



**Name of Event: [Side Event] Voices and Views from the Frontline**

**Date of Event: May 11, 2011**

**Reporter: Andrew Bidnell**

**Contact Details: [andrewbidnell@mac.com](mailto:andrewbidnell@mac.com)**

**Organizer: Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction**

## **1) Outline**

The Views from the Frontline (VFL) programme has gathered 50,000 views and voices from people living and working at the frontline of disasters in over 80 countries via face-to-face consultation and SMS.

This session explored findings from the research and five pilot country consultations, particularly providing an opportunity for those countries participating in the programme to share reflections and ideas on the implications of VFL for accelerating implementation of the HFA at the local level.

Andrew Bidnell, from the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction facilitated this event.

## **2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

See GNDR website for the VFL report, messages, findings and recommendations:

<http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org/voices-from-the-frontline-2011.html>

In addition to sharing findings, the majority of this session focused on:

- Opportunities created by the VFL programme to engage different stakeholders at local and national levels to explore DRR challenges, issues and next steps – eg success in Afghanistan with the creation of a national DRR strategy
- The challenge of how to convert VFL research into implementation - VFL has identified the need to urgently generate action at the local level that will reduce the disaster losses that are being experienced; where is the action coming from?

What is the role of international agencies, donors, national government, local government and GNDR in turning words into action? Specific examples from Bangladesh, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal, Zambia were shared.

- Exploring ways to enhance the impact of the 90 'Action at the Frontline' case studies that have been compiled in different countries to generate greater learning and understanding of ways to tackle the problem
- A sense that, despite the theme, at this Global Platform, the focus is very much at the national and international level and it has been difficult to project the reality of life at the frontline into this international gathering to ensure that the outcome of the Platform is 'increased investment in local action.'

### **3) Conclusions**

A thorough worthwhile session that, in 60 minutes, has opened up debates in many areas that needs to be taken forward.

A subsequent follow-up session the next day was convened to explore these and other points in more detail.

The wider GNDR network, comprising over 600 members, has been invited to participate in an ongoing discussion around how to maximize the impact of the Views from the Frontline programme, the Actions at the Frontline case study collection, the Texts from the Frontline pilot, and developing the global network as a whole.

Invitations to join online discussions via <http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org/> were made.