

Summary

GNDR brought a team of 9 staff and 13 of our *Frontline* leads to the Global Platform for DRR, in Cancun, Mexico 22nd-26th May. This allowed us to make use of multiple opportunities, share local voices, and effectively coordinate the largest ever group of civil society participants attending a Global Platform.

GNDR was invited by UNISDR to be the NGO Focal Point and co-lead, along with the Climate Action Network (CAN), in coordinating civil society in the run-up to and during the Global Platform for DRR in Cancun. This position of responsibility meant that GNDR appeared on all the Organising Teams for all the Global Platform sessions, was consulted for recommendations of panellists, coordinated the development of a Civil Society Statement, and our members and staff were invited to speak in multiple key sessions including the Sendai Framework Monitoring plenary; the Working Session on Community Resilience; and the Working Session on Inclusive and People-Centred DRR.

In these sessions, GNDR was able to share the local perspectives of risk and resilience gathered through our *Frontline* programme and from listening to our members, and gave us a platform to call for more systematic collaboration of national and local governments with local actors in policy development and resilience building.

Below are some of the key activities we undertook.

InCollaboration: a joint advocacy initiative with NGO networks

GNDR established a joint advocacy initiative with 17 NGO networks globally to coordinate our messages and implement a joint advocacy initiative with the aim of more systematic collaboration between governments and communities in the design of DRR strategies. This InCollaboration Initiative was established on the basis that, by joining together, our voices can be louder and we can build on our complementary skills.

A first step was to consult GNDR's members as to why collaboration between governments and civil society was not happening systematically. Our members coalesced around 3 existing barriers: 1) Stakeholders do not see the benefits of collaboration; 2) Stakeholders do not know how to collaborate; and 3) Stakeholders do not feel accountable to collaborate.

As such, the group developed a workplan of activities to address these barriers. In the short term in relation to the Global Platform for DRR, we wanted to see:

- At least 10% of panellists at the Global Platform representing civil society
- 15% of national governments include civil society representatives in their Global Platform delegation
- National governments express support for the development of models for collaborative DRR in their Global Platform statements
- The chair's summary at the Global Platform for DRR express the need for capacity-building at all levels as a means to support collaboration between governments, CSOs and disaster affected communities on the development of DRR strategies by 2020.

- UNISDR announce the establishment of a CSO advisory group and task them with developing models for collaborative DRR

Our workplan included a joint statement at the Global Platform for DRR, coordinated approaches to influence the agenda of the Global Platform, a joint meeting with UNISDR, and mobilising our respective networks to ensure NGOs met with as many governments as possible to ask for increased collaboration and the establishment of a UNISDR Civil Society Advisory Group.

The group also jointly developed resources to help CSOs advocate for this shared goal in the run up to the Global Platform for DRR in May. These included:

“How’s Your Collaboration?” scorecards, designed to get governments and organisations reflecting on their own levels of collaboration with communities and the entry points for this collaboration. We produced one for [Governments](#) and one for [NGOs](#). These were sent out to members of GNDR and the members of the other 17 NGO networks to use in meetings with their governments before the Global Platform for DRR. We also handed them out at the Global Platform for DRR. The scorecards proved to be a great success, with many local government representatives wanting to take them back and share them with colleagues. We also heard from many people who had sat down with their respective governments and ran through them together. NGOs found them a handy way of summarising the entry points for collaboration. They were also used by NGOs and governments alike in our *Views from the Frontline* session, proving to be a fun break from the normal panel format. We will continue to encourage our members to use these scorecards in their meetings with governments.

[Case studies of collaboration](#), good practice examples that demonstrate that collaboration can be done and is more effective when it happens. We were able to use many of the case studies we collected in our lobbying, especially with UNISDR. By sharing examples from India, Myanmar, Mexico, Costa Rica, Kenya, Japan and different countries in Europe we were able to demonstrate some of the first steps towards it. Many of our members also used these examples in their lobbying and Tweeting. This collection will really help in the first steps of our next joint activity: the development of a guide on "How to Build Resilience Collaboratively". UNISDR has requested that we develop this guide as one of their *Words Into Action* guides.

NGO Preparatory Meeting

In our role as UNISDR’s NGO Focal Point, GNDR organised and chaired together with CAN the official Preparatory Meeting for NGOs on Tuesday 23rd May. Around 300 representatives of NGOs discussed joint advocacy messages, planned coordination for the week and ensured that everyone was aware of everything that would be taking place throughout the Platform. This enabled NGOs to coordinate our efforts to strengthen the engagement of civil society in influencing resilience policies and activities. This meeting was attended by approximately 300 NGO representatives and simultaneously interpreted into Spanish, due to the high attendance of Latin American NGOs in Cancun.



Daily civil society debriefs

GNDR also held daily debriefs at 8.30 each morning during the Platform to share insights and ideas, report on meetings that had been organised, and make sure everyone was up to speed with the diverse events of the day. These were well-attended each morning, and on the final day, there was strong momentum from participants to continue communicating and working together. As such, we agreed on a coordination mechanism and a plan to monitor our own commitments in our joint statement, and to produce a report on our progress a year after the Global Platform.



Daily civil society debrief

GNDR booth

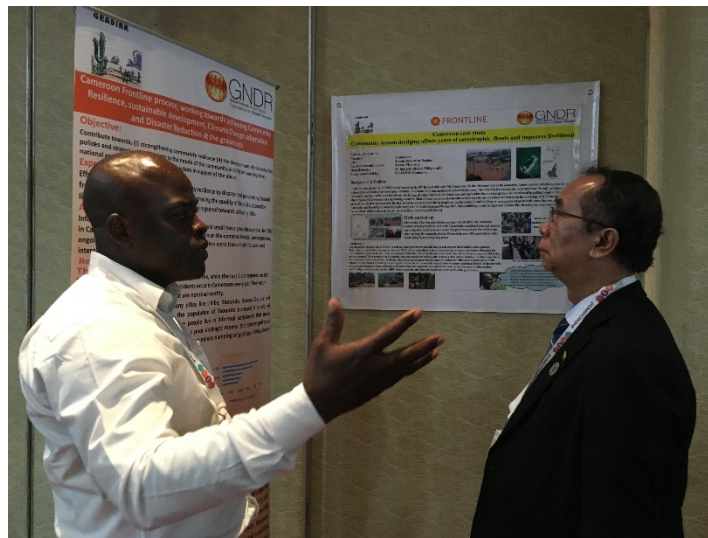
GNDR's booth in the marketplace became a convening place for civil society and allowed us to build new relationships and partnerships, as well as maintaining longstanding friendships with our supporters.



The GNDR booth at the Global Platform for DRR

Views from the Frontline event

On the 22nd May GNDR held our *Views from the Frontline* event at the Global Platform, which provided our 13 *Frontline* leads the opportunity to showcase their work. It allowed audience members to speak to local actors about their perspectives of risk, quiz each other on their own levels of collaboration, and join a debate about how to scale up the successful examples of collaboration we have observed. This event was extremely well attended and we received positive feedback about the opportunity to speak to local people at a global conference. Glenn Dolcemascolo from UNISDR, who was part of the panel of experts, was so impressed with the work in each *Frontline* country that he offered the support of UNISDR to put the members in touch with their respective country delegations present in Cancun to discuss next steps. During this event we also launched *Views from the Frontline 2017*, which will contribute towards establishing local baselines, provide real-time information to inform local strategies and action plans, and generate additional information to complement the official datasets gathered through the online Sendai Framework Monitor Tool.



Buh Gaston, GNDR member and Cameroon Frontline lead, presenting his poster to Government officials in "Views from the Frontline" side event

GNDR's 10th Anniversary

At the Global Platform, GNDR was pleased to be able to celebrate its 10th anniversary. On Thursday 25th May, around 50 GNDR members attending the Global Platform joined us for a party to mark this momentous occasion. At this party, we showed a video about the history of GNDR and how far we have come over the past 10 years. We also listened to messages from our Global Board Chair, Farah Kabir, and our Executive Director, Marcus Oxley, thanking all our members and donors that have been our partners in this exciting journey, for their long-standing support. The celebrations with our members will continue throughout this year and we have introduced a #10YearsTogether hashtag on Twitter for the occasion. The occasion allowed for new and long-term GNDR members to meet each other and our key partners.



GNDR @globalnetworkdr · May 26

Thanks 2 everyone who came to celebrate GNDR's 10th birthday with us tonight #MEXICOGP2017 #10YearsTogether pic.twitter.com/tndIJumMP

SEEDS Tweets, ACT Alliance, USAID/OFDA and GNDR

1 5 12

Member activities

GNDR members were extremely active throughout the Global Platform. Many held side events and Ignite Stage (short) presentations. These events provided plenty of opportunities for us to promote our messages for better collaboration with civil society, highlighting the important role that we have to play in disaster risk reduction. GNDR supported its members by promoting their events through daily emails and Twitter, ensuring that they were well attended and recording photo and video whenever possible. We also coordinated within the GNDR Secretariat team to ensure that we were able to support our members by attending their events ourselves. The feedback we got was that this helped our members feel much more supported, boosting their morale and encouraging them to continue their great work.



Our member Eugenia Morales from World Animal Protection in Costa Rica, presenting at an Ignite Stage event with Mr. Ivan Andrey Brenes Reyes, Presidente Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias in Costa Rica

Support to NGOs registering for the Global Platform

In our role as UNISDR's focal point, before the Platform we worked to support NGOs struggling to register for the Global Platform, acting as an information desk and a bridge between the event organisers and the participants. We provided a helpful list of Frequently Asked Questions about logistics, the agenda, and opportunities for civil society to take part and influence.

Nominating civil society speakers for panel discussions

On several occasions, GNDR was asked to put forward names of civil society representatives for panels. This provided us with opportunities to facilitate civil society participation in plenaries, working sessions, the Leaders Forum, and side events at the Global Platform. Our Global Board Chair, Farah Kabir from ActionAid Bangladesh; Anne Akwango from Deniva (Uganda); Carlos Kaiser from ONG Inclusiva (Chile); Gordon Rattray from CBM (Germany); Mayra Bermudes from Mesa Nacional de Incidencia para Gestión de Riesgos; and Hepi Rahmawati from Yakkum Emergency Unit (Indonesia) all served on panels of the plenary sessions throughout the week, following our recommendations to UNISDR.



Anna Akwango, GNDR member and Uganda Frontline lead, speaking on the panel at the “Community resilience” session

Outcomes

The official outcome documents of the Global Platform included a Chair’s Summary. We think this summary is quite weak because it focuses more on what needs to be done to reduce disaster risk without really discussing how it will be done. Though it does talk about increasing efforts to ensure multistakeholder collaboration, this mention is tokenistic and does not go beyond suggesting that multistakeholder collaboration and partnerships are important. We would have liked it to discuss a commitment to explore different collaborative mechanisms and invest in building the capacity of governments and communities to collaborate.

It was encouraging to see, however, that the Chair’s Summary points to the *Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management* as a guide for inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework. It also mentions a Global Partnership for Disaster-related Data for Sustainable Development that was proposed to facilitate multistakeholder collaboration to enhance monitoring at the local and national levels.

On another positive note, below are some of the key outcomes we believe could be partly attributed to the strong advocacy and participation of civil society in the run up to, and during the Global Platform. These outcomes relate to targets outlined by the InCollaboration Initiative, but also to broader changes in attitudes and practice.

26% of the participants at the Global Platform were civil society representatives

This is a high proportion of the Global Platform participants and an indicator that civil society is not a peripheral player in DRR. Therefore, civil society should not be kept to the sidelines in decision making processes at the regional, national and local level.

Civil society representatives made up 10% of the panellists in the main sessions

After a count up of all the panellists in the plenaries, working sessions, and special sessions as listed on the UNISDR total panellist list, we estimate that civil society made up 10% of the panellists. This is an increase compared to the Asia Platform for DRR (5%) but still quite low considering 26% of the participants at the Platform were civil society representatives. Moving forward, we plan to share this statistic with others and on social media to highlight the current

status of perceptions of civil society as a source of technical expertise. We would like to be able to use this as a baseline to improve on at future DRR events.

UNISDR will establish a civil society group to provide collaboration advice

After many conversations with UNISDR, we learnt that they would like to establish a formally recognised NGOs group. Due to ongoing UNISDR reform, it will not be a permanent "Advisory Group" at this stage. Instead, this group will be considered a "consultative mechanism" led by a group of civil society representatives, tasked with developing a strategy for how UNISDR can better collaborate and facilitate collaboration with communities. This group will have 2 years to produce a strategy to be launched at the next Global Platform in 2019. As a result, we plan to collaboratively develop a one to two-page document on our thoughts as to how this group will be structured/made up and some other responsibilities it could have, to continue discussions with UNISDR.

National governments expressed support for the development of models for collaborative DRR in their Global Platform statements

Many Governments expressed support for collaboration in their Global Platform statements. Please see [this link](#) for a preliminary analysis of the governments that mentioned collaboration in their statements (currently including only statements read in English). We hope to use this list to hold governments to account for collaboration, and to demonstrate to UNISDR and donors that this is something worth investing in.

Strengthened relationships with members

We were able to meet many existing and new members at the Global Platform and get to know their work and contexts. We were also able to strengthen our relationships with those members not in Cancun, by providing active communications to those following from afar. We appreciated all the kind words of thanks from the members around the world.

New partnerships

Our active engagement in the Global Platform for DRR and high visibility led to new relationships and partnerships being developed. This is demonstrated by an increase in GNDR membership registrations, particularly from Latin America, and some new opportunities provided by partners we met in Cancun (e.g. we are exploring opportunities to collaborate with BBC Media Action on joint trainings with local media and local communities, and opportunities to work with universities to develop useful learning courses for our members). Furthermore, we were invited to submit a project proposal to OFDA's Latin America and Caribbean Office to further strengthen the network in the region.

We will utilise these new capacities and partnerships as we go forward to scale up this impact and in the implementation of our strategy.