



Agenda Item 4.1.4

FROM NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO LOCAL ACTION: IMPLEMENTING THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (HFA)

The HFA places great emphasis on community participation and the need to integrate gender in all aspects of effective disaster risk reduction—noting that vulnerable groups and high risk communities must be engaged in the design and implementation of plans and activities. Yet community participation and gender equity principles require effective platforms and resource allocations to enable risk prone, poor communities to voice their priorities, make their actions and contributions visible, and formally participate in decision making. This working group will examine and debate how this can be achieved in practice, and challenge stakeholder groups--government officials, development professionals, donors, and NGO actors--to examine the policy, resource, and partnership commitments that are required to center stage citizen groups from poor, often marginalized communities in all elements of disaster risk reduction.

Community experiences from hazard prone areas around the world have demonstrated that Community Based Organizations (CBOs) *are* key actors in disaster reduction. Their efforts have improved development outcomes and increased the capacities of high risk communities to cope with disasters. To concretize the innovation and value addition communities bring to disaster risk reduction, this working group will share and analyze locally focused, community--based risk reduction strategies, track emerging good practices and the range of actors who are initiating and implementing them. Case study presentations and facilitated discussions will identify effective actions undertaken by grassroots residents of disaster-prone poor communities—in Peru, Jamaica, and India—and the local and national government officials they have joined with to reduce community vulnerabilities and potential hazards and promote resilience.

To foster an exchange of experience and perspectives, workshop participants will have a chance to discuss their local initiatives and to examine and debate how governments and local authorities can effectively engage with CBOs in their countries to upscale these efforts and contribute to a strong institutional base for implementation of the HFA.

The discussion will develop recommendations on how these approaches can be transferred and scaled up for the development of effective platforms for action, how national and local authorities can engage effectively with community based organizations, and how donors can support and facilitate this process.

This Working Group session is organized by the Provention Consortium, GROOTS International, and the Huairou Commission, with additional inputs by Tearfund.