



## **Sixth Global Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction 12<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May, Geneva, Switzerland**

### **Introduction**

Kenya4Resilience (K4R) Community of Practice (CoP) is a network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kenya. The CoP was conceptualized last year (2018) in March, after Swedish Mission Council (SMC) held a Resilience Workshop in Nairobi and launched in February 2019. Driven by the need for collaboration, partnerships, knowledge management and experiences sharing in the field of resilience, SMC funded organizations in Kenya agreed that the formation of a Community of Practice would sufficiently meet their needs for purposes of peer learning from each other and development of best practices including incorporating resilience thinking into programs. Children's Mission Africa (CMA) is the secretariat to the K4R CoP and it serves with the elected CoP leadership from ERIKS Development, PMU and The Salvation Army.

### **Background**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum established by the UN General Assembly to review progress, share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a critical component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The outcomes of the Global Platform inform the deliberations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the UN 2019 Climate Summit from a disaster risk reduction perspective. These efforts contribute towards the successful achievement of a risk-informed 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the past decade, the Global Platform has assumed the role of assessing and reviewing the progress in the implementation of the global disaster risk reduction agenda, and to serve as a platform for governments and stakeholders to share good practices, identify gaps and to make recommendations to further accelerate the implementation. In total, five sessions of the Global Platform have taken place since

2007. While each of the sessions focused on specific themes, the following topics have been recurrent in most of the sessions, in different forms and reiterations:

- National and local implementation,
- Investments & economics of disaster risk reduction (DRR)
- Linkages and coherence with climate change and sustainable development.

The theme of this year conference was “ The Resilience Dividend, Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”. This year Global Platform called for accelerated action in achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the contribution of the Sendai Framework towards the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda.

GNDR, the Global Network for Civil Society Coalition working in DRR organized a workshop in February with stakeholders to discuss issue around advocacy for maximum impact before, during and after the conference. GNDR shared the following action steps in the run up to the platform

- Development of a joint CSO statement
- Joint advocacy actions before and during the platforms i.e. break out sessions, ignite stage presentations etc.
- Open letter to the media
- Resilience Dividend march
- T-shirts with messages

Kenya4Resilience through the support of SMC, facilitated five individuals to attend the platform

1. Raymond Obare: Children’s Mission Africa (CMA)
2. Kevin Kadiri: ERIKS Development
3. Olive Branch: Economic projects Transformation Facility (EPTF)
4. Luke Errington- Barnes: Life and Peace Institute (LPI)

## **Objectives**

The main objectives for the K4R CoP to attend were:

- Explore opportunities for collaborating with others to increase our visibility as a network.
- Develop effective linkages with other state and non state actors on resilience
- Learn more about the actions of GNDR and their priorities in addressing resilience including disaster risk.
- Identify pathways for joint action with SMC at GPDRR and beyond

## **Conference**

The pre-conference took place as from 12-14 May, mainly to serve as an opportunity to prepare for the main conference that took place as from 15-17 May. Stakeholders delved in details to the issues that were either hindering or pushing for the successful achievement of Sendai Framework. The issues were cross cutting across sectoral areas and in depth discussions were paramount in unpacking as well as revealing underlying issues

## **Taking the Sendai Framework implementation forward**

### **Risk Informed Development**

If its not risk informed, its not sustainable and if its not sustainable it has a human cost. Reducing economic losses from disasters has the power to transform lives Development that is informed is one that is able to respond to the needs of this and future generations. While weak development choices expose people to disasters, good, risk-informed development makes people and communities more resilient. Early warning systems, post disaster recovery and reconstruction require input from communities to ensure that it's a process that has input from the communities.

The development processes at national, sub-national, sectoral and community levels needs to be risk-informed in order to achieve the objectives of development sustainability, resilience building, poverty eradication and leaving no one behind.

### **Inclusion (leaving no one behind)**

Despite global commitments to leave no one behind, those most affected and vulnerable are not receiving the assistance they need when disasters strike. Older persons, people with disabilities, women, poor and socially marginalized people, lack of access to information, decision making structures, resources and social justice are disproportionately affected by hazards. Displaced persons also often live in disaster-prone areas and more often than not they are consulted when public projects are being implemented. Inclusion requires that all living beings including animals and plants are also included and properly considered in development. We need to be steadfast and intentional in ensuring we are all moving forward and accounting for all in development. The four key strategies shared by stakeholders in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of GPDRR are as follows:

- Prioritizing the most vulnerable people
- Ensuring global commitments translate into local action and impact
- Strengthening early warning to enable early action by at-risk communities
- Adopting an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation



**During one of the group sessions**

### **Coherence (SFDRR, Agenda 2030 and Paris Climate Change Agreement)**

The Sendai Framework strongly encourages building coherence across core post-2015 development agendas. It puts particular emphasis on coherence with the SDGs, the 2016 Paris Agreement on climate change, with its ambitious goals for strengthening the global response to climate change and for dealing with its impact. The momentum towards coherence is strong. Governments are being called on to meet the 2020 deadline for developing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (Target E) while at the same time they are developing or updating national adaptation plans (NAPs) and/or nationally determined contributions (NDCs) – efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change – and updating national development plans to integrate SDGs. Enhancing coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development:

- Ensures that development does not exacerbate existing and future levels of natural hazard, including climate risk, and create additional man-made hazard, and that development gains – better livelihoods and living standards – are protected from the impact of disasters and climate change.

- Allows for economies of scale in technical, financial and operational resources by investing in tools that can be used across frameworks (i.e. multi-hazard climate and risk assessments, financial instruments) in the process of developing policies and facilitating their implementation.
- Increases funding opportunities by meeting the expectations of international and bilateral agencies and partners for efficiency and coherence between these various frameworks.

### **Multihazard Early Warning System**

An interconnected approach is required to address systemic risks supported by multi-hazard and multidisciplinary risk assessment. The Global Risk Assessment Framework will facilitate this approach. Experts from science, the United Nations, and the private sector launched a new technical working group to develop a definitions' list for the Sendai Framework hazards. These, among others, will contribute to enhancing understanding of the new dimensions of disaster risk. Such efforts will increase our understanding of risk, inform decision-making, and transform behavior, which will go a long way to ensure we have an early warning system that is comprehensive and able to be utilized in different events.

### **Build back Better**

After a disaster, reconstruction often fails to adequately support community and economic development – it deals better with the needs of elites than of the marginalized poor. Now the focus on reconstruction is turning to alternative, more participatory approaches, such as People Centred Reconstruction (PCR). However, many agencies still struggle to put this into practice, as there is relatively limited experience on PCR. Reconstruction agencies need examples of what does and doesn't work, and proven PCR tools to help them implement this process.

- Promote a decentralized and participatory approach to reconstruction;
- Make best use of local skills, institutions and resources in order to build back better
- Include disaster risk assessments and decentralized disaster risk reduction into reconstruction processes to lessen vulnerability to future risks
- Promote the recovery of market systems that will build back local livelihoods;
- Enable a more cost-effective and sustainable recovery

### **Kenya Official Statement**

The Government of Kenya through the National Focal point for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Director of National Disaster Operation Centre (NDOC) Rtd Col Charles Owino read the official statement that had the following gains with regards to SFDRR implementation.

- National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy has received cabinet approval
- DRM sector has been mainstreamed into the Vision 2030 Third Medium Plan 2018-2022
- Two DRM bills are in the national assembly
- In 2018 treasury approved the National Disaster Risk financing strategy by establishing a contingency fund and allocated disaster response funds to line ministries, department and agencies.
- County governments have set aside 2% of their annual budget allocation for DRM
- Enhancing coherence between, SFDRR, Agenda 2030 and Paris Climate change agreement by streamlining DRR in the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture project 2017-2022 and the pastoralists livelihood Programme
- DRR strategies mainstreamed into the County Integrated Development Plans



**The SMC delegation at the GPDRR, (Left to right) Suresh from Nepal, Raymond and Kadiri from Kenya, Ramesh from India, Miriam and Lennart from Sweden, Mary from Kenya, Marta from Sweden.**

#### **Emerging Issues: Investing in Resilience for disaster Risk Reduction**

- **ECO – DRR:** The practice of mainstreaming ecological assets to act as buffers in

reducing disaster risk consequently enhancing resilience.

- **Mainstreaming resilience in private sector:** Insurance based indexing is gaining momentum in the private sector. This practice utilizes forecast based financing to enhance resilience as well as provide a safe way for countries to access funding i.e. Africa Risk Capacity by Africa Union, Insuresilience by World Bank etc.
- **Networks, partnerships and platforms for knowledge exchange and peer learning:** The growth of learning networks among and between both state and non-state actors has grown overtime and has seen the growth of knowledge on DRR. I.e. Swiss Resilience platform, CADRI Partnership by UN agencies, Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) is a global alliance of UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes, Global Resilience partnership

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Progress has been made in implementing the Sendai Framework. 116 countries including Kenya are reporting through the Sendai Framework Monitor. This is a crucial step towards a better understanding of risk and the risk-informed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also during the conference, the K4R team held a meeting with SMC and resolved on the following issues

- SMC will hold a resilience workshop in Nairobi, Kenya next year on the month of March. The workshop will incorporate all the SMC funded partners in Africa.
- A planning committee, comprising of both the members from other Africa countries, K4R and SMC will be formed to plan and handle logistics of the workshop



**The SMC delegation that was comprised of 15 people from 6 countries**

## **Conclusions**

- New and innovative guidance, tools, and instruments have been developed collaboratively, including in the areas of capacity development, health and displacement.
- Half of the panelists were women and forty percent of participants were women; amplifying the voice of women leaders
- Adopting a multi-hazard approach in developing a disaster risk reduction strategy and action plan contributes to building resilience to more than one type of risk and allows for a higher level of efficiency in the use of resources
- The overarching message of the Global Platform was that resilience pays off. A strong call was made to leaders at all levels to ensure resilience dividends for all. Risk-informed investments are essential for sustainable development and inclusive societies.

## **Recommendations**

- Progress towards inclusion; gender parity and accessibility was evident throughout the platform, although further work is needed to ensure that also animals and plants are properly included in the Inclusion, Leaving no one behind debate.
- The need for the K4R to have inroads to the National DRM platform under the NDOC, which is the platform that brings all the DRR stakeholders together. This was discussed at length when we had a meeting with the government delegation to the Conference
- Need for capacity development to be strategic and intentional so as to develop a pool of human resources that will ensure successful implementation of Sendai framework.

## **Next steps for actions**

- Working closely with the government and the media to ensure the issues that touch on resilience and disaster risk reduction are given the airtime and proper national discourse for the successful achievement of Target E
- CSOs working together with communities in developing and enhancing the capacity of Community to institutionalized Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction management (CBDRM)
- Streamlining Rights Based Approach (RBA) in projects involving disaster Risk reduction for resilience
- Developing networks and partnerships within and outside the CSOs to ensure you not only pull resources together but also skill, knowledge and best practices for dissemination and championing
- Collaborating with partners in order to disseminate new knowledge and develop effective partnerships beyond the conference i.e. International Union of Conservation of Nature, Global Partnership for Resilience



**The meeting between SMC-PO-MO delegation with the GNDR team at the GPDRR 2019.**