**Practical Action’s statement to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland, 2011**

Practical Action acknowledges the importance in identifying *what* needs to be done to reduce disaster risk. But having an impact on the lives of marginalised people who battle and confront disaster risks in their day-to-day lives, means more than just identifying issues and preparedness, it means integrating climate sensitive disaster risk reduction into development processes.

We are here to challenge our fellow practitioners and policymakers to take more action in demonstrating *how* to integrate disaster risk reduction into these development processes.

Our experiences demonstrate that four critical elements are needed to integrate disaster risk reduction into development. These are:

* Understanding and building on a community’s livelihood system
* Assessing the changing hazards and vulnerabilities which communities face
* Understanding and committing to change governance systems which drive vulnerability
* Incorporating knowledge of changing trends – including climate and other trends such as urbanisation and rising food prices.

These four elements make up our Vulnerability to Resilience Framework (V2R), from which we now need to develop context specific tools, and appropriate indicators for application at community level.

We have seen real benefits to communities through increased livelihood security and wellbeing. For example, the livelihood-centred approach to disaster risk reduction adopted in Nepal resulted in a significant net contribution to the economic welfare of communities and delivered real value for money.

There has also been considerable progress in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning at the Village Development Committee (VDC) and district levels. We have supported the District Development Committees (DDCs) of Nawalparasi and Chitwan in Nepal to prepare Village Development Committee level disaster management plans.

Practical Action’s work demonstrates that by adopting a holistic approach which focuses on people’s livelihoods, their assets and the environments on which they depend, communities can adopt appropriate strategies that reduce the impact of disasters. Building on local knowledge and utilising resources with appropriate support, even the poorest communities are able to engage in activities that increase their resilience to future hazards.

Action is part of our ethos as an organisation – we are committed to harnessing local technologies to promote resilient, sustainable livelihoods. We are tackling changing disaster risk with communities and government authorities in Latin America, South Asia and Africa.

We are doing this in three ways:

* Creating links between local communities and local government to map and plan for hazard reduction.
* Providing resources for livelihood-centred disaster risk reduction programmes.
* Forming partnerships with a range of actors – from the private sector to faith groups – to incorporate risk reduction into development processes and build adaptive capacity from local to national levels.

Achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action demands practical action!