



Fall 2018 Consultative Group Meeting of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery  
**Knowledge Partnership Day: Building Resilience at the Community Level and Promoting Inclusive Risk Governance**

November 8, 2018

**Summary Report**

## Background

The World Bank, the European Commission (EC) on behalf of the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat are currently holding the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) co-chairmanship.<sup>1</sup> In this context, the GFDRR Fall 2018 Consultative Group (CG)<sup>2</sup> meeting took place on 7 November 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. In the margins of the CG meeting, the EC and the ACP Secretariat hosted the Knowledge Partnership Day (KPD) on 8 November 2018.

The event brought together various stakeholders – including government officials from ACP countries, regional organizations, the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), CG members/observers, GFDRR and the World Bank – to discuss and share lessons on how to build resilience at the community level and promote inclusive risk governance.

The expected outcomes of the KPD were:

- Enhanced understanding and increased knowledge on how to build inclusive community resilience and promote inclusive risk governance for improved policies, planning and practice
- Shared lessons and experiences between decision-makers and practitioners on the challenges and opportunities to enhance inclusive community resilience and inclusive risk governance
- Strengthened strategic alliances and partnerships on local capacity strengthening to build climate and disaster resilience

The KPD consisted of presentations, keynote speeches, interactive sessions, and group discussions. Each of these are summarized below.

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<sup>1</sup> The Co-Chair takes the responsibility to enable and guide the dialogue among GFDRR partners and ensure GFDRR continues to pursue its mission. It fulfils an important role in defining priorities, setting the agenda, building consensus, and endorsing broad operational strategies to achieve them. GFDRR Co-Chairs are selected by the consensus of GFDRR Members for a one-year term. The Co-chairmanship of the EC and the ACP Secretariat spans from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> The Consultative Group (CG) is GFDRR's primary decision-making, oversight, and advisory body, which guides GFDRR's long-term strategic objectives, while overseeing expected results.



## Session Summaries

### Setting the Agenda

After the opening remarks from Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas (Expert in Humanitarian Matters, ACP Secretariat), Ambassador Léonard-Emile Ognimba (Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group), Mr. Georgios Pantoulis (Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO) and Ms. Bernice Bronkhorst (Climate Change Director, World Bank), Ms. Valentina Villoria (Program Manager, DG DEVCO, EC) welcomed the wide range of participants present and gave an overview of the agenda of the KPD. Ms. Villoria noted that the EU has stressed the importance of inclusive resilience building in various policy documents, such as the “Joint Communication - A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's External Action” and the “European Consensus on Development.” This introduction by Ms. Villoria was followed by an overview of the history of the ACP Group, the ACP-EU Partnership and ACP’s priorities on DRM by Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas (Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat).

### Keynote Speech

Ms. Fatiman Ahler (Director of Niger Digital Cartography Agency, President of Femme & TIC Niger) delivered a keynote speech stressing the importance of including women in DRM activities and decision-making at the local-, national-, and international level. Women have the knowledge and skills to build their communities, given the important role they play in their communities and households and given their strong ties to natural resource management. Ms. Ahler is promoting the inclusion of women in participatory risk mapping, and called on participants of the KPD to strive to do the same in their DRM efforts so that no group will be left behind.

### Presentation: Social Resilience: How to Protect and Empower Those Most at Risk

Ms. Margaret Arnold (Senior Social Development Specialist and Head of GFDRR’s Social Resilience Program, World Bank) presented the World Bank’s engagement on social resilience. A key takeaway was that social resilience is about ensuring that all members of society may develop or maintain the ability to *thrive*. A challenge to fostering social resilience is that multiple risks often exist at the same time - such as the risk of natural hazards, political violence, and other aspects of fragility. Therefore, greater collaboration is needed between social resilience and DRM approaches. Although there is no silver bullet to fostering social resilience, successful approaches include supporting community-driven approaches to DRM/CCA and development, supporting communities to diversify livelihoods, enhancing capacity building, and empowering women and marginalized groups.

### Presentations: Building Community Resilience: Lessons Learned from ACP Countries

Dr. Claudio Eugenio Jamal (Team Leader, Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs, World Vision Mozambique) shared how the development of methodologies – for instance a methodology on developing local adaptation plans – can contribute to overcoming challenges such as a lack of institutionalized disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches. For the design of these methodologies, the inclusion of communities, their leaders, and civil society organisations (CSOs) is key.

Ms. Mary Alalo (Project Coordinator, Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project) highlighted the particular geographical challenges small island states face, such as the “tyranny of distance” which makes that the most vulnerable are often left out as beneficiaries of projects, as budgets are not sufficient to reach remote islands. Lessons learned of working in this



particular context include that partnerships are crucial to overcome a “tyranny of distance” and that promoting risk resilience needs to be a government priority integrated in all development efforts.

Ms. Jean Viliamu (Climate Resilient Investment Division, Ministry of Finance, Samoa) presented on how the country involves the communities, using the strong and traditional village structure, to bring disaster and climate risks together through the Community Integrated Management plans. These plans identify resilient interventions using a participatory approach including technical inputs such as LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data and aerial photography.

Ms. Cointha Thomas (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service, St Lucia) emphasized that the building of resilience should take place bottom-up. Communities need to be included in the process of developing studies and reports, so that reports and studies are tailored to their needs and to enable the successful implementation of community-based DRM and CCA actions.

### **Group discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in Building Inclusive Community Resilience**

There was a shared understanding amongst participants that inclusion of local communities ensures the sustainability of DRM projects long after the projects have ended. Limited budgets for DRM efforts were flagged by participants as a challenge for building community resilience. Reducing dependence on external finance from donors and enhancing the support from the private sector were mentioned as potential solutions to address this challenge. In addition, participants stated that bringing communities of practice working on DRM and on CCA together can enhance the effectiveness of resilience efforts.

### **Interactive Game on Inclusive Risk Governance**

Under the guidance of Ms. Fleur Monasso (Manager, Capacity Strengthening and Partnerships, Red Cross Climate Centre) and Mr. Maarten Van Aalst (Director Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre), participants played an interactive game on inclusive risk governance. Participants were assigned a specific role and had to prepare for dealing with an upcoming extreme weather-event. During the game, participants experienced the importance of having inclusive disaster preparedness in place before a disaster happens.

### **Presentation: Views from the Frontline - Monitoring and supporting the inclusion of local actors in resilience building**

Ms. Lucy Pearson (Programme Manager, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction) delivered a presentation on the approach of GNDR to engage with at-risk communities, local CSOs and local authorities to record their perspectives on risk and resilience. Their research can help to increase the engagement between different actors in resilience-building processes, and underpin resilience actions.

### **Presentation: Realizing the Sendai Framework for Action Outcomes through grassroots-led initiatives**

Ms. Sandy Schilen (Executive Director Huairou Commission/ Groots International) elaborated on challenges hampering the involvement of women in resilience efforts. Challenges include that women are often characterized as “vulnerable groups” whereas they are often collectively organized, that DRR-training and programming is top-down and as such does not enable women to produce gender-relevant data, and that women are not engaged as implementers of local resilience initiatives. The Huairou Commission’s Community Resilience Fund aims to address these challenges by channelling resources to organized groups of women in hazard-prone settlements. This enables



women to lead risk mapping, implement risk reduction plans, and sustain formal relationships with national DRM agencies.

### **Presentation: EU Civil Protection Mechanism and Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO)**

Ms. Gaëlle Nizery and Mr. Flavio Bello (Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO), EC) delivered a presentation on how the EC is, through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the DIPECHO Program, helping at-risk communities to be better prepared for disasters. The DIPECHO program is the EU's core DRR programme and has since 2015 a new strategic approach with the purpose of strengthening coherence with other EU-funded humanitarian projects and development cooperation. The presenters noted that DG ECHO is making more effort to advance disaster preparedness in fragile and conflict affected areas, as this is where most deaths from disasters occur.

### **Group discussion: The role of civil society and citizen engagement in building community resilience**

Participants discussed what the role of civil society and citizen engagement is in strengthening local capacity. Participants stated that CSOs can positively contribute to building resilience, as the inclusion of CSOs helps ensure that the voices of communities are heard. Citizen engagement was seen as contributing to the sustainability of DRM efforts, and participants noted furthermore that community-resilience projects must ensure that marginalized groups are given the opportunity to participate in decision-making. This group discussion was followed by closing remarks from the Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas and Mr. Jozias Blok (Program Manager, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission), stressing the need for inclusion and that building resilience should take place bottom up.



## Annex I – Agenda of the Knowledge Partnership Day

<b>9.00-9.30</b>	<i>Registration and coffee</i>
<b>9.30-9.44</b>	<u>Opening and welcome remarks</u>  <b>Amb. Leonard Emile Ognimba</b> , Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group <b>Mr. Georgios Pantoulis</b> , Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission <b>Ms. Bernice Bronkhorst</b> , Climate Change Director, World Bank
<b>9.45-11.15</b>	<u>Setting the agenda</u>  <b>Ms. Valentina Villoria</b> , Program Manager, DG DEVCO, European Commission <b>Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas</b> , Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat
<b>10.15-10.30</b>	<u>Keynote speech</u>  <b>Ms. Fatiman Ahler</b> , Director of Niger Digital Cartography Agency, President of Femme & TIC Niger <i>Introduction by:</i> <b>Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas</b> , Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat
<b>10.30-11.00</b>	<u>Presentation: Social Resilience - How to Protect and Empower Those Most at Risk</u>  <b>Ms. Margaret Arnold</b> , Head of GFDRR's Social Resilience Program, World Bank <i>Introduction by:</i> <b>Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas</b> , Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat
<b>11.00-11.15</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11.15-12.15</b>	<u>Presentations: Building Community Resilience: Lessons Learned from ACP Countries</u>  <b>Dr. Claudio Eugenio Jamal</b> , Team Leader, Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs, World Vision Mozambique <b>Ms. Mary Alalo</b> , Project Coordinator, CRISP, Solomon Islands <b>Ms. Jean Viliamu</b> , Climate Resilient Investment Division, Ministry of Finance, Samoa <b>Ms. Cointha Thomas</b> , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service, St Lucia <i>Chair:</i> <b>Ms. Habiba Gitay</b> , Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank
<b>12.15-12.45</b>	<u>Group discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in Building Inclusive Community Resilience</u>  <i>Chair:</i> <b>Ms. Habiba Gitay</b> , Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank
<b>14.45-13.45</b>	<i>Lunch and networking</i>
<b>13.45-15.00</b>	<u>Interactive Game on Inclusive Risk Governance</u>  <i>Chairs:</i> <b>Ms. Fleur Monasso</b> - Manager, Capacity Strengthening and Partnerships, Red Cross Climate Centre



	<p><b>Mr. Maarten Van Aalst</b> - Director Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</p> <p><i>Introduction by: Ms. Julie Dana</i>, Head GFDRR, the World Bank</p>
<b>15.00-15.20</b>	<p><u>Presentation: Views from the Frontline - Monitoring and supporting the inclusion of local actors in resilience building</u></p> <p><b>Ms. Lucy Pearson</b>, Programme Manager, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)</p> <p><i>Introduction by: Mr. Jozias Blok</i>, Policy Officer, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p>
<b>15.20-15.40</b>	<p><i>Coffee break</i></p>
<b>15.40-16.00</b>	<p><u>Presentation: Realizing the Sendai Framework for Action Outcomes through grassroots-led initiatives</u></p> <p><b>Ms. Sandy Schilen</b>, Executive Director Huairou Commission/ Groots International</p> <p><i>Introduction by: Mr. Jozias Blok</i>, Policy Officer, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p>
<b>16.00-16.30</b>	<p><u>Presentation: EU Civil Protection Mechanism and Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO)</u></p> <p><b>Ms. Gaëlle Nizery</b>, the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO), European Commission</p> <p><b>Mr. Flavio Bello</b>, the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO), European Commission</p> <p><i>Introduction by: Ms. Olga Baus-Gibert</i>, Team Leader, DEVCO G1, Latin America and Caribbean</p>
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	<p><u>Group discussion: The role of civil society and citizen engagement in building community resilience</u></p> <p><i>Chairs:</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Valentina Villoria</b>, Program Manager, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p><b>Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas</b>, Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat</p>
<b>17.00-17.30</b>	<p><u>Closing remarks and lessons learned</u></p> <p><b>Mr. Jozias Blok</b>, Policy Officer, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p><b>Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas</b>, Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Secretariat</p>
<b>17.30-19.30</b>	<p><i>Reception</i></p>