



SESSION OUTCOME REPORT

Date: Thursday, 25 May 2017
Title of the Session : Accelerating efforts in building community resilience to disasters
Name of co-chairs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Dr. Win Myat Aye Minister of Social Welfare, Myanmar 2. Mr. ElhadJ As Sy Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross
Name of UNISDR Focal Point and sender of this summary report :
FP - Christel Rose Rapporteur – Animesh Kumar (UNISDR) & Tessa Kelly (IFRC)
Summary of the main substantive considerations expressed , clustered around the 4 Sendai Priorities and the 5 areas of special focus of the Chair’s Summary Skeleton, as applicable
Priority 1 – Understanding disaster risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience is not about responding to disasters, but how does one stand up to disasters and prevent their occurrence. • Education, capacity-building and access to risk information are crucial elements to raise communities’ awareness and understanding of risks to empower them to build their own resilience to disasters. • Disaster risk reduction messages should build on indigenous knowledge and know-how and be made available in local communities languages to secure their full understanding, ownership and buy-in.
Priority 2 – Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating resilience requires inclusion, engagement, participation and ownership of communities so that all views are considered and a number of core values including trust and respect for communities’ contribution, knowledge and know-how are adhered to. • Resilience will not be achieved without changes in behaviours, attitude, approaches and the integration of new knowledge and experience, especially to address inequalities. • Opportunities and good practices of integration of DRR, climate change and sustainable development already exist at the community level. They should be scaled up in support of inclusive and integrated national and local DRR strategies. • Building long-term partnerships anchored in a multi-stakeholder approach to disasters is core to reach the required level of community resilience and realize the targets of the Sendai Framework, the SDGs as well as initiatives like the ‘One billion coalition’. • Integration and implementation can be improved only through generating the right level and magnitude of accountability. • Community participation, ownership and buy-in is important to achieve the desired impact. The Red Cross societies act as the primary entry points for the communities. • Community organized groups are an important actor but their capacity needs to be enhanced. Volunteerism and community participation should be made complementary to ensure an effective implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level. • Regulatory and legislative instruments play a key role in ensuring integration of DRR into planning, including at the community level. However, to turn these legislations into action, the empowerment of local authorities is important. This, in turn, leads to the generation of the required trust that acts as a key social factor to strengthen implementation.
Priority 3 – Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies, strategies and programmes should be context-specific, designed based on the community needs and attached to a specific budget. • Community-level investments in DRR should be increased and early-funding for the communities should be promoted to ensure early action. Further linkages are required with local governments budgets. • Opportunities to access funding mechanisms at local and national level should be better known by the communities.



FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Priority 4 – Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

- Communities are the first primary responders to and at the forefront of disasters. They must be well prepared to save lives, recover quickly and achieve resilience.
- In the aftermath of the Great Eastern Japan earthquake of 2011, where 25 percent of the civil servants in the district lost their lives, the local authorities initiated a major recovery and reconstruction programme based on inclusiveness and with the SDG principle of ‘no-one-left-behind’ at its heart. Its success lied in the systematic participation, engagement and consideration of each individual, community member’s view, capacity and contribution to the various steps in the recovery process.

Areas of Special Focus

a. Monitoring the Sendai Framework implementation

- The local authorities and NGOs operating at the community level have a key role to play in information generation as a valuable resource for risk knowledge and monitoring.
- Local Governments are expected to engage community members in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of inclusive local DRR strategies and plans that respect and take into consideration communities’ needs, knowledge and governance system in disaster risk reduction

b. Achieving target E – Substantively increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020

- Communities’ role and contribution to achieving Target e by 2020 and better governance should be better recognized.
- No national or local level DRR strategies should be developed without a strong engagement and voice of the communities
- Communities need to be heard. Their experience, commitment and contribution must be listened to. This is key to any transformational process to achieve a safer and more inclusive world for all by 2030.
- To reach sustainability and long-term community resilience, local governments should be encouraged to ground their local DRR strategies and plans on local communities’ needs, say and know-how

c. Coherence with the sustainable development and climate change agendas

- A new model of integration and interaction between community, local and national governments is required to contribute to inclusive decision-making processes to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability and strengthen community resilience.
- The real integration of global agendas happens at the community level, hence, development objectives cannot be achieved without community involvement.

d. Gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction

- In Honduras, women are becoming the agents of change through an iterative learning and re-learning process. This change process is triggered with the change in the attitude and mindset of the women themselves. Following a strong gender policy, community banks have been established, education of communities to make them proactive in the event of disasters, enhanced women participation in all developmental and disaster response committees are some of the key success factors in the country. This has now been expanded to the regional level and can serve as a good practice and success story to be replicated globally.

e. International cooperation initiatives, including what is expected from the UN System

Key, **precise, specific actions points, recommendations**, with expected timeframes, as summarized by the Co-chairs when closing the session (no worth in repeating what already agreed to in the Sendai Framework)

- A new model of interaction between community, local and national governments and of integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development is required to contribute to inclusive decision-making processes to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability and strengthen community resilience to disasters.
- Project design should be contextualized to the needs of the community to have a sustainable impact.



FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

- No national or local level DRR strategies should be developed without a strong engagement and voice of the communities
- Communities need to be heard. Their experience, commitment and contribution must be listened to. This is key to any transformational process to achieve a safer and more inclusive world for all by 2030.
- To reach sustainability and long-term community resilience, local governments should be encouraged to ground their local DRR strategies and plans on local communities' needs, say and know-how
- Implementation focus should shift from local governments to local governance – which includes the civil society and the communities. The governments should provide for systematic engagement with the communities.
- Community-level investments in DRR should be increased. Opportunities to access funding mechanisms should be better known by the communities and 'early-funding' for the communities should be promoted to ensure early action.

Specific **Commitments** expressed by any of the participants

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