Communities Addressing Local Risks
Monday 16 March 2015, Exhibition Hall 1

Summary Report

Resilient communities are the building blocks of resilient nations. For this to occur, communities must be empowered to be systematically involved in planning and decision making, using their knowledge and have the platforms to articulate their choices. The Working Session discussed experiences of where communities have led and contributed to disaster risk reduction and the roles of different actors in creating an enabling environment for strengthened role of communities.

Examples were presented to demonstrate that communities have developed critical knowledge of the diverse range of disasters they face, both every day and extraordinary, and have developed unique capacities to address these risks. They are the frontline responders. There has begun to be a shift in recognizing the role of communities and in facilitating their actions for disaster risk reduction. But more can be done to create an enabling environment.

A number of factors were identified to be critical to support communities addressing local risks. These included the need to understand risk from the perspective of communities, the main risk bearers; leave no one behind; empower communities and build their leadership capacities; collaborate with the common goal of supporting community resilience; and mobilise resources for locally led community action.

Commitments / Further Work

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to play six key roles to support communities: knowledge broker, capacity builder, connector, implementer, advocate and monitor.
- IFRC/national red cross societies in the Pacific region to ensure that local communities are included in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans.
- Local government to create an enabling environment for communities leadership.
- The private sector to help fill in information and technology gaps as part of their core business to build the resilience of their staff and customers.
- Donor to work a different approach that engages communities, better understands real life on the ground, works across sectors, and streamlines financial support to meet the needs of funding community-led initiatives.
- Promotion of an open source data platform to ensure that all actors have access to local perspectives of risks.
- Build leadership capacity for communities.
Speakers List

**Chair:**  Mr. Manu Gupta, Chair, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network

**Moderator:**  Mr. Tanaji Sen, Executive Director of RedR, India

**Panelists:**  Ms. Joyce Rosemary Nangobi, Director, Slum Women's Initiative for Development, Uganda

Mr. Adolfo Millabur Ñancuil, Mayor of Tirua, Chile

Mr. Takuya Tasso, Governor of Iwate Prefecture, Japan

Ms. Nada S. Yamout, City Councilor, Beirut, Lebanon

Mr. Eduardo Martinez, President, The UPS Foundation

Ms. Maria (Malu) Fellizar-Cagay, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), Philippines

Mr. Claus Sørensen, Director-General, European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)