

7th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Faith Based Organisations' Joint statement

We are Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs). Our work embeds us in local communities, many of which are socially excluded and vulnerable to disasters.

FBOs and Local Faith Communities (LFCs) hold significant influence and trust and a unique reach to people living in poverty, information deficiency and vulnerable to disasters. FBOs and LFCs support such people through their development and humanitarian activities, community leadership and spiritual support. This strength has become all the more tangible through the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, with a minority of exceptions, local faith leaders have been key in addressing vaccine hesitancy, promoting good-practice prevention measures and offering psychosocial support. **Yet too few are currently included in the formal processes of assessing disaster threats, preparing policies and plans, and taking action to reduce threats.** Women and youth faith actors, in particular, are not being allowed to lead DRR efforts, despite having specific needs and knowledge on how those needs can be addressed. In order to support the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) actions globally and, in particular among those who are most vulnerable to disasters, we call on all governments and stakeholders to:

Support and scale up the meaningful and substantive engagement of Faith Based Organisations and Local Faith Communities in SFDRR processes.

Specifically we call on decision makers to:

1. Acknowledge that FBOs and LFCs play an invaluable role in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation dialogue - in strategy development, policy making and implementation. Collaborate with FBOs and LFCs on SFDRR implementation, and involve FBOs and LFCs at all levels (international, national and local) to help monitor DRR impact at individual, household and community levels. Use the capacity of FBOs and LFCs to communicate with communities, building on the trust communities have in their faith leaders.
2. Work with and promote collaborative networks of LFCs and FBOs to engage in resilience strengthening by encouraging local agency and integrating local knowledge in implementation plans, helping to contextualise DRR policy, guidelines and approaches. FBOs and LFCs can influence a community's values, attitudes and hence behaviour in risk management, anticipation and mitigation of disaster risks and climate risks. This should include partnerships with FBOs and LFCs, to support their leadership, strengthen their capacity to plan in evolving risk contexts and support local approaches developed by them. Working with FBOs and LFCs contributes strongly to the whole of society approach and to the localisation of humanitarian response & preparedness. National and international systems need amending to bring these roles and approaches into planning for complex disasters.
3. Collaborate with FBOs and LFCs to promote risk informed development to address climate change, pandemic risk, conflict and other forms of disaster risk, through strengthening social capital and social safety nets and recognizing the role FBOs and LFCs already play in risk communication and community engagement.

4. Strengthen the synergy between the implementation of global frameworks like the SFDRR, the Paris Climate Agreement, the WHS Commitments to Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Commit to translating coherence of global frameworks into policy and practice, to achieve resilience at national and local levels across all sectors and segments; recognizing that FBOs can support these efforts.
5. Provide the enabling environment and capacity for innovations, policy dialogues, and the access to technologies that address practical and strategic risks related to climate, disasters and pandemics. FBOs and interfaith networks can facilitate this by sharing best practices across different faiths and national boundaries.
6. Involve FBO and LFCs with their expertise in community mobilisation and capacity building to help governments to bridge the gap between resilience strengthening policies and putting those policies into practice.

Joint FBO statement submitted by:

- Jakomkris
- PMU - Swedish Pentecostal Relief and Development Agency
- Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre
- Dompot Dhuafa
- YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU)
- Caritas Indonesia (KARINA - KWI)
- Perkumpulan Peningkatan Keberdayaan Masyarakat
- Human Initiative
- Church World Service Indonesia
- Habitat for Humanity Indonesia
- Pengurangan Risiko Bencana Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Indonesia (PRB PGI)
- Rebana Indonesia
- Rumah Zakat
- Lembaga Penanggulangan Bencana dan Perubahan Iklim Nahdlatul Ulama
- Monfort Social Institute
- United Sikhs
- Sphere India
- BAZNAS Tanggap Bencana
- Asian Muslim Charity Foundation
- ADRA Indonesia
- Yayasan Kemanusiaan Madani Indonesia
- Nurul Hayat
- Swedish Mission Council
- Tearfund
- Soka Gakkai International
- Mainstreaming RSA Practitioners Network (MPN) - Inter Religious Dialogue and Action (IRDA) Unit
- ACT Alliance
- Act Church of Sweden
- World Vision International
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- Baha'i International Community
- Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission On Relief (EFICOR)
- Hagar International Foundation Cambodia (Hagar)
- LM International

