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Swiss Red Cross



With contribution from:



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SWISS NGO DRR PLATFORM



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CONTEXT

Every day, disasters undermine people's capacities to develop and recover: earthquakes, floods and other events harm livelihood bases and cause lives lost of the most vulnerable and poor, including women, disabled and children. Ongoing depletion of natural resources limits people's options to sustain their livelihoods and makes them more vulnerable for the perils to come.

Disaster preparedness has improved significantly over the past decade, since the international community signed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in 2005 and 2015 respectively. Investments in early warning and risk information systems, survival skills as well as capacity building for local and national authorities have contributed to reducing the number of lives lost across the globe. However, without a fundamental change of development pathways and priorities, this positive trend may be reversed – and the gap between risk and resilience be widened even further. People and communities continue to face unacceptable levels of risks due to increasing exposure, risk-blind investments and policies, and growing effects of climate change.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Integrated risk management, linking prevention, risk mitigation, preparedness, as well as risk sharing and response to natural hazards has been put into practice in Switzerland for decades. Joining hands between multiple stakeholders across administrative levels and between government and civil society has been a crucial aspect to effectively reduce risk.

We, a significant amount of Swiss NGOs working internationally, have taken this approach forward to work jointly worldwide on strengthening resilience at the community level with a special focus on the most vulnerable by addressing disaster risks in this integrated manner.

For that purpose, we founded the Swiss NGO DRR Platform in 2011 – to capture and spread the existing knowledge and experience of all member organizations, to increase effectiveness and quality of Swiss NGOs work related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) and to advocate for the importance of DRR and ACC for resilience building.

OUR MISSION

As a Platform, we are a network of Swiss-based NGOs, dedicated to increase the resilience of women and men, communities and governments, through an integrated approach to DRR and ACC.

OUR MEMBERS

We are open to organisations:

- Based in Switzerland or implementing partners of Swiss-based organisations.
- Working on Not-for-Profit basis.
- Active or interested in DRR and ACC.

Our member organisations (June 2015): Caritas Switzerland, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Swiss Red Cross, HEKS/EPER, Terre des hommes, MEDAIR, SOLIDAR Switzerland, World Vision Switzerland ProAct network, Global Risk Forum Davos, Bread for All, TearFund Switzerland, Save the Children Switzerland, Christoffel Blindenmission, Innovabridge.

OUR STRUCTURE

We are composed of the following statutory organs

- Member Assembly, consisting of all member organisations meets twice per year for participatory planning and decision making on annual priorities.
- Core Group, consisting of 4 elected representatives meets regularly to keep members informed on ongoing Swiss and international initiatives as well as to carry out a quality control of products of the different working groups.
- Steering Committee, consisting of management level representatives of 3 member organisations.
- Ad-hoc working groups, consisting of 2–4 members work across institutional border to carry out mandates assigned by the member assembly.

OUR ACTIVITIES

We serve as a forum for our members to facilitate activities in the following three domains:

- Exchange and learning: we organise 4 to 6 learning events annually for practitioners in Switzerland and hold an annual face-to-face workshop (F2F); we promote peer exchange among members and partners and provide capacity building and trainings abroad. Learning events encompass topics such as community resilience, DRR in fragile and conflict affected situations, eco-DRR, DRR and reconstruction.
- Conceptual support and technical advice: we support our members by structuring and enhancing access to DRR and ACC approaches, technologies and tools and provide tailored risk information for selected focal countries (e.g. Philippines, Nepal and Ethiopia). We strive for a commitment of our members to measure qualitative and quantitative outcomes through a set of commonly used DRR and ACC indicators.
- Raising awareness and advocacy: we contribute to shaping post-2015 frameworks and participate in international networks and events. At the core of our advocacy work is the promotion of tangible results at the local level for the most vulnerable groups, an integrated approach to risk management as well as risk prevention through risk informed development.

OUTLOOK

Over the past three years we have become a recognised community of practice and a relevant dialogue partner at the national and international level. We work closely with the Swiss NGO community, the Swiss government, GNDR as well as the science and private sector.

Learning: We will bring together the different learning contents in a comprehensive Swiss DRR and ACC curriculum.

Technical support: In cooperation with other institutions (WOCAT, CDE, universities, etc.), we will further strengthen the sharing of good technologies and approaches and promote a learning culture.

Advocacy: We will ensure civil society voice in the Swiss delegations of the post-2015 discussions to promote a people centred and action oriented development and implementation of frameworks and policies for a risk informed and sustainable development.