



## OXFAM OFFICIAL STATEMENT

This Global Platform is an opportunity for the international community to build on the progress made since Cancun and to take the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda to the next level.

In the last two years, Oxfam has supported governments in different countries to achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework: in South Africa, by contributing to the national Guidance on Disaster Risk Management; in Nepal, by supporting the creation of the National Strategy for Resilient Urban Communities; and in Bihar, India, by participating in the committee which defined the National Road Map for Sendai implementation.

We contributed to the implementation of risk-informed sustainable development -what Oxfam calls Resilient Development- building on the nexus between humanitarian aid and development in Iraq, Myanmar, Chad, South-Sudan and Afghanistan. We developed new tools which contributed to better risk-informed analysis and planning.

A lot of work still needs to be done, as seen by the devastating effects of Cyclone *Idai* in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, and I would like to outline Oxfam's priorities based on our experience of supporting communities around the world:

1. To boost the implementation of the Sendai Framework related to the 2030 agenda, **we need to address the inequality of risk**. Vulnerability is the result of a model of unequal and unsustainable development which increases poverty and inequality; risk falls unfairly on the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Governments should acknowledge inequality as a driver of disaster risk, conducting risk assessments and designing DRR strategies which take into account the social, economic and political factors that determine people's entitlement and capabilities. Any progress in addressing vulnerability and social resilience may be ineffective if inequality continues to grow.

2. **DRR should be recognized as a substantial contribution towards realising the Localization agenda** and achieving the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit.

DRR contributes to quicker and more cost-effective responses, but also to enhancing the capacity, the leadership and the voice of local organizations engaged in Disaster Risk Governance and Disaster Response.

International donors and States should ensure that local-level funding for DRR is both increased and made more accessible to local actors, and that engagement is long-term

and strategic, rather than project-based. Effective local responses are possible only by building local preparedness and resilience capacities.

As a signatory of the *Charter for Change*, Oxfam encourages all stakeholders to support local actors to enable more locally-led DRR and humanitarian responses.

3. In addition to Sendai, States have made commitments under the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. DRR should take place in **accordance with these frameworks, including on budget allocations**. Climate Finance mechanisms, like the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Fund, should be made available for communities to adapt, reinforce their resilience and reduce their exposure to disaster risk.

An increased investment in DRR is needed, making sure that Risk Finance and risk insurance are combined with risk management activities and Social Protection mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

4. To achieve the 'Resilience Dividend' of sustainable and inclusive societies, **Governments should safeguard the interests of the most vulnerable**, considering the special support needed by disaster-displaced populations, and involving people with disabilities, youth and the elderly -especially women and girls- in the design and implementation of gender-sensitive DRR policies. DRR Plans should acknowledge gender inequality as an exacerbating factor of vulnerability and build on women's experience and ability adapt and manage change.

DRR work is key to promoting Gender Justice and women's empowerment, and to transforming power relations at all levels: Oxfam supports Women's Rights Organizations and encourages all stakeholders to place **women's empowerment and leadership at the centre of risk-reduction and response work**.

Our work aims to eradicate poverty, exclusion and suffering. We support authorities and communities working on DRR in more than 50 countries and we intend to scale up DRR and climate action in the next 10 years. Poor people suffer the most from the impact of disasters and climate change and they will suffer more in the future. Reducing and mitigating this impact will be the biggest challenge over the next 10 years. To achieve this, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilient development need to happen now, locally.