



GNDR
Global Network of Civil Society
Organisations for Disaster Reduction

Global Summit 2016 Global Network – Local Action

Outcome Report



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Global Hub

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Summary



“This meeting is a new milestone on the road to resilience” Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General UNISDR

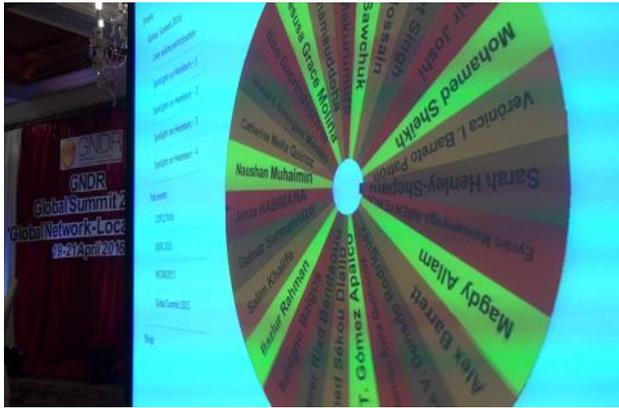
Between 19th-21st April 2016 130 members and partners of the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, to share ideas and discuss plans for the future. Participants included civil society organisations and key donors from 70 countries working across humanitarian, development, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation fields. They were joined by the network’s Secretariat and Global Board. What brought us together was a shared desire to increase community resilience and reduce disaster risk around the world. The Summit was designed to be as inclusive as possible, with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish, and with numerous opportunities for interaction and participation. The Summit had three objectives and these were achieved in a number of ways.

1. Establish ownership of GNDR Strategy 2016-2020 and key programmes

After a year of consultations, the Global Summit saw the launch of GNDR’s new 2016-2020 strategy. The strategy aims to give direction and priorities as to how we as civil society can work together to support communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from disasters. Feng Min Kan, Head of the Asia and Pacific Regional UNISDR Office, addressed the room about the role that our network can play now the post-2015 frameworks have been adopted. She focused on 6 roles civil society can undertake: implementer, capacity builder, knowledge sharer, connector, advocate and monitor. A presentation was provided on the objectives, outcomes and principles of the new strategy before participants were taken on an interactive tour of potential areas of work within the strategy. This included tour stops on campaigns, South-South learning, the *Frontline* programme, and resourcing. Groups practiced developing a campaign plan together, discussed different ways to share knowledge across the network, explored how members could utilise the local information collected under the *Frontline* programme, and shared tips on how resources could be found at the local and regional level.

2. Build network understanding of member priorities, capacities, and local experiences and approaches, and enthusiasm to engage in collaborative actions across the network

In order to collaborate we need a deeper understanding of how each of us works, as well as our priorities and capacities. Prior to the Summit, every participant sent an example of an achievement and challenge their organisation had faced in the last 5 years. These were shared and key examples discussed in groups. A marketplace was organised on the first evening where members shared their experiences, projects and publications. Time was given throughout the agenda for organisations to have the spotlight to share a bit about their work. This was randomised by a fun Spotlight wheel, upon which all the names of participants were placed. We put the strategy into practice on Day 2 by running an energetic simulation exercise. A community from Manokwari, Indonesia, posed a challenge to the



members in the room, asking for their help in reducing the impact of some upcoming floods. Groups were given opportunities to advocate on their behalf during national news interviews and speeches at a regional development conference; to propose local activities to be implemented; to utilise the network to develop a regional funding proposal or to get onto a national flood prevention taskforce. This highlighted different ways of working and the roles that each of us can play. Through individual

voting devices we also regularly shared thoughts on priorities over the course of the Summit.

3. Enable the network to develop regional and national contextualisation of the GNDR Strategy

Participants worked in their regional groups to prioritise outcomes and start planning activities towards achieving those outcomes. The 14 regional groups detailed what they were going to do before the end of 2016, the end of 2018 and the end of 2020. These conversations were grounded in discussions from the previous day around the strengths and challenges faced by members. The next day, discussions shifted to how the action plans would be implemented. In regional groups, participants planned how they would continue to communicate with each other, how they would connect with those members not present, how they would work with their board member and regional development coordinator, and how they would resource these activities. The Summit finished with members committing to individual roles. Many members shared what they would start, stop and continue doing towards the shared vision of the strategy.

For a more detailed account of the Global Summit please read the full report below and check out [videos and photos](#) online. We are extremely grateful to the Australian and Swiss Governments for their support for our Global Summit.



“The interaction generated with and among the participants at the Summit was remarkable” Zakir Hossain, GNDR member from Krisoker Sor (Farmers’ Voice), Bangladesh

Day 1: Global Picture

Learning from the past



“The context of our DRR work has changed because of GNDR - you have linked communities to decision makers” Feng Min Kan, Head of UNISDR Asia Office. [see [video of Ms Feng Min speech to GNDR members](#)]

Key Takeaways

The network has many strengths to build on going forward. At the same time there are a number of realities that we must consider in our planning for the future. This includes challenges of limited funding opportunities and lack of political will to engage in DRR and commit to local action.

After opening words from GNDR Executive Director, Marcus Oxley, and Chair of the Global Board, Farah Kabir, we discussed the importance of reflecting and learning from our past achievements and challenges when planning for the future. Before the Summit all participants were asked to send an achievement and a challenge their organisation had faced in the last 5 years. These were displayed around the room and some of them were shown in a [video](#). In groups, participants were given a selection of these achievements and challenges on cards and discussed which most resonated with them. Each group chose one achievement and challenge that they thought the room should be aware of.



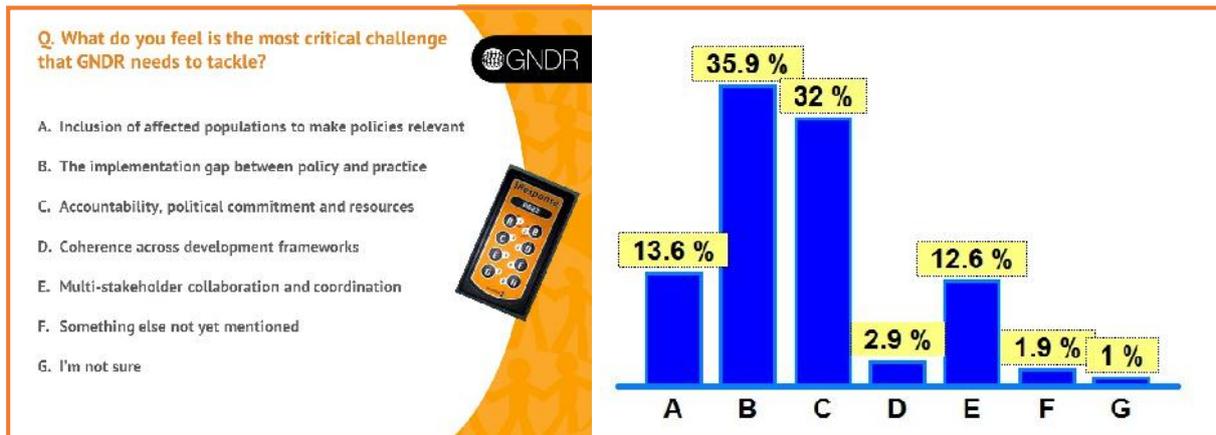
Achievements shared included successful partnerships; effective awareness raising; projects that successfully cut across sectors; and participating in key national, regional and global meetings.

Challenges shared included changing mindsets on the importance of DRR; engaging with governments; accessing the most vulnerable; working efficiently with other groups; and lack of sustained resources.

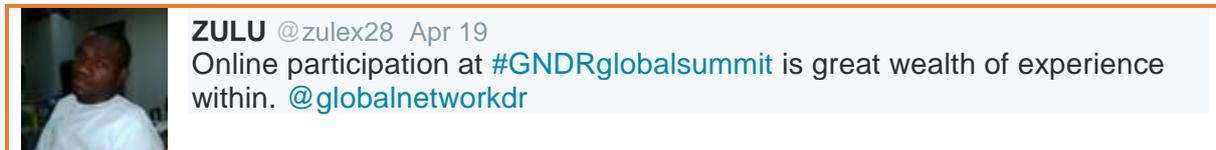
It became apparent that GNDR members had experienced significant achievements, at different scales and in different fields. At the same time, it was clear that members shared some of the same challenges despite being in different locations and being from diverse types of organisations. To see the full range of achievements and challenges from our members please [click on this link](#).

We then heard from GNDR’s Regional Development Coordinators about the achievements and challenges for the network as a collective. These emerged from an external [evaluation](#) of GNDR’s last strategic period. Achievements included the growing membership; stronger global collaboration; enhanced policy monitoring; improved advocacy and global campaigns; and increased sharing of knowledge and practice. A vote was cast in the room on which challenges for the network as a whole were most critical to tackle. The results can be seen below.

Vote



Tweet



An Introduction to the Global Strategy



“You have a powerful role in helping to meet the enormous collective challenges that we face” Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General UNISDR

Our key note speaker Feng Min Kan, Head of UNISDR Asia and Pacific Office, shifted our discussions from looking back to looking forward, highlighting the different roles our network can now play going forward. She talked about our roles as implementers, capacity builders, knowledge sharers, connectors, advocates and monitors, and that we are stronger together. Click to see the [video of Feng Min Kan’s speech](#) “Challenges & Opportunities for Civil Society”

Marcus Oxley, GNDR’s Executive Director, and Farah Kabir, Chair of the GNDR Global Board, then presented an overview GNDR’s new strategy, entitled “[Stronger Together](#)”. The strategy is based on the idea that if we become an active and collaborative civil society we can better support people and their communities, to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and



recover from disasters, and adapt to hazards and a changing climate. In particular, it has been identified that by working collaboratively, co-creating and share knowledge, and undertaking joint advocacy and local monitoring, we as a network can build resilience for the most marginalised. For a summary of the vision, principles and objectives of the strategy, see the “At a glance” box below.

We also heard about the extensive consultations involved in the development of the strategy, including seven regional workshops, online debates, and an external evaluation of GNDR's past strategy.

At a glance: The GNDR 2016-2020 strategy "Stronger Together"

Our Vision: A vibrant, active, collaborative civil society supporting people and their communities, particularly poor and vulnerable groups, to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from disasters, and adapt to hazards and a changing climate.

Principles

- Start at the local level
- Partner and collaborate
- Leave no one behind
- Mobilise local resources
- Align across policies
- Hold institutions and individuals to account

Objectives

1. Increase the impact of civil society in influencing policies and practices at local, national and international levels
2. Enhance collaboration capabilities of civil society and cooperation with other stakeholders
3. Strengthen the creation, analysis and sharing of knowledge

A Tour of the Strategy

Participants then got a chance to go on a guided tour of the new strategy. The tour involved four stops: campaigns; South-South learning; the *Frontline* Programme; and resourcing. At each stop participants got a flavour of the potential area of focus through an interactive exercise and an opportunity to brainstorm what they could do under this area of work. Some of the learnings and ideas raised are listed below.

How could we do joint campaigns?

Participants had a short period of time to plan a campaign together.

We have many shared priorities; working on a shared ask is both possible and powerful.

Members sometimes disagreed over who they would target and the approach they would take to influence them – varies from context to context.

A shared vision can be reached but needs time.

Having individual and well defined roles in a joint campaign is important.

What could we do to enhance learning?

- Share videos of good practice
- Field visits and exchanges
- Connect community leaders, not service providers
- Initiate e-learning
- Go beyond just DRR
- Quote of the day
- Not focus on developing the tools, but promote existing ones

What could we do with Frontline?

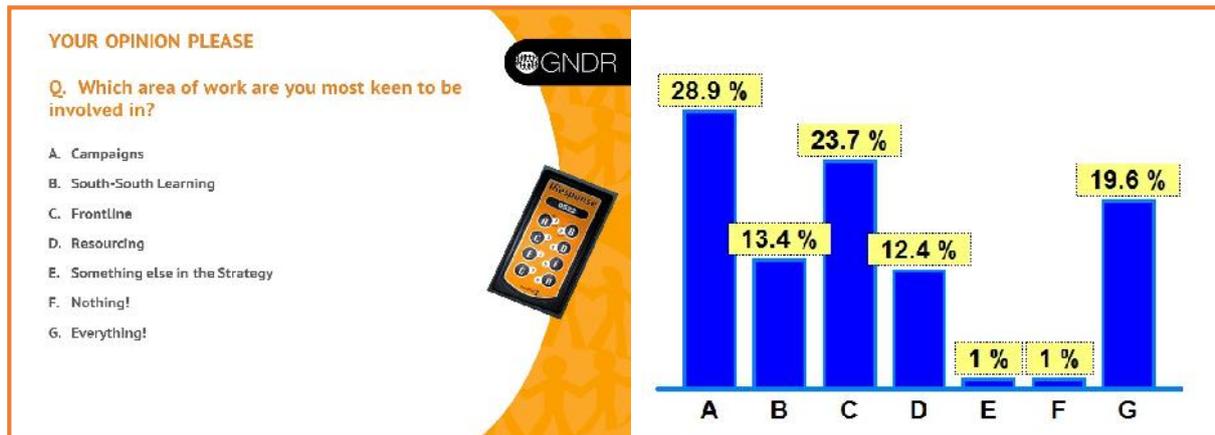
- Roll out more widely as a sustainable tool
- Members to use data to help with project proposals
- Use knowledge from *Frontline* in more of our network projects, especially advocacy
- More work needed to get external stakeholders to use knowledge and embed into decision-making
- Disaggregation of data is key
- Data collection should feed back into community knowledge and that of platforms and multi-stakeholder forums

How can we resource the strategy?

- Build on existing resources
- Target sources at global, regional and national level
- For advocacy & awareness raising, sources could include EU, USAID, and regional embassies.
- For capacity building, sources could include EC ECHO in regions, national governments and village development committees.
- For learning, sources could include INGOs, Regional Development Banks, and trusts.
- Hold workshops and invite these actors and watch for calls for proposals.

After everyone had been to all four stops, participants were asked to vote which area of work they were most keen to be involved in. The results can be seen below.

Vote



I really enjoyed the discussions about collaboration. Collaboration is the key” Buh Gaston, from GEADiRR, Cameroon. Watch Buh’s [full interview here](#)



Day 2: Local Reality

Key takeaways

Participants put the strategy into action in a simulation, where they had to work together to help Indonesian members reduce the impact of some upcoming floods. This highlighted the different roles civil society can play and the challenges we face in our work.

Participants drafted regional action plans, outlining priority activities before the end of 2016, 2018 and 2020. These built on the strengths and challenges identified on Day 1.

Putting the strategy into practice: Simulation exercise

The second day began with an energetic simulation exercise to put the strategy into practice. The simulation started with a dramatic thunderstorm and an international news announcement. The room heard that a flood warning had been issued by the Indonesian Meteorological Office, stating that heavy rains would hit the country in 4 months' time. Some of our members acted as members from a community called Manokwari, Indonesia, and posed a challenge to the other members in the room, asking for their help in reducing the impact of the upcoming floods on their community. Groups had the chance to ask the community questions to gather more information about their priorities and capacities, and real *Frontline* data was given for them to explore further. Once they had the full picture of what was happening at the frontline, groups were given opportunities to work together to help the Indonesian community. Some groups had to pitch a local activity to a national network of NGOs, others had to advocate on the community's behalf during national news interviews. Some had the opportunity to make a speech at a regional development conference, others had to utilise the network to develop a regional funding proposal or get onto a national flood prevention taskforce. They had the chance to share knowledge across groups, connect up with different actors and monitor real data from the community.

Participants were excited to be working together in a real scenario and it challenged us all to think about what our roles, strengths and barriers are in real life. Groups reflected on the challenges of time and resources to take up the opportunities, and the need to work better across different groups.





“Today was very exciting and energetic. We were all engaged in a very different exercise where a real life scenario was described and we very quickly had to come up with solutions” Farah Kabir, ActionAid Bangladesh, Chair of the GNDR Global Board. Watch Farah’s [full interview here](#).

Tweet



JoAnna Cartwright @Jo_Cart Apr 20
You can feel the energy in the room [#GNDRSummit](#) [#StrongerTogether](#)

Regional planning

After the simulation, participants got into their 14 regional groups and started by prioritising which of the objectives and results areas were important for their region. They then began planning what they would do together in their region towards the outcomes of the strategy. Groups prioritised what they wanted to see in their region and decided upon actions they would do before the end of 2016, 2018 and 2020. The regional action plans developed during this session will be uploaded to our website shortly. For a summary of which regions prioritised which outcomes, see the figure on the next page.



Tweet



Colin McQuistan @ColinMcQuistan
[#GNDRSummit](#) Europe and North America can support learning, advocacy but need input from across [@globalnetworkdr](#) to identify topics



“I really enjoyed the active sharing of all participants of what they are doing in their countries” Mihir Joshi, SEEDS India/ADRRN. Watch Mihir’s [full interview here](#).

	Outcomes							
	1.1 Evidence-based policy advocacy enhanced	1.2 Public education campaigns strengthened	1.3 Monitoring of policy implementation strengthened	2.1 GNDP Governance & Secretariat strengthened	2.2 Networks are strengthened	2.3 Collaborative capabilities of members enhanced	3.1 Knowledge generated through action-learning	3.2 Sharing of knowledge enhanced
West Africa: French			●	●			●	
West Africa: English	●					●	●	
North Africa & West Asia	●	●	●			●		●
East Africa	●	●			●			
Southern Africa		●			●		●	
South America		●			●			●
Central America & Caribbean	●				●			●
Europe and North America	●				●			●
South East Asia and East Asia	●	●	●		●			
South Asia	●		●			●	●	
South Asia 2	●	●						●
Central Asia		●		●	●			●
Pacific	●				●	●		

Day 3: Local Action



"I love being here with my GNDR colleagues from other organisations, from other regions of the world, learning about their realities and being part of this exchange, despite the language barrier" Graciela Salaberry, Co-chair of Global Board. To watch Graciela's [full interview click here](#).

Key takeaways

We cannot build resilience alone; it requires a commitment from all individuals and we each have different roles to play to reach our shared vision.

Regional groups discussed how they would take their action plans forward including how they would communicate with each and how they would explore resource opportunities.

Participants committed to start, stop and continue different ways of working towards achieving the shared vision.

Action planning next steps

After groups had agreed upon key activities they would do together in their regions, Day 3 started with discussions around how we will work together to implement these action plans.

To get into the right mind set, we played a game called "Resilience Labyrinth", where groups had to work together to pull strings that controlled the movement of a pen. Together they had to move the pen to draw a route through a maze, something that could only be done as a coordinated group. As soon as one person loses control of their string, the whole system falters. This reflects our work in real life; resilience cannot be built by one person but requires collaboration and communication.



Participants then got back into their regional groups and discussed a number of practical questions about taking their action plans forward. A selection of the discussions are given below.

How will we continue to communicate?

Members from the Pacific planned to utilise existing mechanisms to continue communicating with each other, including the national and regional DRR and civil society platforms.

The South America Group planned to organise a meeting in October that brought together the members from South America, Central America and the Caribbean so that they may coordinate their activities.

West African participants decided that they wanted to set up regional advisory groups that would communicate with the board and Secretariat.

Some regions agreed to communicate every quarter to the whole membership and Secretariat about their progress in their action plans.

How will we connect with those members not here?

Some regions plan to start an online discussion with those members not present

The North Africa and West Asia group decided they would create a regional report on the outcomes of the Summit and disseminate it to existing and also potential new members.

Southern Africa participants agreed to hold a regional meeting to consolidate regional activities after the Summit.

What other partners do we need to engage?

Multiple regions decided they needed to map key stakeholders in their region noting who does what so that they are able to harmonise their work

How will we resource our action plans?

Members from Central Asia decided to develop a matrix of regional donors and foundations to approach for each activity, Participants from Central America and the Caribbean agreed to explore public-private partnerships.

The West Africa group stated that they would designate country focal points who would coordinate activities, the strengthening of membership and approaching regional funding sources.

What requests do we have for the room?

East Africa and the Pacific regions both talked of the need for a regional coordinator to facilitate these activities and representation on the Global Board.

West African members stated that they want to learn from other regions how they are organising themselves.

What can we offer the rest of the room?

In Central America and the Caribbean we have lots of shared experiences, methodologies and examples of how to practice inclusive DRR.

An open Q&A was then held where participants had the chance to ask questions to the board and Secretariat to help them in their next steps. This helped to provide clarity but also some of the challenges and priorities for some regions.

Individual Commitments

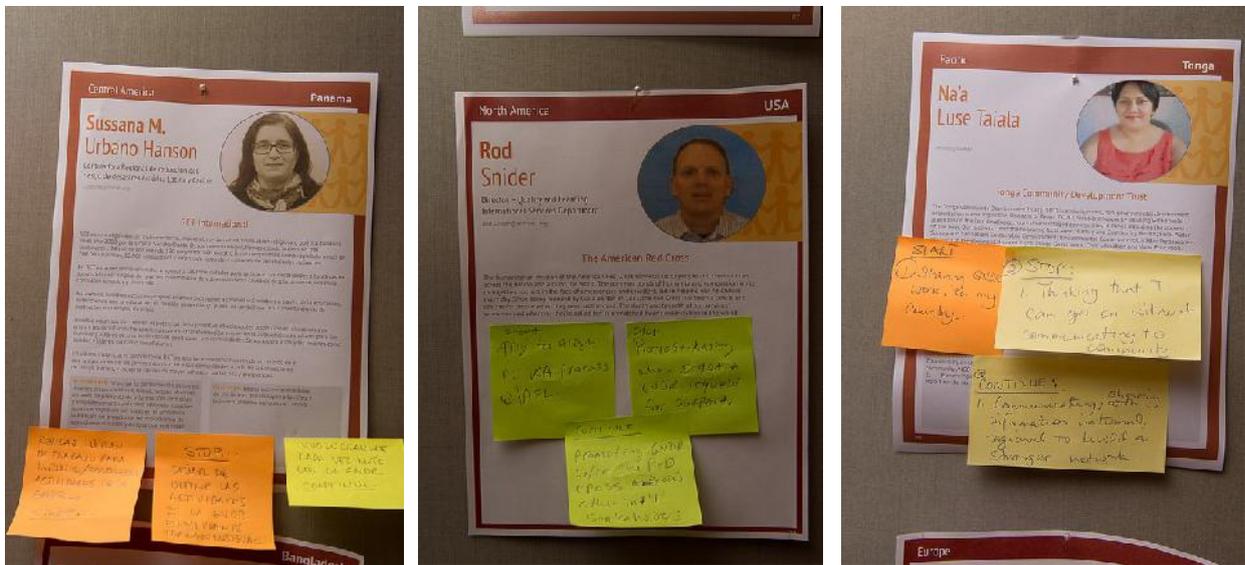
Robert Glasser, Head of UNISDR, addressed participants in a [video message](#) encouraging us to work together and each commit to take this important work forward. He also shared some UNISDR’s commitments, including pushing resilience at the World Humanitarian Summit and the next Global Platform for DRR.

Tweet



UNISDR Africa @UNISDR_Africa Apr 22
 We are stronger when we work together Check out message from @RobertGlasserUN @#GNDRSummit .ow.ly/4mWInH #switch2sendai

Participants were then invited to think about what they as individuals would commit to towards achieving their regional action plans. Everybody was given time to think about one thing they would ‘Start’ one thing they would ‘Stop’ and one thing they would ‘Continue’. These were written on post-its and participants placed them on their individual profiles around the room. Members had a chance to share their commitments in a large circle, and were given the opportunity to take away their profiles to remind them of their personal commitments from the Summit.



Tweet



Khadga Sen Oli @KhadgaSenOli
 #Onething I will start collect more ground stories, stop prescriptions, and continue collaborating! #GNDRSummit

Next Steps after the Summit

After such an interactive Global Summit, members left feeling energised to continue working together. We will now collaborate to take the discussions from the Summit forward and begin the implementation of our new 2016-2020 strategy. Everyone has a role to play.

What will be done with the outputs from the Summit?

The Secretariat will turn the regional action plans developed at the Global Summit into priority workplans and share them with members. Members must now take forward these plans and develop them further. Regions should refer to the next steps they discussed on Day 3 of the Global Summit regarding how they would continue to communicate with those in attendance as well as those unable to participate. RDCs will follow up directly with members on the further development of action plans. The Secretariat members in London will look across these regional plans and identify global activities that could support all regions in their shared objectives. Now we are aware of the key priorities and commitments from members across regions, we all need to focus on efforts to fundraise for these activities. This requires a collaborative effort from countries, regions and at the global level.

What needs to be done to strengthen the way we work?

The Secretariat has identified three areas that need strengthening if we are to work successfully together towards the shared objectives of the new strategy. These are:

- Improving communication within and between Secretariat, Global Board and membership
- Enhancing membership management
- Strengthening access to local, regional and global resources

Working groups have been created for each of these workstreams, and include Secretariat and Global Board members. These groups will develop Terms of References outlining objectives, and activities to achieve those goals. As part of the process, some members will be consulted to help the different working groups develop ideas.

What is the landscape immediately in front of us?

We will continue to collect and communicate local voices from *Frontline* and the #365disasters campaign. We will also continue to explore how *Frontline* data can be used and will create a platform to facilitate that. We will also continue our work to develop a national advocacy toolkit that aims to help members undertake joint national advocacy activities, and are engaging members in consultations and a pilot of this toolkit. We will share the outcomes from the Global Summit at the World Humanitarian Summit, UNISDR's Global Platform in 2017, and other key global and regional events. We hope to see as many members as possible informing the agendas at these events.

Downloads and Links

Documents

- [GNDR 2016-2020 strategy](#)
- [Achievements and Challenges of members](#)

Videos

- [Achievements of members](#)
- [Speech from Ms Feng Min Kan](#): Challenges & Opportunities for Civil Society
- [Speech from Mr Robert Glasser](#)
- Interviews with participants
 - [Farah Kabir](#), ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh
 - [Graciela Salaberry](#), Amigos del Viento, Uruguay
 - [Buh Gaston](#), GEADiRR, Cameroon
 - [Mihir Joshi](#), SEEDS, India