



## Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

|                        |                                                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Name and Type of Event | Post-2015 Framework for DRR Consultation with Communities |
| Date                   | 20 May 2013                                               |
| Reporters name         |                                                           |
| Number of Participants | Approximately 45 persons                                  |

*On May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of 2013, the first Community Practitioners Academy held a preparatory meeting to the UNISDR Global Platform in Geneva, Switzerland. Convened by GROOTS International, Huairou Commission, UNISDR, World Bank GNFDRR, Act Alliance, Action Aid, JANIC, Cordaid and Oxfam the Academy was planned in partnership with the community practitioners from their respective networks.*

Forty five community practitioners from 17 countries--Japan, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Samoa, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Chile, Venezuela, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and the U.S.A met for 1.5 days. At the first ever Community Practitioner's Academy at a UNISDR Global Platform. ***Our aim is to strongly bring the voice of communities into a place that traditionally has not invited us as experts.*** In the academy we shared our experiences and good practices in building community resilience and disaster risk reduction through local, national and regional actions. We mapped how we have been coping with drought, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, land grabbing, tropical storms, floods, tsunamis, nuclear explosions, environmental degradation, climate change, conflict and epidemics among people, livestock and crops—often in combination and on an ongoing basis. Through our exchange, we noted how we have been building community resilience through our organizing and community development, decades before it became a buzzword and long before disasters struck our communities.

As Margareta Wahlström noted at the opening of our Academy: “communities already come well organized.” Indeed, we Academy participants have organized in small farmers associations, informal settlement resident associations, village risk reduction committees, federations of savings and credit groups, national and international church networks as well as regional and global practitioner platforms. Through these associations, we have initiated savings and loans programs for environmental protection, led community waste and water management, cash cropping and drought resistant food production and new forms of land management. We also collect & distribute community funds, mitigate

drought through sand dam water storage and redirect national disaster risk reduction policies and national reforestation policies to facilitate community participation. **In short we are working not only for disaster risk reduction, but to change the way development is done—from the grassroots level (bottom up).**

With the support of local and national government officials, academics, development professionals, donors, and facilitating NGOs, we committed at the Academy as community practitioners to the following over the next year:

We agreed to continue to meet to strengthen our linkages to other communities and develop strategic partnerships in the regions. We have our eyes set on building community practitioner platforms at national and regional levels as a strategy for amplifying our networks, voices, practices and impacts. These community-driven platforms will lay the infrastructure for peer learning and exchange of knowledge across stakeholder groups. Collectively, we agreed to continue to invest in strengthening the connection between grassroots women's groups and decision-making because grassroots women are often the designers and builders of community resilience in poor communities. We also pledged to build leaders towards building and growing our movement for community driven resilience.

**We are moving together to partner and explore cooperating as a global Community Practitioners Platform over time to enable the local implementation of HFA and the formulation of HFA2 in order to let communities lead and to:**

- Better addresses the localized, recurrent “everyday” disasters as well as the man-made disasters that are the bi-products of development;
- Move away from the broken system of emergency response and towards prevention and community resilience building;
- Recognize that communities have experience, expertise and indigenous knowledge that should be built upon rather than overlooked;
- Contradict the constant turn over in public administration and political leadership through global-national policies that require and incentivize community participation in disaster risk reduction and resilient development; and
- Resource communities’ disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities directly and through collaboration with local authorities and facilitating NGOs.

