



Gita, a survivor of an earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015. Credit: Pablo Tosco / Oxfam

OXFAM STATEMENT

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LEADERSHIP AND GREATER URGENCY REQUIRED TO ADVANCE DRR ACTION PLANS IN ASIA

In light of ever growing threats to the safety and resilience of millions of poor and vulnerable people across Asia, Oxfam calls on governments to urgently scale up and accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Greater leadership is required in Asia to advance DRR action plans at all levels. To shore up progress on Sendai implementation, it is vital that governments take substantive steps to reduce exposure and vulnerability, prevent the creation of new disaster risk and tackle underlying disaster risk drivers including poverty and inequality, climate change, unplanned and rapid urbanization, and poor land management.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DRR

DRR action plans should contain meaningful accountability mechanisms to ensure that citizens can monitor, evaluate and report on progress towards the

implementation of the Sendai Framework. Ambitious and integrated national targets must be established according to specific country contexts, together with the identification of clear and publicly accessible indicators, milestones and reporting mechanisms. Governments must also develop a clear timeframe for the implementation of the Sendai agreements. Transparency mechanisms must be put in place to enable citizens to track progress and hold governments and other stakeholders to account and ensure they deliver on their commitments at all levels – local to global.

EMPOWERING AND RESOURCING OF DRR AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

It is at the local level where the impact of disasters is felt most acutely. The global vision of the Sendai Framework needs to become a reality in all Asian countries at the local level. National strategies and policies need to be translated into local-level implementation strategies and plans of work with appropriate budget allocations.

Governments must make greater investments in developing the leadership and capacity of local authorities, civil society and vulnerable populations to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate resilience policies and programmes at the local level.

SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND GIRLS

The implementation of Sendai action plans must be done in partnership with those most at risk and should begin at the community level. The participation and leadership of vulnerable and marginalised groups – especially women, people with disabilities, youth and the elderly – in the design and implementation of DRR action plans is critical to ensure that policy and systems reflect the needs, priorities and capacities of those most affected by natural disasters and climate change. It is especially important to ensure the specific needs of women and girls are prioritised in DRR policies and processes.

INTEGRATING DRR WITH DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Governments in Asia must also ensure that Sendai action plans are developed and implemented in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) should be systematically integrated

across various branches of governments, with DRR and CCA at the core of relevant policy debates, including agricultural policy, development strategies, public health, investments in disaster-proof infrastructure, etc. DRR and CCA should be prominent across all relevant government ministries and budgets.

GREATER SUPPORT FROM DONORS FOR SENDAI IMPLEMENTATION

To complement national action on the Sendai Framework, greater international cooperation is required between developed and developing countries and between governments and international organisations. Donors should increase financial and technical assistance to governments in Asia to ensure that commitments to the Sendai Framework and implementation plans in Asian countries are fully realised. Donors should also support civil society representatives in playing a meaningful and substantive role in all events and processes related to the Sendai implementation. Non-traditional donors – including impact investors, social entrepreneurs and private foundations – also have a role to play in providing innovative financing mechanisms for implementation. Asian governments should also take steps to raise capital for technology and research on enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Signed:

Asia Resilience Hub, Oxfam in Asia regional center

Oxfam in Afghanistan

Oxfam in Bangladesh

Oxfam in Cambodia

Oxfam in Indonesia

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