

Building on Strengths



Cash-for-work participants dig contour trenches into the side of a mountain in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan (©medair)

End-of-Phase Report 2017-2018 of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform

Website Version

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Abbreviations

CBA	Cost-Benefit-Analysis
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDE	Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Berne
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ETH	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule
F2F	Face-to-Face (Annual Workshop of the Platform)
FOCP	Federal Office for Civil Protection
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment
GNDR	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
GPDRR	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
iDRR	Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRM	Integrated Risk Management
LE	Learning Event
LLM	Local Level Monitoring
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PEDRR	Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
PLANAT	Plattform Naturgefahren
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SwS	Swiss Solidarity
Vfl	Views from the Frontline
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

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As separate document:

- 2) Platform assessment report – seecon GmbH – 2018

1 Background

This report refers to the Project proposal 2017-2018 “Building on Strengths”. As the duration of the current phase extends up to 30.04.2019, the end of phase report extends over the period from 01.01.2017 to 30.04.2019.

2 Achievements

The working approach of the Platform revolved around the following three pillars:

- 1) Capacity building and learning
- 2) Conceptual support for a Swiss approach
- 3) Advocacy & Policy Dialogue

During the phase, a further pillar was introduced, which pivots around internal processes, visibility and representation of the Platform, e.g. through the website. The following subchapters shall give an overview of the mandates carried out and products shared within the scope of the four pillars.

2.1 Capacity Building

Mutual learning is the basis of the Platform. Therefore, learning events and F2F events continue to be fundamental Platform activities.

Learning events

Through learning events, capacities of staff of member organisations are built in 1-day trainings focussing on specific DRR and CCA related topics with 8 to 20 participants, including participants of SDC and other NGOs as well as participants from non-member institutions. Through webinars, the Platform was able to cater for a larger number of participants, outside of Switzerland and beyond the Platform member base. This development reflected the member organisations’ wish for more accessible offers for colleagues and partners in field offices.

Learning Events 2017	Learning Events 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Corridors for Adaptation Planning (Caritas, with contribution from Helvetas) • Urban DRR (Caritas, with contribution from Swiss Red Cross and Save the Children) • Inclusive DRR (CBM, with contribution from Caritas and Save the Children) • DRR/CCA-basics for Mainstreaming (HEKS, with contribution from Caritas) • Webinar DRR/CCA basics (HEKS, Helvetas, Caritas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar Eco-DRR (zoï environment network with contribution from Caritas) • Webinar DRR/CCA basics (HEKS, Helvetas, Caritas) • DRR & Education (Save the Children with contribution from Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes) • Webinar “where people and their lands are safer” (WOCAT publication) • DRR & Water (Helvetas with contribution from vivamos major and Medair) • DRR & Fragility (Helvetas, with contribution from Swiss Red Cross.) • LRRD / Nexus (Swiss Red Cross, with contribution from Caritas, Helvetas and INNOVABRIDGE)

The documentation of the learning events is available on the [Platform website](#).

F2F event and annual topic

In 2018, the F2F attracted again over 40 participants throughout the 2-day workshop. While the F2F 2017 covered the topic “Grey, green or hybrid? The value of nature-based solutions for DRR” (see Annual Report 2017), the Platform chose to conduct the F2F 2018 pivoting around an advocacy journey “towards climate and disaster-resilient development pathways” with a focus on the local evidence we have and how we can use it for advocacy purposes.



In collaboration with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and with a number of high quality external speakers (from University of Zurich, TROCAIRE and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre), principles and key approaches to do advocacy with regard to climate change and disaster risk reduction were presented and discussed. The Platform worked with two internal case studies from Zimbabwe and Switzerland, one case study from GNDR from the Philippines and a fourth case study from TROCAIRE from Ireland and Malawi.

The F2F was also closely linked with the mandate “Risk Governance” (see chapter 2.2) under which local and personal stories in climate change affected contexts were documented through photos, videos and interviews, backed by scientific evidence. The short video, which was produced in the context of the Swiss Climate Alliance’s disinvestment campaign (see chapter 2.3), was launched during the public event in Bern on the third day, leading to fruitful discussions between SDC, media representatives and civil society on the use of local evidence for climate advocacy.

The F2F documentation is available on the [Platform website](#).

E-learning course

In July 2017, the Platform released its [E-Learning Course](#) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation ([Flyer](#)). The course collects experience based learning material from various Platform learning events. The course is composed of four modules introducing basic definitions and concepts, practical illustrations and gives guidance on the implementation and integration of DRR and CCA. It is available online free of charge as a self-study tool for practitioners.

In April 2018 the ETH – Nadel held its first course on *Disaster Risk Reduction: Assessing Risks and Enhancing Resilience*, for which all enrolled students had to complete the Platform E-Learning Course as an introduction into the topic of DRR. Furthermore, two representatives of the Platform prepared and presented the first half day of the course giving insights into project examples.

By people from outside the Platform, the E-Learning Course was downloaded over 600 times and had a very international audience from over 20 countries mainly from the global South. The course was rated as useful or even very useful, whereas Module 4 on the integration of DRR and CCA was rated as the most useful one. The course is a good example that has reach beyond the platform members and into the field.

Brown Bag Lunch

In 2017, SDC and Platform agreed to use the SDC Brown Bag Lunch to offer windows of opportunity to present Platform products and topics to SDC's staff and to strengthen the exchange between the Platform and SDC. During the programme phase, Platform representatives shared insights on the learning event topic "DRR in Education", the WOCAT-publication and the post Matthew DRR effectiveness assessment.

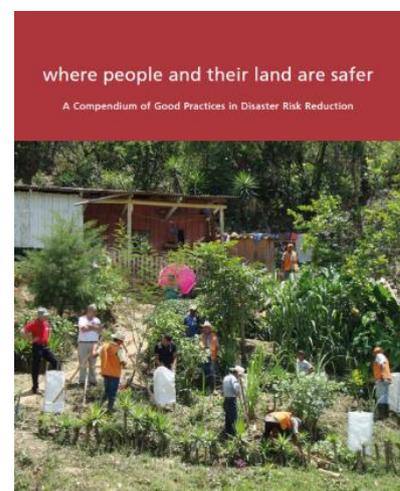
2.2 Swiss Approach for increased effectiveness

Haiti post Matthew DRR-effectiveness assessment

In the aftermath of hurricane "Matthew" which made landfall in Southwest Haiti on October 4, 2016, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform commissioned an effectiveness assessment of disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions of four projects from four Platform member organisations (Caritas, HELVETAS, Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes). Key findings for effective action include well-known principles like working with a long-term perspective, working with existing structures, working at community and municipal levels simultaneously, working on hardware and software together, working with key local stakeholders or working with an authentic partnership approach (communities as project drivers). The report (in French) and a fact sheet providing the key content on two pages are available on the Platform website (section [publications](#)).

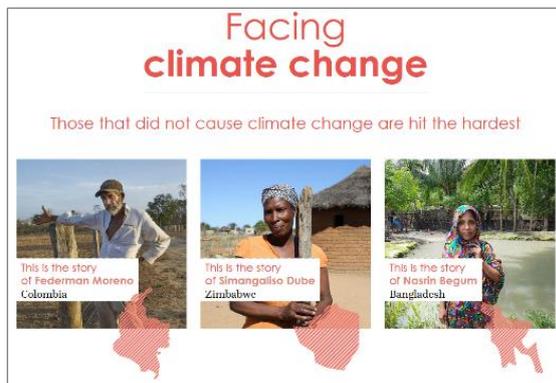
Joint Platform – WOCAT publication: Where people and their land are safer

On December 8th, 2017, the book "Where people and their land are safer. A Compendium of Good Practices in Disaster Risk Reduction" was launched at the occasion of the Public Day of the Platform's F2F. The publication is a collection of best practices and illustrates important linkages between Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and DRR for reducing disasters by preserving and restoring natural resources to build resilience. It serves as a reference tool for practitioners from different sectors such as DRR, water and sanitation, food security or agriculture. Part 1 provides a summary of key concepts and highlights the important potential of sustainable land management as a valid strategy for reducing disaster risk and adapting to a changing climate. Part 2 documents 30 case studies of DRR practices from 11 countries worldwide. The compendium is available on the Platform website (section [publications](#)).



After the finalization, a number of opportunities came up to further disseminate the findings at conferences and workshop and thus increase the publication's outreach. The World Water Week 2018 in Stockholm, the World Water Forum in Brasilia and the Tech4Dev Conference in Lausanne were identified as suitable events. Further, a webinar day was conducted to present the publication and its findings to SDC Cooperation offices in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Risk Governance



The website "[Facing Climate Change](#)" documents the impacts of the increased likelihood of extreme weather events caused by climate change on the daily lives of three people in Bangladesh, Colombia and Zimbabwe. Through the creation of the website the Platform intends to show the human story of climate change and the challenges it brings to the billions of poor people and most vulnerable of the world and to call on decision-makers and investors, especially those in Switzerland, to make the necessary changes to foster a low carbon and climate resilient future.

The website contains a photo-video documentation for each of the three climate testimonies, as well as a written photo-stories and information of current and future impacts of climate change in the three countries.

The stories were released at the public day of the 2018 F2F Event "Advocacy for disaster and climate resilient development pathways". They will be further used for the advocacy campaign of the Swiss Climate Alliance in 2019/2020.

Guidance for DRR/CCA-mainstreaming

The working group collected and analysed existing tools, instruments, guidance notes for DRR/CCA mainstreaming in thematic sectors and contexts (water, health, agriculture, urban etc.) and along different stages of PCM. Its result is summarized in an exhaustive excel tool overview with research filters to identify most appropriate tool as per needs of Platform practitioners: possible research according to sector, context, PCM stage, user profile, rating etc. Further, a guidance note was elaborated, which describes main principles for DRR/CCA mainstreaming, the methodology and classification of analysed tools, a summary of key tools and an instruction for the excel overview. The draft guidance was presented with the platform members through a webinar for amendments and feedback. It is publicly available through the Platform website (section [publications](#)), with the option for updates.

Indicator system and toolbox

In 2014 and 2015, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform developed an indicator toolbox and disseminated it among its members. Since then, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were established, including indicator systems. In the context of demands for improved outcome measuring, many Platform member organisations further developed their outcome monitoring systems and are currently in full swing to implement those changes. Based on the two processes the Platform decided to review and improve the indicator toolbox.

The indicator toolbox 2.0 provides DRR/CCA advisors and focal points as well as programme staff of the NGOs with a set of outcomes and related indicators for targeted DRR and CCA projects. It contains 12 outcomes and 69 related indicators that were developed in participatory process involving all member organisations. The outcomes are structured along the risk staircase. The indicators are complemented by a description, references to nominator/denominator, target values and means of verification. They are generic and have to be adapted, expanded or specified according to the project focus and country context. For each outcome, at least one standard indicator is proposed, in total 12. For the standard indicators, detailed measuring and analysis instructions are provided.

There is an [online](#) and off-line version (excel-table) available, both having the same structure and features. The off-line version is easy to use in any context, particularly in the field. The online version is currently being finalised and will be integrated or linked to the Platform website with the next website update (second half 2019).

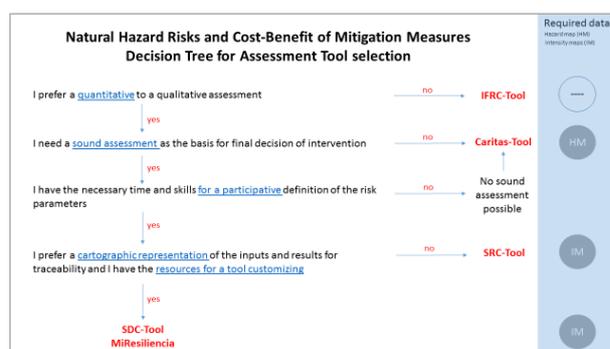
Cost-benefit analysis

Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) can be a powerful tool to lobby for more focus on risk reduction and in mobilization of governmental funding. The interest in moving from qualitative risk assessment to cost benefit calculations remains high on the agenda of partner organisations in the Platform. Several Platform member organisations use their own CBA tools with varying levels of detail and accuracy.

The CBA mandate, launched in 2018, covers the presentation of existing CBA tools and their areas of application, respectively their application limits. The following tools used by member organisations or their implementing partners were evaluated:

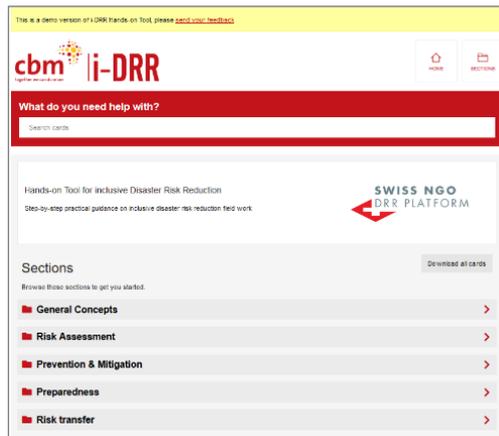
- 1) Caritas Guide for Cost-Efficiency Considerations in the Planning of Risk Reduction Measures (Mitigation): based on a standard CBA approach for hazard mitigation projects in Switzerland with a number of simplifications making it applicable in contexts with little basic information
- 2) SRC CBA guidelines: an approach based on EconoMe, the standard CBA for hazard mitigation projects in Switzerland
- 3) Mi Resiliencia Bolivia: an approach developed for the government of Bolivia, based on standard cost-benefit analysis for hazard mitigation projects in Switzerland and extended to consider the resilience of communities at risk
- 4) IFRC Prioritizing Tool: a community-based DRR and adaptation planning tool for prioritizing potential solutions

The key findings are presented in a technical report including a CBA Toolbox Evaluation Frame, a matrix that compares the four different tools on basis of a multitude of criteria along quality, field of application, user-friendliness and required expertise. A practitioner workshop was also held in December 2018 to practice the various tools. A decision matrix was developed for the platform member organisations to guide them in selecting the appropriate tool. The documentation is available on the Platform website (section [publications](#)).



iDRR mobile app (CBM)

The iDRR hands-on tool is an easy-to-use practitioner's guide for inclusion in disaster risk reduction. Broken down into individual task cards, which explain the basic details in simple language and images, the downloadable progressive web app will be a freely available resource for all agencies planning and implementing Disaster Risk Reduction work that leaves no-one behind. Cards are thematically linked to allow the user to intuitively get to the required piece of information, for example from "inclusive shelter", to "accessible shelter latrine", down to the technical specifications of the handle of the latrine door.



In 2017, CBM Switzerland raised the funds for the app development, aligned the app development with the development of an app for inclusive humanitarian action of the CBM Federation, assessed the technical feasibility of app features with the app developer (Studio 24) and hired two consultants to lead the content development. In 2018, CBM Switzerland supported the development of the Progressive Web App and tested a prototype. The content structure of the app was developed, based on the integrated disaster management cycle as used by the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection, and reviewed by several DRR

experts. Content writing started in November 2018. A proposal to UNISDR was submitted to present the app at the 2019 Global DRR Platform. The [demo version](#) was presented at the 2019 GPDRR innovation platform in Geneva. In 2019, the app development will be finalized, communication material will be designed and the content for 80+ task cards will be developed. Field-testing of the app is planned for 2020.

2.3 Awareness raising and advocacy for DRR

Swiss Policy Dialogue and GPDRR 2019 preparation

The Platform continues to represent the NGO and civil society perspective in the **Swiss DRR Working Group and its Consultative Group**. In view of GPDRR 2019 in Geneva, where Switzerland had the chair, the working group met regularly for mutual updates and to contribute to the preparation process. The Swiss group elaborated an outline "Global Platform 2019: Proposal from Switzerland" with recommendations, guiding principles and thematic options. The Platform's inputs and feedback for this Swiss paper, the official Swiss Statement, but also the open joint working process with other Swiss actors, allowed to include participation and inclusiveness as key guiding principles. The Platform will participate at the GPDRR in May with two representatives in the Swiss Delegation.

Further, the Platform participated in various meetings related to the **SFDRR monitoring and reporting** (led by PLANAT), in order to promote GNDR's "Views from the Frontline", an alternative complementary local level monitoring from a civil society perspective, focusing on the gaps which are not covered by the official reporting. Exchanges with SDC, FOEN and FOCP for a Swiss application of the VFL, did finally not materialize though contributed to fruitful exchanges and mutual understanding of the gaps and weakness of in the official reporting system.

To leverage the Platform's advocacy effort, its dual entry points through the Swiss Group as well as the international networks GNDR and PEDRR remains relevant. The Platform was part of four organizing teams for the GPDRR preparation (SFDRR implementation, Inclusive DRM, Green, blue and grey infrastructure for DRR, IRM, Ecosystems and Water-Related Risks) contributing to the elaboration of session's concept notes and selection of speakers. Through a close collaboration with GNDR, the Platform was also involved in the preparation of the Stakeholder Forum (pre-GPDRR meeting) under the objective to better link stakeholder groups with government and private sector, by bringing in Swiss reference cases.

GNDR

Through their seat in the Global Steering Board for Europe, the Platform maintains good relations with GNDR and continues to contribute to GNDR's strategic outcomes. During the last two years, the GNDR steering board has achieved key strategic outcomes:

First, the transition from the former executive director, Marcus Oxley, to the new director, Bijay Kumar, who started in September 2018, after an interim period that was led by Jonathan Potter.

Secondly, the steering board led GNDR through a re-categorization process of its members, resulting in having a better view on its actual and active members. By the end of 2018, GNDR counted around 700 CSO and NGO member organisations.

Thirdly, GNDR managed to overcome the difficult financial situation, leading to reduction of staff members in 2016, 2017 and challenging the charity status in the United Kingdom. Thanks to fundraising efforts supported by the steering board, GNDR could diversify the income base by having a) a larger grant from DEVCO for the frontline programme and b) a core contribution by the German government.



The Platform representation in GNDR participated at GNDR steering board meetings (held every second month) and at the global F2F steering board meeting in October 2018 in Istanbul, which was dedicated to a renewal of the governance structure of GNDR. The Platform also closely worked with GNDR in preparing and conducting the 2018 F2F event on "Advocacy for DRR and CCA".

CSO-local level monitoring

This mandate revolves around the preparation and implementation of the Views from the Frontline (Vfl), a bottom-up alternative monitoring tool around risk governance that complements the official Sendai Monitor by sharing the perspective of communities at risk.

While the Platform organized and funded a kick-off workshop in 2017, its engagement in 2018 focused mainly on the methodology development. First, as member of the Methodology Advisory Group, the Platform contributed to the overall setup and deepened their involvement in 2018 by assigning external experts that reviewed the sampling strategy towards higher robustness.

Plans to conduct the Vfl in Switzerland in preparation of the GPDRR 2019 were abandoned in summer 2018, as the necessary buy-in from other Swiss stakeholders did not materialize.

PEDRR

Since 2018, the Platform is member of the PEDRR network and participates in its quarterly Skype meetings. This exchange allows to provide the Core group and where relevant the Platform member organisations about state of the art, guidance, best practices and events in (Eco-) DRR. Platform inputs for the PEDRR newsletter helped to disseminate Platform products and information about learning events, particularly the F2F on Eco-DRR, webinar on ecosystem-based DRR.

Climate Alliance

The Platform is not a formal member of the Climate Alliance (Klimaallianz), but represented there through a number of its member organisations (HEKS/EPER, Helvetas, BfA, Solidar), which also bring in the view of the Platform into the Alliance and vice-versa. The development organisations including the Platform aim to bring in more aspects of Climate Justice into the campaigns of the Climate Alliance, which focus on financial organisations in Switzerland (Pensions Funds and Swiss National Banks), e.g. through the documentation of the “Facing Climate Change”-Stories (see above).

The Platform participates in quarterly meetings of the Alliance as well as in campaign meetings and the annual member’s assembly.

Dialogue with Swiss Solidarity

In 2015, Swiss Solidarity (SwS) and the Platform exchanged views on the relevance of DRR in humanitarian aid and for SwS. In 2017, the dialogue focused on an exchange regarding the findings of the post “Matthew” DRR effectiveness assessment in Haiti, which however did not produce any tangible results (e.g. common agreement on what DRR aspects to receive SwS contribution).

In 2018, the Platform conducted an evaluation synthesis aiming to provide documented evidence on good practices in DRR in reconstruction and recovery, with a focus on SwS co-funded projects for the past major disasters. The process is ongoing with a validation and experience capitalisation workshop planned to be held in May. The results will contribute to the activity line “LRRD / Nexus humanitarian aid – development cooperation” in the upcoming phase. They might also serve as a contribution to the standard setting for SwS in their guidelines (“lignes directrices”) for future disaster recovery programming.

2.4 Visibility

The Platform's visibility increased throughout the programme phase: Nationally, the Platform is considered a very relevant actor in the field of DRR. Internationally, the Platform is a relevant partner for the Swiss governments' efforts around DRR/CCA.

Thanks to the involvement in the Nadel DRR-Course, a broader audience within Switzerland is now familiar with the Platform and its products (e.g. the E-learning course).

The Platform can be considered an established network in the field of DRR in Switzerland. This is particularly the case with regard to learning, which among other resulted in being part in a survey from the Graduate Institute Geneva on the DRR-landscape in Switzerland.

With the launch of the www.facingclimatechange.net Website in the frame of the risk governance mandate, the Platform entered new terrain in terms of collaboration (with the Swiss Climate Alliance) and also in terms of exposure through advocacy.

Synergies between the Platform and the SDC DRR Shareweb could be further strengthened: Platform events and publications were highlighted in SDC DRR Newsletters. The SDC DRR Shareweb is an excellent reference for Platform members to disseminate their publications and check for upcoming events and new publications.

3 Impact

In an attempt to shed light on the impact of its work since its foundation in 2011, the Platform commissioned seecon GmbH in 2018 to carry out an external assessment. The methodology combined individual interviews with a participatory assessment workshop in Switzerland and quantitative surveys for Platform members and field staff. In this sense, the evaluation method integrated evidence and fact-based information with perception-based information following an outcome harvesting approach.

The assessment showed positive results related to most of the key questions. The Platform met or exceeded expectations in many aspects with regard to effectiveness (e.g. institutional capacities, conceptual support, commitment, field outreach, advocacy and policy dialogue), relevance (e.g. prioritisation of the Platform's work, structure and working mode and recognition). Room for improvement was identified in relation to the Platform's impact on coordination and collaboration of the member organisations. In terms of sustainability, the assessment attested exceeding expectations with regard to the ownership that the Platform has created among its member organisations, and especially the larger NGOs, which provide considerable resources to play an active role. On the other hand, major improvements are required with regard to its independence particularly from the financial contribution of SDC.

The assessment concluded that the Platform is an example for a very successful, lean thematic network that helped to establish and operationalize DRR within the work of its members and successfully contributed to the Swiss engagement in international DRR processes. Most of the recommendations were adopted and integrated in the subsequent programme phase.

For details, see the [Platform assessment report](#).

4 Structure

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform was founded in 2011 by seven Swiss based NGOs, since then each year 2-3 new members joined the Platform. In April 2019, the Platform counted 17 member organisations.

The Platform holds regular **Member Assemblies**, where all Platform member organisations are invited to select and develop internal mandates, get organized in designated working groups and for a mutual update on the Platform's progress and context.

The **Core Group**, which includes the Swiss Red Cross (SRC), Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (Helvetas), Caritas Switzerland (CACH) and HEKS/EPER carry out the ongoing operational tasks as well as quality assurance. The core group held monthly meetings throughout 2017 and 2018.

The **Steering Committee** (consisting of SRC, Helvetas, and CACH) is responsible for ensuring that mission and regulations are followed and approves the mandates. The Steering Committee held (F2F and virtual) meetings twice a year in 2017 and 2018.

The **Secretariat** was handed over in 2018 from CACH to the SRC. CACH continued to manage the Platform website (<http://drrplatform.org/>); the SRC developed and managed the internal shareweb for the Platform member organisations.

An internal Financial **Review Commission** (consisting of Terre des hommes and Medair) is a further permanent body of the Platform.

5 Finance

For the entire phase 2017-2018, the total expenditure summed up to CHF 1'492'016, consisting of CHF 779'905 (52.3%) as Platform contribution and CHF 712'111 (47.7%) as SDC contribution.

Annexes:

Integrated in this report:

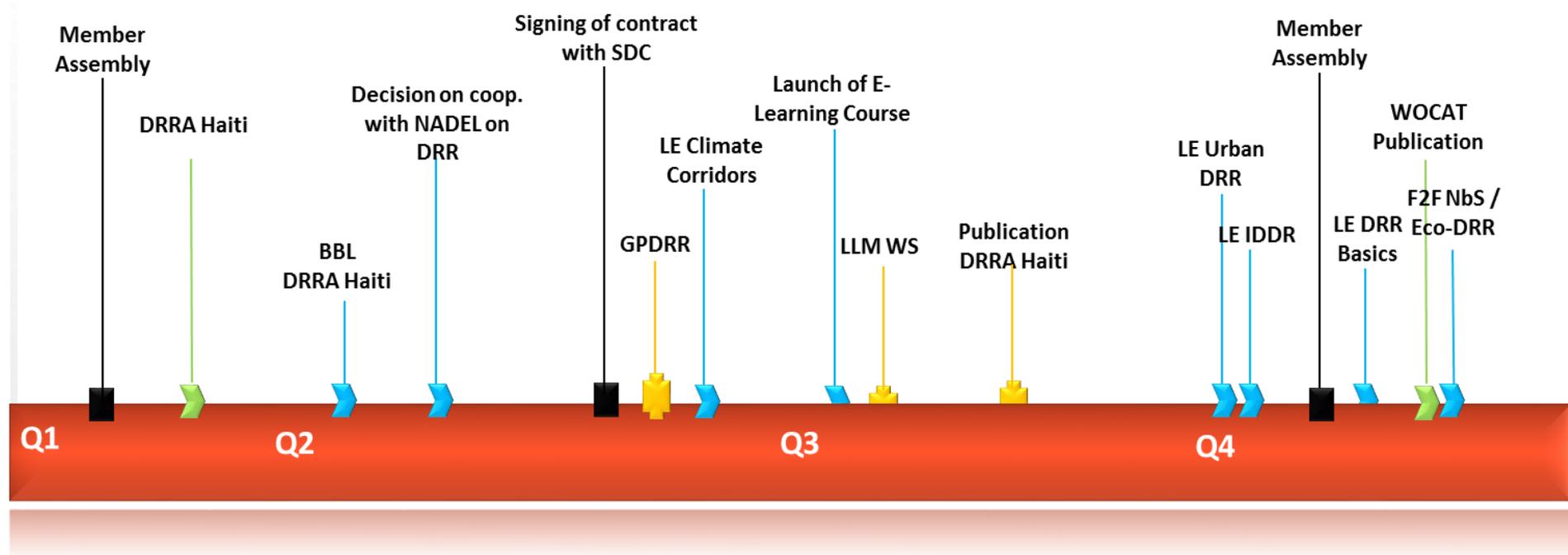
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1) Milestones 2017 and 2018

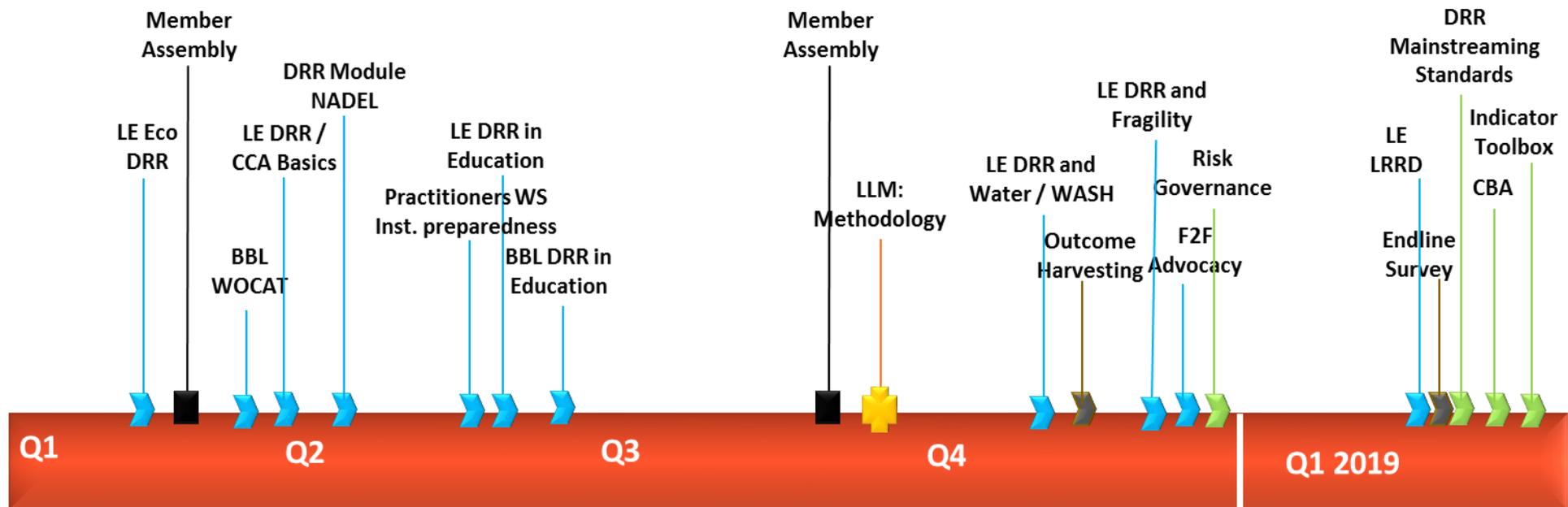
Milestones 2017



Related to

- **Outcome 1: Capacity Building**
- **Outcome 2: Conceptual support – Swiss Approach**
- **Outcome 3: Advocacy**
- **Outcome 4: Visibility & Structure**

Milestones Jan 2018 – April 2019



Related to

- Outcome 1: Capacity Building
- Outcome 2: Conceptual support – Swiss Approach
- Outcome 3: Advocacy
- Outcome 4: Visibility & Structure