Report on Partnering Opportunities in Asia/Pacific

7 March 2015

Summary of Session in GNDR South Asia VFL workshop held in Bangkok, 26 February 2015 and some follow up notes

Partnerships and collaboration at South and South East Asia level for VFL/AFL/FL/IFL

The session involved discussion around 3 themes as follows: 1) Existing and Potential Partners; 2) Partnerships and collaboration in practice, 3) Taking back results to communities and other GNDR members. The discussions in the session are captured below. This was circulated to all participants to verify the names and acronyms and edit/ add points discussed or any other suggestions. Feedback received from Bangladesh, Philippines and Nepal is incorporated in the note. Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have promised to send and are encouraged to do so, both to Loy and to Rouf Bruno.

Some additional recommendations are added on possibilities of partnerships with ADRRN, ADPC and UNISDR based on discussion at the workshop and on its sidelines.¹

Theme 1: Existing and Potential Partners

Who are the partners of GNDR at the Global/ Regional/ sub regional / national level? What are the types of partners? Does GNDR have competitors at any of these levels? How should this be dealt with?

The brainstorming and discussions yielded an initial listing of existing and potential partners at the global, Asian, South Asian and national levels in the participating countries. This list represents the list generated during the discussion and is not an exhaustive list.

Partners (existing and potential): Global/ Regional/ sub regional / national level

- **Global**: IISD/IIED/ICCAD/IFRC/ CAN /GCCA
- **Regional**: SAARC, ADRRN, ADPC, UNESCAP,
- **Government**
  - Sri Lanka: DMC
  - Indonesia: BNPB, PLANAS (Indonesia National Platform), REDD Task Force (Indonesia)
  - Philippines: NDRMMC, OCD, Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG)
- **Regional Inter Governmental Organization**
  - South Asia Sub Region: SAARC, SDMC
  - South East Asia Sub Region: ASEAN, ACDM, AHA Centre
- **National Platform**
  - PLANAS (Indonesia)
- **UN Agencies** (Global/Regional/ Country offices)

¹ This paper is prepared by Loy Rego, GNDR member and Technical Adviser, Resilience and SDGs, MARS Practitioners Network
- UNISDR, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UN OCHA,
- **Donor Partners** (Global/Regional/ Country offices)
  - ECHO, USAID
  - World Bank / ADB
- **Sub Regional / national networks (either NGO or multi-stakeholder)**
  - Sub regional: ADRRN, Duryog Nivaran (DN), CANSA, ASEAN Partnership Group (APG)
  - Indonesia: Partnerships for International Support to Development and Resilience (Indonesia); NCCCI (national Coalition? On Climate Change), Indonesian National/NGO? Forum for international development (INFID)
  - India: AADRR (Alliance on Adaptation and DRR)
  - Pakistan: Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), National Humanitarian Network (NHN- Four provincial networks, elected steering committee), DRR Forum
  - Bangladesh: NARRI (National Alliance of Risk Reduction Initiatives, 10 INGOs, initiated with DIPECHO funding) Gender WG
  - Nepal: Disaster Preparedness Network, Nepal (DP Net) , Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN), National Disaster Management Network of Nepal (DiMaNN), Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Disaster Management Committee (DMC) Lalitpur12
  - Philippines: DRR Net, DRR and CCA Coalition, SURGE (Consortium of DIPECHO project partners)
  - Myanmar: MCDRR (Myanmar Local NGO Consortium on DRR), MNGO CPR (Myanmar NGO Consortium on Preparedness and Response), DRR Working Group (DRRWG)
- **Technical Partners**
  - ADPC (regional), NIDM (India)
- **Academic Partners**
  - Asian Institute of Technology, DPMM field of studies, Asian University Network on Environment and Disaster management (AUEDM), TISS IFRC Online program (regional)
  - Phil : Ateneo School of Governance, Central Bicol University, University of Philippines (UP) College of SWD
  - Indonesia: University Forum (part of PLANAS)
  - India: Tata Inst of Social Sciences (TISS) Jamshetji Tata Centre for Disaster Management (JTCDM)
  - Nepal: Institute of Engineering (IOE) Tribhuvan University (TU), Central Department of Environmental Studies (CDES) TU,
  - Sri Lanka: PGDIS? University of Peeradinya, University of Colombo
  - Pakistan: National University of Science & Technology
  - Bangladesh: ICCAD, Independent University Bangladesh
- **Private Sector and their Associations**
  - Nepal: Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) , Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN), Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)
- Sri Lanka: Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Infrastructure, Media, Retailers, Bankers
- Indonesia: Merapi Resilience Coalition (MRC) Yogyakarta (Nestle and others)
- Pakistan: Telenor, Mobilink, U Phone (CSR)
- Afghanistan: Etisalat/Telenor

**Overall comments and possible follow up:**

The above is a useful starting point, though it is not an exhaustive list. The global and regional lists are useful for GNDR and its RDC to follow up in the building of partnerships. Some homework needs to be done before approaching the regional partners, but information sharing and understanding of the CSO work being done by each will be useful.

The national list of partners is useful in two ways: i) for each country to examine how they have made efforts to engage systematically with the identified partners in the country and what else could be done ii) for other countries to see the categories of institutions at national level that other GNDR members have worked with, and to find out equivalent institutions in their country. For GNDR it gives a useful insight into the complexity and wealth of institutions in each country and an understanding of how its members at the national level, can systematically relate to such institutions.

It was also recognized that there is diversity in the way the national NGO networks are constituted, named and organized. As GNDR and other Regional networks move towards becoming a “network of networks” and to consolidating and strengthening such national networks, there is a case for understanding these networks and their needs better.

The participating GNDR members felt a value in continuing this exercise and identifying other potential partners at the regional and country level, which will be useful for the AFL and Frontline projects to work with. Further there is need for a more systematic understanding of the existing national networks and their needs and how they may be supported by a global network like GNDR.

While recognizing that there are competitors (especially for resources) at each level, many of whom are actual or potential partners, this subject was not much explored.

**Theme 2: Partnerships and collaboration in practice**

**How have GNDR and its members operated partnerships in practice in South Asia and South East Asia, especially in the context of VFL and AFL? What lessons can be drawn?**

Members shared their experiences of partnerships during the VFL and AFL implementation in country. Some experiences narrated are noted below. There are obviously more experiences, even in these countries that are not fully reflected here.

The experiences of partnerships while implementing VFL and AFL are as follows:

Indonesia: VFL findings fed into National Assessment report. VFL 09/11/13 fed into discussions with local partners. Dialogue with Humanitarian and Development Actors in context of HFA 2 and SDGs; used insights from 3 rounds of VFL process and AFL projects in advocacy during
these dialogues, as inputs into the process of formulating Indonesian national position on HFA 2 and SDGs. This was done by YEU with and through Planas

Nepal: VFL outcomes in each phase discussed with the Government and DRR community such as DP Net, DIMANN, NRCS, AIN, DMCs and community people. Some funds managed to complement VFL/AFL/FL efforts by partners namely NSET, DMCs/Communities and also INGOs such as Oxfam, Mission East (under DIPECHO)

Afghanistan: VFL was planned in partnership with DRR platform; draft findings were presented back to DRR platform; first VFL findings in formed gaps and needs while defining SNAP

Sri Lanka: VFL findings shared and discussed with DMC VFLs discussed with DMC before sending report to London, UNDP, in context of VFL there has been partnership with Palmyra board, enterprise development, Local Union Council as implementation partners.

Philippines: VFL 13 was (discussed and planned and implemented) was fed back into the discussion on AADMER implementation and AADMER CS partnership framework in partnership with the AADMER Partnership group. Not yet summarized 3 rounds of VFL and fed it into HFA reporting. VFL implemented in partnership with DRR Net, and DILG. Results shared at national level.

AFL is inputted into Pre Sendai conference, and plans already made for Post Sendai conference.

Myanmar: only VFL 13 done, linked with DRRWG and Govt. Presented to them. Not used in this year's HFA Report.

Pakistan: VFL 11 done by PDI and VFL 13 by Pattan (PDO). More information needs to be gathered.

Theme 3: Taking back results to communities and other GNDR members

VFL was implemented with local partners. How have results of the VFL fed back to local partners? Are local partners registered as GNDR Partners?

Have AFL implementing agencies shared experiences with other GNDR members? Has AFL been used to share new methodology with other GNDR members?

Philippines: In context of AFL, submitted its case study on Mercedes to Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG) as an example of good practice in DRRM to be shared to other Local Government Units.

Sri Lanka: Inclined to continue with VFL. It served as an alternate methodology to the Government led self assessment done using the HFA monitor, and therefore allowed an alternate viewpoint and narrative on the HFA to come to the fore. This has benefits and should continue.


In each country the VFL involved 10 – 12 CBOs as data gathering VFL implementing partners. These partner CBOs have not been registered as part of the GNDR, but are considered as part of GNDR /VFL extended family. GNDR needs to consider more whether to register them as members, and clarify what benefits membership will bring. The meeting recognized that this
is a wider issue and that nature of GNDR membership needs to be discussed and sorted out at other forums, such as the GNDR General Assembly.

In context of new DRR Mapping tool being developed by GNDR, are all members automatically reflected in it. Are those earlier involved with VFL included in the DRR mapping list?

**Overall comments and possible follow up:**

There is a willingness for VFL follow up in some countries, either in generating an alternate civil society view point at national level, as counterpoint to national government self assessment report. Some felt there may be still value in extracting consolidated messages from 3 VFLs, and preparing a 2 to 4 pager on consolidated messages, after all VFL 09 had 100 questions on all 5 pillars, and VFL 11 had 40 questions on pillar 1 and VFL 13 explored other dimensions. (Numbers of questions to be verified) This could take the form of a summary of conclusions on the three successive VFLs for use and advocacy within the country. Exact scope of such an exercise is to be worked out. Countries can learn from the good practice implemented by others.

For AFL a recognition that we are only at the beginning and the full potential of AFL is not yet understood or explored. Clearly there is need to feedback results of community surveys to the community (done in most cases) and for the CSO to remain engaged with the community in assisting with action on the identified actions in the community action plan. There was a feeling that we need a phase 2 of AFL in going back to these communities and working with them to take next steps which would include accessing local government funds, advocating for identified actions to be included in local government development and disaster management plans and schemes.

GNDR clarified that the current policy at global level is to focus on the scaled up AFL successor, namely the Frontline program being implemented in 300 communities in 15 countries globally over a 3 year period, and there is currently no plan to do any follow ups of the VFL and AFL as global programs.

It was mooted that as a follow up to this workshop each participating CSO (GNDR Member) who was involved as a AFL participating organization, many of whom were also national coordinating organizations for VFL, was encouraged to discuss in house and among the participating CBOs (for VFL) and communities (for AFL) to identify what kind of low cost actions, comparable to resource inputs provided under AFL, would enable further progress on the AFL and/or VFL. These ideas for action over a one year period could be written up in a one page note and provided to the GNDR RDC, Asia, besides being a basis for resource mobilization at the national level. Such an exercise would in the first instance be focused on the NGOs of the five countries of South Asia participating in this workshop (Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) and the three South East Asian countries participating (Indonesia, Myanmar and Philippines). On behalf of MARS Practitioners Network, a GNDR member, Loy offered to review these one pagers and work with the submitting NGOs and the Asia RDC of GNDR to see if these notes could be combined into a regional fund seeking initiative, possibly with a regional partner. If needed a template for such a one page follow up note could be provided.

Some additional observations and recommendations about partnerships and collaboration by GNDR, drawn from discussions at other sessions of the workshop or on its sidelines.
The South Asia Workshop being held in Bangkok was seen as an opportunity by GNDR to dialogue with many partners at the regional level who are based in Bangkok (namely UNISDR, ADPC, IFRC regional/South East Asia), as well as other regional networks of NGOs whom GNDR collaborates with, namely ADRRN and Duryog Nivaran. Of these ADRRN was invited and attended all three days of the workshop. ADPC and UNISDR accepted the invitation and IFRC was also contacted to join the session. Due to the heavy work pressure of Sendai, and other events being organized by these partners in Bangkok or elsewhere, only an ADPC representative attended the workshop on the third day for half a day and made a presentation, and discussed possible collaboration. However, the ADPC Executive Director, IFRC DM Delegate for SE Asia and Asia Pacific, and UNISDR, all expressed their willingness and interest to meet with the GNDR RDC at an early date, and be briefed on the AFL and other GNDR activities in the region, and to discuss greater information exchange and participation in each other’s events with a view to collaborating. Some specific points of discussion and recommendations with regard to ADRRN, ADPC and UNISDR are as follows.

ADRRN: ADRRN is one of the oldest collaborators of GNDR in the region, having been actively involved in GNDR formation, and with the Chairperson of ADRRN having served on GNDR Board along with chair of Duryog Nivaran for a number of years. ADRRN members have become GNDR members, and have actively collaborated in the VFLs and AFL. Most recently ADRRN and GNDR have collaborated on the road to Sendai campaign. The subject of collaboration has been discussed in the past in particular at AMCDRR 5 and 6, Global Platforms, GNDR Board meeting sidelines. Furthermore, it was felt that with an RDC of GNDR located in Bangkok, and the ADRRN sect in both New Delhi and KL, there was a strategic advantage for both networks in having collaboration among the secretariats and mutual support. Also as emerged from the session, several of the active GNDR members and AFL leads are also active ADRRN members, and in context of Asia, if regional follow up actions are planned or appear beneficial, then ADRRN should become a part of this activity and discussions, leading to some interesting regional collaborative initiatives. Finally it was recognized that building national networks of national NGOs is part of the shared perspective and vision of both organizations, and could be a shared, mutually beneficial activity when well coordinated. It was felt necessary that the Chairperson of ADRRN and the ED of GNDR be briefed and meet further during the upcoming WCDRR in Sendai.

ADPC: ADPC has been associated with GNDR since its inception, in particular in the context of various global and regional meetings. ADPC’s CBDRR work focused on training, information exchange, and cross fertilization of ideas, and integrating CBDRR into local development planning. ADPC’s regional PDRSEA and Urban PROMISE program has information sharing, and training, and also advancement and institutional strengthening of national networks. ADPC has dialogued with GNDR and its national coordinating institutions on the VFLs and their use in national and regional advocacy. Shane Wright, ED has warmly welcomed to Rouf to ADPC. It is also suggested to meet some colleagues in ADPC (Sisira, Arambe, Aslam, Sajedul and Irfan) and collate some ideas based on past collaboration and new potential, particularly with the VFL and AFL, either as a follow up of discussion with ED, or as a prelude. The GNDR Secretariat and Board Members (Lorna, Farah) from Asia, as well as the GNDR members from South and South East Asia (Pattan, Community World Services Asia, Janathaksan, NSET, OSWVA, YEU, CDP) involved in AFL were all keen on linking with feeding the learning into the ADPC CBDRR course, and the ADPC DRLA program and considering further
potential collaboration in advancing existing and future learning under VFL and AFL. There could be other possible collaborations on advocacy and information/knowledge management. Lorna, Bruno and Loy having worked with ADPC in various capacities in the past, encouraged this dialogue and potential future collaboration, and offered to be of assistance.

- **UNISDR:** GNDR RDC should meet UNISDR Regional coordinator at the earliest, after a suitable letter introducing the role and concept is sent. Over time, collaboration will develop, and one way to start is to participate in the UNISDR IAP meetings.