

OXFAM OFFICIAL STATEMENT

This Global Platform is an opportunity for states to discuss progress in achieving the Sendai Framework and build new partnerships. But it is not just a talking shop; it is also a key tool for accountability. Oxfam outlines here the key priorities based on our experience of supporting communities around the world, and we look to see these issues reflected in the conference outcomes.

1. Tackling the inequality of risk

Human activity is the main driver of risk; there are no 'natural' disasters. Vulnerability is the result of the model of unequal and unsustainable development that increases poverty and inequalities; risk falls unfairly on the poorest and most vulnerable people. For example:

- Risk assessment can often be seen as a technical assessment of external physical risks, yet social, economic and political aspects determine people's entitlement and capabilities.
- Gendered division of roles or discriminatory practices exposes women, men, girls and boys differently to shocks *and* limits their ability to react and manage change. Women's empowerment and leadership is bringing new forces and perspectives to our system.

States should tackle and reduce the causes of risks and vulnerabilities, proactively considering how gender, income and other inequalities reinforce risk, and use this analysis to develop programmes that reduce both inequality and risk.

2. A multi-stakeholder approach, driven by community priorities

We are facing new challenges, we need new solutions. New collaborations and partnerships will define our capacity in the future to manage change. No stand-alone actor can attempt to achieve the needed change alone. Communities must be at the centre of this collaboration – building resilience will only be successful when local communities are empowered to make themselves safer.

States should recommit to a multi-stakeholder, bottom-up approach, with meaningful participation from affected communities. States and local authorities should invest in communities, providing tools and resources to enable communities to make themselves safer.

3. A multi-stakeholder approach – a core role for civil society organisations

CSO's can play a strong role to support local and national governments, as shown in a recent study of GNDR which found more than 14 000 cases capturing local perspectives on risk and resilience and many examples of collaboration between governments and civil society. An increased focus at the local level also supports the call and commitment for local humanitarian leadership, made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. CSO's can play a convening role, promoting a multi-stakeholder dialogue, supporting local and community outreach but also supporting learning and innovation at local level.

For Oxfam, local actors and municipal authorities are the key level of action in the next decade: building resilient municipalities through local development plans, including contingency planning, forward-looking and flexible planning capacities; reinforcing local actors (authorities, technical sector and CSOs, including women's rights organizations); connecting

academics and private sector; and reinforcing local capacity to lead responses, to anticipate, to prepare, adapt and even transform their own context.

To achieve this change, **states should** ensure that local-level funding is both increased and more accessible to local actors, and that engagement is long-term and strategic, rather than project-based. To support and strengthen this work, and recognise the key role of CSOs, **UNISDR should** create a Civil Society Advisory Group (similar to that on the private sector and science and technology).

4. Strengthening accountability

States have committed to the detailed framework of the Sendai Framework, as well as complementary commitments under the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and World Humanitarian Summit. To achieve these commitments, risk reduction should be integrated across national laws, plans and policies of a range of sectors/ministries, including not only DRR but also urban planning, water management, education, health, climate and local government. It should take a long-term and strategic approach, ensuring that risk is not created through public and private investment decisions.

Governments must be accountable to their citizens, particularly those most vulnerable to disasters, providing information and measurement of impact and progress, particularly at local level.

To ensure upwards accountability, **states should** provide strong senior leadership with integrated and coherent visions and action plans and Ministers held accountable for achieving resilience-building targets and commitments. For downwards accountability, **states should** provide dedicated avenues and capacities to monitor SFDRR implementation at the local level.