

A close-up portrait of a Black woman with short, dark, curly hair. She is looking slightly off-camera to the right with a calm, steady gaze. She is wearing a white collared shirt. The background is blurred, showing indistinct shapes and colors, suggesting an indoor setting with other people present.

# VIEWS

— from the —  
**FRONTLINE**

**Stories of Impact**





Project funded by the European Union

Our *Views from the Frontline* project is funded by the European Union (EU). This publication was made possible by the support of the EU. All content is the sole responsibility of GNDR and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EU.

About GNDR

We are the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction. Established in 2007, we are now a network of 1,468 organisations in 127 countries. Our primary activities are advocating for risk-informed development and localisation, and capacity strengthening for civil society organisations.

Contents

|    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 4  | Views from the Frontline<br>OVERVIEW                             | 18 | Changing public behaviour on waste management<br>TOGO                |
| 8  | Mobilising resources to build climate-resilient homes<br>FIJI    | 20 | Improving food security with climate-adaptive solutions<br>INDONESIA |
| 10 | Empowered communities lead flood risk reduction<br>UGANDA        | 22 | Capacity strengthening engages community in DRR<br>GUATEMALA         |
| 12 | Better healthcare for people exposed to pollution<br>EGYPT       | 24 | Building a dialogue between communities and government<br>ZIMBABWE   |
| 14 | Canoes and inclusion reduce vulnerability to floods<br>SRI LANKA | 26 | Disability-inclusive disaster management<br>MALAWI                   |
| 16 | Local activists pave the way for clean water<br>KYRGYZSTAN       |    |  |

# Views from the Frontline

Implemented by GNDR members and partners in each country, our flagship *Views from the Frontline* programme ensures that development decisions are informed by people most at risk.

## The challenge

States have committed to international targets and frameworks for building community resilience, but there is still a huge gap between these global policies and what happens at the local level.

Communities are struggling to cope and adapt to complex disasters caused by multiple and simultaneous events such as pandemics, floods and conflict. Risk is being exacerbated by climate change and gender inequality. And development decisions are not being informed by the perspectives and experiences of people most at risk.

## Our solution

We have surveyed over 1117,000 community members to understand the threats to their lives, incomes and assets, and what the solutions are to strengthen their resilience.

This data is now being transformed into locally-led community action plans to build resilience, and national advocacy campaigns to influence policies and development plans.

Driven by communities themselves, our work aims to increase the inclusion and participation of communities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

## Our impact

### Strengthening community inclusion

Interviews have been undertaken in 712 communities most at risk of disasters. This data is openly available and can be disaggregated by country, community, age, gender, persons with disabilities, and rural and urban locations.

Our Views from the Frontline process has strengthened the inclusion and collaboration of communities, local governments and civil society organisations in development decisions.

### Locally-led action planning

The development of local action plans in hundreds of communities means that the needs of people at risk of disasters are now being addressed. To date 712 local action plans have been developed and are being implemented. These plans address threats to lives and incomes such as poverty, water insecurity, conflict, and barriers to risk reduction such as community exclusion by local governments. Each plan identifies key activities that should be undertaken, by whom, and the resources needed.

### Championing community leadership

Around the world we're building a localisation movement by fostering community leadership so that people at risk have the resources and power to make real change.

National advocacy plans are also being developed with multi-stakeholder consultation in each country. These plans are now being used to guide national campaigns and initiatives that aim to build the systematic inclusion of communities in development plans, decisions and action.

# Global impact

*Views from the Frontline* aims to increase the inclusion and participation of communities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

**119,000**  
Interviews with  
people at risk

**750**  
Communities

**50**  
Countries

## Countries

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Bangladesh   | Mali              |
| Burkina Faso | Mauritania        |
| Cambodia     | Mexico            |
| Cameroon     | Mozambique        |
| Chad         | Myanmar           |
| Chile        | Nepal             |
| Colombia     | Niger             |
| Costa Rica   | Nigeria           |
| Egypt        | Pakistan          |
| El Salvador  | Peru              |
| Ethiopia     | Republic of Congo |
| Fiji         | Rwanda            |
| Gambia       | Senegal           |
| Guatemala    | Solomon Islands   |
| Haiti        | Sri Lanka         |
| Honduras     | Sudan             |
| India        | Tajikistan        |
| Indonesia    | Togo              |
| Kenya        | Togo              |
| Kyrgyzstan   | Uganda            |
| Laos         | Vanuatu           |
| Madagascar   | Vietnam           |
| Malawi       | Zimbabwe          |
| Maldives     |                   |





# FIJI

- 419**  
Community consultations
- 150**  
Local government
- 150**  
Civil society organisations

# Mobilising resources to build climate-resilient homes

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**  
Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND)

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**  
Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND)

Community members in Beteki settlement in Lovu Seaside live along the river bank and are often hit with flooding when there is heavy rainfall and their poorly built houses are frequently destroyed during cyclones.

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

**RISK DRIVER**  
Urbanisation

**LOCATION**  
Beteki settlement, Lovu Seaside

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 employ 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.

Photo: FRIEND



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

**Melaia Salacakau**  
Project Manager, FRIEND



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.

Read more about our work in Fiji:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Fiji](https://gndr.org/VFL-Fiji)





# UGANDA

- 858**  
 Community consultations
- 155**  
 Local government
- 152**  
 Civil society organisations

## Empowered communities lead flood risk reduction

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**  
 Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA)

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**  
 Africa Disaster Reduction Research & Emergency Missions

**RISK DRIVER**  
 Climate change

**LOCATION**  
 Kijuguta

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 educate the community about 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.

They also gained skills in the construction of trenches and opening up rivers – as a means to minimise the impact of river banks 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 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.

Read more about our work in Uganda:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Uganda](https://gndr.org/VFL-Uganda)

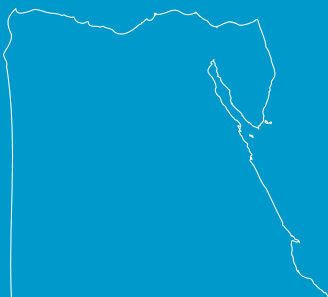
“We are empowering communities to apply local methods to manage risks and threats like flooding.”

Milton Kwesiga  
 Executive Director, ADRREM

Photo: Jumba Martin/GNDR







## EGYPT

667

Community consultations

151

Local government

150

Civil society organisations

# Better healthcare for people exposed to pollution

## NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Arab Network for Environment and Development

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Egypt Nile Discourse Forum

## RISK DRIVER

Urbanisation

## LOCATION

Abu Zaabal, Greater Cairo



Photo: Alex Azabache on Unsplash

The accumulation of open garbage and factory waste in Abu Zaabal is increasing citizens’ exposure to carcinogens and directly risking their health and safety.

Abu Zaabal is a large industrial zone on the outskirts of Cairo, known for producing chemicals and fertilisers. In our recent Views from the Frontline survey, 33% of respondents from the area said diseases and ill health were the most common consequences of improper waste disposal.

It is a problem that is not uncommon across Egypt – in fact community members, civil society organisations and government representatives all report that poor health is the most frequently reported impact of all types of threats faced.

As a response to these findings the the Egypt Nile Discourse Forum have provided vital equipment to the local medical centre in the town of Akrash so that people can get timely treatment against harmful and chronic diseases caused by industrial pollution. In February 2022 they installed two nebulisers – that help patients breathe in medicine – and two oxygen cylinders.

“

My happiness increased when our location was included in the Egyptian Government’s development plan to provide a decent standard of living for citizens.

Elham Afifi

Egypt Nile Discourse Forum

”

There are many patients with respiratory diseases who require assisted breathing equipment and oxygen tubes. The equipment will now enable the health teams to provide an increased quality of service. The organisation expects over 150 women and their families in the community to benefit from the support provided.

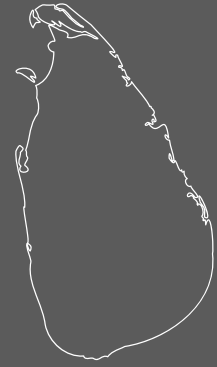
In addition, these medical devices can be used to give critical care to patients with breathing difficulties as a result of Covid-19.

It is also anticipated that this initiative will inspire neighbouring communities and civil society organisations to take similar actions to minimise the impact of man-made hazards such as industrial waste pollution.

“I would like to thank GNDR for providing medical equipment to the community,” says Christina Morris, a community member. “Especially the nebulisers – because the smells here of plastic waste, garbage and smoke affect the kids and wider community very much.”

Read more about our work in Egypt:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Egypt](https://gndr.org/VFL-Egypt)





## SRI LANKA

**577**

Community consultations

**150**

Local government

**150**

Civil society organisations

# Canoes and inclusion reduce vulnerability to floods

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**

Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**

Environment & Community Development Information Centre (ECDIC)

**RISK DRIVER**

Climate change

**LOCATION**

Dellabada, Kotamulla, Godigmuwa and Batugedara

Training on disaster management and the provision of canoes is enabling four communities to build their resilience to seasonal flooding in Rathnapura District, Sri Lanka.

According to the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Centre over two million people were affected by floods between 1978 and 2017 - including 72 deaths. Unsurprisingly, floods were reported to be the most common threat faced by Sri Lankans we surveyed.

Effective flood mitigation, preparedness, relief, response and recovery measures are seen as essential to enhancing the

resilience of the communities. As part of our Views from the Frontline project, Janathakshan, a local NGO, has supported four communities by purchasing and repairing new canoes - providing a lifeline during floods.

The canoes have already been used to deliver essential items, such as food and cooking utensils, to flood-affected areas during recent disasters. 975 families have benefited.

"Our division is frequently affected by floods," says P.K. Lakmali, President of the Village Disaster Management Committee in Dellabada. "The only canoe we had



Photo: Asantha Abeysooriya on Unsplash

“

**Views from the Frontline not only empowers the local communities and institutions by bridging capacity and resource gaps, but also advocates for its significance.**

”

**E.R.I.A Chandrika Kularathna**

Project Manager, Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd

has been damaged and is not in a proper condition. Provision of a new canoe is a great assistance to the community in the division during floods.”

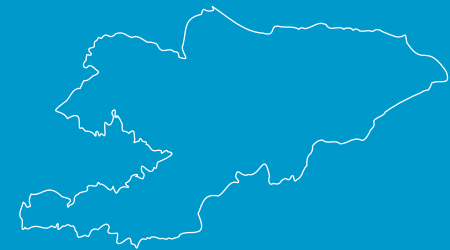
Our surveys in the country showed that establishing committees to manage disasters was the most commonly suggested action needed to reduce risk.

In response to this, Janathakshan has provided training for each village disaster management committee in Dellabada, Kotamulla, Godigmuwa and Batugedara. Along with divisional level government representatives, each committee is primarily responsible for supporting communities to respond to hazards.

In total 100 individuals - mostly community members - were trained. Knowledge was strengthened in terms of technical capacity, resources, first aid and networking platforms - skills that will help build the resilience of each vulnerable location. As a result, effectiveness in service delivery for disaster preparedness, relief and response operations is expected to increase.

Read more about our work in Sri Lanka:  
[gndr.org/VFL-SriLanka](https://gndr.org/VFL-SriLanka)





## KYRGYZSTAN

**750**

Community consultations

**158**

Local government

**158**

Civil society organisations

# Local activists pave the way for clean water

## NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Human Rights Movement “Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan”

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Aiyl Demilges

## RISK DRIVER

Food and water insecurity

## LOCATION

Karakol

A third of residents in Karakol, the fourth largest city in Kyrgyzstan, report that the biggest threat they face is a lack of access to clean drinking water. But now, thanks to *Views from the Frontline*, things are improving.

Over 85,000 residents in the densely populated city depend on the water system. However, persistent mudslides have damaged pipes. Citizens say that poor quality water has caused diseases to spread and their health to deteriorate.

A key pipeline is located directly underneath the town and complicated access has meant few repairs have been carried out in the last 30 years. Community activists regularly appealed to the local government

administration and other organisations to deal with the issue, yet without success. But after conducting community consultations as part of our *Views from the Frontline* project local leaders were able to present reliable evidence to back up their demands. The survey data accurately shows the threats communities have identified themselves and proposes actions to resolve them.

Following the development of a local action plan, the community were given funding from Aiyl Demilges, our local implementing partner, to restore and reconstruct the most difficult and problematic part of the water pipeline.



**The community, which has long experienced significant health risks due to the consumption of low-quality water, has now been provided with clean drinking water.**



**Tolekan Ismailova**

Director, Human Rights Movement “Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan”

The initiative will give more people access to clean drinking water and aims to help reduce the number of health problems people face. The community now uses their project as an example of what can be done by civil society – and thereby bring the problem of poor quality and interrupted water supplies to the attention of local authorities and state bodies.

They have been successful: as a result of the initiative an independent joint working group of more than 20 community activists and five key government representatives has now been established to protect the rights and interests of people living in Karakol.

Read more about our work in Kyrgyzstan: [gndr.org/VFL-Kyrgyzstan](https://gndr.org/VFL-Kyrgyzstan)



Photo: Aiyl Demilges





## TOGO

**960**

Community consultations

**155**

Local government

**155**

Civil society organisations

# Changing public behaviour on waste management

## NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Jeunes Verts

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Association Togolaise d'Etude de Recherche et d'Appui au Développement Humain Durable (ASTERADHD)

## RISK DRIVER

Climate change

## LOCATION

Danyi

Trained and motivated community members are tackling poor waste management in Danyi prefecture, southwestern Togo – and have taken their recommendations all the way to the mayor's office.

Our *Views from the Frontline* surveys show that 72% of respondents in Togo believe that ecosystems contribute to the protection of their community. But in many locations improper waste disposal is having a negative impact on the local environment. In response, Jeunes Verts, our local partner organisation, provided community-level training on effective waste management in April 2021.

The half-day training session was attended by men, women and youths from Danyi. In total, 15 individuals learned about different types of waste and its impact on their environment. A key topic covered was the impact of both poor waste disposal and waste management practices on people's health.

During the training a practical session was held that emphasised simple, proper waste disposal practices. The participants were shown how waste bins can be placed in strategic and accessible places that encourage community members to use them.

"Following this training I know that collecting and recycling garbage can be an opportunity to earn money, says community member Abissi Viviane. "It will help me take better care of my children."

After the course, a community committee composed of two women and one man was formed. They have developed strategies to set up bins in households and public places as part of a new waste management plan.

The committee has since shared their recommendations with the municipal mayor – and advocated for the development of a participatory waste management scheme in Danyi. The mayor has promised to implement reforms to better manage waste. He also endorsed the committee to carry out awareness-raising activities at the household level in order to help the communities adopt proper waste disposal and management practices.

Read more about our work in Togo:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Togo](https://gndr.org/VFL-Togo)

“

This training has raised awareness of economic opportunities in waste management.

”

Esso kl'nam Pedessi

Project Manager, Jeunes Verts

Photo: Muhammadtaha Ibrahim Ma'aji on Unsplash







# INDONESIA

- 933  
Community consultations
- 211  
Local government
- 192  
Civil society organisations

# Improving food security with climate-adaptive solutions

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**  
YAKKUM Emergency Unit

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**  
Yayasan Mariamoe Peduli

**RISK DRIVER**  
Climate change

**LOCATION**  
Waju, East Nusa Tenggara

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. They 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. They also 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.

Photo: Ardito Ryan Harrisna on Unsplash



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

**Albina Redemta Umen**  
Director, Mariamoe Peduli

“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 they grew had larger stems, wider leaves, looked fresher – and grew faster. Nearby communities are also now keen to adopt similarly innovative, climate-resilient methods.

Read more about our work in Indonesia:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Fiji](https://gndr.org/VFL-Fiji)





## GUATEMALA

**790**

Community consultations

**152**

Local government

**151**

Civil society organisations

# Capacity strengthening engages community in DRR

## NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Food for the Hungry

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Association of Services and Socioeconomic Development of Chiquimula (ASEDECHI)

## RISK DRIVER

Climate change

## LOCATION

Matazano, Jocotan

The community of Matazano, Jocotan in Guatemala has been hit by various disasters - including droughts and storms - often because risks and threats are not fully understood.

Our Views from the Frontline project aims to increase community level knowledge of threats and improve understanding around recurring disaster risk.

The impact of interventions to reduce risk often depend on the type and quality of data collected and documented at the local level.

To build the capacities of community representatives, Food for the Hungry

conducted training on identifying risks and threats. In particular participants were informed about the role of early warning systems for preventing casualties during sudden-onset disasters, as well as emergency response activities, and mitigation and prevention techniques.

The training programme has empowered Matazano residents to work together to identify the risks and threats that affect their neighbourhoods. The inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in these activities has been central.

As a result of the capacity building session, new partnerships were established between the Municipal Office of Integral Risk

“

**We now have the facility to communicate and keep the community informed.**

”

**Humberta Súchite**

President COLRED, Matazano

Management and the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction CONRED. The President of COLRED Local community group, has since taken the lead to clean up garbage in the Matazano community with support from willing community members.

The partnership has facilitated the creation of a local action plan to build resilience. The first actions taken forward have been the formation and training of nine members of an emergency commission led by women in the Matazano community.

The people of Matazano report being inspired to promote similar resilience-building practices in other nearby communities. There is now strong local leadership for the establishment of an early warning system to streamline the dissemination of information, guidance and evacuation in case of emergency.

Read more about our work in Guatemala: [gndr.org/VFL-Guatemala](https://gndr.org/VFL-Guatemala)



Photo: Jeison Higuera on Unsplash





## ZIMBABWE

**1,524**

Community consultations

**150**

Local government

**150**

Civil society organisations

# Building a dialogue between communities and government

## NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Action 24

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

ZERO Regional Organisation

## RISK DRIVER

Climate change

## LOCATION

Domboshava

Community leaders in Domboshava, Zimbabwe, are holding the local government to account to ensure that policies coherently address climate change, and future plans and processes include those most at risk of food shortages.

*Views from the Frontline* surveys in Zimbabwe show that climate change is the most common threat reported by communities. The consequence of climate change in Domboshava, a residential area northeast of Harare, are recurring droughts leading to food insecurity.

ZERO, our local partner organisation, has identified that a key action to address the impact of climate change is to improve

the coherence of local government policy. In February 2020, the NGO organised an advocacy workshop that brought together residents of Domboshava, community leaders, civil society organisations and representatives of the Department of Civil Protection. The participants were trained on approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as how to review current policies.

Attended by 51 people, the discussion identified policy gaps and proposed ways to mainstream climate change into local government policies. The key output of the workshops was a roadmap on how the local government will include different stakeholders in the implementation of plans and processes.

“

***Views from the Frontline* bridged the gap between communities and policy makers – previously a barrier to resilience building.**

**Philip Mudavanhu**

Project Manager, Action 24

”

During the workshop, an all-stakeholder committee was formed with representation from each of the groups in attendance. The committee will facilitate frequent policy dialogue between stakeholders and continuously encourage inclusivity in disaster risk reduction work in communities.

In order to ensure accountability to the public, local citizens have also developed their own advocacy plan which they will use for collaborative lobbying. Their aim is to continue to push for community inclusion in policy formulation and implementation processes, and the establishment of local government policies that are inclusive and coherent to climate change issues – particularly adaptation and mitigation.

“I want to thank the organisers of this project,” says community leader, Edgar Janyure. “It gave women in this community an opportunity to contribute to fighting the effects of climate change and other threats experienced by the community.”

Read more about our work in Zimbabwe: [gndr.org/VFL-Zimbabwe](https://gndr.org/VFL-Zimbabwe)





## MALAWI

**829**

Community consultations

**150**

Local government

**150**

Civil society organisations

# Disability-inclusive disaster management

**NATIONAL COORDINATOR**  
E-Life Malawi

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**  
Badilika Foundation

**RISK DRIVER**  
Climate change

**LOCATION**  
Nyangu village, Mesenjere

As a person with disability, Felix Maliki has often been excluded from community discussions about disaster management. But since attending a workshop on climate change, opportunities have opened up for him to be involved in local planning processes.

Felix is a widower with three children who earns his living by repairing shoes. He has restricted mobility, meaning that in the event of flash floods escaping to a safe place is often difficult. He openly states that before the workshop he lacked knowledge or awareness about how to respond in an emergency – because people with disabilities are regularly excluded from participating in disaster preparedness and

risk reduction initiatives.

In order to address these issues of exclusion, Badilika Foundation, a local NGO, organised a training course on disaster mitigation and management on 23 March 2022. Held at Masenjere Primary School, the aim of the event was to increase the participation of people with disabilities in DRR processes. During the workshop, 32 people were trained on disaster preparedness, gender inclusion, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning processes.

The activity enhanced Felix’s individual knowledge and skills – in particular on ways to mitigate the impact of floods for



“  
**We disabled people also have wisdom which can be used to bring about solutions.**

Felix Maliki  
Resident, Nyangu village

”

disabled people. He says he is now willing to be part of future interventions to improve local disaster management practices. And also aims to involve and share his learning with other people with disabilities.

“The majority of people with disabilities in this community are excluded in DRR processes, and lack access to resources and information,” says Forbes Msiska, Project Manager at Badilika Foundation. “This activity will ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination.”

The campaign has also helped raise awareness amongst the residents of Mesenjere of the need to include people with disabilities in community planning processes. Going forward this opportunity will provide people with disabilities with a platform to share their ideas and raise the challenges they face.

Read more about our work in Malawi:  
[gndr.org/VFL-Malawi](https://gndr.org/VFL-Malawi)





Global Network of  
Civil Society Organisations  
for Disaster Reduction

**Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for  
Disaster Reduction**

8 Waldegrave Road  
Teddington  
London  
TW11 8HT  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)2089 777726  
Email: [info@gndr.org](mailto:info@gndr.org)

**[gndr.org](http://gndr.org)**