

GRASSROOTS DRIVEN INCLUSIVE DRR: THE KEY TO ACHIEVING THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK ON DRR & THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Persistent efforts and partnership building have led to the recognition that the engagement of organized groups of rural and urban poor and the active promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality are cornerstones of 'inclusive' disaster risk reduction and core factors of success in all future/post 2015 frameworks. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emphasized core issues faced by communities bearing the greatest risk and level of vulnerabilities due to persistent poverty and inequality. Yet both policy frameworks have lagged in advancing essential targets, partly due to their failure to engage at-risk communities and reward their involvement in planning, implementing and evaluating actions aimed at safeguarding and strengthening local development.

Ensuring that grassroots, community based poor people's organizations – slum and informal settlement dwellers, rural and urban producer cooperatives, smallholder farmers' associations, women led self-help organizations - participate in planning, implementing and monitoring post 2015 policies must be a central feature of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Facilitating the engagement of those shouldering the greatest burden of disaster and climate risks will promote strong linkages and coherence across the Post - 2015 commitments, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships and advancing transparent, accountable governance. Recognizing and resourcing grassroots women's local leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilient development, will not only advance these objectives, but also bring a gender responsive and gender balanced approach to public decision making.

Recognizing that poverty, gender inequality, and exclusion compound vulnerability and risk, community practitioners, grassroots leaders and their champions have actively pressed for their policy priorities at WCDRR preparatory processes (through the NGO and Women's Major Groups) and in the framing of the SDGs

Our Post-2015 Policy Priorities Include:

- Reducing the incidence and impact of small-scale, recurrent disasters that compromise the food security and livelihoods of poor communities.
- Investing in women's economic empowerment, social entrepreneurship and livelihood diversification, and facilitating women's collective access to land, housing, basic services and other key assets to reduce women's vulnerability and promote community resilience.
- Ensuring grassroots women's participation in land use planning, land reform programs underway
- Ceasing to position women living in poor communities as victims and beneficiaries of aid and social protection in policy and program and consciously shifting to:

Expanding public roles for grassroots women in decision-making including program design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation through direct public investments in scaling up grassroots women's local initiatives and strengthening their leadership in community resilience.

- Promoting synergies and strong linkages between the implementation of Post-2015 Framework for DRR and the SDGs, with particular emphasis on the following:

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere through "sound policy frameworks ... based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies";

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities;

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, emphasizing

“slum upgrading, access to adequate and safe shelter and basic services...and decision making systems that enhance inclusive and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries; ”

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change with an emphasis on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

A Gender Equitable, Pro-Poor Approach to the Means of Implementation (MOI) of Post-2015 Frameworks Will Require that Policymakers:

- Build coherence across the Post-2015 Policy Agendas.
 - Ensure that priorities of poor, marginalized communities are included in policies and programs
 - Require and incentivize the participation of those at the greatest distance from economic growth and development and bearing the greatest vulnerability and risk.
 - Democratize development and DRR investments by supporting poor people’s organizations and grassroots women’s organization as implementers, decision makers and full partners.
 - Reward partnerships between grassroots groups in high-risk areas and government officials.
- Promote participatory, transparent and accountable governance, through inclusive, gender-balanced public decision-making and budgeting.

AN EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH TO INVESTING IN POOR PEOPLE’S ORGANIZATIONS FOR POST -2015 IMPLEMENTATION

The engagement of grassroots community based organizations and networks in the implementation of the Post 2015 Frameworks must be informed by an evidence-based assessment of the constituencies, capacities, good practices and impacts of these groups to date. Development and disaster risk reduction literature features abundant data, through case studies,

impact assessments of poverty reduction strategies and decentralized budgeting and planning initiatives, that slum and informal settlement dwellers, rural and urban producer cooperatives, smallholder farmers’ associations, women led self-help organizations are at the center of reducing poverty and improving the safety and security of poor rural and urban communities. These capacities and approaches must be tapped and financed to ensure effective, inclusive disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, are catalyzed in the first phase of post 2015 implementation.

To demonstrate grassroots women’s capacities to analyze disaster risks, mobilize community awareness and establish projects and plans to reduce disaster risks, the Huairou Commission and GROOTS International established the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) in 2009.

CRF: A Local Implementation Mechanism for Delivering the post-2015 Framework for DRR

The CRF represents a field-tested implementation mechanism that invests in community-driven, collaborative resilience practices by channeling resources to organized communities living in poor, disaster prone settlements, enabling them to address disaster risk and vulnerability.

By placing resources directly in the hands of grassroots women’s organizations, the CRF empowers grassroots women to take the lead in analyzing risks, demonstrating resilience practices, transferring them and collaborating with local and national governments to leverage resources and claim recognition for grassroots women as key stakeholders and partners, in advancing sustainable, resilient development.

Where CRF Works

CRF has thus far, supported grassroots women-led resilience building practices in 1,156 communities through 29 grassroots.

ASIA	AFRICA	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
Bangladesh	Ghana	Brazil
India	Kenya	Ecuador
Indonesia	Madagascar	Guatemala
Philippines	Tanzania	Honduras
Nepal	Uganda	Jamaica
Turkey	Zambia	Nicaragua
Vietnam	Zimbabwe	Peru

CRF is Informed by a Transformational Approach to Community Resilience



HC's Resilience Campaign led by GROOTS International has evolved an approach to grassroots women-led community resilience that seeks to counter the multiple vulnerabilities and risks faced by communities living in disaster prone rural and urban poor communities.

For grassroots women it is hard to isolate disaster risks. Disaster related risks are only one of the many risks and vulnerabilities they face. Reducing disaster risks requires not only action focused on disaster risk, but also locating DRR practices amidst a holistic, multi-faceted approach that addresses this complex reality. This approach to grassroots-led community resilience is captured in the Resilience Diamond with its four distinct, but inter-linked dimensions, essential for nurturing, sustaining and scaling up grassroots women's learning, innovation and leadership in resilience building as well as claiming institutional recognition for them as active agents of community resilience. Informed by this approach to community resilience the CRF invests in grassroots women's organizing, networking and partnerships with government institutions to empower grassroots women to drive their agendas for a more just, resilient world.

What CRF Supports

Risk Analysis Leading to Upgrading Infrastructure

Peru: Women in Lima conducted risk mapping and vulnerability analysis in their informal settlements, on the basis of which they successfully advocated with municipalities to construct retention walls, canals and embankments to reduce the impact of floods and landslides.

Philippines: PACOMNA community from Quezon City's informal settlements in Barangay 275 identified water supply as a priority and partnered with local and national government as well as MAYNILAD a public-private water company to access regular water supply at affordable rates for more than 500 households.

Food Security and Livelihoods Strengthening

Uganda: 600 women in Jinja district are part of a food and livelihoods initiative in which they are cultivating backyard food crops which allows them which addresses food security and supplements incomes.

Indonesia: catalytic funds to nine groups are being used to plant moringa trees, run rice banks, manage waste and organize teak farmers to grow food crops

Institutional Partnerships for Technical and Financial Assistance for Grassroots Resilience Priorities

Honduras: COPECO, the national agency for disaster management has signed an agreement with afro-indigenous women's organization WAGUCHA, through which COPECO will provide technical training to refine community access and understanding of risk information train 300 community volunteers on emergency preparedness and response.

Nepal: grassroots women accessed local funds and technical assistance to de-silt and restore a pond, increasing access to safe drinking water in the dry season and also to act as a barrier to reduce the impact of floods.

Recognition for Grassroots Women's Leadership & Expertise

Guatemala: 54 Grassroots women leaders were formally recognized by CONRED, the national disaster management agency, as DRR Managers.

India: Government agricultural research centers appointed 200 women farmers to lead on drought management campaigns

How CRF Works

The HC Global Secretariat transfers funds to member organizations in each country. These organizations are responsible for identifying and training grassroots leaders to identify local risks, vulnerabilities, capacities and resources. The information emerging from the mapping process becomes the basis for grassroots leaders to identify community resilience priorities.

Community leaders then mobilize wider community support for these priorities and initiate resilience building practices such as adaptive farming or waste management, funded through the CRF. These community generated knowledge and practices are used to hold dialogues and negotiations with local government, through which women seek access to information, funds, technical assistance and decision making processes that will help to refine or scale up their practices. Dialogues often lead to collaborations with government, which may be either formal or informal.

These agreements endorse grassroots women's public roles in training and information dissemination, monitoring or co-planning processes, through which local governments link communities to decentralized budgets and programs that provide technical or financial resources to strengthen and scale up community practices.

Where grassroots organizations have a history of revolving credit and pooling resources, such as those in Asia and Africa, grassroots organizations have also created revolving funds that provide livelihoods loans for resilience building activities such as collectively leasing land for sustainable agriculture or restoring livelihoods after disasters. Grassroots management of these funds includes CRF committees that screen loan applications and monitor fund use.

How the CRF Promotes DRR Policy Commitments

Post-2015 Framework for DRR" Priorities for Action

1. Understanding disaster risk

2. Strengthening governance and institutional arrangements to monitor risk

3. Investing in DRR for Resilience

4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

CRF Promotes Local Implementation of Priorities for Action By:

Supporting grassroots women driven risk and vulnerability mapping, analysis and prioritization of disaster risks as well as dissemination of risk information.

Catalyzing community-led partnerships between grassroots women's organizations and local and national governments, leading to formal agreements to collaborate and

Channeling donor funds to communities disproportionately affected by disasters and leveraging public resources from national and local government programs and budgets to address community resilience priorities.

Supporting training for preparedness and response, providing revolving funds for restoration of livelihoods and revolving funds

Grassroots practitioners' resilient development practices along with their advocacy at local, national, regional and global levels provide strong evidence that grassroots organizations have the constituencies and the capacities to be full partners in the implementation of the Post-2015 Frameworks on DRR and Development. It is now time for policymakers to recognize grassroots' leadership and create policy mandates that assure them a seat at the decision making table.

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