**Oral Statement by ActionAid**

**Global Platform for DRR 2013**

Since world nations have adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005) and the Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010) there has been increased attention by the international community to resilience-building initiatives. These have helped enable communities and countries to be prepared when shocks and stresses (both ‘natural’ and climate change- induced) strike and to emerge out of such crises with minimum human, economic and social costs. However, such resilience-building strategies become comprehensive only when efforts to tackle conflict-related risks and extensive risks and to achieve long term adaptation are also integrated into the framework. Under-reported and uncompensated small-scale recurrent disasters are increasing rapidly in developing countries. Global factors such as financial crisis, concentration of land, degradation of natural resources, coupled with poor governance and policy environment, further exacerbate the vulnerabilities of poor and excluded people. Additionally, both the UN-ISDR’s Global Assessment Report and the Global Network for Disaster Reduction’s ‘Views from the Frontline’ report have identified that the least progress countries have made is in achieving the Hyogo Framework’s fourth priority for action in tackling the underlying causes of risk.

ActionAid works on tackling the underlying causes of risk using **a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Resilience**.

ActionAid believes that the indignity of poverty is a violation of human rights, arising from unequal and unjust power relations from the household to the global level. Poverty is not just about a lack of income or a lack of material resources. It is about a lack of power to access, acquire, use or control the resource, skills and knowledge that people need to live a life of dignity. People living in poverty, especially women, have limited resources and capacities to deal with and recover from the impacts of shocks and stresses, keeping them in a vicious cycle of poverty and making them more vulnerable.

ActionAid’s human rights based approach centres on poor and excluded people to ensure that they have assets and a secured access to natural resources, have skills, access to basic services and economic opportunities. This is achieved through strengthening active agency i.e. supporting people living in poverty to become conscious of their rights, organise and claim their rights and hold duty bearers to account. Our HRBA builds on international human rights law, but goes beyond a legal or technical approach to rights. We support people to analyse and confront power imbalances and we take sides with people living in poverty, challenging abuses of power at the local, national or international level. ActionAid firmly believes that the Human Rights Based Approach to resilience provides sustainable long term solutions for people and communities who are the most vulnerable, and whose lives and livelihoods are under the constant threat of destruction.

ActionAid calls on UNSIDR, national governments, multilateral agencies, local authorities and civil society networks to ensure that the post-2015 DRR framework does the following:

1. **Takes a human rights-based approach with clear roles, responsibilities and entitlements of all stakeholders at the core of the framework.**

A human rights-based approach puts the relationships between rights-holders and primary duty bearers (governments) at the centre of the process and provides a basis for the accountability and responsibilities of governments for the safety and protection of rights-holders. Grounding the post-2015 framework in human rights standards and associated legislative frameworks reinforces accountability by stressing that commitments for safety and protection are legal obligations.

1. **Tackles the underlying drivers of vulnerability and exposure.**

The success of a post-Hyogo framework in reducing disaster impacts will depend on its effectiveness in tackling the causes of vulnerability and exposure, something that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 was unable to do. It has to support a lasting change process to address the structural power imbalances between the rich and the poor and excluded, and among different social and demographic groups that underpin differential vulnerabilities within communities. This requires embedding risk reduction and resilience principles and systems into social, economic and environmental policies and practices to ensure that they don’t create or enhance exposure and vulnerability. This will also require the full integration of disaster risk reduction within development, humanitarian and environmental frameworks, including the successor Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change protocols / agreements.

1. **Strengthens local risk governance**

The post-2015 DRR framework needs to prioritise strengthening capacities of local government, ensuring that it works collaboratively and in partnership with civil society, the private sector and at-risk communities. Effective local risk governance requires investments in strengthening local risk governance capabilities and civil society networks, including enhanced human and institutional capacities, political authority, financial resources, accountability and partnerships. Additionally, we need a framework that has clear targets, milestones, baselines and indicators as well as impartial monitoring processes that strengthen accountability and transparency at a local, national and international level.

ActionAid is currently implementing DIPECHO projects in Afghanistan and Bangladesh and working on a DFID-PPA project in these two areas as well as Nepal, Ethiopia, Malawi and Kenya developing resilience indicators. ActionAid is also working in a South Asian regional consortium with OXFAM and Handicap International developing an inclusive CBDRM model. ActionAid works in 17 countries within its federation on DRR and CCA-related programming and activities. ActionAid implemented a Disaster Risk Reduction through Schools project (funded by DFID and the Greek government) in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, Haiti, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and DRC. The project ended in December 2010. DRR also forms a fundamental component of all ActionAid's response and rehabilitation work following disasters, eg.Haiti earthquake and Pakistan floods. ActionAid received the 2007 UN Sasakawa award for its DRR work through schools5-year project.

For further information, contact Harjeet Singh: Harjeet.singh@actionaid.org