

Technical Session 3 *(Working Draft 31st July, 2012)*

Background:

Strengthening Local Governance and Partnerships has become an important part of recent discourse on making disasters risk reduction effective for the most affected communities. This follows several recent studies including the HFA mid-term review on the limited local level capacity for coordinating DRM efforts with socio-economic development at local level. The review of national-level progress suggests that action at local level was consistently noted as in need of improvement, especially under Priorities for Action 1 to 4. The Views from the Frontline report 2011 too, based largely on interviews at the local level, found “a significant gap between national and local level action. The reports states how progress fades as activities get closer to vulnerable people.

The thrust on integrating DRR with developments has to be necessarily facilitated by a strong risk governance mechanism. This would require ‘political commitment and policy coherence in central government, competent and accountable local governments, and an openness to work in partnership with civil society, in particular with low income households and communities’.
(GAR,2011)

The proposed Technical Session 3 in 5th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) aims to deliberate on ‘Strengthening Local Governance and Partnerships’ in the context of Asia-Pacific. The session objectives are:

- Explore, collect, analyze, organize the findings of constraints and the success story as well as the lessons learned that have been obtained in partnership initiation in various countries
- Formulate index, check list and guidelines on partnership development and participation in strengthening/building local capacity
- Propose parameters and indicators of partnership effectiveness and participation in strengthening/building local capacity
- Propose implementing organization and development concept as well as institutionalization of partnership index and participation in strengthening/building local capacity for disaster risk reduction

In the given context, ADRRN in partnership with the Indonesian Working Group, and support from the IFRC, and members of the CSO Task Force is currently carrying out a background study for the Technical Session 3. The study has so far carried out literature surveys in the region and in-country. The team has studied the country UNDAF, SNAP, NAPA reports, the DRR project portal and Country Level Assessments. A Community Disaster Resilience Survey was carried out in 17 most vulnerable communities across Asia. The survey interviewed hundreds of community members and local government officials. Successful case studies from Indonesia and other countries in Asia have been analysed to arrive at common challenges and success factors. The initial paper prepared by Indonesian Working Group for Technical Session 3 has formed the main basis of this ongoing background study.

Principal Issues:

As it stands, some of the main issues emerging from the ongoing studies are as follows:

Weak local governance specially lack of appropriate and timely information has been responsible for increasing community's exposure to hazards and changing climate impacts.

Lack of feedback and grievance redressal mechanisms in local governance has led to gap in understanding of needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Local governments do not receive adequate financial and human resource to overcome challenges in increasing exposure at local level.

In absence of an enabling policy environment current local level partnerships are mostly limited to consultations rather than joint action and decision making.

Lack of partnerships for bridging scientific knowledge and local practices has resulted in fewer choices for informed risk reduction alternatives

Dedicated partnerships and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups can potentially contribute to build overall response capacity of communities

Good governance objectives for risk management could only be fulfilled if there is an sustained involvement and active participation of local civil society.

Sustained advocacy on mainstreaming risk reduction with developmental agenda will enhance overall response capacities at local level.

Each area has its own unique identity and local knowledge governance and hence, local partnerships should be designed flexibly to respect local traditions while promoting it disaster risk reduction activities

Session Structure & Expected Outcome:

The deliberations in the Technical Session 3 are expected to help " institutionalize the best practices in local risk governance and partnerships, that can be replicated in other countries".

The 90 minute session would follow a Hard Talk structure including up to 6 speakers. Speakers are expected to bring in their experience, views and expertise on issues around accountability, principles of partnerships, required capacities and the need for enabling policy. Speakers would include civil society representatives, local government elected representatives, members of successful local partnerships in the region.

Keeping in mind the expected outcome, as stated above, this study and the discussion during the Session will provide information on developing a common index and principles for the region for successful local risk governance and partnerships.

Inviting Case Studies, Experiences, Views from in-country consultations:

ADRRN would like to invite case studies, experiences from countries to be incorporated in a Background Paper to be prepared for the Technical Session 3. An editorial committee will review the contents of the papers received for the Technical Session 3.

Please find the format for sending case studies also contact person for sending the case study will be Mr.Mihir Joshi (ADRRN Coordinator) mail id: mihir@seedsindia.org

Details	Description
Country	
Name of the project/initiative:	
Problem statement	What were the major problems in terms of hazards, vulnerability and impacts; What were the main challenges in achieving risk reduction objectives
Local Governance & Partnerships	What measures were undertaken to strengthen local governance and partnerships. Who were the main participants of local partnership.
Location	Please give exact location of the program. Please also give number of beneficiaries
What	What type of project/initiative is this? What is the achievement and the main goal? What is the impact? What is the concrete and provable result? *Please give other relevant information
When	When was this project/initiative implemented? Is it still ongoing? If it is not, when was it ended? Has the next step already been planned? *Please give other relevant information
Why	Why do you think the project has been successful? What is success/failure factor from this initiative? What are the element and innovative result in here? *Please give other relevant information
How	How is the project/initiative implemented? What strategy and method can be used? *Please give other relevant information
Lessons learnt	What is the lesson learnts? What is the main obstacle of this project/initiative and how to solve it (if it is solved)? How to improve the same project/initiative in the future? *Please give other relevant information
Which principal issue it is addressing	Please provide information which principal issue within the purview of "Local Governance and partnership" is its addressing.
Authors	Please provide a list of authors, project participants and other organizations/individuals to be acknowledged in the final background paper