



“Harnessing the Power of Local Voices and Participation to Build a More Resilient Post-2015 World.”

A Statement from the Philippine Road to Sendai CSO Summit on 6 March 2015



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PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE



GNDP
Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) has fostered increased commitments and actions in creating safer, more resilient communities around the world. However, the HFA is just a first step; after ten years of implementation, critical shortcomings in existing DRR measures are driving the continued vulnerability of communities to disaster risks and losses. Rapid urbanization, the growing adverse impacts of climate change and the cumulative impacts of both large and small-scale everyday disasters are stretching the existing capacities of nations and communities to effectively address disaster risks. Of most concern is that in spite of the existence of the HFA, governments had difficulty to institutionalize support for and empowerment of local communities to lead in the management of disasters, and therefore not optimizing local communities' capacities and expertise.

These gaps have meant that disasters continue to result in massive loss of life, deep macro-economic impacts at the national level and the further impoverishment of affected communities. As poverty reduction efforts are too often hindered in the face of disaster, communities have become increasingly vulnerable not only to future disasters but also to heightened poverty.

It is imperative that Disaster Risk Reduction, post-2015, address these identified gaps, scale up DRR implementation and harness the power of local communities in tackling the underlying risk factors that continue to drive the adverse impacts of extreme weather events and everyday shocks. Local communities need to be empowered through, among others, provision of necessary capacity and technical and financial resources, to play their full role as active Disaster Risk Reduction champions and experts. Such local empowerment processes must be based on the participation of those who are most at-risk, including women, children, persons with disabilities, isolated communities, indigenous peoples and the elderly. It is these community members who are already grappling with the impacts of disaster and who have unique insights as to how to address local risks and boost resilience.

Our Five Key Messages Towards Building Resilience

We, the Civil Society Organizations who came together during the Philippine Road to Sendai CSO Summit last 6 March 2015, affirm the position statements made by the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction and the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network. To build on the positive foundation set by the HFA and to ensure a more inclusive and community-based Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and to voice the priorities raised during the Road to Sendai CSO Summit, we call on all stakeholders to:

1. *Understand local perspectives of risk, consider the local context, and sufficiently address underlying risk factors with the meaningful participation of local actors and communities to enable and foster ownership of a culture of safety and resilience*

Issues of fragility, insecurity, and poverty are the underlying drivers of vulnerability, to both large and small, every day disasters. The people who are disproportionately affected by such issues hold unique insights and perspectives in understanding and reducing risks as well as mitigating losses from disasters. Likewise, all stakeholders must learn from the histories, experiences and cultures of those most affected by disaster, and ensuring that the corresponding varied contexts and insights are integrated into Disaster Risk Reduction analysis and action are critical to supporting strengthened implementation. Disaster Risk Reduction, when implemented with the local context and understanding at the forefront, bolsters effectiveness by ensuring that reducing risk is a responsive community effort that reflects the needs and capacities of those most affected by disasters.

2. *Strengthen DRR governance by upholding inclusivity through meaningful and active participation of all groups, particularly those who are most at-risk*

Disasters exacerbate the already stretched out poor conditions of the most vulnerable groups. There is a need to strengthen them by enabling their voices to be heard in actions towards reducing risk and mitigating loss. Ensure the inclusion of all groups, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Disaster risk reduction measures should strengthen operationalization of the mandate of local governments by capacitating local actors as key leaders and decision-makers. We must ensure inclusivity and enable meaningful participation of all sectors to address root causes of vulnerability. All stakeholders should be guided by a rights-based, gender-sensitive community-driven approach in attaining resiliency.

3. *Cooperate and collaborate with, support and mobilize local groups and civil society organizations to strengthen DRR planning, decision-making and implementation*

Efforts must be undertaken to actively engage all local groups and relevant civil society organizations and build on their existing capacities and knowledge towards achieving resilience. It is of utmost importance to recognize the critical role of civil society in achieving the goals of the post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework. In reducing risks and mitigating losses, partnership is key—no government, civil society, private sector and community can do this on its own.

4. *Integrate and harmonize Disaster Risk Reduction across policies and frameworks*

2015 is a pivotal year in development as it presents an opportunity to align Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development. Pushing towards reducing risk and mitigating losses requires harmonization, streamlining, and coherence across these different policies and frameworks. Resilience requires social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental awareness in tackling and reducing the root causes of vulnerability. Integration of the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and Sustainable Development should be reflected in global, regional, national and local frameworks and targets.

5. *Invest meaningfully in Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental Resilience to address underlying risks with the principle of accountability and transparency of the duty-bearers to the rights-holders held to the highest regard.*

Disaster risk reduction should address underlying risk factors that magnify the effects of disasters. Funds should be able to address the needs of the most vulnerable of individuals and communities. Addressing risk drivers such as poverty, inequality, climate change, rapid urbanization, poor land use management, and the like should be complemented with adequate funding and resources. Disaster Risk Reduction measures must be guided by the principles of public accountability and transparency, particularly the accountability of all stakeholders to affected communities, especially with respect to those who are most at risk. This is to ensure that actions for resilience, especially those of responding to and recovery from disasters, are not politicized. DRR budget allocations and funds must be managed in a way that enables and supports inclusive community participation in development and monitoring of the use of such funds.