skilled trainers and are leading training sessions with the communities they work directly with.

Member to member support

In Bangladesh, members jointly piloted a membership capacity and needs assessment to identify skills gaps amongst members and capacity building resources available within their country. By mapping needs and resources they aim to facilitate future member-to-member capacity strengthening. National focal points from other countries have since recognised the value of this assessment and will be using the format to undertake similar assessments in their respective countries.

Advocating for risk-informed development

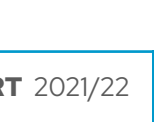
In the Philippines, members have moved from quarterly to monthly meetings and now have a more structured approach to coordination, communication strategies, sharing of expertise, and pooling of resources. They have planned initiatives to advocate for risk-informed development ahead of a meeting with the national Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Office to ensure the mainstreaming of DRR in local action.

National collaboration plans have been developed by members in Indonesia, Kiribati, and the Philippines. In Kiribati, members have agreed on a practical, joint-action plan on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The plan includes training for members on composting and food preservation techniques, as well as advocating for a seawall to be built to prevent coastal erosion.

In the Philippines members are advocating for a seawall to be built to prevent coastal erosion.

In Indonesia, members are working on joint initiatives such as: research on low-cost technology solutions to reduce disaster risk; workshops on risk-informed development for DRR actors and village-level facilitators; plus advocacy at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022.

National coordination meetings are not just about members coming together – government representatives, private sector and other CSOs are invited, which help civil society to strengthen collaboration and coordination across all stakeholders. After attending the national coordination meeting in Papua New Guinea, the Ministry of Community Development & Religion invited the GNDR national representative to attend a consultative meeting on DRR and resilience planning. National collaboration plans have been developed in Peru, Chile and Bolivia involving not only GNDR members but also local authorities, faith-based organisations, the private sector and other key stakeholders.



Regional advisory groups

In each region of the world nationally elected or appointed representatives come together in regional advisory groups to convene activities in their region.

In 2021-22, 44 regional meetings were held by members around the world. Regional implementation plans were developed by each group with the aim of facilitating collaboration and solidarity amongst members.

In East & South East Asia, the regional group focused on member-to-member support. A webinar on community-led innovation was delivered by YAKKUM Emergency Unit, Indonesia, and the Centre for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines, who shared recent learning and best practice on risk-informed development. Orientation was also provided to members in the region on how to access funding from the Global Environment Facility CSO network.

Members in Europe developed a European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction joint statement, which received positive feedback from UNDRR Europe. And in the Pacific, the regional group conducted networking events to strengthen relationships for future collaboration.

Following training on risk-informed development planning across East, West, Central and Southern Africa, members in Zimbabwe have now submitted new funding proposals for joint projects. "Being part of the regional advisory group was incredibly useful," said Fatou Goundo Sissoko, a national representative. "It has developed my competencies in leadership, strengthened my knowledge in DRR, and offered several opportunities at the national level."

“Being part of the regional advisory group has developed my competencies in leadership and strengthened my knowledge of DRR.”

Building new regional partnerships

As an outcome of these regional meetings, GNDR has collaborated with key stakeholders and networks in different regions to take forward our goals of localisation and risk-informed development. For example, during the Asia Pacific Climate Week, members collaborated with the World Food Programme (WFP) in India to conduct an official side event. As a result, GNDR and WFP developed a joint statement with key actions that are needed to build resilience for food and water security in the region.

Members in Asia & Pacific collaborated with the Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), to conduct the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Action for Asia & Pacific. Members provided input on the civil society organisations’ (CSO) stakeholder statement for the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk

Reduction, and conducted a stakeholder workshop to gather input from CSOs on the Asia-Pacific Action Plan. Members also collaborated with the ADRRN Innovation Hub to conduct a series of workshops for project partners on developing innovative solutions at the community level.

Regional advisory group members from Chile, Mexico and the Dominican Republic spoke at the UNDRR Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in November 2021. The GNDR team led high-level discussions, side events and also a parallel event on social protection mechanisms during Covid-19 from the perspective of CSOs.



Local leadership academy

Between September and March we ran a local leadership academy to build the capacity of members on topics including localisation, risk-informed development, and financial and project management.

Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, we delivered seven thematic webinars, 10 technical workshops, and produced 26 short videos to support self-paced learning. The academy topics were chosen by members through our annual membership survey, and delivered in English with French and Spanish interpretation.

Technical workshops

104 members attended our workshops on safeguarding, fundraising, project management, theory of change and financial management. The programme received very positive feedback from members. “In my organisation there was no consolidated budget for the fiscal year 2021,” reported one participant. “I have now prepared that budget right after the workshop. I also have expertise in cash-flow preparation and now I am preparing the cash flow for the next fiscal year 2022 with a clear donor grid.”

The fundraising workshop covered issues such as why applications fail, tips for submitting successful applications, types of funding and donors, consortia building, and the key elements of a proposal focussed on the logical framework and budget. 46 participants – selected through an application process – attended.

This training has equipped members from civil society organisations with the confidence and understanding to approach donors to ask for funding directly. They can now mobilise different resources and participate in joint bids led by the GNDR secretariat or a consortium of NGOs. “The learning enabled me to respond to a proposal request with only 48 hours to the deadline,” said one participant. “I wrote the proposal and we got the grant to implement 16 days of activism in 2021.”

Thematic webinars

Over the course of seven webinars, members learnt about localisation and resilience building in the context of six key drivers of risk: climate change, conflict, forced displacement, food and water insecurity, gender and urbanisation. Up to 140 members attended each session.

Resources, tools and guides produced by GNDR and other leading sector experts enabled members to learn from current developments in each thematic area. Responding to a post-event survey, one participant said: “I have prepared a village-level risk reduction plan by using the techniques discussed during the session. For example, I have used secondary data to assess risks in particular locations; quickly identified key issues facing communities using the rapid assessment tool; and used participatory data collection tools for programme planning.”

South-South collaboration

As well as building local-level knowledge and skills, the local leadership academy offered opportunities for civil society organisations to collaborate and share on-the-ground experiences in different contexts. “The webinar was useful for cross-fertilisation of regional experiences and grassroots capacity building,” said a participant from Coordination of Afghan Relief, a GNDR member organisation. “It was the best example of South-South technical cooperation. Even though these are small steps, they are locally sustainable.”

Recordings of all webinars, as well as edited videos of the workshops are available for independent learners on our Youtube channel with French and Spanish subtitles. We will also use these online resources and the local leadership academy format as a flagship capacity strengthening approach going forward.



Communities lead flood risk reduction in Uganda

Smallholder farmers in Kijuguta, western Uganda, have been given practical skills to restore wetlands and challenge local authorities to support flood risk reduction measures.

The community of Kijuguta regularly faces the threat of floods during the rainy season – particularly in farmland areas near the wetlands of the main river. The risk is compounded because harmful waste is frequently dumped into the river and along its banks.

In order to increase community knowledge and understanding of flood control, a sensitisation workshop on wetland restoration and water catchment management was conducted by Africa Disaster Reduction Research & Emergency Missions, our local implementing partner. The workshop was attended by 350 people – including local council chairpersons, church leaders and community members. Skills were shared in wetland conservation, flood management, waste disposal, the dangers of misusing wetland areas, and measures that can be put in place to restore the environment.

Participants also gained skills in the construction of trenches and opening up

riverbanks – as a means to minimise the impact of riverbanks encroaching on farmland. As a result of the training, local wetland areas have seen a reduction in the dumping of harmful waste. The use of artificial fertilisers in farming plots has declined – reducing the harm to aquatic organisms. The growing of crops close to the river’s edge has also ceased.

“I have been trained on DRR and have acquired knowledge and skills on wetland conservation,” says community member Catherine Ninsiima. “For example, flood control and waste management, which I am now teaching to other community members.” Empowered by the success of their efforts, the community advocated for municipal authorities to set up garbage collection centres. Their demands have been met: 100 garbage collection centres have now been established.

In addition, the Kijuguta community has formed a village savings and loans association that will provide financial

We are empowering communities to apply local methods to manage risks and threats like flooding.

support to 55 members during floods. The local council chairperson and church leader are now encouraging nearby communities to form similar saving groups to support residents during disasters.



Photo: Jjumba Martin/GNDR



GOAL 2

Champion
a localisation
movement

**Communities most at risk
must be enabled to participate,
influence and take decisions
on risk-informed development.**

Photo: Etinosa Yvonne/GNDR

In order to develop a stronger understanding of localisation in practice across our network we commissioned a new piece of research to understand the benefits of localisation, how it can be measured and where it is currently being implemented.

Sustainable development can't be achieved without local level leadership. For GNDR, localisation does not solely focus on channelling humanitarian assistance funds to local actors. It refers to structural changes and empowerment at the local, national and international levels, where local actors (local authorities, CSOs, small businesses and communities most at risk) have the capacity, resources and power they need to decide how to strengthen their own resilience.

Our new research was informed by surveys with 55 members across nine countries: Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Togo, Zimbabwe, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. We interviewed representatives from both national and local level organisations. Respondents were asked about the dimensions of localisation in their country or community, what they thought the drivers of successful localisation are, and examples of good

practice. We then used the results of the interviews to develop a normative framework for localisation.

The framework outlines the key dimensions and components of localisation, including finance and resources, policy regulation, culture and people, partnerships and collaboration, organisational capabilities, and knowledge and information.

Local actors can use this new tool to analyse the current environment and advocate for changes that will strengthen localisation and the governance mechanisms in their country.

Practical tools to measure localisation

Based on these core dimensions we created an assessment tool to support civil society organisations to assess whether an enabling environment for localisation exists in their country. A set of qualitative proxy performance indicators enable civil society to monitor the functions of government actors operating at the national level. Performance against each indicator can be assessed using a three-point traffic light system to indicate the level of progress being made.

Local actors can use this new tool to analyse the current environment and advocate for changes that will strengthen localisation and the governance mechanisms in their country. By sharing this knowledge more widely we aim to

bring a deeper understanding of the critical issues of localisation, as well as appropriate courses of action to give local actors the capacity, resources and power to build their own resilience.

The research report will support our development as a global network and includes recommendations as to how GNDR can develop in its six core roles of catalyst, reporter, amplifier, capacity strengthener, convenor and thought leader.



Urban living labs

Urban living labs are giving displaced people in four continents opportunities to develop their own solutions to the challenges they face.

Over a quarter of displaced people we surveyed in 11 countries have reported that poverty or unemployment are the biggest threats they face. Our findings show that people displaced for longer periods are particularly concerned with their economic security. We're now working with many of them to improve their financial situation through capacity building, economic empowerment and strengthening collaboration.

Improving livelihoods in Iraq

In Iraq, a group of internally displaced people have begun growing strawberries on the roofs of their homes. Early results are promising. Displaced families have used the income from selling the surplus fruit to buy other foods and pay for services like clean water and healthcare. Some have also diversified by growing other vegetables in greenhouses. One displaced woman said:

"Working in the greenhouse every day has given me great satisfaction as now the harvest time has arrived. It was very nice for me to work to raise the standard of living of the family."

This initiative is one of many taking place as part of our *Making Displacement Safer* project, funded by USAID. Over the last year nearly 5,000 displaced persons have participated in research, action and advocacy initiatives. Local civil society organisations are now facilitating local action that is accountable to communities most at risk.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration

The income generating initiative in Iraq was one of a number of projects that were developed following an urban living labs approach. Instead of forcing top-down solutions onto communities, this process

is highly participatory and brings together key stakeholders to identify, plan and implement solutions. In short, displaced persons can lead decisions to create sustainable outcomes.

Coordinated by GNDR, our members received capacity strengthening on how to establish urban living labs from Urbano Fra Paleo (University of Extremadura, Spain) and also skills in supporting community-led innovation from the Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network. Following the training, our member organisation in Iraq brought together government representatives, NGOs and members of the displaced community to develop a way to rebuild livelihoods. From here the idea to grow strawberries and increase incomes was developed.

Nearly 5,000 displaced persons have participated in research, action and advocacy initiatives.

The value of this approach is that decisions are taken by displaced persons. "Any decision should come from the internally displaced persons themselves," our member in Iraq says. "And not be imposed upon them."

The urban living labs approach we've piloted in Iraq and 10 other countries will be developed into new, practical resources in the coming year and shared with our global network. It's all part of our strategy to strengthen localisation and deliver risk-informed development.





Women's mentorship programme

Our women's mentorship programme builds leadership capacities and strengthens the collaboration between women working in disaster risk reduction.

The initiative was developed as part of our *Local Leadership for Global Impact* project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). As well as learning from each other, the women share experiences and lessons learned among different global regions.

60 women have taken part so far - with an equal number of participants from our three global regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The structure of the programme follows six core modules covering a range of tools and topics. Attendees were initially introduced to the foundations of gender-transformative leadership and how they can lead with confidence as individuals. The next set of modules focused on collaboration by developing skills in negotiation and networking. Another core section of the programme will focus on dealing with sexual harassment and other gender problems faced at the local level. The final module outlines a gender approach to disaster risk reduction.

The programme draws largely upon *A Gender-Transformative Leadership: A Participatory Toolkit for Health Workers* by J H Piego. Modules were delivered online in English, French and Spanish.

In order to develop continuous improvement in the programme, evaluations and feedback sessions were regularly undertaken to measure comprehension levels; the value of the content to participants; to improve and vary the information provided; and to include new ideas and suggestions. The first cohort of attendees are scheduled to complete the programme in June 2023.

Photo: Sarika Gulati/GNDR



Community-led action to build resilience

In the final phase of our *Views from the Frontline* project 690 communities in 48 countries are working with civil society organisations to build resilience.

Locally led initiatives undertaken this year cover a wide spectrum including: developing early warning systems; making shelters disaster-resilient; eco-based activities such as reforestation; conflict management; addressing issues of water insecurity through water management; enhancing the employability of young people with vocational skills; increasing the knowledge of farmers on climate-resilient agriculture practices; and household-level approaches to disaster preparedness.

Each community project has been designed and planned based on the results of surveys with people in the locality who are most at risk. The process of developing each plan has fostered collaborative mechanisms at the local level between government, civil society organisations and community members to collectively address the consequences of threats to people's lives and livelihoods. The success of these community-led plans and projects has shown the value of local leadership.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, villagers have been able to use their *Views from the Frontline* survey responses to directly analyse disaster risk in their community. They face threats such as floods, typhoons, drought and landslides. After analysing their risks and vulnerabilities they came up with several proposals to address their challenges, for example: the adoption of resilient agricultural farming techniques; building water traps; awareness workshops on environmental conservation; community sensitisation sessions on disaster preparedness; and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

Local leaders have since shared their findings and proposals with the local government ahead of Musrenbang – the government's formal process to engage citizens in planning and budgeting. The input provided will now inform the formulation of an official six-year development planning document at the village level. These communities

are now actively participating in, and providing evidence-based information to governments in order to address the threats they face.

Kyrgyzstan

Communities in Kyrgyzstan have identified water scarcity and landslides as key threats. Their surveys also revealed a lack of local socio-economic initiatives to address disaster reduction and unemployment.

These communities have now identified activities to address their concerns including the rehabilitation of a water pipeline to improve access to clean drinking water, and a tree planting programme to reduce landslides and mudflows. Local leaders have also engaged the wider community in the assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring of disaster risks.

Views from the Frontline surveys have given communities the evidence they need to secure meetings with local government officials. Several meetings have been undertaken between community leaders and government representatives to get their support in the implementation of local action plans. Local leaders now have a better understanding of how to address the risks and vulnerabilities communities face on a daily basis.

India

Views from the Frontline surveys in 15 communities in India identified floods, drought and Covid-19 as major threats. The findings also indicated a lack of community engagement in the assessment, planning and implementation of actions by local governments to address disaster risks. The communities have since identified activities to build resilience, including capacity strengthening on how to manage

floods, droughts, fires, heavy rainfall and Covid-19. In some communities they have also formed disaster preparedness committees and created contingency plans. Several awareness raising sessions were also undertaken with residents to help clarify their role in government planning and implementation. The outcome of these has been new community plans that were approved and endorsed by locally elected village authorities. Findings from *Views from the Frontline* have also fed directly into regional and global policy influencing spaces.



Mobilising resources for climate-resilient homes

Improving the quality of housing among vulnerable families in Fiji is considered a key adaptation strategy by communities, government and local actors.

Community members in Beteki settlement in Lovu Seaside live along the riverbank and are often hit with flooding when there is heavy rainfall, and their poorly built houses are frequently destroyed during cyclones. Many people live below the poverty line and often do not have the financial means to rebuild their homes after disasters. Senior citizens, women and young children are often the hardest hit.

After formally consulting with community members, FRIEND, our *Views from the Frontline* implementing partner in Fiji, concluded that constructing safe and durable houses was a key priority to reduce risk. The project was implemented collaboratively: the partner organisation’s team supported the community to collect the materials needed and employed a carpenter. Together they nailed down roofing irons and patched holes that could cause rainwater leakages. In total, 36 residents worked alongside the carpenter and learnt how to strengthen building structures. 13 homes were improved.

Since the implementation of the project in Beteki, the inhabitants have reported that they feel better prepared in the face of hazards and more secure in their homes. Awareness of the importance of building disaster-resilient structures has also increased and is expected to help reduce the impact of future disasters.

“The consultation and awareness planning session motivated and empowered community members to work towards other actions to prepare for disasters,” said community leader, Imran Ali.

Disaster management has now become institutionalised at the community level: community leaders have since taken it upon themselves to map the different threats that people face in their neighbourhoods, and develop evacuation strategies and risk mitigation approaches for each type of disaster.



Photo: FRIEND

The community now realises that development is in their hands and they are responsible for community safety.



GOAL 3

Strive for
risk-informed
development



Photo: Jjumba Martin/GNDR

**Sustainable development
can only be achieved when
local risk is fully understood.**

Climate change advocacy

At COP26 we called for international decision-makers to give greater attention to loss and damage, gender equality and inclusion, and climate finance.

National governments – the primary decision-makers for climate action – met in Scotland from 31 October to 12 November 2021 with the aim of reaching an agreement on how to tackle climate change. Ahead of the annual event we published a new policy paper, informed by our network members, which set out how progress can be made at this critical crossroads in the international climate negotiations.

At the national level, GNDR members in 102 countries were tasked with advocating to their governments for both immediate and long-term solutions to climate change, for example by localising early warning systems and increasing data collection and exchange for risk-informed development. Members approached government departments with responsibility for addressing climate change to advocate for the recognition of climate-related loss and damage at COP26.

Secretariat staff and 14 members at COP26 collectively lobbied leaders to adopt fair, effective, and just approaches to tackle both the real causes of climate change, and the impact that rising temperatures are already having on communities most at risk. Members at the event were supported to connect with their government, and championed the need to listen to local voices and the lived realities of those on the front line of risk in multiple side events and influencing spaces.

We led a very successful official side event at the Resilience Hub called *Locally-led Solutions to DRR and Anticipatory Action: Challenges, Lessons Learned and Ideas for Scaling Up*. Becky Murphy, Policy Lead, moderated the event, and Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, spoke about how anticipatory action can be scaled up and institutionalised. Local action on climate adaptation, resilience building, and anticipatory action was showcased by panellists, including representatives

from UNOCHA, Kenya Red Cross, BBC Media Action, USAID, a government representative from Madagascar, and Youth Development Organisation, Cameroon.

We also fed directly into the new USAID strategy in another side event to ensure localisation, women leadership and risk-informed development is integrated into all climate resilient programming.

Nature-based solutions

Secretariat staff and members attended the climate event in Glasgow both in-person and online. Shivangi Chavda, our Senior Regional Lead for Asia gave a presentation on why nature-based solutions are crucial for addressing climate change and building resilience. She highlighted that ecosystems are often underutilised solutions to the challenges created by disaster risk and climate change - as evidenced by the findings in our *Views from the Frontline* global report.

Conflict and climate change

Adessou Kossivi, our Acting Regional Lead for Africa spoke at the UNDRR and GNDR co-organised official side event called *Scaling Up Comprehensive Risk Management for Resilience* at COP26. He highlighted how climate change is causing an increased level of conflict in many regions as a result of increased food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. Young people in particular are finding it hard to find hope for the future and are turning to violence in some communities. Adessou called for coherence between reality and policy, and the need to listen to local perspectives, especially those of women, when designing policy.

Prior to COP26, we also met with the Swedish Government as part of our efforts to advocate on the topic of loss and damage to the EU. After our success at this year's climate conference, we will continue to mobilise civil society organisations in

the run up to COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2022. Specifically, we aim to take our eight call to action messages to COP27 and champion localisation, risk-informed decision making, and the role of civil society in the loss and damage and adaptation debate. We will spotlight local stories and the lived experiences of those on the front line of risk and the compounding impact of climate change risk across all of our risk driver areas.



Making displacement safer

In spring 2022 we launched our global report on forced displacement. Our six major findings highlight critical issues faced by displaced persons living in urban areas and aim to influence policy towards durable solutions.

The report found that 69% of displaced persons continue to be affected by disasters years after their initial displacement, and they are at a high risk of entering, or staying in, economic insecurity once forced to leave their home. Their plight is not helped by responses that are often short term, and two-thirds of displaced people are not consulted on decisions that affect them.

Our publication shows that displaced persons living in urban areas face compromised living and working conditions, inadequate shelter and public services, and often weak social networks. Urban systems – already under pressure – and governance mechanisms do not include the priorities and perspectives of those most at risk of displacement. This weakens the resilience of displaced people and the urban structures which they rely upon. Reliance on informal structures and hazard-prone settlements means durable solutions are not being achieved.

Research informed by displaced persons

Funded by USAID as part of our *Making Displacement Safer* project, the findings are based on our local-level surveys with displaced populations living on the edges of urban areas in 11 countries: Niger, South Sudan, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq, El Salvador and Honduras.

Nearly 5,000 displaced persons were surveyed – enabling them to share their perspectives on the challenges they face. Our flagship research methodology allowed community members to highlight the specific threats they face, the consequences of those threats, as well as barriers to action, and comment on the enabling policy environment to change their situations.

Influencing global policy

Our report has since been used to influence local, national and international discussions on disaster displacement. The findings were first shared at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 in front of 128 international stakeholders including government representatives, international agencies, civil society organisations and community leaders.

In addition to sharing our report at the Global Platform, we facilitated a displaced woman, Teresa, to speak directly with the event attendees. “Displacement can only be safe if it is voluntary and it is managed; if the communities are consulted; if they have the capacity and empowerment to push their agenda to negotiate and be part of the decision making of government and other stakeholders,” she said. “Let’s not get fascinated with the drama of people being victims of disaster and trying to

help them, but ask ourselves: ‘What made them be in that situation?’ The answer is we did not help them before the disaster. The real issue is poverty. Why would I stay near a river that might flood if I can buy a safe house? Why would I stay in an informal settlement if I can have a peaceful house? We need to address this core issue.”

Next year our network will advocate for coherent pathways to durable solutions. We’ll push for localised and effective governance to manage displacement risk both before and after a displacement event. And we’ll promote the meaningful participation of displaced people in the policy environment affecting them.

“Why would I stay in an informal settlement if I can have a peaceful house? We need to address this core issue.”

7



A guide to risk-informed development

At the beginning of 2022 we published a new multilingual resource to support civil society organisations to undertake risk-informed development planning with communities most at risk.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the publication demonstrates how evidence-based knowledge can be applied to risk-informed development processes in the context of complex risk drivers.

Spanning over 100 pages, the comprehensive *Risk-Informed Development Guide* is available online and as a downloadable PDF in five languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.

Prioritising community risks

Risk-informed development prioritises the risks faced by communities living in the most vulnerable situations – and works through their perspective. Communities come up with development solutions that mitigate their risks and build resilience.

To support this, our new guide contains practical information on three key stages. The first phase looks at how to engage with communities at risk, organise around their vision of development, and understand the context they live in. The second phase focuses on assessing risks and anticipating the potential outcomes of development decisions – topics include risk prioritisation techniques, strategic foresight, scenario planning, and how to strategise with communities at risk. The third phase provides information on how to take action with communities, how to be accountable to them, and how to continuously strengthen the overall risk-informed development planning process.

Knowledge sharing

Our resource has been shared widely across our global network, including with our 13 regional advisory groups and at 27 national-level member coordination meetings. The guide also featured at our flagship innovation booth at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2022.

Over the next year the publication will continue to be promoted. Members in several countries are already engaging local government officials with the critical message and call to action it contains: for locally led, evidence-based and risk-informed development.

Members in several countries are already engaging local government officials with our critical message and call to action.



3



National advocacy

National advocacy initiatives have started in 30 countries as part of our *Views from the Frontline* project.

Project coordinating organisations in each country are taking their community-level research to the next level and implementing plans to influence national governments and other stakeholders in order to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Each organisation has analysed the findings and drawn conclusions from their surveys with communities, government representatives and civil society organisations in each risk location. They have also reviewed the current policy environment and developed key recommendations for government action. After consulting with national level stakeholders, each national coordinating organisation has now formulated their recommendations into a national advocacy plan.

Uganda

After surveying over 2,000 people in four risk areas, the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), our project coordinating organisation in Uganda, reported three key conclusions. Firstly, there is limited engagement of communities by the government in the assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring of resilience building plans. Secondly, a lack of access to resources and information is limiting communities’ – and especially women’s – abilities to address disaster risks. And thirdly, there is a need to institutionalise disaster, climate and ecosystem degradation risks into development plans and activities.

Together with local leaders and national stakeholders, DENIVA is now advocating for the development of a national policy on disaster risk reduction and management. Central to their advocacy efforts is ensuring that the national policy enshrines the inclusion of different stakeholders – and particularly vulnerable communities – when government decisions are made on plans and budgets for disaster risk reduction and communit- level resilience building.

The outcome of their government engagement has been successful: national leaders agreed in March 2022 to table a disaster risk reduction bill in the current, 11th session of parliament.

Zimbabwe

Our *Views from the Frontline* surveys showed that community and civil society engagement in risk reduction plans and activities by the government is lacking in Zimbabwe. “Decision making is centralised at the national level, with little grassroots consultations,” says a representative from Action 24, our national coordinating organisation.

As part of their national advocacy initiatives, Action 24 organised a workshop in Domboshava, on the outskirts of Harare, to bring together government officials, community-based organisations, and community leaders and members.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the government to consult with communities on their climate change plans and activities. In addition, the

participants reviewed policy coherence at the national and local level. The result of this engagement is that the government’s climate change adaptation plans now align more closely with the experiences of communities – as captured during our *Views from the Frontline* surveys in Zimbabwe.

An all-stakeholder committee was also formed with representation from local government and community members. The group will facilitate an ongoing, regular policy dialogue between stakeholders, and continuously encourage inclusivity in disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities at the community level.



Climate-adaptive solutions to food insecurity

In the village of Wajur in Indonesia, farmers are adapting traditional agricultural practices to incorporate new, innovative techniques in order to grow crops that are more resilient to disasters.

People living in the southernmost province of Indonesia are primarily dependent on the land for their livelihoods. Here communities grow aubergines, tomatoes, mustard greens and green beans. But almost every year crops are ruined by either heavy rainfall or drought. And long-term use of fertilisers has also caused significant soil degradation.

Villagers in Wajur have now turned to using biochar, a carbonised organic material that is added to the soil, to help improve soil fertility and increase crop yields. Often made from plants, wood or manure, biochar has many agricultural benefits – particularly its ability to withstand flooding, and reduce the risk of poor yields in dry seasons.

Mariamoe Peduli, our implementing partner organisation in the country, initiated the project by inviting two experts to train local farmers on resilient agriculture. Farmers were shown how to make biochar with locally available biomass waste material. Community members gained practical

knowledge in how to restore the condition of the soil, retain water and water-soluble nutrients in the soil, and increase plant resilience in both rainy and dry seasons. In total 21 people were trained. “By applying this resilient agriculture method, the vegetables we harvest are better quality,” says Yosep Hudi, head of Belait sub-village, Wajur. “We are very eager to advance our agriculture using this method.”

Using biochar is one of several measures that aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Local production of the organic material is low cost and can easily be scaled. The training has since strengthened the community’s knowledge of how to keep the soil fertile and apply climate-adaptive farming. 11 community members who applied the approach directly after the training said the vegetables grown had larger stems, wider leaves, looked fresher – and grew faster. Nearby communities are also now keen to adopt similarly innovative, climate-resilient methods.

Communities need practical solutions to address the priority risks they face, such as food insecurity in Wajur. Views from the Frontline made it possible.



Photo: Ardito Ryan Harrisna on Unsplash



ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES

Localised funding

We’re working to localise funds so that civil society organisations in countries and communities most at risk of disasters can directly access the resources they need for resilience building.

Donors are listening

Throughout the year we’ve convened meetings with representatives from key donors to update them on the programmes they fund. In addition, we have provided opportunities for these donors to interact with our members.

In the past year we have arranged for the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and our members to connect. Specifically requested by USAID, these ‘listening sessions’ gave local and national organisations the chance to directly raise the most pertinent issues their communities were facing in relation to climate change. The input provided by our members at these sessions was used by USAID to shape their Climate Change Strategy 2022-30. Published in late 2021, the document will now guide their approach to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and help partner countries build resilience to climate change.

As an example, GNDR members in Latin American and the Caribbean raised the importance of ensuring indigenous populations are not forgotten. This resulted in the development of a chapter in the USAID strategy on partnering with indigenous peoples and local communities to lead climate action.

Advocating for localised funds

GNDR plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between influential global donors and communities most at risk. In meetings with our funders - particularly the EU International Partnerships Department and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - we’ve been an active advocate this year for changes in funding regulations.

We have lobbied these and other international donors to bring about the localisation of humanitarian and

development funding - and thereby increase the opportunities for local civil society organisations to access funds. Our donor meetings have not only provided us with a platform to be transparent on progress against our key project objectives, but also for our network to highlight the struggles that communities and local organisations face, particularly when adhering to complex compliance regulations.

We have lobbied international donors to bring about the localisation of humanitarian and development funding.



Our global board sets our overall policy and defines the strategic direction and objectives of the organisation.

This year quarterly global board meetings were held online in June, September, December and March. Biannual trustees’ meetings were held in June and December 2021.

In September the board agreed to update the governance manual, specifically to: adapt the manual to the new GNDR strategy; include a terms of reference for the chair of the trustees; include the provision of acting arrangements while the RAG chair is on paternity or maternity leave; and confirm that global board and trustees’ meetings can be held online when required.

In December, Graciela Salaberri was elected as the new chair of the global board and Usha Menon was welcomed as a new trustee. The board renewed the membership of Zenaïda Willison as an independent board member for her second and final tenure of three years. Zenaïda also accepted the role of vice-chair.

In March, Sophie Rigg was elected as the regional representative for Europe; Mario Flores was elected as the regional representative for North America; and Prime Nkezumukama was re-elected as the regional representative for Eastern Africa.

During the trustees’ annual general meeting Peter Curran was selected in consensus as the chair of trustees and Claire Tiffin was selected as the vice-chair.



Photo: Sarika Gulati/GNDR



Our charitable income

- £41,663**
Department for International Development (UK Government)
- £427,520**
Sida (Swedish Government)
- £485,845**
BMZ (German Government)



Total income

£1,730,487

- £23,334**
Other*
- £476,470**
BHA (US Government)
- £275,656**
SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation)

Total expenditure

£2,104,732

*Includes income from the Evan Cornish Foundation, Edinburgh University and from our rental sub-lease.

How we spent our funds

GOAL 1

Strengthen the collaboration, solidarity and mobilisation of civil society organisations

This included funds for members to hold national coordination meetings, regional advisory group meetings and global board meetings. We also provided capacity strengthening to members through our local leadership academy.

£378,851

GOAL 2

Champion a localisation movement

This included funds for the implementation of our *Views from the Frontline* community-led actions to build resilience, new research into how localisation can work in practice, and our new women's mentorship scheme.

£841,893

GOAL 3

Strive for risk-informed development

This included funds for advocating for risk-informed developed at global events including COP26, as well as delivering our *Making Displacement Safer* project, and producing our new *Risk-Informed Development Guide*.


£883,988

Our global board sets our overall policy and defines the strategic direction and objectives of the organisation.

The board ensures we operate in accordance with our charitable objectives, our principles and in support of the membership.


The board is made up of 20 members: 13 regional representatives elected by members, two independent representatives, and five trustees.

Regional representatives




Emad Eldin Adly

North Africa & West Asia Regional Representative
General Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)




Emmanuel S. Seck

West & Central Africa Regional Representative
Programme Manager, ENDA Energie




Farah Kabir

South Asia Regional Representative
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh




Graciela Salaberri

Chair of Global Board and South America Regional Representative
Executive Director, Sociedad Amigos del Viento meteorología ambiente desarrollo (AdelV)




Lewis Makurumure

Southern Africa Regional Representative
National Coordinator, Action 24




Loreine B. Dela Cruz

South East Asia & East Asia Regional Representative
Executive Director, Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc.




Lorenzo Mota King

Caribbean Regional Representative
Executive Director, Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas




Mario Flores

North America Regional Representative
Director, Field Operations, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response, Habitat for Humanity International



Prime Nkezumukama

Eastern Africa Regional Representative
Executive Director, DUKINGIRE ISI YACU



Ruiti Aretaake

Pacific Regional Representative
Executive Director, Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific



Sophie Rigg

Europe Regional Representative
Senior Resilience and Climate Adviser, ActionAid



Tania Triminio Quintanilla

Central America Regional Representative
National Director of Disaster Preparedness,
Response & Humanitarian Assistance
Cruz Verde Hondureña



Tolekan Ismailova

Central Asia Regional Representative
Director , Human Rights Movement
"Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan"

Independent representatives



Rod Snider

Vice Chair of the Global Board and
Independent Global Board Member
Senior Associate, Tetra Tech



Zenaïda Willison

Vice Chair of the Global Board and
Independent Global Board Member
Senior Advisor, Center for Disaster Preparedness

Trustees



Claire Tiffen

Vice Chair of Trustees
Global Programme Funding Manager, Tearfund



Ewout van den Blink

Trustee
Management Consultant, Eiffel B.V. (The Netherlands)



Ian Farrer

Treasurer
Operational Resilience Specialist, Financial
Conduct Authority



Peter Curran

Chair of Trustees
Director & Principal Consultant, Explorer
Consulting Limited



Usha Menon

Trustee
Founder, Usha Menon Management Consultancy

Stichting GNDR

Stichting GNDR is an independent organisation created by GNDR and registered in The Netherlands.

It was established to ensure that our global network can still access vital European funding now the UK has left the European Union.

Supervisory board



Dorothea Hilhorst
Chair
Professor Humanitarian Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)



Ewout van den Blink
Treasurer
Management Consultant, Eiffel B.V. (The Netherlands)



Farah Kabir
Member
Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh



Heleen van der Beek
Member
Director Strategy, Communication and Innovation, Cordaid



Oenone Chadburn
Member
Head of Humanitarian and Resilience Team, Tearfund



Rudi van den Hurk, MA
Executive Board Member
The Netherlands

The secretariat is responsible for delivering the strategy and annual work plans, as agreed by the global board and trustees.

The secretariat supports the development, coordination and implementation of the GNDR strategy. Our team is responsible to the board of trustees and the global board, via the executive director.

Staff are based in regional hubs in six countries around the world: Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Senegal and the UK.



Adessou Adessou
Acting Regional Lead (Africa) and Regional Coordinator (West, Central, North Africa & Middle East)



Ajay Singh
Project Officer



Aminata Some
Operations Officer (Africa)



Beata Hudakova
Financial Accountant



Dansam Ouma
Project officer



Domitille Francois
Team Administrator & Board Liaison Officer



Elise Belcher
Project Coordinator



Felix Martin
Senior Fundraiser



Florencia Pasquale
Translation & Interpretation Services Consultant



Hepi Rahmawati
Regional Coordinator (South East Asia & Pacific)



Ipsita Sircar
Regional Coordinator (South & Central Asia)

Secretariat



Irene Mutegi

Senior Grants Compliance Accountant



Liza Hernandez

Regional Lead (Americas & Caribbean)



Nick Scarborough

External Communications Coordinator



Shivangi Chavda

Senior Regional Lead (Asia & Europe) and Acting Interim Co-Executive Director



Jabran Ali

Finance Business Partner



Naomi Paul

Fundraising Manager



Rebecca Murphy

Policy Lead and Acting Interim Co-Executive Director



Vicky Kapur

HR Officer



Julia Taub

Fundraising Officer



Nick Roberts

Head of Operations and Acting Interim Co-Executive Director



Rehema Batti

Project Officer



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