

“Clouds but little rain...”

“Clouds but little rain...”

Views from the Frontline

A local perspective of progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

2009.08.14



Introducing Views from the Frontline

- Led by Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Designed to support and complement the UNISDR-coordinated biannual monitoring and review process with governments
- Over 7000 local government officials, civil society organizations and community representatives from 48 countries participated
- 33 participating countries were selected for the main survey. Two additional surveys were conducted on women’s and children’s views from 15 countries
- Over 400 organizations directly involved in data collection



Objectives of the VFL

- To provide an overview of HFA progress at the local level
- To strengthen public accountability for DRR policy execution by establishing a local level monitoring system and relevant baselines
- To enhance civil society monitoring, research, analytical and advocacy capabilities
- To increase dialogue and understanding between different groups responsible for reducing disaster risk



Methodology and approach

- The VFL consisted of two elements
 - The Research element
 - The Learning element
- The indicator matrix was modeled based on five priorities for action of the HFA (similar to UNISDR assessment system)
- A common survey method was designed to ensure the quality and cross-country comparability



Methodology and approach Cont..

- Responses to the closed questions followed a five-point scale, providing an indication of progress:
 - 1 = No, not at all
 - 2 = To a very limited extent
 - 3 = Some activity but significant scope for improvements
 - 4 = Yes, but with some limitations in capacities and resources
 - 5 = Yes, with satisfactory, sustainable and effective measures in place
- This was similar to the scale that was employed by the UNISDR in its national assessment
- Colour-code was used to present the findings

Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5
RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	LIME	GREEN

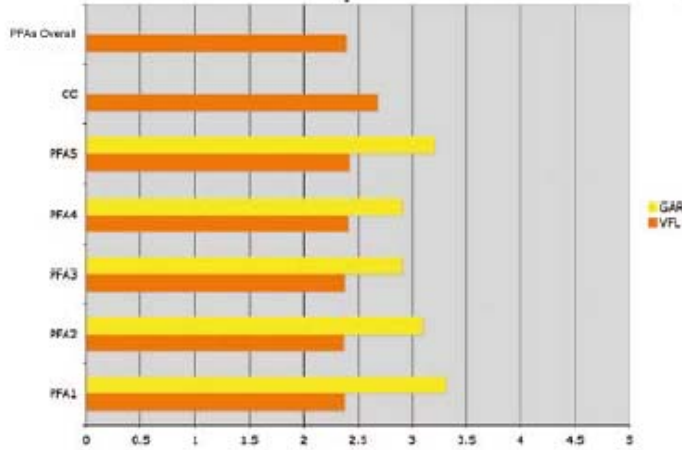


Key Results

- Nationally formulated DRR policies and plans are not
 - generating widespread systemic change in local practices, and importantly,
 - engaging vulnerable and marginalised people as vital and active partners in building disaster resilient communities
- Positive progress reported at the national level fades out the closer one gets to at-risk communities where impact is at best limited and patchy and at worst not happening at all



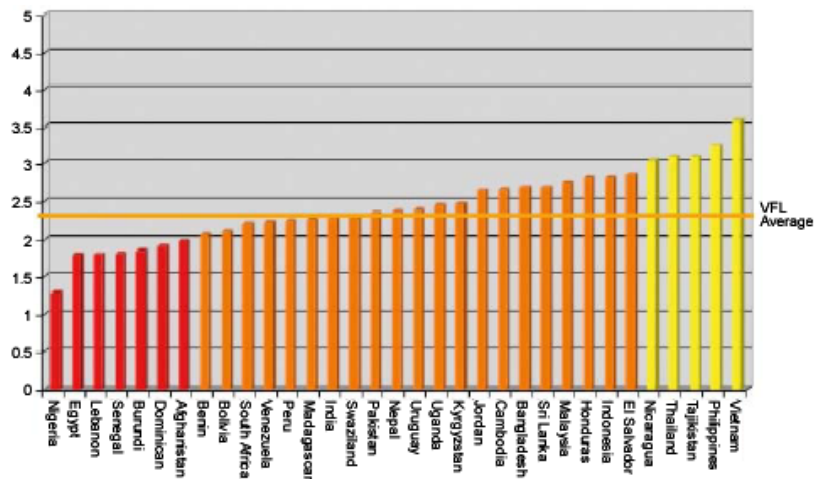
Key findings



Different perceptions of progress towards HFA priorities for Actions as reported by VFL and GAR



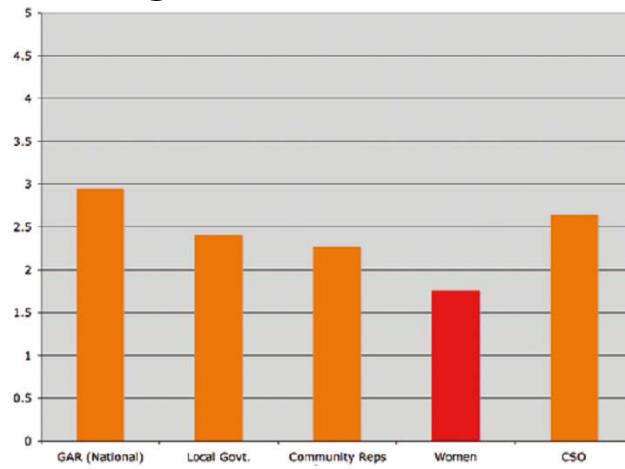
Key findings



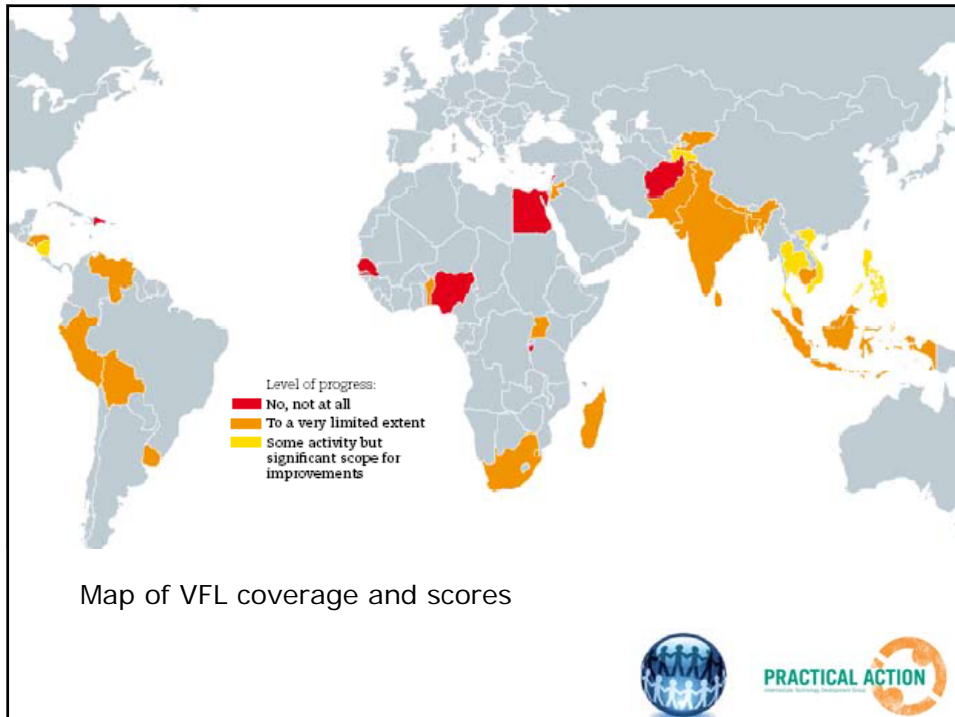
HFA implementation as reported by VFL respondent groups in 33 participating countries



Key findings



A breakdown of different responses to HFA progress showing the 'fading-out' of perceptions of progress from national level to communities 'at-risk'



Map of VFL coverage and scores



Core conclusions

1. Nationally-formulated policies are not generating widespread systemic changes in local practices
2. Imbalanced bottom-up engagement to put top-down policy into practice
3. Resources are scarce and considered a main constraints while untapped resources available at local level
4. Climate change impacts observed at local level seems an opportunity for commitment to DRR
5. VFL 2009; first step towards building a global constituency and architecture to measure effectiveness of DRR policy interventions at the local level.



Recommendations

1. Proactive and systematic deepening of engagement with at-risk communities, including having adequate strategies and space participation of most vulnerable groups
 - Undertake participatory local hazard-vulnerability assessments and associated risk mapping as strategic entry points to raising critical awareness and understanding of risk and to building relationships among different actors
 - Use local knowledge including disaster risk, to inform local programming and action planning of principal development sectors; risk considerations should become routine in all development investment planning and programming.
 -



Recommendations

- Decentralise authority and resources to appropriate administrative level in support of local multi-stakeholder partnerships (including equitable representation from most vulnerable); to coordinate and manage risk reduction, poverty alleviation, development and climate adaptation policy execution
- Develop innovative financial strategies for supporting local level initiatives and partnerships, including direct local level access to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation trust funds and technical resources



Recommendations

2. Reform the humanitarian response system, to be engaging with and strengthening local preparedness and response/recovery capacities, and to plan interventions based on assessments of people's own perceived priority needs in relation to their capacities and vulnerabilities.
3. Coordination and Knowledge Sharing; networking at all levels to improve the exchange of good practice and learning, promote civil society harmonisation and coordination, and foster dialogue collaboration between state and non-state actors.
4. Review VFL ahead of Global Platform-DRR 2011:
 - extend VFL's geographical coverage
 - modify indicator metrics to incorporate climate adaptation characteristics



Moving forward

- Series of regional and global learning reviews with network members to **learn from the VFL pilot experience**; drawing out recommendations for the future
- Further country consultations and thematic analysis to **critique findings and draw out policy implications** at national and regional levels
 - Considering the findings of the survey, ensure the integration of the VFL process into the country level assessment system (make it a part of the formal process)
 - indicators should be localized based on the country context keeping the overall framework
- Adapt indicators to **incorporate climate adaptation** considerations



Moving forward

- **Extend** review within participating countries and geographically expand into more countries ahead of Global Platform-DRR 2011 – VFL to serve as an independent periodic audit of progress towards risk reduction
 - Form strategic alliances with relevant networks and coalitions in support of extending coverage and building a broad-based constituency active in risk reduction and climate adaptation
 - Develop links with respected academic institutions to strengthen policy – practice – research linkages
- **Research social networking** innovations as means to engage and foster active citizenry, raise critical awareness, build social demand and strengthen public accountability for risk reduction
- Establish multi-donor **trust fund** to support the **development** of VFL



Thank you !

