

GNDR's participation at the UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

2 - 6 June 2025

Geneva, Switzerland



GNDR member, Dann Diez, Sustainable Energy and Enterprise Development for Communities (Seed4com), Philippines, speaking during the NGO Session: Scaling-up local voices and local actions for disaster risk reduction

Photo: UNDRR

[Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction \(GNDR\)](#)

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Foreword	4
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	8
Key Statistics from the GP	9
List of sessions where members were engaged	10
Who attended the GP	11
GNDR Secretariat and Roles	11
GNDR Sponsored Members and Roles	11
GNDR Members	12
Key policy messages	13
Call to Action	13
Call to Action Social Media Campaign	13
GNDR at the GPDRR 2025: What we did	14
Official Preparatory Days (Stakeholder Forum)	14
Stakeholder Forum Day One	14
Stakeholder Forum Day Two	16
World Resilient Recovery Conference	17
First Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder Forum	17
Special Sessions	20
Official GPDRR2025 Days	21
High-level sessions (Wednesday, 4th June 2025)	21
Official Side Events (Thursday, 5th June 2025)	22
Learning Lab (Friday, 6th June 2025)	23
Thematic Session (Friday, 6th June 2025)	23
Ignite Stage Slots	24
Innovation Booth: Swiss Booth	25
Unofficial side events	26
Global Seminar on Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action	26
Donor Roundtable	26
Members Briefings	27
Members Spaces	28
Key Achievements at GNDR	30
Policy Wins	30
Lessons Learned	32
Making Connections and Increasing Visibility	32
Next Steps and Conclusion	34
Appendix	36

Foreword

It was a privilege to coordinate the GNDR delegation in the lead up to and at the eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. At a time when the complexities of the geopolitics of risk are increasing and the international development sector is facing increasing uncertainties, this global platform was an important space to come together and showcase the importance of localisation, local voice, and risk-informed development.

As the penultimate global platform for the Sendai Framework for Action, the theme *Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today*, was crucial for stakeholders from across the globe to gather around in a now or never push towards achieving the ambitious goals and targets of the Sendai Framework.

Despite the financial turmoil caused by the USAID crisis, GNDR took our largest ever delegation of GNDR secretariat and members to a global platform. Together, we contributed to the coordination and policy messages, and the amplification of civil society voice being heard at the global platform. Daily GNDR briefings brought civil society organisations together to prepare for each day and share the key spaces and events our members were participating in.

With GNDR taking an active role in organising sessions across the three preparatory days and three of the official high-level sessions, civil society were able to play a key role in bringing together all non-state stakeholders. Here we championed our eight Call to Action messages. These key messages were shared, evidenced, and amplified by our members and secretariat at high level sessions and side events from both the panel and the floor. Highlights included live streaming to a GNDR community in Kenya to including local voices in the Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSFEW4ALL) sessions and GNDR being awarded the prestigious Sasakawa Award.

Our efforts were recognised and had an impact. The official co-chair summary, the Geneva Call to Action, included many of our Call to Action policy demands. Furthermore, in feedback to GNDR after the global platform, Kamal Kishore, the UNDRR Special Representative and Secretary General (SRSG) wrote to thank us for our active participation and reinforce how important civil society is as a stakeholder in risk reduction decision-making. We look forward to meeting with SRSG in the autumn to strengthen our partnership.

We commit to supporting the sector, UNDRR and member states in delivering the Geneva Call to Action priority areas and continuing to champion local voice, the role of civil society and risk-informed development in all areas of disaster risk reduction. In particular, we recognise

the shift towards the importance of finance for disaster risk reduction. Here we commit to supporting civil society to meaningfully engage in this space and champion the need for locally accessible, pre-arranged finance for disaster risk reduction.

A special thanks to all of our GNDR members for their active participation, energy and hard work in the lead up to and throughout the global platform.

Foreword by Becky Murphy, Head of Policy & Research, GNDR & Co-chair of the NGO Major Group of the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism



GNDR Member Shamim Arfeen, Executive Director, AOSED (Bangladesh) contributing from the floor during the Global Early Warning for All Multistakeholder Forum. Photo: UNDRR

Executive summary

The 8th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2-6 June 2025, under the theme *Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today*. The platform served as a critical catalyst for accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the last five years of its implementation.

GNDR had its largest ever delegation of staff and members at the platform in Geneva with the overall aim of creating space for local civil society in disaster risk reduction decision-making. GNDR managed to secure funding to support 21 members from the global south and 10 secretariat staff to attend the platform in Geneva. Ahead of the global platform, GNDR's members codeveloped eight Call to Action Messages to champion:

1. Listen to communities
2. Finance Local Early Warning & Action
3. Strengthen DRR in conflict zones
4. Make DRR legally binding
5. Implement a whole-of-society approach
6. Institutionalise inclusive DRR
7. Invest in local green DRR
8. All development must be risk-informed

GNDR kicked off the week by meeting with the head of UNDRR, Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG) on DRR, Kamal Kishore to share our member's Call to Action messages.

Further to this, GNDR secured a total of 28 spaces for civil society to actively participate in high level panels and round table discussions across the formal agenda. This included participating in organising and speaking on the following sessions:

Preparatory days

- Scaling-up local voices and local actions for disaster risk reduction
- Data and Financing for Disaster Displacement as Loss and Damage
- From Paris to Sendai: The Fundamental Connection of Climate and DRR
- Breaking the DRR Financing Silos: A Systemic Shift in DRR Financing
- Spotlight Session: Early Warnings for All
- Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow: Aligning the Sendai Midterm Review with The Pact for the Future

- From commitment to action – leadership for resilient recovery
- Opening Session and Stock Take for MSF Early Warnings for All
- Empowering Communities: People-Centred and User-Tailored Approaches for Early Warnings and Early/Anticipatory Action
- Solutions for Scaling and Sustaining Investments in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
- Effective Governance Models to Support Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
- Early Warnings for All – Highlights from the forum – closing ceremony

High level panels and thematic sessions

- Harnessing risk understanding for a safer future: Are we keeping up?
- Strengthening disaster risk governance for transformative action and outcomes –
- Multi-Stakeholder Plenary: Leave no one behind: Realizing the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework
- Advancing DRR localization through South-South and triangular cooperation, peer-to-peer exchange, and international partnership
- Inclusive and multisectoral approach to effective preparedness

Official Learning Labs

- Delivering early warning to everyone: people-centred and gender-responsive approached

Official side event

- Equity in Action: Early Warnings for All People

Innovation Booth

- Swiss Booth session: Innovations and Traditional Knowledge in Locally Led DRR

Ignite Stage slots

- Heroines of Resilience: Women at the Forefront of Anticipatory Action in Southeast Asia
- Human-Tech Nexus: Building a Safe Haven for Coping with Climate Extremes
- PRORED initiative for risk management and urban resilience in 7 cities of Ecuador

Within this, a highlight included GNDR securing the space to live stream to a community in Kenya to provide community members the opportunity to directly engage in the MSFEW4ALL preparatory day. GNDR held daily member briefings in Geneva each morning, provided daily

updates for those unable to attend the global platform in person and coordinated two unofficial side events including (1) a donor roundtable and (2) a seminar on localised early warning systems and anticipatory action. In addition to this, GNDR won the prestigious Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, reinforcing the importance of civil society's role in disaster risk reduction.

GNDR's efforts were recognised and had an impact. The official co-chair summary, the Geneva Call to Action included many of our Call-to-Action policy demands. An analysis of the outcomes of the Global Platform shows that many of our key messages have been included in the co-chairs' document, including our statements on: the importance of DRR in conflict affected and fragile states; the importance of whole-of-society approach; the inclusion of communities including indigenous groups, youth; gender action plans; risk-informed investments; pre-arranged finance for anticipatory action; localisation; and green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

However, there are three key call to action messages highlighted by our members that have been missed in the outcome document. These included: shifting to DRR becoming a legally binding commitment, the need for locally accessible, prearranged finance and the importance of local leadership in decision-making that determines how risk reduction finance is spent.

Going forward, GNDR commits to supporting the sector, UNDRR and member states in delivering the Geneva Call to Action priority areas and continuing to champion local voice, the role of civil society and risk-informed development in all areas of disaster risk reduction.



GNDR secretariat staff and global board members outside of the GPDRR 2025 venue. Photo: GNDR

Introduction

The 8th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Switzerland in June 2025. GNDR recognises the importance of this event, as it marked the first since the Sendai Mid-Term Review (MTR) process was completed and the penultimate GP for the Sendai Framework for Action.

The Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework) was adopted and endorsed by Member States in the United Nations General Assembly, providing the framework for all-of-society and all-of-State institutions engagement in preventing and reducing disaster risks posed by both natural and man-made hazards and related environmental, technological, and biological hazards and risks.

The Global Platform for DRR 2025, hosted under the theme *Every Day Counts: Act for Resilience Today*, underscores the urgency of taking bold action to safeguard communities and build a sustainable future. Stakeholders from across the globe gathered together in a now-or-never push toward achieving the goals and targets of the Sendai Framework. The global platform reviewed the current progress towards the Sendai Framework based on the MTR outcomes. It brought together member states, civil society and private sector actors to take stock of achievements, identify gaps and decide on the direction of actions for the following years of the Sendai implementation.

Prior to the Global Platform Official Days, the Stakeholder Forum, led by the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, took place for the third time. It provided a dedicated space for a variety of stakeholders and non-state actors to come together and share knowledge and best practices towards implementing all-society approaches to the Sendai Framework. This global platform also hosted the First Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder Forum co-led by WMO and UNDRR.

GNDR and civil society organisation (CSO) members were present at the GP to call for an all-society approach and to ensure that local voices are heard and are central in DRR processes. Prior to the conference, GNDR developed in collaboration with CSOs a 'Call to Action' (CTA), a policy document which outlined eight key points for global decision-makers and policymakers to take into account during the final stages of the Sendai Framework implementation period.

GNDR's secretariat and members were invited to participate in a variety of sessions and spaces throughout the global platform. The CTA provided a succinct, strong and coordinated call for CSOs to be at the heart of DRR processes, and therefore was a key resource to showcase the strength of our collective voice.

This report aims to outline how and where GNDR's membership engaged at the Global Platform for DRR 2025, reflect on the policy outcomes and share next steps in supporting the sector to achieve the targets set out in the Sendai Framework for Action.

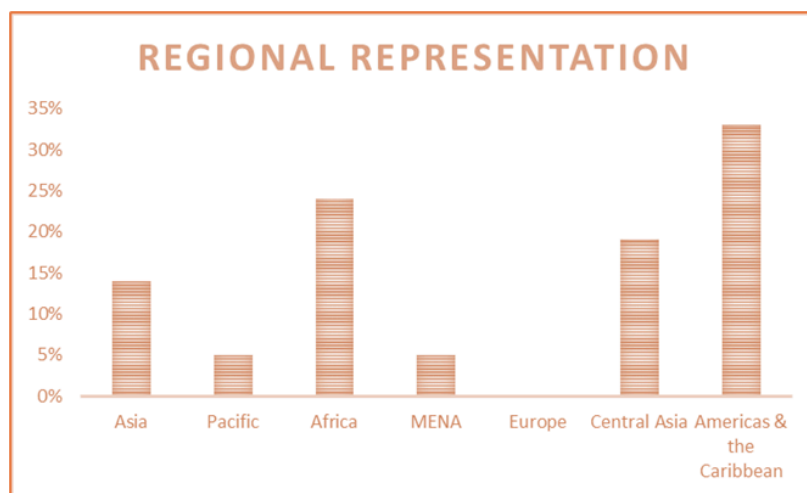
"Even if GNDR has been present at previous global platforms, I do have the feeling that this is the first time that we have been heard, that people are listening actively to what civil society organisations have to say. And I think that reflects the work that has been done in more than a decade by GNDR - this road to connecting us, to make us stronger, by creating this large community that respects different cultural and societal approaches. Every region has a voice."

Carolina Garcia Londoño, GNDR member, Colombia

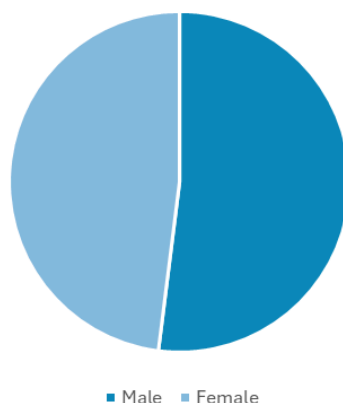
GNDR at the GPDRR 2025 at a glance

- Number of members sponsored to attend: 26
- Number of secretariat staff attendance: 10
- Number of spaces secured for civil society: 25
- Number of call to action messages: 10

- Number of members feeding into policy messages: 200



Gender Disaggregation of GNDR Delegation



Type of session	No. of members & staff participating
Stakeholder Forum	7
EW Global MSF	5
World Resilient Recovery Conference	2
Multi-Stakeholder Plenary	1
High-level session	3
Side-events	1

Thematic sessions	4
Ignite Stage	2
Swiss Booth session: Celebrating localisation in DRR	1

Who attended the GP

GNDR secretariat and roles

- Marcos Concepcion Raba (Executive Director)
- Rebecca Murphy (Head of Policy & Research)
- Shivangi Chavdaa (Head of Programmes)
- Kathryn McDonagh (Head of Fundraising, Impact and Communications)
- João Figueiredo (Regional Lead - Americas and the Caribbean)
- Jekulin Lipi Saikia (Policy and Research Officer)
- Ipsita Sircar (Regional Lead - Asia, Pacific and Europe)
- Dansam Ouma (Project Coordinator)
- Danny Everett (External Communications Manager)
- Adessou Kossivi (Regional Lead - Africa)

GNDR sponsored members and roles

GNDR managed to secure sponsorship for a number of CSOs to attend the platform in person. These members were:

REAP Bursary/British Red Cross

- Gloria Kasang Bulus, Executive Director, Bridge That Gap Initiative, Nigeria
- Nakanywenge Meschac, Executive Director, Union pour la Promotion/Protection, la Défense des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement (UPDDHE/GL), DRC
- Najoua Bouraoui, Head, Association APEDDUB, Tunisia
- José Ramón Ávila, Executive Director, Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (ASONOG), Honduras
- Catalina Díaz Escobar, Director of Disaster Risk and Climate Change Intelligence, Corporación Antioquia Presente, Colombia
- Gilberto Romero, Strategic Advisor, Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres (PREDES), Peru
- Ruiti Uriano Aretaake, Programme Manager, FSP Kiribati (FSPK), Kiribati

- Gulshan Akhundova, Chairperson, Women, Development Future Public Union, Azerbaijan
- Dann Diez, Executive Director, Sustainable Energy and Enterprise Development for Communities (Seed4com), Philippines

Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action Through CSOs

Under our *Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action Through CSOs* project, 12 local champions were sponsored to participate and attend a Global Seminar, which was held as a parallel event to GPDRR on 5 June 2025. Two of these local champions also spoke at events on EW4ALL during the prep days. The local champions were:

- Didier Ferney Pedreros Vega, Director General, Fundación para la Gestión del Riesgo (FGR) - Colombia
- Carolina Garcia Londoño, Sociedad Colombiana de Geología (SCG) - Colombia
- Winnie Okoth, Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, TINADA Youth Action Africa - Kenya
- Mohammed Ibrahim, Executive Director, Garissa Mediation Council - Kenya
- Shamim Arfeen, Executive Director, An Organisation for Socio-Economic Development (AOSED) - Bangladesh
- Md. Maksudar Rahman, Chief Executive, Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS) - Bangladesh
- Tolekan Ismailova, Director, Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan
- Murat Karypov, Executive Director, Bir Duino - Kyrgyzstan
- Chinara Aitbaeva, Director, Nash Vek PF - Kyrgyzstan
- Tatiana Miluska Ordóñez, Practical Action Perú - Peru
- Lidia Santana, Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas - Dominican Republic
- Ayoub Abdou Sani, Executive Director, JVE Niger - Niger

GNDR members

Before the GP, GNDR surveyed to find out which members were planning to attend the GP, the key policy messages they had and if they were organising or participating in events. Of the 2,000 members, 178 responded and fed directly into our Call to Action messages. In addition a [member's agenda](#) was created with the aim of amplifying all our member's side event sessions and policy demands.



GNDR members taking part in the Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action Through CSOs Global Seminar. Photo: GNDR

Key policy messages

Call to Action

In the six months leading up to the GP, GNDR rolled out two policy surveys and held two briefing webinars where our members highlighted what they felt were the most important topics to advocate for at GP 2025.

In alignment with GNDR's member-developed strategy, the network's overarching policy messages remain focused on risk-informed development, localisation and the role of civil society in taking a whole-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction.

Specifically, our members highlighted eight key policy messages for the GP 2025:

1. Listen to the community
2. Ensure accessible local finance for Early Warning, Early Action
3. Strengthen DRR governance in conflict-affected states
4. Strengthen accountability and make DRR a legally binding commitment

5. Institutionalise the meaningful inclusion of gender, youth, disability, and marginalised groups in DRR. Invest in capacity building & innovation for green DRR at the local level
6. Implement a whole-of-society approach
7. Invest in local green DRR
8. All development must be risk-informed

Call to Action social media campaign

Each of our key messages was developed into a social media graphic in line with the sub-brand created for the global platform. These messages were shared on our platforms - LinkedIn, Facebook, and as a trial after leaving X (formerly Twitter), Bluesky. The content for the campaign can be found on our [website](#).

In the lead up to GP, we also asked members to answer the question 'what are your hopes and expectations for the Global Platform?'. 106 members provided answers and these were shared on our channels, tagging each contributing member to drive engagement.

These combined activities, alongside the live content shared during the GP - including daily video updates, live-'blueskying' of sessions and session listings - contributed to the best performing quarter GNDR has achieved on social media. Engagement rates were up by 20% and average impressions per post increased by 47%.

GNDR at the GPDRR 2025: What we did

Kick off meeting with SRSG, Kamal Kishore

Representatives from GNDR's global board and secretariat began their engagement at the Global Platform 2025 with a meeting with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, [Kamal Kishore](#).

At the meeting, Becky Murphy, GNDR's Head of Policy & Research, presented GNDR's Call to Action, emphasising that it was developed by our members from across the world, and represented their priorities as we look towards the final five years of the Sendai Framework.

The SRSG shared that while actions on disaster risk reduction have progressed substantially over the past 10 years since the implementation of the Sendai Framework, there is an urgent need to focus on the localisation of disaster risk reduction efforts, especially since there are only five years left to meet the Sendai targets.

Official Preparatory Days (Stakeholder Forum)

Prior to the main conference, the stakeholder forum took place for two days, and was “a space for stakeholders to coordinate and exchange on best practices around inclusion, collaboration and engagement in preparation for the official sessions of the Global Platform.” The stakeholder forum was open to all governments, the UN, international and regional organisations that attended the GP.

GNDR had a significant role in the stakeholder forum, and the following outlines our involvement and the outcomes.

Stakeholder Forum day one

Scaling-up local voices and local actions for disaster risk reduction

NGO Stakeholder Forum - Becky Murphy (Head of Policy & Research, GNDR) moderating. Others speaking: José Ramón Ávila (Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Honduras, Honduras), Dann Diez (Sustainable Energy and Enterprise Development for Communities, Philippines), Agnieszka Zofia Kordalewska (Gotowi.org Foundation and SEM NGO MG co-chair).

Key messages shared: During the session, GNDR members highlighted the need to focus on empowering women to lead DRR actions on the frontline; addressing the urgent and specific DRR needs of fragile conflict-affected communities and institutionalising inclusive DRR action at the local level. The session ended with participants sharing their reflections on the key recommendations for the NGO Major Group Declaration. This was fed into a final draft of the constituency declaration, which was then submitted to the UN as an Official Statement.

[Link to session](#)

Data and Financing for Disaster Displacement as Loss and Damage

GNDR member speaking, Catalina Díaz Escobar of Corporación Antioquia Presente, Colombia.

Key messages shared: During the session, Catalina reflected on the question: “How can we, as stakeholders, use data to ensure the safety and rights of people on the move, especially children, youth, women and others vulnerable to solutions?” Planned, regular and safe human mobility is a catalyst for minimising loss and harm. She explained that it’s necessary to recognise the sensitivity of a conflict and disaster event and its impact on human mobility. Conflict and disasters must be addressed differently. She went on to describe how the

mechanisms for losses and damages should be like an embrace in a moment of deep distress, a helping hand that offers tangible support and hope.

[Link to session](#)



GNDR member, Catalina Díaz Escobar of Corporación Antioquia Presente, Colombia on the panel of *Data and Financing for Disaster Displacement as Loss and Damage*. Photo: UNDRR

From Paris to Sendai: The Fundamental Connection of Climate and DRR

GNDR member, Ruiti Aretaake, Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK), Kiribati.

Key messages shared: During the session, Animesh Kumar, Head of UNDRR Bonn Office, introduced the Santiago Network and how to become an OBNES. Le Ann from UNDRR discussed the '3 Cs': community, coherence and communication. Ruiti Aretaake described how climate change is impacting the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). She highlighted the non-economic losses and damages they are facing and the crucial role that the Santiago Network must play in addressing inequality.

[Link to session](#)

Breaking the DRR Financing Silos: A Systemic Shift in DRR Financing

Marcos Concepcion Raba (Executive Director, GNDR) speaking.

Key messages shared: During the session, Marcos described the key barriers community-based organisations face in accessing funds and how we can simplify this. The four

key barriers are risk aversion, administrative constraints, dual accountabilities, and power asymmetries. The five recommendations emerged as: strengthen donor capacities and shift mindsets, enhance access to quality finance, create space for local agency and decision-making, track localisation progress in DRR goals and instruments, and reconceptualise local actor capacity.

[Link to session](#)

Stakeholder Forum, day two

Spotlight Session: Early Warnings for All

Becky Murphy (Head of Policy & Research, GNDR) moderating.

Others speaking: Carolina Garcia Londoño, (Sociedad Colombiana de Geología (SCG) - Colombia), Winnie Okoth, (TINADA Youth Action Africa - Kenya) and Shamim Arfeen, (An Organization for Socio-Economic Development (AOSED) - Bangladesh).

Key messages shared: Carolina spoke about the importance of accessibility and understanding with EWS, emphasising that sirens and alarms mean nothing without context. She emphasised the importance of building trust with communities to facilitate effective action and 'think forward'. Winnie spoke about the challenges of EWS implementation in rural Kenya, highlighting issues with accessibility, infrastructure and weak coordination systems. She emphasised the need for displacement contexts to be at the forefront and advocated for the importance of involving young people. Shamim spoke about the need for EWS to reach everyone to save lives and the importance of tailoring warnings for different contexts. He emphasised that locally-led action and risk-informed development must take centre stage, involving communities at all stages.

The session also featured a youth interlude on the value which young people bring to the DRR space and a segment from ODI on the importance of political systems supporting the most marginalised, with politics being key to last-mile implementation. Several reflections from the floor were shared, highlighting priorities such as women-led action, the combination of scientific and traditional knowledge and trust building.

[Link to session](#)



GNDR members on the panel of *Spotlight Session: Early Warnings for All*. Photo: GNDR

Shaping a Sustainable Tomorrow: Aligning the Sendai Midterm Review with The Pact for the Future

Jekulin Lipi Saikia (Policy and Research Officer, GNDR) speaking.

Key messages shared: The session highlighted that the most essential first step in the localisation of risk reduction efforts is to listen to the community - those on the frontline of risk, who are the experts. Second is financing. We need urgent action to close the gap between risk and investment, as the financial and economic consequences are becoming increasingly difficult to manage. We need more risk-informed investments to reduce or prevent disaster losses and regulations to break the risk-creation addiction. Finance that is accessible and reaches the local level. As governments scale back foreign aid, we have to rethink what development is for and how to strengthen efforts for transformative local resilience. Lastly, we must encourage citizen science to develop open, inclusive and accessible data systems for effective multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory actions - especially in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, where their delivery requires the greatest care, creativity and collaboration.

[Link to session](#)

World Resilient Recovery Conference

From commitment to action – leadership for resilient recovery

Shivangi Chavdaa (Head of Programmes, GNDR) moderating.

Key messages shared: The panel discussed strategies for resilient disaster recovery, emphasising financial preparedness, rapid response financing, displacement integration, private sector involvement, the role of academia, and good governance. During the session, the whole-of-society approach was highlighted. Other key discussion points were integrating displacement risks into disaster management, Power and centrality of partnership, the importance of innovative ways to mobilise resources, particularly leveraging the role of philanthropy and the private sector. In resilient recovery, the critical private sector role was highlighted from businesses' need to shift from reactive to proactive resilience. Resilience needs to be embedded into investment planning. The role of research is important in enhancing monitoring, disaster preparedness and adaptive recovery. There have been enough calls for action; now is the time for commitment.

The session finished with UNDRR presenting the Resilient Recovery Framework: pre-disaster planning policies and practices which enable communities and systems to undertake resilience recovery – governance, finance, data & knowledge, and capacity components. [Link to session](#)

First Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder Forum

As part of the preparatory days for the GP, the Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder Forum was held to accelerate the implementation of life-saving early warning systems worldwide. Co-led by UNDRR and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the forum brought together governments, international organisations, civil society, private sector actors, and communities to advance the UN Secretary-General's [Early Warnings for All \(EW4All\) initiative](#). The two-day forum (2– 3 June) aimed to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by the end of 2027.

GNDR had a significant role in the [Global Early Warnings for All Multi-Stakeholder forum](#), and the following outlines its involvement and the outcomes.

Opening session and stocktake

Marcos Concepcion Raba (Executive Director, GNDR) moderating.

Key messages shared: As the Global Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Multi-Stakeholder Forum convenes for the first time, the opening session ceremony was followed by a stocktake

featuring examples of good practices and state of play to set the stage for collective ambition, shared ownership and sustained action across the EW4All initiative. Marcos moderated the stakeholder perspectives segment.

[Link to session](#)

Empowering Communities: People-Centred and User-Tailored Approaches for Early Warnings and Early/Anticipatory Action

Becky Murphy (Head of Policy & Research, GNDR) moderating.

Others speaking: Carolina Garcia Londoño, (Sociedad Colombiana de Geología (SCG) - Colombia), Winnie Okoth, (TINADA Youth Action Africa - Kenya) and Shamim Arfeen, (An Organization for Socio-Economic Development (AOSED) - Bangladesh).

Key messages shared: This was the first technical session of the Global Early Warning for All Multistakeholder Forum, focused firmly on the need to prioritise communities and people-centred approaches for localising early warnings and ensuring that early warnings effectively translate into early action. Early warnings are integral to building community resilience; however, it is imperative that early warning systems are inclusive and collaborative to address the needs of all sections of society, especially the most affected groups and people with disability, i.e. ensure early warnings reach those who need them the most. Community and local government ownership is critical in ensuring that early warning systems are not only sustainable (beyond project life-cycles) but also that the warnings are understood and acted upon.

Early warning communication needs to be understandable, i.e. early warnings need to be as localised as possible to relevant local contexts and/or use of photographs/pictures. The role of different actors, especially using existing structures of communities, needs to be explored, such as involving religious leaders, schools, etc. The importance of traditional, indigenous knowledge needs to be recognised and embraced. There is a need to connect scientific and technical experts with communities at the local level, and building trust with communities is a critical starting point. There is a need to resource anticipatory actions at the local level, not only in terms of financial resources but also in the form of time, intent and commitment.

Some key outcomes that emerged from the session were: Establishing effective early warning systems is a shared responsibility which needs a whole-of-society approach, not only in its implementation but also in its design, set-up and monitoring and while setting up early warning systems is essential to reduce the impact of hazards or avoid disasters as a whole, they should not be seen as an alternative to undertaking integrated disaster risk reduction actions.

[Link to session](#)

Solutions for Scaling and Sustaining Investments in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

Gloria Kasang Bulus, Bridge That Gap Initiative, Nigeria (GNDR member) speaking.

Key messages shared: Local grassroots organisations have limited funding, as some donors do not have programmes that are targeted directly towards disaster risk reduction. In Nigeria, the preparedness level is very poor, and there are gaps in effective EWS on the ground. Indeed, local and rural communities do not have access to warnings and therefore are not associated with the preparedness process. Also, ministries are working in silos, and there is less political engagement in Nigeria for risk reduction. However, it is essential that all stakeholders work together. We need to break the silos and build coherence and cooperation. Gloria recommended investing in establishing the infrastructure to set up EWS and engage with the community in Nigeria. We also need to channel private sector funding towards building community resilience and increase the government budget in disaster risk reduction.

[Link to session](#)

Effective Governance Models to Support Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

Chandrika Kulrathna from World Vision Sri Lanka (GNDR member), speaking.

Key messages shared: Chandrika Kulrathna reflected on the role played by non-state actors like CSOs in early warning systems. CSOs work directly with communities, they have the knowledge and adopt inclusive and integrated approaches to establish effective early warning systems at the local level. It is this role of civil societies that can be leveraged to establish effective governance at the local, sub-national and national levels.

[Link to session](#)



GNDR member Chandrika Kulrathna, World Vision Sri Lanka, speaking during *Effective Governance Models to Support Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems*. Photo: UNDRR

Early Warnings for All – highlights from the forum – closing ceremony

Becky Murphy (Head of Policy & Research) speaking.

Key messages shared: This session reflected on two days of discussions at the Early Warnings for All Forum. GNDR's Becky Murphy shared insights from the SEM stakeholder group, emphasising political inclusion, local leadership, and the need for financing and trust-building. Participants across the UN, government, and civil society called for people-centred, inclusive, and accessible early warning systems.

[Link to session](#)

Special Sessions

GNDR at the Strategic Dialogue on the Localisation of the Sendai Framework

João Figueiredo, (Regional Lead for the Americas & Caribbean, GNDR) speaking.

Key messages shared: The session convened representatives from national, subnational, and local governments, along with civil society actors, to reflect on how to advance Sendai Framework implementation from the ground up. João's intervention emphasised GNDR's 15+ years of experience working with communities on the frontlines of risk and presented our eight call to action. João reaffirmed that effective localisation of the Sendai Framework means

transferring power, resources, and decision-making capacity to communities themselves. The intervention drew from GNDR's Call to Action, shared widely at GP2025, and underscored the network's commitment to amplifying local voices and enabling community-led resilience.

LAC and Asian Women's DRR Network Meeting

João Figueiredo, (Regional Lead for the Americas & Caribbean, GNDR) and Ipsita Sircar, (Regional Lead, Asia Pacific and Europe, GNDR) attended.

Key messages shared: This cross-regional meeting brought together nearly 40 participants, including civil society, government, and UN representatives, to discuss gender equality and women's leadership in DRR. The session was moderated by Saskia Carusi (UNDRR LAC) and opened by UNDRR Director Paola Albrito, who highlighted the importance of governance structures and data to institutionalise gender inclusion in DRR. During the session, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment with USD 2.65 million over four years for regional gender equality initiatives.

The LAC Women's Network and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) were recognised for their regional advocacy and peer learning. UNDRR's Gender Advisor shared a four-pillar approach: evidence generation, capacity-building, leadership, and institutional policy support. African and Asian women highlighted growing grassroots mobilisation and the importance of trans inclusion. Colombia's Risk Management Unit Director shared national progress via gender scorecards and Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) tools. Australia's delegates reiterated the ethical imperative of gender inclusion and the policy impact of women's leadership. The session concluded with a shared call for robust governance, intersectional data, and long-term institutional investment in gender-inclusive DRR.

Official GPDRR2025 Days

High-level sessions (Wednesday, 4 June)

Harnessing risk understanding for a safer future: Are we keeping up?

Adessou Kossivi (Regional Lead, Africa, GNDR) session organising team.

GNDR co-organised this session, which brought together key public and private stakeholders to share successful practices and real-world experiences related to risk knowledge ecosystems that actually work for risk-informed decision-making for a more resilient future for all.

Key messages shared: The panel discussed how government and stakeholders could address future risks. It highlighted how investment in resilience improves planning. Increased

knowledge of risks and action could combat the digital divide and shape disaster-resilient futures. The panel also stressed how equal access to technology and finance is critical. Members of the panel also highlighted the need to recognise non-economic losses after disaster, such as trauma and mental health; the need for inclusivity in early warning and action; and that risk data has to be a public good, and that data needs to be as inclusive as possible.

[Link to session](#)

Strengthening disaster risk governance for transformative action and outcomes

Ghada Ahmadein (GNDR's Global Board representative for North Africa & West Asia) speaking.

Key messages shared: Ghada described how, in her region, it is conflict that is affecting all development plans. People are increasingly being displaced, which is putting huge pressure on resources across the region – this is particularly problematic when you consider the existing challenges of food security and droughts. Disaster management is not the responsibility of one actor. Local governments cannot be blamed for poor coordination and governance if they don't have the necessary resources, like data, and importantly, localised data. Here, Ghada discussed GNDR's innovative Views from the Frontline methodology, which has proven the important role of civil society in participatory data collection. She emphasised that "the greatest risk is the failure to act in the face of disasters; risk-informed investing and financing are essential".

[Link to session](#)



GNDR member and global board representative Ghada Ahmadein on the panel of the high level session *Strengthening disaster risk governance for transformative action and outcomes*. Photo: UNDRR

Multi-Stakeholder Plenary: Leave no one behind: Realizing the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework

Becky Murphy (Head of Policy & Research, GNDR), speaking.

Key messages shared: Our eight Call to Action messages were delivered by our head of policy & research in a high-level multi-stakeholder forum and submitted officially to the official GP Geneva call outcome paper team.

[Link to session](#)

Official Side Events (Thursday, 5 June)

Equity in Action: Early Warnings for All People

Adessou Kossivi (Regional Lead, Africa, GNDR) moderating.

Other speakers: Catalina Díaz Escobar, (Corporación Antioquia Presente, Colombia); Gloria Kasang Bulus, (Bridge That Gap Initiative, Nigeria); Gulshan Akhundova, (Women, Development Future Public Union, Azerbaijan).

Key messages shared: The session shared that, from different observations, EWS is improving significantly. However, the ability to reach and serve the most vulnerable is a serious challenge. EWS is therefore showing its limits and the scope of its added value is restricted by several

factors and realities at the local level. Adessou Kossivi (Regional Lead, Africa, GNDR) was invited to facilitate the first activity of the side event (Risk Knowledge). This activity set the scene outlining the dimensions of disaster risk (hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity).

Our member, Gulshan Akhundova (Azerbaijan), intervened during key components of “Risk Knowledge” in designing people-centred EWS. She shared her experiences of multi-hazards in Azerbaijan and the gaps in people-centred EWS on the ground. Our member, Catalina Díaz Escobar (Colombia), intervened during the segment on “Dissemination and Communication”. She highlighted the importance of connecting the last mile to the first mile. She emphasised community engagement, saying that no matter where and who we are, we all should have the information on time to make life-saving decisions. Gloria Bulus (Nigeria) intervened during the “Monitoring and Warning” segment. She emphasised the importance of taking a whole-of-society approach.

After a brief introduction, participants' (more than 200) points of view were collected through Mentimeter. The participants were requested to share their thoughts on some questions. The central question was: What action would you advise to ensure the need and knowledge of a person is reflected in DRR Knowledge that informs the Early Warning System?

[Link to session](#)

Official Learning Lab (Friday, 6 June)

Delivering early warning to everyone: people-centred and gender-responsive approaches

Chandrika Kulrathna from World Vision Sri Lanka (a GNDR member) speaking.

Key messages shared: This session, co-hosted by WMO and CREWS, was shaped in a “joint learning lab” format, intended to support stakeholders in better understanding and implementing early warning systems that reach the most vulnerable populations, and at the same time, strengthen participants’ knowledge of key building blocks for people-centred early warning systems. GNDR member, Chandrika Kularathna, from World Vision Sri Lanka, emphasised the role of grassroots organisations in supporting local authorities and communities in the implementation of early warning systems, citing experiences in her own country. In this regard, she underlined the need to involve CSOs in mapping actors on the ground in order to effectively adapt protocols, as well as the involvement of local entities in capacity building at the local level.

Official Thematic Session (Friday, 6 June)

Advancing DRR localization through South-South and triangular cooperation, peer-to-peer exchange, and international partnership

Astrid Furaha Matendo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Marcos Concepcion Raba (Executive Director, GNDR), speaking.

Key messages shared: During this session, Astrid Furaha Matendo, a GNDR member, highlighted the lack of support that local NGOs receive from international actors. Her message resonated when she insisted that “we’re all suffering disasters, so we all should work together”. At the end of this session, Marcos Concepcion Raba, GNDR’s Executive Director, intervened to insist on the need to resource the processes to generate those partnerships and trust building.

[Link to session](#)

Official Ignite Stage Slots

Heroines of Resilience: Women at the Forefront of Anticipatory Action in Southeast Asia

Ipsita Sircar (Regional Lead, Asia Pacific and Europe, GNDR) and our Global Board representative from South East Asia & East Asia, Eena Geslaine Barrun, speaking.

Key messages shared: They shared inspiring stories of women leaders from Southeast Asia who demonstrate that when we invest in women’s leadership, we foster inclusive and adaptive systems that address the growing impacts of natural hazards and climate change.

Human-Tech Nexus: Building a Safe Haven for Coping with Climate Extremes

Shivangi Chavdaa (Head of Programmes, GNDR) speaking.

Key messages shared: Shivangi presented the Human-Tech Nexus (HuT) project, which addresses the escalating impacts of climate change through a unified ‘all-hazards’ approach. It promotes the use of trans-disciplinary risk management tools and approaches, and employs innovative disaster risk reduction solutions that could be adopted and used extensively across Europe.

[Link to Ignite Stage](#)



GNDR Regional Lead for Asia, Pacific and Europe, Ipsita Sircar and GNDR member and global board member, Eena Geslaine Barrun, presenting on the Ignite Stage. Photo: GNDR

Official Innovation Booth: Swiss Booth

João Figueiredo, (Regional Lead for the Americas & Caribbean, GNDR) and Ipsita Sircar, (Regional Lead, Asia Pacific and Europe, GNDR) moderating.

Other speakers: José Ramón Ávila (Asociacion de Organismos No Gubernamentales de Honduras, Honduras), Ruiti Aretaake (Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati FSPK, Kiribati), Gulshan Akhundova (Women, Development Future Public Union, Azerbaijan), Nakanywenge Meschac (Union pour la Promotion/Protection, la Défense des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement, DRC), Najoua Bouraoui (Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte, Tunisia), Gilberto Romero (Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres, Peru).

Key messages shared: The session created a dynamic and informal space for frontline voices to share experiences around the theme "Innovations and Traditional Knowledge in Locally Led DRR." The Swiss booth format encouraged open discussion, informal interaction, and meaningful exchange between speakers and participants. The session highlighted the localisation of DRR strategies and community-led actions, innovations and traditional or ancestral knowledge that improve local resilience and opportunities and challenges in adopting new technologies and tools for DRR at the local level. The panel reflected GNDR's commitment to amplifying local knowledge, with contributors sharing solutions such as

community-designed EWS apps, agroecological techniques for climate resilience, and indigenous early warning practices.

The Swiss booth set-up, with three screens, also supported visual storytelling: rotating videos, slides, and testimonials from GNDR members in the Americas, Asia, and Africa were featured across the screens, reinforcing the thematic focus and keeping the audience engaged.

This session was made possible thanks to the support of Helvetas and SDC (COSUDE), especially Jana Junghart, and represented a powerful platform for GNDR to spotlight member-led innovation and collaboration in DRR.

Unofficial side events

Global Seminar on Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action

On the sidelines of the GP, we convened a high-level Global Seminar on Localising Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Anticipatory Action on 5 June. The event was held under the aegis of FCDO and BRC. This event brought together 34 participants from 17 countries – including 13 frontline local champions (Bangladesh, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Peru), donors (FCDO), CSOs, and technical experts (EW4ALL Pillar Leads–UNDRR, IFRC, ITU, REAP) – to amplify local voices, share experiences, and co-create a Strategic Roadmap for Localised EWS.

The seminar, part of GNDR's FCDO and BRC-funded project, synthesised insights from a global survey involving 408 respondents, including CSOs, INGOs, media, academia across 88 countries, and national workshops held in six countries (Ghana, Kenya, Peru, Colombia, Bangladesh and Kyrgyzstan). It aimed to address critical gaps between early warning and early action, especially for vulnerable communities at the frontline of risk, often excluded from traditional systems.

The seminar was inclusive, participatory and engaging, being organised around four key sessions. The sessions were: 1) Presentation of Global Survey Findings, highlighting issues of accessibility, inclusion, governance, and finance; 2) National Case Study Presentations from Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and Colombia, showcasing locally-led EWS innovations and barriers; 3) A Human Library session with powerful frontline stories, and a World Café to crowdsource recommendations across four strategic themes: Inclusion, Governance, Forecast-Based Financing, and Risk Communication; 4) A High-Level Panel Discussion with Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Pillar Leads, reinforcing the need for integration, political will, and equitable financing.

From the deliberations during the seminar, the three major outcomes were:

- 1) Clear milestones toward a Strategic Roadmap for LEWS
- 2) Strong commitments to amplify local knowledge, improve coordination, and institutionalise anticipatory action in national frameworks
- 3) Recognition of civil society as a driving force in delivering people-centred early warning systems

[Link to session](#)



GNDR members, Didier Ferney Pedreros Vega, Fundación para la Gestión del Riesgo, Colombia and Carolina Garcia Londoño, Sociedad Colombiana de Geología, Colombia during the Global Seminar. Photo: GNDR

Donor Roundtable

GNDR organised a high-level, closed-door donor roundtable event on 4 June 2025, co-sponsored by the Swiss delegation to the GP. The event provided an opportunity for donors of DRR, resilience and risk-informed development to come together to share their priority messages, actions and hopes for GP2025 with civil society, as well as advice and recommendations for civil society engagement during GP discussions.

20 people attended the event, including donor representatives and GNDR staff, and board members. A total of nine donors were represented: Swiss Development Cooperation Agency

(SDC), REAP/IFRC, World Bank, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Centre for Disaster Protection (CDP), Asian Development Bank, Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance/Zurich Foundation, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), and representatives from the Togo delegation.

The event opened with some reflections from the Head of Climate, DRR and Environment section at SDC, Mirjam Macchi Howell, who spoke about the key priorities and activities of Switzerland for the GP2025 and the importance of applying an all-of-society approach and emphasising localisation within DRR. GNDR presented our eight key messages from our Call to Action and received feedback and advice from donors on effective civil society engagement. Donor representatives also had the opportunity to share their priorities, actions and hopes for GP 2025. This was followed by a fruitful and open discussion covering several themes, including donor and civil society engagement, the localisation agenda, the necessity of a whole-of-society approach, and barriers to action.

GNDR would like to thank SDC for co-sponsoring this successful and impactful event and all the donor representatives who contributed to the rich discussion.

Members Briefings

Monday and Tuesday – Preparatory Days (2–3 June)

GNDR opened its engagement at the Global Platform Prep Days with joint briefings after a meeting with UNDRR SRSG Kamal Kishore, where the Call to Action was formally presented. Members shared their expectations for the week and aligned around GNDR's eight key messages. The briefings also supported coordination for the NGO Stakeholder Forum (SEM) and key sessions on disaster displacement, financing, and the climate–DRR nexus. The meetings fostered early networking among members from different regions and laid the foundation for impactful collective advocacy.

[Read the full update](#)

Wednesday – GPDRR day one (4 June)

The Wednesday morning briefing opened with a review of the agenda and key moments from the Prep Days (2–3 June), including the Swiss Booth preparations and engagement strategies for GPDRR's opening day. João Figueiredo, Regional Lead for the Americas and Caribbean, facilitated the session and highlighted visibility priorities and GNDR's presence across sessions.

Members previewed key activities for the day and reflected on learnings from previous sessions. They also discussed GNDR's visibility in the strategic Swiss Booth session, which showcased six GNDR members sharing localised DRR practices, traditional knowledge, and innovative technologies. Additionally, they anticipated GNDR participation in "Harnessing Risk Understanding", "Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance", and "Heroines of Resilience", reinforcing community-centred approaches and local leadership. These events were revisited in detail during the Thursday morning briefing.

[Read the full update](#)

Thursday – GPDRR day two (5 June)

Thursday morning's briefing revisited the impactful discussions and community insights presented during day one. Members reflected on the outcomes of the Swiss Booth session, the "Harnessing Risk Understanding" dialogue, and the session on "Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance", highlighting the relevance of local voices, inclusive data, and traditional knowledge.

The team also reviewed the Thursday agenda, which included key GNDR-led and co-hosted activities: the Global Seminar on Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action and the side event "Equity in Action: Early Warnings for All". Participants emphasised GNDR's role in advancing people-centred EWS and shared insights from members' interventions in Colombia, Azerbaijan, and Nigeria. Members were informed that GNDR's policy team had submitted the network's declaration to influence the official GP outcome document. The morning ended with a preview of the Sasakawa Award Ceremony, later celebrated during the Friday briefing.

[Read the full update](#)

Friday – GPDRR day three (6 June)

The Friday morning briefing began with reflections on Thursday's events, including GNDR's win of the 2025 Sasakawa Award and contributions to both EWS-focused sessions and strategic engagements with donors and government stakeholders.

[Read the full update](#)

Members spaces

Thematic session: From data to action: Strengthening the understanding of disaster impact data and its application in decision-making - Manu Gupta (SEEDS India)

Key message shared: During the session, CSOs' perspectives on the barriers that prevent data from becoming decision intelligence were shared. Manu highlighted the diverse perspectives on what data governance must look like to enable interoperability, collaboration, and effective data sharing.

[Link to session](#)

Inclusive and multisectoral approach to effective preparedness - Gloria Kunyenga, Malawi Red Cross

Key message shared: This session focused on strengthening effective pre-disaster preparedness to effectively respond and build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Gloria highlighted what changes are required to governance structures, finance mechanisms, and partnerships to enhance disaster preparedness for resilient recovery, focusing on actionable steps and increasing investment.

[Link to session](#)



GNDR members and secretariat staff after a daily member's briefing. Photo: GNDR

Ignite Stage

PRORED initiative for risk management and urban resilience in 7 cities of Ecuador –

Edison Calderón, Ecuadorian Network of Climate Change

Key message shared: Edison shared the work of the Ecuadorian Network of Climate Change, together with multiple stakeholders, to implement effective and inclusive DRR and urban resilience measures in the most multi-hazard vulnerable settlements of the country.

[Link to ignite stage](#)

Key achievements at GNDR

Policy wins

Our efforts were recognised and had an impact. In the immediate days after GPDRR, the co-chair's summary of the [Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

A quick analysis shows that many of our key messages have all been included in the co-chairs' document, including our statements on: the importance of DRR in conflict affected and fragile states, the importance of a whole-of-society approach, the inclusion of communities including indigenous groups, youth, gender action plans, risk-informed investments, pre-arranged finance for anticipatory action, localisation and green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. We would have liked to have seen a stronger commitment to local leadership and listening to local voices. Likewise, stronger commitments are missing for DRR to be legally binding and locally accessible finance. And we would have preferred a stronger statement on making sure disaster risk reduction not only reaches the local level, but decision-making on how risk reduction finance should be spent is guided by local leaders.

We also would have liked the role of civil society to be identified and committed to in the Co-Chair summary. However, the very specific call to make sure the Gender Action Plan, Youth Call to Action and disability inclusion are at the forefront of decision making and leadership feels like a big win.

The co-chair summary is the policy document that provides insight into how policy efforts will be shared over the next three years. The topics in this summary will guide where effort and

resources are invested in the next phase of the Sendai Framework implementation and monitoring. It is therefore a good indication of progress and policy change. Specific wins are outlined below:

Co-chairs summary dialogue

- 1. Localisation of risk governance:** "Empowering local authorities, and local communities. It promotes integrated and multi-level governance by empowering subnational and municipal actors." (Article 22)
- 2. Early warning and anticipatory actions:** "Improving early warnings and pre-arranged financing, it contributes to disaster risk reduction, effective early action, faster response, and strengthens resilience. User-centred early warning designs should be co-developed with at-risk communities." (Article 33) (Article 34)
- 3. Coordination and Coherence:** "Alignment among the goals and implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Rio Conventions, the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is critical to addressing overlapping priorities and harnessing synergies, and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda." (Article 36)
- 4. Disaster data, data governance, localised data into disaster risk reduction planning:** "Easily accessible and reusable disaster data is important to ensure evidence-based planning. Data is essential to improve risk understanding, including how hazards and economic and non-economic losses interact." (Article 17, Article 18, Article 22, Article 39)
- 5. Disaster displacement:** "Systems and policies should be established to address displacement, assist affected populations, including ensuring access to essential services and psychosocial support, and enable rapid livelihood and economic recovery." (Article 35)
- 6. Scaling up Financing:** "Decentralised disaster risk reduction financing enables funding to reach local actors based on risk profiles, prioritising fragile and vulnerable contexts." (Article 23) (Article 24)
- 7. DRR in fragile and conflict-affected states:** "In times of conflict and humanitarian crisis, cooperating on disaster risk reduction and simultaneously pursuing peacekeeping is paramount. Risk-informed programming must become the norm within and across all three pillars of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actions." (Article 32)

Call to Action policy outcomes

1. Listen to communities

- a. GNDR was part of the group with the Platform for Disaster Displacement, lobbying for data and financing for disaster displacement. The co-chairs' summary, which included displacement with emphasis on data and financing, is a great achievement. ([More information on lobbying group here](#))
- b. The GNDR session at the Swiss Booth created a dynamic and informal space for frontline voices to share experiences around the theme "Innovations and Traditional Knowledge in Locally Led DRR." The Swiss Booth format encouraged open discussion, informal interaction, and meaningful exchange between speakers and participants. The panel reflected GNDR's commitment to amplifying local knowledge, with contributors sharing solutions such as community-designed EWS apps, agroecological techniques for climate resilience, and indigenous early warning practices.

2. Finance local early warning & action

- a. GNDR saw a strengthened connection on financing for disaster risk reduction, including pre-arranged financing, national financing frameworks, decentralised DRR financing, as well as scaling up financial instruments for DRR.
- b. GNDR would have liked to have seen a greater commitment to ensuring that local leaders are included in decision-making on DRR financing.

3. Strengthen DRR in conflict zones

- a. The mention of conflict and the need to integrate the impacts of this into DRR assessments, activities and financing was included in the co-chairs' summary and is therefore a win for the recognition of risk-informed development and DRR.
- b. There is mention of incorporating risk-informed programming within and across all three pillars of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actions.

4. Make DRR legally binding

- a. GNDR would like to have seen a stronger commitment to DRR as legally binding and enhanced accountability.

5. Implement a whole-of-society approach

- a. The whole-of-society approach highlighted the greater participation and leadership of all stakeholders in disaster risk reduction decision-making, along with full and equal participation of marginalised and at-risk groups.
- b. GNDR would have liked to have seen a clear identification of the role of civil society in DRR, and the support we could provide towards our common goal.

6. Institutionalise inclusive DRR

- a. Emphasis on the need for children and youth to be included was echoed throughout the GP, and the Major Group of Children and Youth presented the Children and Youth Call to Action during the Opening Ceremony.
- b. The specific call in the co-chairs' summary to ensure the implementation of the Gender Action Plan is at the forefront of decision-making in DRR is a win.

7. Invest in local green DRR

- a. The multi-benefit and cost-effective dividends of nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches are included in the co-chair's summary, representing a great win for us.

8. All development must be risk-Informed

- a. GNDR saw a strengthened emphasis on risk-informed sustainable development – a risk-informed social protection system and risk-informed investment is a great achievement.



GNDR's Executive Director, Marcos Concepcion Raba, speaking during the high-level session: *Breaking the DRR Financing Silos: A Systemic Shift in DRR Financing for Localization of Inclusive Resilience*. Photo: UNDRR

Lessons learned

One-team approach

The GP provided a great space to exhibit GNDR's global team, membership and the scope of work that the organisation is involved in. With the secretariat and members being involved in a variety of sessions, GNDR's involvement showcased its coordination and the strength of a global team that has a core and committed message. Here, the event showcased the importance of civil society's role in global decision making, the breadth and depth of expertise across our GNDR membership and the power of local voice when provided a space at global decision making fora.

Making connections and increasing visibility

Prospect members and new connections through networking

Through the bilateral meetings and wider sessions, the GNDR secretariat met 30+ different organisations, ranging from government representatives to CSOs, INGOs, academicians and UN entities. Not only does this increase GNDR's visibility globally, but it also provides the opportunity for new members to join GNDR's network of CSOs and share the Call to Action. All new contacts have been shared with regional leads to foster further connection.

GNDR visibility

With participation in over 20 sessions and presence on the Ignite stage and Swiss innovation booths, GNDR gained visibility and showcased its work with multiple stakeholders and member states present at the Global Platform. GNDR has been awarded the [2025 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), recognising our global contribution to building resilience for those most at risk. The award is a recognition of the power of civil society and the importance of local leadership in shaping effective disaster risk reduction strategies.

"This is not just a recognition of GNDR, but of the critical role that civil society plays in reducing disaster risk. It's a celebration of inclusive, local solutions and a call to ensure that these perspectives are always represented."

GNDR Global Board Chair, Emmanuel Seck

Next steps and conclusion

The GPDRR 2025 was a significant moment for GNDR and all civil society organisations working on disaster risk reduction. The network was proud to play an active role in the organising committees and official sessions throughout the week. Our policy messages and Call to Action document was delivered in over 20 different sessions, ranging from high-level dialogues, multi-stakeholder plenaries to unofficial side events.

Our efforts were recognised and had an impact. The official co-chair summary, the Geneva Call to Action included many of our Call-to-Action policy demands. Furthermore, in feedback to GNDR after the Global Platform, Kamal Kishore, the UNDRR Special Representative and Secretary General (SRSG) wrote to us to thank us for our active participation and reinforce how important civil society is as a stakeholder in risk reduction decision making. We look forward to meeting with SRSG in the autumn of 2025 to strengthen our partnership. Here we note the important timing for GNDR's new strategy (2026-2030) and aim to align our efforts for a final push to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action.

We commit to supporting the sector, UNDRR and member states in delivering the Geneva Call to Action priority areas and continuing to champion local voice, the role of civil society and risk-informed development in all areas of disaster risk reduction. In particular, we recognise the shift towards the importance of finance for disaster risk reduction. Here we commit to supporting civil society to meaningfully engage in this space and champion the need for locally accessible, pre-arranged finance for disaster risk reduction.

In addition to this, GNDR now looks ahead to its next global policy space, COP30, where it will continue to deliver the Call to Action and its messages for a localised and collaborative approach in DRR processes within the climate negotiations.

For more information about any of GNDR's policy work please reach out to Becky Murphy, our Head of Policy & Research: rebecca.murphy@gndr.org

Appendix

Sponsored members reflections

REAP Bursary / British Red Cross

Ruiti Uriano Aretaake

FSP Kiribati (FSPK)

Kiribati

I participated in the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) Climate Change session and highlighted the economic & non-economic loss and damage of my country. Kiribati has cascading and compounding hazards from drought to salinity of water to scarcity of food and water. Attending GP2025, I had the opportunity to share our voices and our concerns. I was able to represent my community and feed into the outcomes through the GNDR Call to Action. The financial support provided to different regions helped to highlight different issues, build new connections, enhance my knowledge, and I learned how to integrate indigenous knowledge, which is our identity, with modern science.

José Ramón Ávila

Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (ASONOG)

Honduras

Attending GP2025 gave me the opportunity to share our work on climate change adaptation in the Central American Dry Corridor. It is strengthening irrigation and sustaining the livelihoods of local communities in water-stressed areas. In the last five years of the Sendai Framework, it is important to emphasise social vulnerabilities with a gender perspective, paying attention to populations living in high-risk conditions.

Gloria Kasang Bulus

Bridge That Gap Initiative

Nigeria

I participated as an advocate and representative of local voices, particularly on early warning and early actions. During the sessions I spoke at, I highlighted the whole-of-society approach for EWEA and the efforts of the community for preparedness. Being part of a global platform helped to shape my organisation's approach to early warning. I learned how to connect with practitioners and how to support community-led early warning systems, looking at what is happening globally and bringing it to the local level. GP2025 gave me the opportunity to build partnerships, especially with donor organisations for disaster response. Attending GP2025 gave me renewed credibility and visibility. I felt empowered and energised. I felt the whole

event was stolen by GNDR members and strengthened solidarity and guided me with actionable commitments post global platform.

Nakanywenge Meschac

Union pour la Promotion/Protection, la Défense des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement (UPDDHE/GL)

DRC

I appreciate and congratulate GNDR in mobilising the whole of CSOs. I attended the session focused on DRR in fragile and conflict-affected states. We should mobilise more resources to encourage more people to participate in these global platforms to give power to the community and have the necessary change to better respond and recover to build resilience. In order to give power to the community and to have the necessary change, we need to work towards facilitating access to financing and necessary actions to support and empower local stakeholders. We can support our local authorities in our common fight against climate change and localisation.

Catalina Díaz Escobar

Corporación Antioquia Presente

Colombia

I participated in the session “Data and Financing for disaster displacement and loss & damage”. Attending the global platform helped me in generating dialogue, learning and knowledge, and this connection helped me share best practices. I value the gender commitment and shared widely the GNDR Call to Action. It's important to open this global platform for everyone. My organisation and I did not have the resources to attend the global platform in Geneva, and the funding support helped me a lot. Through the global platform, I felt we all represented the network as a team. I felt very respected, motivated, accompanied and included in all the actions of the network. It seemed that there was less representation from the government. We need to Act Now for SFDRR actions, prioritise a gender perspective, increase DRR finance and use data, science and technology.

Gilberto Romero

Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres (PREDES)

Peru

Learning about early warning and anticipatory actions localisation is now a work priority for my organisation. After my participation in the Global Platform, we are committed to advocate with government institutions to advance in closing the gaps identified in the National Workshop on Localising Early Warnings held last May 2025 with GNDR and the members of the network in my country. The exchange among CSOs and the approach to the proposals of technicians and

government and academic officials enriched the knowledge and conviction of GNDR CSOs on the importance and priority of getting involved in promoting EWS in their countries.

Gulshan Akhundova

Women, Development Future Public Union

Azerbaijan

The GP2025 met my expectations, although at times it was a very technical discussion. GNDR encouraged us to participate in a global platform. It was a holistic representation, and I felt part of GNDR. GNDR did a great job making sure that local voices are present during the global platform. I learned so much by attending this event, especially about how different countries are designing and implementing early warning systems that work for people, not just on paper. I came back with lots of ideas on how to make our own efforts more inclusive and community-led. It also reminded me how important it is to link early warning with early action - getting information is just the first step, acting on it quickly is what saves lives.

Najoua Bouraoui

Association APEDDUB

Tunisia

I represented my community and shared the CSOs' perspective. Global Platform arrangements by GNDR were well coordinated, and it was collaborative. Post GP2025, I shared my learnings and experiences with other CSOs in my country, which encouraged them to join the network of building community resilience. I also shared the opportunities available at the national and regional levels. We need to work together for the localisation of early warning and early actions. My recommendation is to mobilise more resources so that more local CSOs and community members can attend the next global platform.

Localising Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action Through CSOs

Md. Maksudar Rahman,

Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

Bangladesh

I'm working at the ground level, so local to national, and then at this international platform. This has been a great opportunity for me to represent our community's voice, so thanks to GNDR for inviting me to raise our voice in this Global Platform. I have talked to many organisations, many people. The Global Platform helped me increase my networking. It's very important for my organisation - in the near future my organisation will connect more, and our scope of work will increase.

Carolina Garcia Londoño
Sociedad Colombiana de Geología (SCG)
Colombia

Even if GNDR has been present at previous Global Platforms, I do have the feeling that this is the first time that we have been heard, that people are listening actively to what civil society organisations have to say. And I think that reflects the work that has been done in more than a decade by GNDR – this road to connecting us, to make us stronger, by creating this large community that respects different cultural and societal approaches. Every region has a voice.



GNDR members, secretariat staff and global board representatives on stage collecting the Sasakawa Award 2025.
Photo: UNDRR