

Local evidence for disaster and climate resilient pathways – an advocacy journey

Practitioners workshop and public event

26 – 28 November 2018, Spiez



1. Background

What are people's stories behind disasters and climate change and how to tell them to decision makers? Climate change and disasters count as key impediments to sustainable development with the brunt still borne by the most vulnerable in the global South. On the other hand, appropriate climate and disaster risk management can unlock social and economic development. Advocating for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) should therefore be a no-brainer, right? But this is not the case, which may be linked to the specifics of DRR and CCA: disasters that have not happened due to effective DRR measures, or crops that have not been lost thanks to adaptation to changed climatic conditions. Further, behaviour change in the sense of DRR and CCA may often be uncomfortable and add more regulations and requirements to decision-making and budgeting.

We, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform, find it is time to look more closely at creating a strong narrative: What is the key objective of advocacy? Who is the key target group? Who are strategic allies? And which role can local evidence play? While advocacy for disaster and climate resilient pathways happens across scales, telling stories based on local evidence to unlock awareness, action and behaviour change and to channel funding streams to where they are most needed is essential. In this context, civil society has a key role to play in holding governments accountable to the promises or commitments made in the frame of the global frameworks, and in advocating for DRR and CCA interventions that respond to local needs.

Since 2011, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform is engaged in linking practice with policy and advocacy in order to strengthen resilience of women and men, communities and countries through integrated risk management. Keeping in mind the urge of acting now on climate change and the still existing challenges in making global agreements impactful on the ground, the

Platform organizes a three-day event on local evidence for climate and disaster-resilient pathways, discussing and showcasing the power of local evidence and addressing local-national-global divides.

2. Approach – the advocacy journey

With the narrative of an ‘advocacy journey’, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform together with external experts aims to unravel the complexity of DRR and CCA advocacy by illustrating what worked (and what didn’t) through real cases and highlighting key principles of advocacy for meaningful initiatives. Throughout the event, participants are guided along phases and steps of an advocacy initiative, backed with real challenges, allowing exchange and interaction as well as clearly distilled messages to take home. DRR/CCA-practitioners can learn from advocacy campaigns that have and are happening, aiming at connecting common standpoints to benefit from each other. Advocacy professionals can learn about specifics of the climate and risk reduction fields. The proposed advocacy journey addresses the following steps

- 1 How to start your journey right - The why, what and the who**

The session will look into the basics of an advocacy initiative, the formulation of problems and objectives, the identification of the target group etc. The session shall start with an introduction to what advocacy can achieve, what are specifics of advocacy for DRR and climate change resilience and look into specific approaches.
- 2 Travel safely and in good company – Evidence and data, partners**

When having defined your subject and objective (success identification), the next step is to watch your back. This means seeking and collecting evidence of the issue and the solution that you are proposing as well as forging alliances with likeminded and complimentary partners that can strengthen your message, to be anticipative of opposing parties.
- 3 Reaching your destination – Implementation and learning for the future**

The launch of the advocacy initiative is the next step. Defining timing, audience, use of media and other communication channels will be major part of this session. Participants shall further have the opportunity to engage in “advocacy labs”, where they get feedback from others on own projects

3. Guiding questions

How can we create and use *local evidence* for a campaign to

- a) Unlock investments in *climate-resilient development*?
- b) Foster investments in *low-carbon development pathways*?
- c) Shape funding into *more localized and needs-based* approaches?

4. Background Literature

Act Alliance (2018): [Towards the Ambitious Implementation of the Paris Agreement: A Toolkit for National Level Advocacy](#). ACT Alliance.

GNDR (2016). [National Advocacy Toolkit: A guide for civil society organisations working together to advocate resilience issues at the country level](#). Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). London, UK.

GNDR (2018). Local Voices for Resilience. Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster. Reduction (GNDR). London, UK (in press).

IFRC (2012): [Disaster risk reduction: a global advocacy guide](#). Geneva.

IPCC (2018): [Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty](#). Technical summary.

5. Contact

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For organizational questions: Nina Kessler, nkessler@caritas.ch

6. Programme

Monday, 26th of November, 2018		
Time	Topic	Presenter / Responsible
12:00 – 14:00	Arrival of participants, registration	
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Welcome coffee/tea and sandwich lunch</i>	
14:00	Welcome to the workshop	Jana Junghardt, Caritas Switzerland Christine Lottje, FAKT
14:30	Setting the scene: The IPCC 1.5 degree report and its implications for humanitarian and development actors	Maarten v. Aalst, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (remote)
15:15	The advocacy journey: An intro to the workshop, key terms and concepts	Jana Junghardt
15:35	Teasers of case studies for the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippines - Malawi - Zimbabwe - Switzerland 	Jesusa Grace Molina, CDP Simon Addison, TROCAIRE Sikhanyisiwe Dube & Judith Macchi, HEKS Julia Jawtusich, BfA
16:00	<i>Coffee/tea</i>	
Block I: How to start your travel right – The why the what and the who		
16:30	Intro: Basic advocacy principles, objective formulation and the reality check	Valeria Drigo, GNDR
17:15	Group work on campaign planning Presentation of results	In groups
18:30	End of Day 1	
<i>Dinner</i>		
20:00	Watch & discuss: The burning question	<i>TROCAIRE</i>

Tuesday, 27th of November 2018		
8:30	Interactive intro to day 2	Christine Lottje, Jana Junghardt
Block II: Travel safely and in good company - Evidence, data and alliances		
9:00	What is good local (climate) evidence?	Veruska Muccione, University of Zurich
10:00	Reality check – moderated plenary discussion	Christine Lottje
10:30	<i>Coffee/tea</i>	
10:50	Local evidence and partnerships for global action: Views from the Frontline	Lucy Pearson, GNDR
11:30	Group work II: local evidence and forging alliances	All
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	Present group work mappings	All
Block III: Reaching your destination - Implementation and learning for the future		

14:30	The shrinking space for civil society in (climate) advocacy	Bernd Steimann, Helvetas Hausner Kitali, PACJA
15:10	The right recipe for climate and resilience advocacy: Do's and don'ts, successes and setbacks	Shivangi Chavda, GNDR Christian Lüthi, Swiss Climate Alliance Bernd Steimann, Helvetas Hausner Kitali, PACJA
16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:30	Excursus: (Fossil fuel) Divestment – what is it and why can it be a powerful mechanism for advocacy and change?	Christian Lüthi, Swiss Climate Alliance Cliona Sharkey & Simon Addison, TROCAIRE Judith Macchi, HEKS
17:45	Matchstick round	
18:00	End of Day 2	
<i>Dinner</i>		

Wednesday, 28th of November 2018		
8:30	Intro & reaping the main findings so far	Christine Lottje
8:45	Advocacy Lab – peer coaching Break out groups	All in small groups
10:15	<i>Coffee</i>	
Block IV: The way forward and the next big gatherings		
10:45	The upcoming policy fora: How to ensure a space for civil society. Stories, evidence, advocacy	Rupa Mukerjee, Helvetas Valeria Drigo, GNDR
11:15	Personal and institutional take-home messages. Key ingredients for evidence-based advocacy?	All
12:30	Outlook and Closing	Christine Lottje, Jana Junghardt
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30	<i>Travel to Bern</i>	
PUBLIC EVENT, Welle 7 Bern		
Facing climate change: The role of local evidence in advocating for urgent action		
16:00	Keynote address & panel discussion	See separate invitation
18:30	<i>Apéro Riche</i>	

Last updated: 16th of November, 2018

Facing Climate Change

Role of Local Evidence in Advocating for Urgent Actions

28 November 2018 16:00-18:15

Schanzengasse 5, Bern, Welle 7 Workspace



Civil society has a key role to play in holding governments accountable to the commitments made in the frame of the global frameworks and in advocating for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation interventions that respond to local needs. “Local evidence” pairing scientific proof with a personal or illustrative narrative that touch people’s emotions is a powerful tool to advocate for urgent climate action and risk informed development.

Taking forward the outcomes and key messages from this year’s practitioner’s workshop “*Local evidence for disaster and climate resilient pathways – an advocacy journey*” hosted by the Swiss DRR NGO Plattform, this Public Event will elaborate on local evidence as instrument to advocate for low carbon, risk-informed and climate resilient development pathways. Representatives of grassroots advocacy organizations, civil society networks, media and the Swiss Government shall reflect on the use of local evidence for advocacy and how it needs to be framed to create awareness and bring it to the policy dialogue. The momentum of 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice (COP24) and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva (GPDRR 2019) will be used to bring the distilled messages to policy fora.

Programm

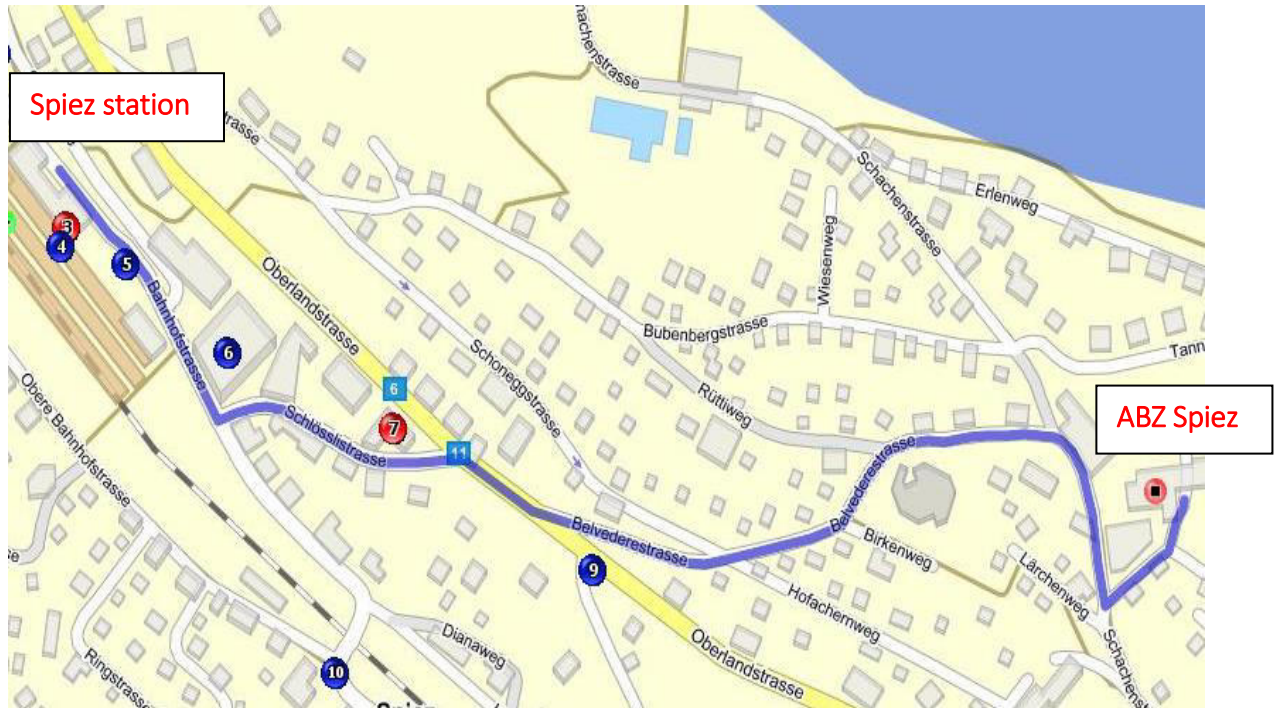
- 15:45 - 16:00 Arrival of participants and welcome coffee/tea
- 16:00 – 16:05 Welcome Notes, Rupa Mukerji, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- 16:05 - 16:30 **Jana Junghardt**, Caritas Switzerland and **Sikhanyisiwe Dube**, HEKS/EPER: [Reporting back from Swiss NGO DRR Plattform’s F2F workshop](#)
- 16:30-16:50 **Jesusa Grace Molina**, Programme Coordinator at the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) in the Philippines
[Frontline: Turning Community Views into Action](#)
- 16:50-17:00 **Daniel Maselli**, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
[The 100’000 Climate Change Postcards Initiative](#)
- 17:00-18:15 **Panel Discussion** on the role of local evidence in advocating for urgent actions – What are the success factors?
- **Thomas Häusler**, Director of the Scientific Editorial Office, Swiss Radio and Television (SRF)
 - **Shivangi Chavda**, Views from the Frontline Coordinator, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
 - **Christian Lüthi**, Managing Director of Klima-Allianz Schweiz
 - **Daniel Maselli**, Focal Point Climate Change & Environment Network, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- 18:15 **Apéro riche**
Facilitation by Rupa Mukerji, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Please register via <http://www.drrplatform.org/event-list/34-f2f-2018/116-f2f-2018.html>

Directions from Spiez station to ABZ Spiez

ABZ Spiez
Schachenstrasse 43
3700 Spiez

Phone: 033/6508181



Spiez is a main stop for IC as well as EC trains and profits from a very frequent connection in all directions. The ABZ is situated in walking distance from the station – about 850m.

- **By bus:** directly from Spiez station to bus stop **Spiez, Grueb** (departure hourly hh:49)
Bus nr. 65 direction to «Faulensee»
- **By car / walking:** [map](#)