

KEY MESSAGES

GLOBAL PLATFORM DRR 2017

24-26 MAY, CANCUN, MEXICO

The [Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GPDRR) will take place in Cancun, Mexico on 22-26 May 2017. The GPDRR is convened by the UN Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The GPDRR is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders committed to shaping policies for reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

The main goal of the GPDRR 2017 is to discuss progress under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Platform is usually a good venue to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, and provide evidence around disaster risk reduction. The 2 main outcomes of the Conference will be the Chair's Summary as well as the High-Level Communiqué, following the Leader's Forum.

The GPDRR is also an opportunity to highlight the interlinkages between key international frameworks (SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and New Urban Agenda) as these also directly relate to disaster risk reduction. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is engaged in activities at the local level that cut across these international frameworks.

During the GPDRR 2017, States are expected to reiterate their commitments and build political will for implementation of Sendai. GPDRR will also provide an opportunity for national experts to be informed about options and processes for implementation, support available etc. It may also provide an opportunity for the development of collaborative partnerships between states, and between states and national societies and private sector together with other key actors who can support implementation.

With regards to our own engagement, the IFRC intends to use the GPDRR 2017 to focus on the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level. In particular we will seek public recognition of the value of local and community actors and commitments to take concrete steps to support local actors in this work. For our part, we can refer to the IFRC and National Societies increasing our own DRR investment in 2016 by nearly CHF 100 million as compared with 2015 (from CHF 192 - 292 million), and to the One Billion Coalition for Resilience which seeks to connect resilience building initiatives at all levels.

Therefore, this message needs to be consistently and repeatedly heard by the member states. This will be done through presentations, panel discussions and informal bilateral meetings. We will also call upon our external allies to reinforce this ask through similar messages.

As the communique and chair's summary are the two main outcomes documents of the GPDRR 2017, it will be important to see language that reflects this message, while putting emphasis on triggers that foster community resilience such as behaviour change, participation, localization and strong law and policy. The GPDRR is therefore an opportunity for IFRC and its 190 National Societies to further this goal with Key Messages that are articulated around (a) empowering local communities to build their own resilience, (b) localization of the DRR agenda (c) strengthening national regulatory frameworks. The messages are provided below with some optional examples (*if the speaker does not have his/her own*).

KEY MESSAGES

1. Empower local communities to build their own resilience

- 1.1. Understanding risk is necessary, but not sufficient to change the behaviours and environments that contribute to vulnerabilities.
- 1.2. Communities and individuals must be inspired and engaged with a sense of their own responsibility and power to reduce risks. This is essential to a resilience agenda.
- 1.3. The IFRC, and concerned partners, believe that the 1 Billion Coalition and the IFRC Framework for Community Resilience will help us build the culture of engaged community volunteerism and empowerment which will be crucial to the success of this effort.
- 1.4. Our National Societies can and will play a critical role in fostering community engagement in resilience, through our 17 million volunteers but also thanks to the enormous scope of NS activities and programming on resilience.
- 1.5. The IFRC therefore calls on States and local authorities to invest on supporting communities to develop their own understanding of their risks, to take their own action to make themselves safer, and to participate in official decision-making about prevention and response to risks.

2. Localize the DRR agenda through recognition and support to community implementation

- 2.1. The absence of proper localisation of the DRR agenda was one of the main gaps in the global achievements under the Hyogo Framework. Enabling more effective local level implementation of Sendai will require supporting specific projects and activities and allocating sufficient resources.
- 2.2. National systems and investments for DRR must reach local communities and enable early action on the ground. This means for instance connecting national climate and weather information, with early warning systems that effectively reach at-risk communities, and funding to local actors to enable early preparedness actions (through mechanisms such as forecast-based financing) and to ensure knowledge and skills of local actors are up to par with local authorities (through training) in order to formulate policies jointly.
- 2.3. National Societies, as both a community-based actor and an auxiliary to government, are well positioned to work with local authorities to ensure national investments and policies take account of local impact that increase or reduce risk to communities.
- 2.4. The IFRC calls on States and local authorities to recognize the critical role of National Societies and community service organizations and their key contributions in achieving results at the community level.

3. Establish an enabling environment for local action and community empowerment

- 3.1. Strengthen the enabling regulatory environment (laws, policies and plans) for local action and inclusive community empowerment.
- 3.2. The IFRC calls on the States and local authorities to include DRR and resilience approaches into the full range of relevant national law and policy, including not only disaster management acts but also poverty eradication, food security, urban planning, water management, climate change adaptation and environmental laws/policies.
- 3.3. The IFRC calls on States and local authorities to ensure that DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) laws, policies and plans devote adequate attention to gender and the risks and vulnerability of poor and marginalized persons in both rural and urban settings.

OPTIONS TO ENGAGE

The purpose of these key messages is to disseminate them prior and during the GPDRR, with the aim to positively influence the outcomes of the Global Platform as well as the national laws and policies of States. If the Movement members come together around an agreed set of common messages, we optimize our chances to be consistently heard and create greater visibility, as well as enhanced uptake, around what we have identified as main challenges – alongside opportunities - to move forward on the Sendai Framework implementation and the DRR agenda in more general terms.

We have listed below several options where these key messages can be shared.

1. Promote these key messages when National Societies meet bilaterally their respective governments and encourage them in adopting/including our key messages in their Statements, and thus, have them commit to actions that we can ultimately follow-up on;
2. Draw on these key messages in the various formal Statements that IFRC and National Societies will be delivering in the different sessions (Official Statement, Plenary, Special Session, Working Sessions);
3. Refer to these key messages when the IFRC and National Societies are invited as panellists in the different sessions and/or side-events of the GPDRR;
4. Call on these key messages when taking the floor in the different side-events (or any relevant event) that the IFRC and National Societies wish to cover and contribute to;
5. Refer and share these messages in the different bilateral meetings that will be set-up in the margins of the Global Platform, given the unique opportunity of networking which is provided to us through this event;
6. As these key messages are our specific trade mark, we should also use them when promoting our work to possible donors, private sector, potential partners and media.

BACKGROUND

Empower local communities to build their own resilience

“Research into the social psychology of perceptions and belief indicates that—as counterintuitive as it may seem—perceived risk does not contribute directly to taking protective action.... Although increases in mass media attention to the threat does raise public awareness of various earthquake issues, it is the active involvement of individuals in the discussion of these topics, through social ties in their neighborhoods and communities, that overcomes the passivity that often characterizes the receipt of such information.”
[Understanding Individual and Social Characteristics in the Promotion of Household Disaster Preparedness](#),
Mileti and Peek 2002

“Resilient communities are more likely to be empowered, whilst vulnerable communities are more likely to be dis-empowered”. **IFRC Framework for Community Resilience 2014**

“While States have the overall responsibility for reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States”. **Sendai Framework for DRR 2015**

“IFRC DRR projects implemented by 126 National Societies reached 57 million vulnerable people or 18 million more people than in 2015”. **IFRC DRR Mapping for 2016**

Localize the DRR agenda through recognition and support to community implementation

“For the period 2011 – 2013, of the 94 countries providing results for this indicator thus far, some 45%, reported substantial achievement, an improvement on the 38% reported in 2007-2009. Only 5% reported comprehensive achievement, which was identical to the level reported in the previous cycle.... Countries report that local authorities do not have sufficient resources for discharging the responsibilities associated with DRR, a problem compounded by the fact that local governments are also the first responders for civil emergencies and must budget for this with limited resources.” **UNISDR, Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2007-13**

“Evidence indicates that exposure of persons and assets in all countries has increased faster than vulnerability has decreased, thus generating new risks and a steady rise in disaster related losses, with a significant economic, social, health, cultural and environmental impact in the short, medium and long term, especially at the local and community levels.” **Sendai Framework 2015**

“Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for disaster risk reduction; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate.” **Sendai Framework 2015**

“The International Conference “recognizes that National Societies, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, have an important role to play in supporting their States to achieve a number of the goals, targets and priorities set out in the context of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and outcomes of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including those related to building community resilience, reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change.” **Resolution 6, 32nd International Conference of the RC/RC 2015**

Establish an enabling environment for local action and community empowerment

“It is important to ... mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies.” **Sendai Framework 2015**

“Disaster risk reduction requires ... empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens”. **Sendai Framework 2015**

“Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes”. **Sendai Framework 2015**

“This analysis found that, although DRR is highly prioritized and integrated into DRM laws in some countries ... there is still considerable potential in many of the other countries to make DRR a higher priority in their respective legal frameworks.” **IFRC and UNDP, Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: A multi country report 2014**

“Overall, community and civil society participation in the DRM system at all levels could be greatly enhanced in many cases by more defined roles in the DRM laws.” **IFRC and UNDP, Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: A multi country report 2014**

“Greater inclusion of women and the most vulnerable in DRR planning and implementation is an important measure to prevent them from being disproportionately affected by disasters. While several country examples mandate the formal participation of women and vulnerable groups by law, in most cases, these legal provisions are merely aspirational statements.” **IFRC and UNDP, Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction: A multi country report 2014**

The **IFRC/UNDP Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction** provides a prioritized list of 10 key questions that lawmakers, implementing officials and those supporting them are encouraged to consider.

The International Conference “invites States to use the Checklist to evaluate and, as needed, improve the content and implementation of their laws, regulations and public policies related to disaster risk reduction, with support from National Societies, the International Federation, the United Nations System, local civil society, the private sector, academia and other partners.” **Resolution 6, 32nd International Conference of the RC/RC 2015**