

Case Studies of Collaboration

GNDR has been working with 17 NGO networks globally to coordinate messages and implement a joint advocacy initiative. Together we have formed the InCollaboration initiative which is calling for more systematic collaboration between governments and communities in the design of DRR strategies. The initiative has collected the case studies below to demonstrate that collaboration is possible and leads to the strengthening of resilience. The lessons from these examples and others will be used to produce a guide on “How to Build Resilience Collaboratively”.

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Multistakeholder development of the National Policy for Risk Management in Costa Rica

Costa Rica experiences the full range of hazards, from flooding and hurricanes, to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The Government started developing its National Policy for Risk Management in 2016, wanting to reflect the priorities of the SFDRR and build resilience to the diverse range of intersecting disasters. They recognised that if the policy was to be effective for the most at-risk, they needed to ask the most vulnerable about their local context, priorities and suggestions. Towards this, the National Emergency Commission reached out to civil society networks, including the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, to help connect them to local actors. They initiated a collaborative process to design the policy and accompanying implementation plan, which included four rounds of sector and local consultation to develop indicators and define responsibilities, and a National Forum with 2000 stakeholder representatives from communities across the country to validate the plan. This collaboration ensured that the risk management plan was appropriate for local realities and the different contexts and capacities across communities.

For more information, contact Susana Fernandez-Jacomet (susanafjacomet@yahoo.com).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Communities and Local Government work together to dredge river and prevent flooding in Cameroon

The Lower Motowoh community in Cameroon faces damaging seasonal flooding. Houses are inundated every rainy season, livelihoods are destroyed and roads are damaged, causing high levels of road accidents. A national NGO called Geotechnology, Environmental Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (GEADIRR) held conversations with over 400 community members and found that the flooding is caused in part by the rivers being blocked by rubbish. The surveys also highlighted another issue: that the community's frequent request for support from the local government was not heeded due to a lack of decentralised resources allocated for DRR work.

GEADIRR led a series of meetings with community members and local government representatives to reflect on the findings from the surveys. They decided that a concrete step to reduce the impact of heavy rains would be to dredge the river of the rubbish. By coming together and discussing a joint solution, the representatives from the community, the local CSOs and the local government all recognised that they had a role to play in the solution. A digger was hired to open up the Njengele river waterway, clearing the course for faster water flow. As a result, in 2016, the community did not suffer floods during the last rainy season. The group is now working together to raise awareness of the risks of dumping rubbish, and lobby for the local government to receive specific resources and responsibilities for DRR in the communities.

For more information, contact Buh Gaston (buhgaston@yahoo.com).

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A national law informed by local priorities in Indonesia

Yakkum Emergency Unit, a local NGO in Yogyakarta, conducted semi-structured surveys with communities across 9 provinces in Indonesia, asking for their perspectives on the priority threats experienced, actions required, and barriers encountered. They organised a meeting with the National Agency for Disaster Management and presented the findings in impacting graphs and statistics. The government representatives were interested to hear that their citizens were prioritising issues that

they had not previously considered and realised that local actors can provide important insights to the challenges on the ground. As such, the National Agency for Disaster Management revised Law No. 24/2007 on Disaster Management to incorporate the local priorities and the need for continued local consultation. As a result, the National Government now regularly incorporates local perspectives in official Country DRR Status Reports.

Following this first successful meeting, a group of local leaders have become sustained partners of the District Agencies for Disaster Management, being systematically included in public consultation on policy and program decisions.

For more information, contact Hepi Rahmawati (hepi.rahmawati@mail.com).

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‘Camel Caravan’ Walk to Stop Construction of Mega Dam in Kenya

Under Vision 2030, the Kenyan government decided to construct a KSh 10 billion mega dam called the Crocodile Jaws Dam, in the Ewaso Nyiro River, to supply water to the proposed Isiolo Resort City in the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport corridor (LAPSSET) project. However, the majority of communities fear the construction of this dam will lead to a loss of natural resources such as the water supply they rely on for household and livestock use.

As a result, community representatives walked over 250km along the Ewaso Nyiro River basin in 6 days to raise awareness of the need to restore, preserve and conserve the river in collaboration with those who rely on it, and to protect it from any activities that may threaten its continued existence (including this mega dam). This organised walk, known as the ‘camel caravan’, aimed to sensitise the communities, local government and other stakeholders on the need to conserve the Ewaso Nyiro, as it is a source of livelihood to the pastoral communities living along the river. This collaborative walk not only increased community participation, but also to the Governor of Isiolo County himself committing to supporting the community in ensuring that the dam would not be constructed without informed consultation and negotiations with the affected communities. It also led to a sense of solidarity among the communities living along the river, particularly with regards to using a landscape approach to addressing disaster risk.

For more information, contact Zeituna Roba (zeituna.ropa.tullu@cordaid.org).

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Inn Yaung Dam in the ‘Dry Zone’ of Myanmar

Characterised by poor rainfall and extremely hot temperatures, the ‘Dry Zone’ region of Myanmar is home to the country’s poorest, with up to 60% of the population living below the poverty line in some areas. This zone’s vulnerability is manifested in poor agricultural yields, largely due to limited access to water. As a result, in the 1980s, 4 villages of Inn Yaung Village Tract came together to construct an earthen check dam to enable the use of water from the Yin Daing Taung stream to irrigate paddy land.

When a storm in 2011 broke some small dams that released a torrent of water that destroyed or weakened parts of the wall of this dam, the villagers approached the Township Irrigation Department for help. As a result, the District Agriculture Manager asked ActionAid Myanmar for guidance on proposals for repairing and enlarging the dam. ActionAid agreed to help financially but under the condition that villagers volunteered their labour and the Irrigation Department loaned earth-moving equipment. In addition, several committees were formed to oversee the work.

Though the work is not yet complete, the District and Township authorities have been impressed by the effectiveness of the new dam, by the organisation and contributions of the nearby communities, and by the opportunity to advance government-community collaboration. The Township Irrigation Department has assumed responsibility for managing the dam until the construction work is complete, at which point it will be handed over to the communities. A Water Users Committee, which will include several government officers, will be established to manage distribution and payment for the water, and these fees will go into a maintenance fund for the dam. Thus, the collaboration that this work started will continue in the long-term.



Ma Kyi Myint, 44, in the village of Inn Yaung. Ma Kyi Myint is the treasurer and also part of the local Mothers Group which helped campaign to have the Inn Taung Dam built in the village to tackle the issues of drought they have in the area. (Photo Credit: Greg Funnell/ActionAid Myanmar)

For more information, contact Tessa Bolton (Tessa.Bolton@actionaid.org).

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Shift from Relief to DRR in Bihar, India

For years, communities in Bihar, India have been suffering the consequences of disasters. However, it has not been until relatively recently that the Government and civil society organisations in Bihar have come to realise that many of these consequences could have been reduced through a comprehensive disaster risk reduction (DRR) plan with appropriate mechanisms in place.

This realisation has led to a collaborative effort between the Disaster Management Department, Government of Bihar (DMD-GoB) and CSOs working in the region to develop a DRR Roadmap. This collaboration came in response to a paradigm shift from Relief to DRR aimed at building resilience as the GoB brought CSOs on board to provide the required technical inputs. However, CSOs ended up playing a much bigger role in the effort, as they were invited as members of the Organizing Committee of Bihar Conference on DRR (BCDRR), panellists in various sessions and as members of the Drafting Committee of the DRR Roadmap. Thus, the GoB collaborated with CSOs in all stages of the DRR Roadmap development process – from its conception through to its finalisation. Furthermore, acknowledging the crucial role of CSOs in the development of the DRR Roadmap, the GoB continues to seek collaboration with them as the Roadmap takes effect and implementation begins.

For more information, contact Jan Gruss (jgruss@caritas.ch)

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Implementing the Sendai Framework: Lessons from Costa Rica

The Sendai Framework for DRR focuses on disaster risk management rather than just disaster management and emphasises the importance of protecting livelihoods in addition to saving people and property. As animals are productive assets, providing livelihoods, cultural identity and companionship, Costa Rica's National Risk Management Policy 2016-2030 recognises the need for animal protection in DRR.

Furthermore, the Sendai Framework recognises the need for collaboration with and across sectors in order for DRR to be successful. As a result, in Costa Rica, the Animal Health Service (SENASA), situated within the Ministry of Agriculture, has joined forces with Civil Defence. In its new role, SENASA has established a fund to protect animals in disasters by ensuring adequate resources for disaster prevention, response and recovery activities. To ensure this fund would be used effectively, World Animal Protection (WAP) provided training on Livestock and Emergency Guidelines and Standards to help build SENASA's capacity. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture in Costa Rica is now better able to coordinate with Civil Defence to prepare for and respond to disasters.

World Animal Protection has also been working with the Government of Costa Rica to increase disaster preparedness among animal owners. For example, through workshops with community members and SENASA in Sarapiquí, a flood-prone region, World Animal Protection has helped community members identify disaster risk and actions that could be taken to mitigate these risks.

For more information, contact Eugenia Morales (emorales@worldanimalprotection.org).

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Establishment of the DRR Forum in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan

In response to the voluntary establishment of a disaster risk reduction (DRR) forum at the national level and its aim for a decentralised coordination body, the Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis (IDEA), in collaboration with civil society organisations working on DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, established a DRR forum for the province. This forum aims to strengthen collaboration and coordination efforts between civil society and other actors engaged in DRR and disaster risk management (DRM) in the area.

Since its establishment in 2012, the DRR Forum in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has become an essential coordinating body for stakeholders across civil society organisations, government authorities at the local, district and provincial levels, in addition to the media. Closely linked with the National DRR Forum and National Disaster Management Authority, it has facilitated the ability for actors to join hands to work on issues of common interest in the fields of DRR/DRM and CCA. It has also bridged the gap between communities and stakeholders working at the district, provincial and national levels, and continues to reduce risk by facilitating stakeholder planning and resource allocation, as well as multi-actor collaboration to ensure actions are context-specific.

For more information, contact Abdul Waheed (abdul.waheed@diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.org).

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Establishment of Local Emergency Response & Disaster Mitigation Committee in Lebanon

The July war in 2006 between the Israeli Defence Forces and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon and parts of Beirut severely damaged Lebanese civil infrastructure, and displaced approximately one million Lebanese and 300,000-500,000 Israelis. World Vision worked in the Marjeyoun district, one of the areas affected by the conflict and an area also at risk of earthquakes and flooding.

Following the war, in order to improve preparedness for future disasters, World Vision worked with community members, civil society organisations and local government officials within Marjeyoun to set up a Local Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation Committee. World Vision provided training to build the capacity of the members of the committee around Early Warning, First Aid and disaster response.

Following the training, this multi-stakeholder committee started working to build awareness within the communities, including through schools, about emergency preparedness and response to earthquakes, flooding and fires. The committee became very well known in the area and was supported by the municipal government and a number of civil society organizations. The various stakeholders worked together to develop and implement a community preparedness plan for Marjeyoun. The committee is still active today, coordination and collaboration within communities has improved and awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction and preparedness has noticeably increased.

For more information, contact Crystal Penner (Crystal.Penner@worldvision.ca).

Case Studies of Collaboration

***Frontline* findings become bedrock of mobilization and coordination of key DRR Actors in Uganda**

In 2015, the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), in partnership with GNDR, conducted *Frontline* action research in 5 districts in Uganda. This research profiled the most at risk communities living in mountainous, low land areas that are prone to recurrent flooding, drought and landslides.

To analyse the research findings, DENIVA organised a workshop with key disaster risk reduction (DRR) actors including CSOs, INGOs, local governments and national policymakers. By the end of the workshop, there was a strong recognition for the need for better coordination. This led to the establishment of an autonomous CSO platform of DRR actors that would complement the National platform coordinated by the government. To date, this CSO platform has gained recognition by the government and there is current collaboration between the CSO platform and the Ugandan government in the development of the national DRR Investment Bill.

For more information, contact Anne Akwango (akwangoanna@gmail.com).

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Japan: “Sendai Futures Forum” and “Humanitarian Innovation Forum”

Sendai City Government has committed to hold a multi-stakeholder DRR forum called ‘Sendai DRR Futures Forum’ on annual basis since WCDRR in 2015. The first forum was held in 2016, and the second one held in 2017.

Sendai DRR Futures tries to gather various stakeholder including the local authorities, civil society, private sector, academia to analyse the implementation of Sendai Framework for DRR, and to highlight best practices.

Sendai City and JCC-DRR have collaborated in the process since the inception, and it ensures engagement of civil society. JCC-DRR also introduced an innovation element to this forum by holding Humanitarian Innovation Forum in 2016, and DRR Innovation Forum by Citizens in 2017. A key feature of this was the interaction between civil society, the private sector and local government.

For more information, contact Simon Rogers (simon@pbv.or.jp).

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Evacuation Center in Uto City and Soka Gakkai

In 2013 Uto City and Soka Gakkai, a Buddhist organization, adopted an agreement of providing their culture center as a temporary shelter when a major disaster takes place in the city. It was agreed that Soka Gakkai would provide the shelter and the city would provide the shelter with relief supplies when necessary.

In April of 2016 a huge earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 hit the city. Soka Gakkai immediately decided to accommodate evacuees in the center. A maximum of approximately 750 evacuees stayed there for a period of approximately two weeks after the earthquake. As Soka Gakkai’s culture center had received a lot of supplies through its own network, they stopped receiving supplies arranged by the local authority, and instead delivered those supplies to other neighbouring shelters.

In Japan, this type of collaboration between local authorities and faith based organizations are advancing and according to Prof. Keishin Inaba (Osaka University) more than 2,000 faith based facilities in Japan are designated as official shelter in emergency.

Thanks to the agreement, communication with the local authority went quite smoothly and relevant information was shared in an efficient and timely manner.

For more information, contact Simon Rogers (simon@pbv.or.jp).

Case Studies of Collaboration

ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI)

ASEAN governments have recognised the challenges associated with the region being among the most hazard-prone regions globally. Indeed, over the past 15 years, over 100 million people in Southeast Asia have been adversely affected by disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, typhoons, floods, droughts, fires and tsunamis, many of which have been exacerbated by climate change.

As a result, the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI) was established as a unique partnership, bringing together the disaster management and education sectors in ASEAN Member States, along

with civil society organisations (CSOs) to promote a comprehensive approach to school safety across ASEAN. ASSI aims to strengthen advocacy to increase resources and funding, tools, local expertise and guidance for the Safe Schools initiatives in the ASEAN region. It also serves to improve national-level capacities through inter-agency collaboration and the use of a comprehensive school safety framework.

Led by the ASEAN governments, the initiative is conducted in partnership with Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and Mercy Malaysia, who provide technical advice in terms of how to advance school safety in the region. Through this collaborative ASSI initiative, there has been an increase in leadership of the Ministry of Education in addressing safe school issues across the region as well as increased technical capacity to create implement enabling school safety policies.

For more information, contact Nghia Trinh Trong (Nghia.TrinhTrong@plan-international.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Collaboration for the European Commission Implementation Plan of the SFDRR

VOICE is a network of 85 European NGOs engaged in humanitarian aid and disaster risk reduction (DRR) worldwide. As a result of the expertise that VOICE gathers via its DRR Working Group, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) regularly engages in dialogue and consultation with this network.

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR), the VOICE DRR Working Group developed some policy recommendations, highlighting the NGOs' perspectives and priorities for the European Commission's implementation plan for the SFDRR. These recommendations were then shared and presented to DG ECHO. This collaboration between VOICE AND DG ECHO led to the inclusion of many of the VOICE DRR Working Group's recommendations in the European Commission's final action plan for the implementation of the SFDRR.

For more information, contact Magali Mourlon (magali@ngovoice.org).

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Safe School Project in the Teesta River Basin

Since May 2015, the Safe School Project has been under implementation in the Teesta River Basin, targeting 15 of the most vulnerable schools in the Dawabari Union. These schools, mainly in char areas, are badly impacted by flooding and river erosion each year.

Since the inception of the project, school disaster management committees (SDMCs) have been formed in each school to identify risks and vulnerabilities, and to develop school safety plans based on those vulnerabilities. Not only have these school safety plans been shared in various forums, but advocacy workshops have been organised with government education departments at different levels. These workshops have enabled the development of strong linkages between the schools and the education departments, which, in turn, has enabled better collaboration in implementing safe school initiatives and incorporating safe school activities as detailed in the school safety plans.

For more information, contact Nghia Trinh Trong (Nghia.TrinhTrong@plan-international.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Disaster Management Law (DM Law) Consultation Process in Cambodia

Since becoming an informal civil society network in Cambodia, the Joint Action Group (JAG) has played an important role in coordination, learning and information sharing for national and international NGOs and in building the capacities of various disaster management stakeholders across the country. Since the Cambodia National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) drafted the Disaster Management Law (DM Law) in 2012, JAG has been coordinating and working closely with the NCDM in inputting into this draft law. Both JAG members and key NCDM and government officials from the provincial level, in addition to Cambodia Red Cross participated in the consultation process. By the time the DM Law was finalised, there was a high level of collaboration among JAG members and the Cambodian government.

For more information, contact Nghia Trinh Trong (Nghia.TrinhTrong@plan-international.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Building Capacities to Manage Flooding in Antioquia, Colombia

CORANTIOQUIA, the main Environmental Agency in Antioquia, Colombia, worked in collaboration with the National University of Antioquia and municipality governments to raise awareness in terms of how to prepare for and respond to flooding in the region. They also worked together to strengthen the capacities of the Municipal Risk Management Councils. Thanks to this collaboration, communities are now aware of how to respond to early warnings and build their resilience to future flooding in the region and the Risk Management Councils are better able to support communities in times of crisis.

For more information, contact Carolina Garcia Londoño (cargalon@gmail.com).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Reducing Disaster Risk in Mexico

Due to high exposure to climatic and geological hazards in addition to its high growth rate, Mexico is among the top 40 countries experiencing economic loss due to disasters, with an average annual loss of 2 billion USD year. As a result, five institutions came together to form an Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery in Mexico (ALIANZA). As part of the partnership, a 'Reducing Disaster Risk Project in Mexico' initiative was established to build the capacity of the younger generations so that when these hazards occur, they can cope through prevention, mitigation and resilience.

This initiative involved joint action with civil society organisations (CSOs), all levels of government, the private sector, universities and colleges, and community members themselves in order to increase the capacities of vulnerable communities to reduce disaster risk and increase resilience. Through working together, each actor was able to learn from each other and complement each other's strengths. The ability for such a wide range of actors to come together in an alliance and collaborate, learning from each other and bringing a range of different perspectives to the table, enriched the programme, making it more likely to succeed in the long-term.

For more information, contact Guillermo Lozano (guillermo_lozano@wvi.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Municipal level climate resilient development planning in Georgia

The Kura River basin, which extends across the Caucasus region including Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, has experienced changing rainfall patterns and longer periods of drought over the past few decades. This affects 50% of the population, who depend on agriculture for their livelihood and are excluded from the national growth strategy. Furthermore, competing demands for water resources and poor resource management also contribute to the increasing vulnerability of this region. Without adequate resource management practices and policies, climate change threatens to add a new layer of risk for this region. But, to date, Caucasus nations have been slow to support strategies that adequately capture the unique risks climate change poses to their most vulnerable communities. This is due to a lack of climate change awareness and a lack of coordination between stakeholder groups.

In 2011, Mercy Corps and the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN), with support from the European Union, initiated a 3-year programme to enhance local capacity and regional cooperation for climate change adaptation. They used a participatory process to develop adaptation plans and formed Local Working Groups (LWGs) consisting of representatives from communities, local NGOs, the private sector, government and media. These LWGs were then trained and empowered to work together to implement the project, which included identifying current development challenges, climate trends and their impacts as well as priority adaptation actions.

This programme successfully concluded in 2014, after launching 7 pilot projects and building the capacity of a wide range of local stakeholders across the region. Several of these pilots have already been scaled up and replicated in other areas.

For more information, contact Sarah Henly-Shepard (shenlyshepard@mercycorps.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

A market development approach to climate-informed disaster risk reduction

Most traditional disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes in low-income communities are effective at saving lives, but not very effective at mitigating the economic losses suffered by poor communities. Though the programmes protect lives and property, they are rarely tied to strategies that build economic security and increase incomes. Many communities in Nepal and Timor Leste remain unprepared for disasters, with many DRR activities focusing solely on early response. Though past DRR projects have helped disaster-prone communities and sub-districts, their sustainability is often limited by a lack of economic incentives, links to government support and capacity across scales, and proper analysis of the root causes of vulnerability.

Mercy Corps designed its 3.5 year Managing Risks through Economic Development (M-RED) programme to move beyond standard DRR approaches. As part of the programme, Mercy Corps partnered with stakeholders to form the appropriate nexus interventions through an Integrated Disaster and Economic Analysis process. This process included participatory mapping of community hazards, analysis of climate trends and the formulation of community action plans (CAPs). This collaborative IDEA process was mutually beneficial for all parties, supporting community needs, market system opportunities and government plans and priorities.

For more information, contact Sarah Henly-Shepard (shenlyshepard@mercycorps.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

A governance approach to building urban climate resilience

In Indonesia, the urban population accounts for approximately 50% of the total population, and is projected to increase to 65% by 2025. As a result of this rapid urbanisation, efforts are underway to mainstream urban climate change resilience (UCCR) into local and national policy. Mercy Corps and its partners are supporting the Indonesian government to ensure that these new policies on building and implementing urban climate change resilience are inclusive and reconcile competing needs and interests through efforts focused on transparency and open access to information.

Through Shared Learning Dialogues (SLDs), Mercy Corps engaged local stakeholders in the resilience planning process. These SLDs led to the formation of a multi-stakeholder City Team to lead the resilience capacity-building programme and collaborate with existing influential working groups and platforms. Mercy Corps partnered with local research institutions to develop a simple methodology that enabled the City Team to develop and conduct vulnerability and capacity building assessments (VCAs) themselves. This resulted in greater ownership and better understanding of vulnerability and risk among stakeholders.

For more information, contact Sarah Henly-Shepard (shenlyshepard@mercycorps.org).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Working together to manage flood risk in Argentina

After heavy rains severely impacted 5 districts in José León Suárez, Argentina, the Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) worked in collaboration with the municipality of General San Martín (MSM) to develop a small-scale project to manage flood risk. In addition to the typical humanitarian relief actions (access to safe water, provision of basic goods, reconstruction, etc.), the project included action to raise community awareness about the prevention and mitigation of flood risk and disease in the context of flood prevention. During the implementation of the project, CISP capitalised on previously-established relationships with local actors, particularly the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), which implemented some of the activities. Thanks to the collaboration between these three entities, MSM now has a risk management policy.

For more information, contact Claudia Gatti (gatti@cisp-ngo.org).

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Different stakeholder groups collaborate to speak with one voice in Switzerland

In the run-up to Sendai, a network of 17 Swiss civil society organisations (the Swiss NGO DRR Platform), private sector institutions and government agencies in Switzerland collaborated to form a multi-stakeholder working group in 2014 to influence the Swiss policy statements and enhance dialogue among different actors. This Swiss working group works together to promote the importance of local-level action. In Sendai it promoted the importance of coherence between the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. It also served as the Swiss delegation at the Global Platform in Cancun.

For more information, contact Nicole Stolz (nstolz@caritas.ch).

Case Studies of Collaboration

Bringing community perspectives into local development plans and global level advocacy

People across the Bay of Bengal region are increasingly facing the impacts of climate change which have serious effects on sea levels, agriculture, energy and biodiversity. However, in communities supported by the Paribartan programme operating in India and Bangladesh, strengthened connections between community and government are bearing fruit for DRR and climate adaptation policy and planning at all levels. Resilience action plans designed by communities under the programme have been incorporated into the development plans of local government units, helping government better address community needs. This in turn has led to funding for local adaptation measures. As Khageshwar Lenka, head of a local government unit head in Gupti, Odisha, India has observed. *“The difference you see is that this is a community-led project. You don’t tell them what to do. That is why I feel it will sustain.”* Moreover, regional workshops on community resilience to climate change have been organised, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and allowing members of the coastal communities to share their experiences. These have been captured in a collective charter, used by delegates for international advocacy on climate adaptation and resilience, thereby taking community voices and experiences all the way to the global level.

For more information, contact Alexander Carnwath (alexander.p.carnwath@concern.net)