



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

IFRC DELEGATION REPORT

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DRR

GENEVA, 19 – 23 MAY 2013

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1. Introduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) was held from 19 to 23 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. Opened by Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation, and chaired by Martin Dahinden, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the GPDRR 2013 brought together over 3,500 participants from 173 countries with representation from national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, mayors and parliamentarians, business, academics, scientists and communities. The Platform was preceded by regional platforms convened in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Arab States and Europe as well as many consultative and preparatory meetings convened by civil society, local governments and Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies.

The GPDRR 2013 met at a time when the preparation for the Post-2015 development agenda and the Post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was reaching a crucial stage of finalization. Held under the motto “Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow – Resilient People, Resilient Planet” the Platform provided a forum for dynamic discussions, including over 170 official events, which focused on practical solutions to DRR issues faced by vulnerable communities and people all over the world. Key topics addressed by these events were private sector investments in disaster resilient societies; the potential of local communities and networks; the role of authorities at all levels in securing sustainable risk management; and the post-2015 HFA consultation. The key outcomes of the GPDRR 2013 include the Chair’s Summary, the Communiqué on High-Level Dialogue, the Conference Proceedings and the Global Consultation on HFA2. Key documents and daily proceedings are available at: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/home>.

2. IFRC Participation in the Global Platform

2.1 IFRC Delegation

The IFRC Delegation was led by Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the IFRC, and composed of 123 participants from 25 Host National Societies, 13 Partner National Societies and the Secretariat. Additionally 6 representatives from the Zurich Insurance Company and Nestlé were registered as part of the IFRC delegation. The full list of IFRC participants is attached as Annex V.



Photo: IFRC delegation to the GPDRR 2013

2.2 IFRC Objectives

Through its participation in the GPDRR, the IFRC pursued the following objectives:

- § Position the IFRC as a global leader in strengthening community resilience;
- § Influence the HFA2 process with RCRC inputs;
- § Develop networking and partnerships
- § Share knowledge and experience with other international organisations, NGOs and governments and learn from them.

2.3 IFRC Contribution to the Global Platform

Given the broad spectrum of events held during the Global Platform and the large number of IFRC participants, great efforts were made to optimize each participant's involvement in the Platform. An IFRC agenda (Annex I) and a detailed Plan of Action (Annex II) were developed to this effect.

Official Statement

The Official Statement of the IFRC was delivered by Bekele Geleta, Secretary General, on 22 May. Giving a detailed account of the RCRC work for DRR and resilience, he called on the States to fulfil their commitment to allocate 10% of their humanitarian relief budgets to DRR work and reaffirmed the IFRC commitment to DRR. The Official Statement is attached as Annex IV.



Photo: Bekele Geleta delivers the Official Statement

Plenary Sessions

The IFRC delegation participated in the following plenary sessions:

- § Private Sector for Resilient Societies: Ingredients for Success
- § Community Resilience – The Foundation of Resilient Nations
- § Governments and DRR: A Sustainable Engagement
- § Post-2015 Framework for DRR

The IFRC delegation attached importance to the informal plenary session on the Post-2015 Framework for DRR as the outcome of the discussion would inform the HFA2. Floor interventions were made by several IFRC participants including Umesh Prasad Dhakal, Executive Director of the Nepal Red Cross; Wayne Ulrich, Community Safety and Resilience Coordinator of the Indonesia Delegation; and Mohammed Omer Mukhier, Head of the Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction Department of the IFRC Secretariat. They emphasized the need for the integration of climate change topic into DRR, presented the outcome of the RCRC consultation on HFA and explained new DRR developments in different countries that need to be taken into account in the HFA2. Umesh's intervention can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=x0cNMgZpfFg&list=PLBDwPnveHho-4ka7mmOzqGADJvfmMfPv6#t=3051s. At a plenary session on "Private Sector for Resilient Societies: Ingredients for Success" the delegation stressed the need for the private sector to engage community leaders and vulnerable communities in the decision-making and planning process at the community level. At a plenary session discussing the draft of the Chair's Summary, the IFRC delegation commented on it, emphasizing the need to fulfill the states' commitment to allocate 10% of humanitarian relief budgets to DRR and highlight the legal obligation in furthering the DRR agenda.

Featured Events & Consultation Meetings

IFRC participants attended some of the consultation meetings that took place on 20 May. Stefan Seebacher, Head of the Health Department of the IFRC Secretariat, was a panellist in the consultation meeting,

“Towards a Safer World Network of Pandemic Preparedness Practitioners”. He made a presentation on the RCRC work on pandemic preparedness. The IFRC legal team and NS representatives attended a consultation meeting, “Effective Normative Frameworks to Reduce Disaster Risk”. RCRC participants also attended regional and sectoral consultation meetings on post-2015 framework, climate change, urban resilience and preparedness.

IFRC participants attended and contributed to the discussion at the featured events on financing for DRM; strengthening DRR partnerships for small island states; drought resilience; children in DRR; DRM standards; and building resilience into city planning.

Side Events

IFRC organized the following side events in partnership with other organizations:

§ **“Building Community Resilience in a Changing Climate”**, 22 May

- Partners: United Nations Development Programme, Act Alliance, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd
- The side event was chaired by Walter Cotte, USG, and the panel included Pitambar Aryal, Director of Disaster Management of the Nepal Red Cross and Thomas Sepp from the Zurich Insurance Company Ltd. Key issues discussed included the need for a more integrated approach to address climate risks by mainstreaming the topic into long-term institutional frameworks and development policies, providing more sustained levels of financing for longer term programmes, and pursuing a more inclusive decision-making process.

§ **“The Role of Public Awareness and Public Education in Building Community Resilience”**, 23 May

- Partners: UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and UNISDR
- Walter Cotte, USG, chaired the side event and Edmon Azaryan, Head of DM Department of the Armenian Red Cross was a panelist. The discussion centered around the need for a comprehensive approach to educational continuity and child protection in the education sector to promote the importance of children’s rights to education and the right to safety.



Photo: Side event on the Role of Public Awareness and Public Education in Building Community Resilience

IFRC was a co-organizer of the following side events:

§ **“Food Security in Africa”**, 23 May

- Organizers: FAO and WFP in collaboration with IFRC, UNICEF and WHO
- Desmond Mudombi, DM Coordinator of the Zimbabwe Red Cross, was a panelist. Key discussion points of the event were to shift the paradigm from disaster response to DRR in food & nutrition security, and to support effective and transparent links between early warning through timely climate information and informed decision making for timely action, and to mainstream DRR into agriculture, water and health which are key sectors for food and nutrition security. Participants emphasized the need to look at multiple causes, multi-solutions, multi-sectors and multi-frames when tackling FS in Africa.

§ **“What Binds Us – Civil Society’s View on Building Resilient Communities”**, 21 May

- Organizers: Partners for Resilience in collaboration with IFRC, Action Aid and Emergency Capacity Building Project
- Madeleen Helmer from the RCRC Climate Centre facilitated this event and Aminath Sharmeela, Programme Manager of the Maldivian Red Cross was a panelist. The participants unanimously agreed that HFA2 should prioritize risk reduction measures for and with the most vulnerable people and that local resilience building programmes

addressing their needs should be at the heart of any national DRR programme. They also noted that experience in working on resilience increased their conviction that working on resilience binds the development, humanitarian and environmental sectors.

IFRC participants also attended the side events organized by other organizations and contributed to the discussion by sharing their RCRC experience and knowledge in their respective areas.

Market Place Booth

IFRC was one of the 36 organizations/governments that set up and ran a booth at the Market Place. The booth was designed to show the DRR and community resilience programmes and activities carried out by National Societies and IFRC. With the banners showing the RCRC work for community resilience, the booth put on display the photos, publications, CDs and DVDs produced by the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies. Two video films were created by the IFRC and Colombian Red Cross specifically for the Global Platform, including footage from videos provided by National Societies along with key messages. These videos played continuously and were swapped on a daily basis. The booth was successful in providing GPDRR participants with information about RCRC activities. It was also used as a meeting point for the IFRC delegation. The IFRC uploaded key RCRC publications, presentations, videos and document links on the GPDRR web site (<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/programme/marketplace/view/359>).



Photo: IFRC Market Place booth and materials on display

2.4 Media and Communication

The IFRC's participation in the GPDRR was featured across the IFRC's key communication channels, internally and externally.

IFRC internal newswire

A communications toolkit with a template press release and key messages was sent to all National Society communicators via the newswire. Communicators, particularly those from the National Societies that sent delegates to the Global Platform, were encouraged to tailor these tools for utilization in their own countries.






Media coverage

- § Reuters news featured an interview with Bekele Geleta as part of its coverage of the Global Platform on 22 May (<http://www.trust.org/item/20130522165057-rtzyp/?source=hptop>)
- § UNISDR posted Bekele Geleta's statement on its YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_pGGrZ0Wc)

Twitter

- § There was an advance announcement of IFRC/National Society participation a week before the GPDRR, advertising the hash tag (#GPDRR13);
- § Live tweeting from 5 sessions by @Federation;
- § There were 220 Tweets mentioning @Federation and #GPDRR13

- § This translated to 1.8M impressions;
- § 111 Twitter users contributed (mentioned, retweeted, etc.) to these impressions;
- § IFRC Tweets were included in UNISDR's Storify summaries of Day 1 and Day 2.

Examples of most tweets	
13	 Federation: Young man from #Vietnam challenges to include #education #preparedness training for kids w #disabilities #GPDRR13 http://t.co/MuQAfUPo3F Tweeted to 25,064 people 4 days ago with 13 retweets
10	 Federation: "Resilience is a lifelong habit." Must be part of #community fibre, focus on most vulnerable @maldivianRC #gpdrr13 http://t.co/ZS5vMwHSIL Tweeted to 24,987 people 6 days ago with 10 retweets
10	 Federation: #RedCross #RedCrescent believes #resilience is a #community issue. Our work reflects these local decision priorities. #GPDRR13 @maldivianrc Tweeted to 24,991 people 6 days ago with 10 retweets and 1 reply
9	 Oxfam: As @UN Disaster Risk Reduction Conference ends, worth checking #GPDRR13 for great tweets from @unisdr @UNOCHA @Federation et al Tweeted to 376,382 people 4 days ago with 9 retweets
8	 Federation: Most vulnerable must guide policy priorities, funds @MaldivianRC #volunteers #community reps are diverse ethnic, gender, disability #GPDRR13 Tweeted to 24,987 people 6 days ago with 8 retweets

IFRC web site (www.ifrc.org)

- § There was a dedicated event page featuring a series of National Society blogs from the Global Platform and a link dedicated to DRR and the law (<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/meetings-and-events/other-events/global-platform-on-disaster-risk-reduction-2013/>).
- § A feature story was uploaded for the IFRC's side event on public awareness and public education (<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/international/risk-reduction-education-in-schools--and-beyond--helps-to-build-resilience-62224/>).
- § A feature story was dedicated to the IFRC's side event on building community resilience in a changing climate (<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/international/countries-and-communities-asked-to-commit-to-building-resilience-in-response-to-climate-change-and-other-challenges-62217/>).
- § IFRC's official statement was uploaded (<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/opinions-and-positions/speeches/2013/global-platform-on-disaster-risk-reduction-2013---opening-remarks-from-bekele-geleta/>).

FedNet

The GPDRR section on FedNet was loaded with information about the GPDRR 2013 and related materials including the official statement, concept note and blog.

Video

A video film about the IFRC and DRR was produced and played at the IFRC booth.

2.5 Coordination

The IFRC participation in the GPDRR was coordinated by the Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction Department of the IFRC Secretariat. A concept note was developed and shared with National Societies through the zone offices. The participation of National Societies was coordinated through the zones and supported by Partner National Societies including the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and the Zurich Insurance Company. The coordination within the IFRC Secretariat departments was facilitated through regular meetings of the DRR Support Group and the coordination among PNS's was done through

the DRR Working Group. A listserv was created with email addresses of all participants to facilitate the communication between them before and during the Global Platform. The key messages, IFRC agenda and Plan of Action were developed to coordinate the IFRC participation and achieve its objectives. Key messages were shared with UNISDR and permanent missions to United Nations to inform them of the IFRC position on major DRR issues.

A briefing package with all key IFRC documents was emailed to the participants 10 days before the GPDRR. Pre-GPDRR briefing sessions for RCRC participants were organized in Geneva and Lausanne on 20 May. Daily briefing and debriefing sessions were held every morning (08:30-09:00) and evening (18:30-19:00) at CICG to share information and update the IFRC plan as needed. A final debriefing session took place on 23 May. IFRC delegation members were asked to submit daily and final evaluation reports.

The IFRC and UNISDR appointed their focal points for close coordination between the two sides during the Global Platform. The IFRC delegation sent a summary of daily reflections and inputs to the UNISDR focal point so that they could feed into the key outcome documents of the GPDRR.

2.6 Key Achievements

The IFRC participation in the GPDRR 2013 was bigger than the previous platforms in terms of the number of participants and National Societies present; this spoke volume of the growing importance of DRR as well as the acknowledgement of the critical momentum in taking the HFA and sustainable development agendas forward. Through the active participation and involvement in different events, the IFRC delegation achieved its objectives. The key achievements can be summarized as below:

- **RCRC work on DRR and community resilience was profiled.** The delegation used every opportunity (IFRC's official statement, side events, communications and market place booth, etc) in demonstrating the IFRC as a global leader in building community resilience. Participants made the best use of their presentations, speeches and floor interventions to highlight the RCRC work and share their experience and knowledge with others. Communication through media and web sites helped deliver the IFRC's key messages to main stakeholders and share related documents with them. Formal and informal meetings also contributed to this effect. A joint statement of UN agencies was delivered at the GPDRR, which made specific reference to the RCRC as being in a unique position to assist countries and communities in DRR & building resilience. Many speakers spoke highly of the RCRC role in public awareness and education, early warning, community resilience programming and volunteer engagement.
- **IFRC and National Societies contributed to the HFA2 consultation and the key outcome documents of the GPDRR with RCRC inputs.** The results of the RCRC mid-term review on HFA and the RCRC survey on post-2015 framework not only assisted National Societies to take an active part in regional consultations on HFA but also provided the key messages to be used by IFRC participants in informal plenary discussions on HFA2. The IFRC's messages regarding the HFA2 were echoed at different sessions and the Chair's Summary made specific reference to the RCRC consultation on HFA. Issues and key messages raised by the IFRC delegation in its daily feedback to the drafting committee were reflected in outcome documents of the GPDRR. The IFRC delegation submitted a compiled feedback on the draft of the Chair's Summary to the UNISDR.
- The GPDRR enabled the IFRC participants to **share RCRC experience and learn from others.** Participants from National Societies had a unique opportunity to get first-hand information about global trends, resilience initiatives and multiple partnerships, become familiar with innovative approaches and lessons learned and hear about new and on-going research on community resilience. This will help them review their resilience programming and improve it to better reflect the needs of vulnerable people and communities.
- The GPDRR benefitted the IFRC delegation in **increasing its networking and partnerships** with key stakeholders. Through formal and informal meetings IFRC participants could meet and discuss with representatives of governments, international and national organizations and private sector, thereby strengthening their networking and reassuring their commitment to support the RCRC or cooperate with it in pursuing the resilience agenda. The Global Platform also provided an opportunity for greater cross-Movement collaboration with multiple bilateral cross-zone and cross-NS meetings.

3. Side meetings and action points

3.1 Side Meetings

The IFRC delegation held a multitude of side meetings with delegations from governments, UN agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and the like, and discussed how to enhance cooperation and partnership in improving the lives of vulnerable people.

- § The IFRC delegation led by Bekele Geleta and with leaders of National Societies from five zones met with Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for DRR, on 22 May. She appreciated the IFRC for its active participation and contribution to the GPDRR and for its close engagement in the global consultation on the post-2015 framework. She encouraged the RCRC to maximise its global network and power in strengthening community resilience and achieve the objectives of the HFA.
- § A meeting was held between Bekele Geleta and Hiroshi Domichi, Senior Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 22 May. The two sides reviewed the issues raised following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IFRC and JICA in December 2012 and a meeting between Domichi and Walter in March 2013. At this meeting they discussed how to move ahead with the pilot projects agreed upon.
- § Representatives of the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies of Mexico, Nepal, Indonesia and Switzerland met the representatives of the Zurich Insurance Company on 22 May. The main purpose of the meeting was to ensure a common understanding of the IFRC-Zurich flood resilience partnership programme and discuss the priorities and action points in the months to come.
- § The IFRC delegation met the government delegations of Germany, Norway and Sweden, together with representatives of the German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross. IFRC briefed them on its resilience agenda and priorities in the years to come and obtained their commitment to be engaged in this process.
- § Shelter & Settlements Department and Disaster Law Unit had a meeting with the Heritage Foundation, a lead agency in floods response in Pakistan and disaster resistant reconstruction technologies.
- § Meetings were held with representatives of various UN agencies including UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- § IFRC participants also met with representatives of inter-governmental organizations such as the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.
- § Representatives of Host National Societies and Partner National Societies also met and discussed various issues of cooperation between themselves.
- § IFRC and ICRC held informal consultations with participants from National Societies regarding the role of the Fundamental Principles in the Movement today.

3.2 Action Points

- § **UNDP:** The UNDP expressed interest in continuing the collaboration with the IFRC in the areas of CADRI, climate risk and DRR legislation. CPRR and Mary Pickard will follow up on it.
- § **UNDP Mozambique:** The 2nd Review Conference of the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention is taking place in Mozambique in 2014. **Joy Mueller** will follow up on it.
- § **African Union:** The MoU signed between the IFRC and AU entitles the IFRC to submit projects for consideration and approval by the AU. For 2015 projects, the proposals have to be submitted to the AU by late 2013 or early 2014 at latest for their discussion and endorsement at the Summit meeting. The AU is interested in working with the IFRC in urban risk reduction and it was proposed to develop a joint action plan in the third quarter of 2013. The IFRC's **AU Office and Daniel Bolaños** will follow up on it.
- § **Food and Agricultural Organization:** The draft joint Plan of Action was discussed. It was agreed to focus on tree plantation, food waste and loss and nutrition activities for initial engagement. More activities will be included in due course based on reviews and successes. The CPRR Department was asked to propose specific target countries for the joint work. **Kiflemariam and Joy Muller** will follow up on it.
- § **League of Arab States:** The LAS is interested in exploring avenues for collaboration with the IFRC and National Societies in the area of DRR. The MoU signed between the IFRC and LAS in 2003 is useful to leverage this collaboration. DRR is now a permanent agenda item of LAS conferences.

IFRC should make a formal request to attend the LAS conference in September 2013. It was suggested that IFRC contact the Sudan-based Arab Organisation for the Development of Agriculture and the League's Environment Department based in Egypt. **MENA zone office** will follow up on it.

- § **League of Arab States (LAS) and Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD):** The group expressed interests in working together with National Societies in the region. Tree planting could be one of the collaboration areas as it was adopted by the LAS Summit two years ago. The **MENA zone office** will follow up on participation in LAS consultation meetings with international organizations and UN agencies in Beirut.
- § **OECD:** The OECD expressed interest in getting information on IFRC's resilience framework, indicators and research on community resilience. IFRC was invited to the second Risk and Resilience Experts Group Meeting in Paris on 26 June 2013. **Chang Hun Choe** will follow up on it.
- § **World Food Programme:** The WFP discussed such pending issues as a template agreement with WFP for national societies, concept note for collaboration, etc. **Joy Mueller** will follow up on it in consultation with CPRR.
- § **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** The **IFRC office in Addis Ababa** will organize a joint technical meeting in Djibouti in September 2013 to enhance collaboration with IGAD.
- § **Governments of Germany, Norway and Sweden:** The governments showed interest in engaging in the process of furthering the resilience agenda at the IFRC General Assembly and the International Conference. **CPRR** will follow up in consultation with related PNS's.
- § **UN-Habitat and IFRC:** Two sides agreed to expand their on-going partnership to include collaboration on the "City Resilience Profiling Programme", coordinated by UN-Habitat and UNISDR. IFRC will bring in a focus on community-based safety measures and housing/neighbourhood improvements in selected cities. **Sandra Durzo** will follow up on it.

4. Recommendations

4.1 General Recommendations

- **Develop and share the key messages** with National Societies early on so that they can use them in informing their respective governments of the RCRC position on key issues and thus winning their support and commitment in this regard. Allocate dedicated time in delegation briefings to reviewing the messages and ensuring that they are well understood.
- Continue the good practice of **engaging the DRR Support Group** in coordinating and rallying the Secretariat's preparations for the Global Platform or similar events, and ensure its involvement in developing key documents.
- **Optimize the HNS participation** through early confirmation of participants (at least 3 months in advance) and by encouraging more flexibility in the selection of the participants to be supported by PNS's and ensure a fair balance of regional representation.
- Give due consideration to **representation skill** as one of the selection criteria of RCRC participants and arrange short trainings if needed before the GPDRR to facilitate their active participation in discussions during different sessions.
- Continue to **engage governments** in furthering the IFRC's resilience agenda (eg. revision of the Framework for Community Safety and Resilience, position paper and trust fund) in order to strengthen the IFRC's position in this area and get their support in the process.
- Encourage National Societies' continuous, **active involvement in the HFA2 process** with RCRC inputs and ensure that the needs of vulnerable people and communities are reflected in HFA2.
- Take a proactive approach towards the adoption and implementation of IDRL and **national legislation for DRR** by increasing advocacy role and leveraging RCRC **influence** in working with the relevant authorities, parliamentarians and others.
- Encourage National Societies to be **actively involved in urban risk reduction activities** and support them with relevant tools and guidelines to link them with UNISDR's resilient cities campaigns.
- **Expand the partnership with the private sector** based on the experience with the Zurich and Nestle and by targeting new potential companies and banks and using evidence-based advocacy.
- Promote DRR initiatives, strengthen NS capacity and review opportunities for cross-regional learning in such areas as climate change adaptation, early warning and early action, within **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**. In this respect, it is necessary to plan for how to profile the

RCRC work on the occasion of the Third International Conference on SIDS which will be held in September 2014 in Samoa.

- **Use the International Day for Disaster Reduction** (13 October) to promote the RCRC work with vulnerable people including children, women, elderly and people with disabilities. The theme for 2013 is people with disabilities.
- Promote a **gender-sensitive approach to DRR** and engage girls and women in community resilience activities.
- Secure **predictable and long-term funding** for DRR and resilience programming through the creation of the IFRC's own trust fund and development of a resource mobilization strategy targeting potential donors.
- Strengthen **partnerships with regional inter-governmental organizations** like IGAD, LAS, ASEAN, ACSAD and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to enhance the synergy of the efforts for community resilience.
- Work closely with **national and regional meteorological services** through the GFCS to ensure that early warning and early action in communities benefit from timely and comprehensive climate information.
- Actively engage **youth and children in DRR** and resilience programming by increasing their role as agents of change and promoting the Children's Charter for DRR.

4.2 Communications

- Collect participants' Twitter handles in advance to create a follow list;
- Brief participants on how to use hash tags, how to tweet and recommend promotions, and encourage them to share photos and personal observations;
- Consider Storify of the IFRC participation;
- Offer draft tweets, particularly of policy asks and key messages;
- Create a GPDRR page on FedNet to allow participants to have easy access to support materials, key messages and policy asks;
- Arrange for a preparatory session on how to approach policy makers, media interview coaching, and how to post observations, stories and information in personal FedNet blogs;
- Request video clips of relevant interventions from UNISDR;
- Appoint a designated financial focal point early on in the preparation process in order to follow on pledges, budget codes and others;
- Reserve a sufficient number of hotel rooms in Geneva well ahead of the GPDRR 2015 through negotiation of a preferential deal for the IFRC.

4.3 Administration and Logistics

- Assign two full-time staff members (on-loan) to oversee and coordinate all preparation and planning efforts at least four months in advance for an IFRC delegation of over 100 participants. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of these staff-on-loan are crucial and need to be made explicit to all stakeholders, including the Secretariat, and highlighted in the Terms of Reference. Having two full-time staff at the Secretariat dedicated to the GPDRR is especially important during the last weeks of preparation as the workload increases exponentially.
- One of the two staff-on-loan should be identified as the project manager, responsible for overall coordination, making sure the delegation adheres to the timeline, and tracking and reporting on progress. S/he must hold the delegation (particularly IFRC Secretariat staff) to strict deadlines. The second staff-on-loan should be assigned to take on the administrative and logistical tasks related to organizing the IFRC delegation to the GPDRR, reporting to the project manager.
- Appoint a designated financial focal point within the Secretariat at least a month before the GPDRR to manage all financial aspects related to funding, participants' finances, pledges, and budget codes. During the GPDRR, the financial focal point must take lead in handling MSA and the reimbursement of travel expenses.
- As soon as the dates for the GPDRR 2015 are announced, reserve more hotel rooms than the anticipated number of participants, negotiating a preferential deal for the IFRC; it is easier to cancel rooms before the hotel policy deadline than to find additional rooms at a later stage, particularly if

there are other major events in Geneva that week. Making hotel reservations outside of Geneva is not ideal, as the placement of delegates in Lausanne created a lot of additional management needs and costs in 2013.

- The project manager should develop a progress tracker with defined key work areas, assigned roles and responsibilities and deadlines early on in the planning process. Using project management tools (such as Gantt and RACI Charts) is advisable.
- The staff-on-loan responsible for logistics should create and maintain an organized master participants spread sheet with all relevant information (name, NS/IFRC affiliation, funding source, contact information, hotel needs, visa needs, etc) at least three months before the GPDRR. S/he should use the list(s) and tools developed by the staff-on-loan in 2013 as a starting point rather than starting from scratch.
- In addition to the core organizing team, recruit 3-5 volunteers (e.g. interns from other IFRC Departments) as added support during the last days of preparation and the duration of the GPDRR. This group of additional helpers should work under the guidance of the project managers.

4.4 Recommendations for the IFRC's Participation in the World Conference on DRR in March 2015

The GPDRR welcomed the Japanese Government's announcement to host the World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. This will be an important conference as its outcome will build upon the foundations of the 1989 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994; the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999; and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. UNISDR is planning to hold 6 regional conferences in 2014 to consult on HFA2, which are expected to be followed by global preparatory meetings for the WCDRR in Geneva in July and December 2014. It is assumed that a draft HFA2 will be more or less finalized at these meetings.

To influence the HFA2 process with RCRC inputs and optimize the IFRC's participation in the WCDRR, it is recommended to:

- Actively engage National Societies in regional consultation on HFA2 by providing relevant guidance and key messages and facilitating the information and experience sharing between zones;
- Closely follow the preparations and agenda of the WCDRR by taking an active part in the global preparatory meetings in Geneva;
- Confirm the IFRC's delegation to the WCDRR and finalize the key documents well in advance (at least three months ahead);
- Establish a coordination mechanism between the IFRC and the Japanese Red Cross Society.

4.5 Recommendations for Timeline for IFRC's Participation in Future GPDRR's

a) 8-9 months in advance

- Prepare a concept paper and budget on the IFRC participation in the WCDRR and approach National Societies, corporate partners and PNS's to allow early planning and resource allocation;
- Include the WCDRR into the agenda of the DRR Working Group, DRR Support Group and climate change task force;
- Ensure the GPDRR participation is reflected in the annual plan and budget at all levels;
- Do the mapping of publications, case studies and video materials which can be available for the GPDRR;
- Send an early notice of the GPDRR to National Societies through the zone offices.

b) 5-6 months in advance

- Select the IFRC focus areas for the GPDRR and offer potential RCRC speakers to UNISDR;
- Submit concept papers for the featured and side events and ignite stage to UNISDR to book the events the IFRC plans to organize/co-organize;
- Consult UN agencies and other partners for collaboration in organizing joint events;
- Book the IFRC official statement and market place booth;

- Participate in UNISDR’s inter-agency group meetings and closely follow on the preparatory process, ensuring the IFRC is assigned appropriate roles and the IFRC priorities are reflected in the design and content of the GPDRR;
- Send a concept paper on the IFRC participation in the GPDRR to National Societies and ask them to engage with their governments in terms of participation as members of governments’ delegations and influencing official statements;
- Confirm the sponsorship of HNS participation and allocate roles for NS participants;
- Identify and prepare for the arrival of at least two staff-on-loan for preparations for the GPDRR participation;
- Advanced booking of hotel rooms for RCRC participants in Geneva.

c) 2 months in advance

- Confirm the members of the IFRC delegation and finalize their registration;
- Confirm the events to be led or co-organized by the IFRC in partnership with other organizations, as well as chairs, keynote speakers and panellists;
- Finalize the identification of the chairs, keynote speakers and panellists and prepare for their briefing and talking points;
- Develop and circulate the IFRC agenda and plan of action to all participants;
- Identify the RCRC participants to make floor interventions and prepare them accordingly;
- Make administrative and logistical arrangement including invitation letters, visas; confirm hotel booking and flight reservations;
- Appoint a finance focal point within the IFRC Secretariat to manage all financial issues;
- Arrange for reprints of publications, production of DVD’s, banners, flyers, etc;
- Create a listserv of the participants’ email addresses;
- Review the preparations at monthly and weekly meetings of the DRR Support Group and CPRR;
- Circulate the IFRC’s key documents to the participants;
- Plan IFRC hosted reception or dinner if needed;
- Plan for briefing packages (electronic and/or hard copies) and order supplies if needed.

d) 2 weeks in advance

- Send out a briefing package with all key documents to the IFRC delegation members;
- Finalise the IFRC official statement, press releases, op-ed and other papers to be delivered as well as the presentations to be made;
- Finalise the briefing session agenda for RCRC participants and make necessary arrangement.

5. Summary of RCRC contributions to the Global Platforms

	1 st Global Platform	2 nd Global Platform	3 rd Global Platform	4 th Global Platform
Date	5-7 June 2007	16-19 June 2009	8-13 May 2011	19 – 23 May 2013
IFRC delegation members:	25	34	20 (40 registered part-time)	128
- IFRC Geneva	3	3	4	IFRC GVA: 39
- IFRC Zones	6	16	26	IFRC Zones: 12
- National Societies	1	5	10	NS: 72
- Partners				Partners: 5
- TOTAL	35	58	60 (100)	128
Additional NS participants in government delegations	no information	6	3 (tbc)	3
Plenary/high-level statements and intervention	Total 3: - official statement by Deputy SG - formal statement by Director a.i. Policy and Planning Division - multi-agency statement by	Total 7: - official statement by Deputy SG - joint ISDR MOB statement by Deputy SG - 2 high-level panel members (IFRC SG and NS SG)	Total 5: - official statement by USG MS - 1 plenary member (Mali SG), WRC panel member (Haiti SG) - Closing plenary (Haiti SG) - 1 pre-agreed plenary	Total 6: - Official statement by Bekele Geleta, SG - 1 panel member of a featured event (Stefan Seebacher) - 4 interventions at plenary sessions

	1 st Global Platform	2 nd Global Platform	3 rd Global Platform	4 th Global Platform
	Director a.i. Policy and Planning Division	- 3 pre-agreed high-level panel comments from the floor by NS (Norway, Colombia, Canada)	comment from the floor (Nepal SG)	
Side events & parallel sessions - Facilitated/led - Participated as panel member	Total 9: 1 8	Total 6: 5 1 roundtable	Total 7 (+ 10 comments from the floor) 2 (led) 3 side events, co-organiser: 1 roundtable, 1 featured event	Total 4 2 (led) 2 (coorganized) 2 Chairs, 1 facilitator, 4 panellists
Press statements	1	0	1 own, 2 joint, 1 op-ed	1
Staff interviewed by media	2	1	film, youtube, web articles	SG interview by Reuters, 220 Tweets, web sites (www.ifrc.org & FedNet) with links, articles, statements, blog), video film
Exhibition booth	Yes	Yes, Focus: WDR, case studies	Yes, Focus: DRR photos, key messages, pubs, films	Yes, Focus: DRR & resilience photos, publications, video films, CDs
Key messages pack	No	Yes - 9 main messages + thematic messages	Yes - 5 main messages with brief background	Yes - 3 policy asks + 10 key messages
Other actions	- Attended UK Mission event	- WDR launch - Participate in GFDRR RMC and CG meetings - Participation in Senior Policy Dialogue on Climate Change	- DRR photo exhibition of 20 photos were displayed. - Ignite stage: 4 presentations made at the stage related to RCRC work. - WRC: Innovation Forum judge - Partners for Resilience was visible at the Global Network screen displaying videos.	- Side meetings with governments, UN agencies, private sector - Discussion between HNS and PNS

Contact information

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* ANNEXES

- a) Annex I IFRC agenda
- b) Annex II Plan of Action
- c) Annex III Key Messages
- d) Annex IV Official Statement
- e) Annex V List of IFRC participants