

## Programme 2019 – 2023

### “Building Bridges”



Masanghat Trail Bridge, Nepal (© Helvetas)

## Annual Report of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform

### Reporting period: 01.05.2020-30.04.2021

Website Version

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## List of Abbreviations

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ETH Nadel	Center for Development and Cooperation of ETH Zurich
F2F	Face to Face
GNDR	Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster Reduction
GPDRR	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
HEKS/EPER	Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SDC DRR NW	SDC DRR Network
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SRC	Swiss Red Cross
YPO	Yearly Plan of Operation

## 1. Background

This report refers to the project contribution “Support to the Swiss NGO DRR Platform”, which extends over the period from 01.05.2019 to 30.04.2023. The report provides an overview of the achievements during the second programme year, i.e. from 01.05.2020-30.04.2021 and an outlook to the second part of the programme phase.

## 2. Progress

The second programme year was again marked by the Covid-19 crisis as well as the ongoing trend of decreasing resources in many Platform member organisations. The Covid-19 crisis impacted the Platform work as from March 2020. As other organisations, the Platform had to learn how to operate in a virtual mode. While this went smoothly for meetings (e.g. of the Core Group) and webinars, the Platform had more difficulties in adapting to virtual learning events and workshops. Feeling overwhelmed by the virtual overload that was ongoing, the Platform was more hesitant than other organisations to organise webinars additionally to all those already happening. The Platform furthermore did not manage to move the regionalisation strategy forward, as this was originally linked to missions of focal points, which did not take place over the past year.

The year also saw a couple of Platform highlights, despite the many challenges faced. The annual workshop and public event that was conducted for the first time in a virtual mode, was well appreciated by the participants in terms of content as well as methodology. The virtual learning event ‘Online Facilitation’ turned out to be a gem for all participants and, as participants were all from Platform member organisations, future virtual events might experience a marked increase in quality. Furthermore, the field day on hazard assessment near Berne can also be included, because it was the first of its kind, very instructive and turned out to be the only in-person event conducted during the reporting period.

In general, the Platform has progressed its work in activity lines 2, 4 and 6 more or less as planned and is behind in activity lines 1, 3 and 5. The following sections describe achievements in the reporting period in more detail.

### 2.1 DRR and CCA Mainstreaming

The practice-oriented **field-day on flood hazard mapping** was conducted in May 2020 as planned. 10 participants from Platform member organisations and the SDC were familiarised with different tools, covering the topics of event cadastre, peak flow estimation, discharge capacity in small rivers, elaboration of a hazard map and implementation in spatial planning. In a follow-up of the field day, 2 documents were produced and uploaded on the Platform website: i) **acquisition of satellite-based meteorological data** shows how meteorological data like precipitation, temperature and soil moisture can be generated with ground measuring stations and who can support the data collection, ii) **Drone-supported hazard and risk analysis** explains how to generate and what is needed for aerial imagery and 3D-Terrain Models to determine hazard prone areas and monitor project progress. Both publications were produced on bases of case studies of a DRR project supported by the Red Cross in Honduras.

The learning event 'Didactics' (i.e. theory and practical application of teaching and learning) had to again be postponed because of the Covid-19 crisis. Instead, the Platform organised a **virtual learning event 'Online facilitation'**; professionally supported by Nadia von Holzen and Corinne Sprecher during 5 consecutive live online workshops in March 2021, 16 participants reflected their experiences and jointly explored how to bring meetings and workshops online in a confident, creative and convincing way. Due to the unplanned cut back of DRR advisory services at SRC, other activity line mandates could not be prioritised and progressed as intended, in particular the different **practitioners' workshops on risk assessment, monitoring and evaluation** and the elaboration of the **sector / context specific guidelines**.

The **Webinar on DRR and CCA Mainstreaming** was fully revised in the first quarter of 2021 and will now be translated to French and Spanish. The revision took longer than anticipated due to an increasing internal workload of the CCA/DRR Advisor at HEKS, who holds the responsibility of the mandate. The webinars in English, French and Spanish are planned to be held in May/June 2021.

Several exchanges between the Swiss NGO DRR Platform and ETH Nadel have been taking place between May 2020 and April 2021 with regard to the organization of the **Nadel DRR Module**, which was planned for November 2021. Due to staff fluctuations at Nadel the course has now been postponed to 2022.

## 2.2 Nexus humanitarian aid – development cooperation

The **webinar series 'humanitarian-development nexus'** in spring 2020 was concluded in May 2020 with a Spanish webinar focusing on Latin America. The series paved the way for the first annual workshop of the programme phase.

Initially planned for fall 2020, the **annual workshop** was postponed to spring 2021 and was conducted in a virtual manner from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March. During three half days, up to 50 participants discussed issues around the humanitarian-development nexus and recent developments related to the role of DRR to strengthen sustainable humanitarian impact and foster risk-informed development. Aiming at bringing the lively F2F workshop experience online, the workshop engaged with participants through group discussions along the three case studies from the Andes, Bangladesh and Ethiopia. Further, external inputs from SDC, from IFRC and partners on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action supported the understanding of progress being made in aligning humanitarian and development interventions, but also highlighted the major challenges regarding funding, planning and a slow change in mind-set that the participating organizations are still experiencing.

The **public event** following the workshop – titled "Disaster risk reduction in the humanitarian-development-nexus: how can it contribute to sustainable humanitarian impact and resilient development?" – took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Over 70 participants from within and beyond the Platform joined the panellists from SDC, IFRC, Swiss Solidarity, Helvetas and Solidar Suisse for an engaging discussion on the nuts and bolts of the humanitarian-development nexus, major progress and remaining challenges. Documentation of the event can be found [here](#).

In the context of the dialogue with Swiss Solidarity on the appropriateness of DRR interventions in the immediate post-disaster context, Swiss NGOs granted insights into 25 finalised projects in four post-disaster contexts. The ***synthesis of evaluations – DRR in post a disaster context*** reveals well-known but ever so important success factors for effectiveness, such as applying a multi-stakeholder approach, working with multipliers (e.g. school children), integrated programming or working with and through governments.

### 2.3 Nature-based solutions

During the second programme year, the activity line Nature-based Solutions was faced with personnel changes and – as many other activity lines – travel restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to bring all interested Platform members on the same level, as well as to agree on a road-map for the different mandates of the activity line, a kick-off meeting was organized in early autumn by the lead of the activity line, Caritas Switzerland.

For the ***Signature Approach*** mandate, a working group was established in October. In December, the working group held a workshop to which a representative of the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium (SWSC) was invited in order to present the working group members the processes and steps behind the development of the SWSC signature approach “Blue Schools”. The working group decided that a project screening form should be developed to detect potential for geographic as well as methodological clusters among the Platform projects, which would serve as a basis for the development of a common signature approach. Subsequently, a project screening form, combining indicators of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions as well as the UNDRR “Words into Action Report”, was developed and presented to the Platform members in a second working group meeting. The project screening form was also shared with IUCN to explore the possibilities of a potential collaboration regarding the further development of the screening form. First interest by IUCN has been communicated and a first exchange is planned for May.

The ***WOCAT-Regionalization*** mandate was strongly affected by the travel restrictions of the last year imposed due to the pandemic. The practitioners exchange workshop in Haiti, which already had to be postponed several times, is now planned to be held in early summer 2021.

Initial clarification for the ***Valuation Method*** mandate were conducted, including discussions with research institutes on their potential interests for collaboration.

### 2.4 Climate change – fit for purpose

Between May 2020 and April 2021 the working group of the ***Climate Change and Migration Nexus*** mandate investigated currently available evidence and studies on the climate change and migration nexus in order to define how the Platform case study collection could contribute to the evidence and discourse around the climate change and migration nexus. On the basis of this the working group defined the scope of the case studies which are planned to be collected in 2021. Given the need to collect more knowledge and evidence of the nexus between human mobility and climate change also at the micro level the aim of the case studies is to shed light on individual situations and provide a human face to the many quantitative global studies. The case studies

shall offer a better understanding about a) migration dynamics related to climate change at the micro level; b) the numerous drivers eventually leading to the decision to migrate or not; c) ways how people cope with the challenge of migrating due to climate change and which adaptation strategies they possibly develop. The working group developed a questionnaire for data collection in different project settings of the Platform members and like-minded organizations close to the platform. The information to draw up the case studies will be collected by local consultants in 2021.

Also, with regard to the **Weather, Water and Climate Services** mandate, the past 12 months particularly served to do background research and do scoping work amongst the working group, what to emphasize through this mandate. Particular interest of the working group lays in the question of the so called “last mile” (how weather and climate information reaches the grassroots) and what roles NGOs can play in this. With regards to sectors the group decided to particularly explore DRR including early warning mechanisms and agriculture.

For 2020 the Platform intended to further develop the **Facing Climate Change** stories produced in 2018 and wanted to revisit “Nasrin” the tailor from Bangladesh to keep telling her story and how the impacts of climate change affect herself and her family. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no film shooting in Bangladesh was possible. Therefore, the Platform decided to instead produce the existing videos also in German and French. The German version is now also available in spoken form. The films were shown in October 2020 at an event of the Swiss Climate Alliance on climate justice and are available to all Platform members to be used for sensibilisation: <https://facingclimatechange.net/>

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020, HEKS and Helvetas organized an exchange event on experiences of Swiss NGO DRR Platform members with the **Green Climate Fund** (GCF). Helvetas presented its efforts to become an accredited entity with the Green Climate Fund and Zoi Environment Network its experiences with project development. The experiences of these two Platform members were then commented by Jürg Klarer, a consultant with extensive experience supporting NGOs, multilateral organisations and countries to access finances from the GCF, and Stefan Schwager, who is responsible at FOEN for the International Climate and Biodiversity Financing as well as the current board member of Switzerland to the GCF. 20 people from 6 different Platform members participated in the exchange event.

## 2.5 Working at scale

Due to challenges related to Covid-19 and staff changes, resulting in less availability of human resources for Platform activities in general, this activity line was not given priority in 2020/2021.

In January 2021, a working group meeting took place and a first take on a roadmap for 2021/2022 was defined. The process will be taken up again in May/June 2021. Planned are a webinar on coalitions and networks as well as starting the mapping and testing process of different guidance/tools.

## 2.6 Leaving no one behind

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 CBM Switzerland, together with its country office in Dhaka, co-facilitated a **webinar ‘Leaving no one behind’** together with a representative of an organization of persons with disabilities from Bangladesh on the best practices of inclusive programming at field level. The webinar started with an individual preparation and self-reflection of all participants using an online survey. Then, an introduction on disability inclusive DRR (DIDRR) and main concepts of DIDRR were given, followed by an interview on the functioning and structure of a disability inclusive Union Disaster Management Committee with a leader of a UDMC from Bangladesh, who is living with a visual impairment. 22 participants attended the webinar.

Moreover, time in 2020/2021 was used to conceptualize to other learning moments organized under AL6 in 2021(see section 5.2.).

## 2.7 Advocacy and policy dialogue

### Swiss Consultative Group

With Regional Platforms picking up in the run towards the next Global Platform for DRR in May 2022, the focus of the consultative and working group meetings also shifted towards these events throughout the year 2020/2021. As member of the group, the Platform provided feedback on the concept note and the thematic session overview, advocating for local stakeholders and local processes to get their deserved attention at the upcoming Platforms and further strengthen the LNOB agenda.

### GNDR

Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, the long-awaited Global Summit of GNDR took place in a virtual format. Every day, several thousand participants engaged in panels, discussions and gatherings that put the strategy of GNDR into practice.

In February 2021, a new Europe representative for the Global Board was elected, following 6 years of Nicole Stolz in this position. The Platform decided to not put a Platform representative up for election. Becky Murphy from Action Aid UK was elected. Jana Junghardt remains National Focal Point for Switzerland and contributes to the Regional Advisory Group for Europe.

Together with SDC, a tripartite dialogue was initiated, to foster collaboration in five focal countries: Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Honduras and Ethiopia. First regional encounters are still to be started.

### PEDRR

Past meetings of the PEDRR network revolved to a large extent around the launch of the Massive Open Online Course on Nature-based solutions for climate and disaster resilience, which is run by UNDP and co-developed by PEDRR. Further, PEDRR contributed strongly to the newest “Words into Action” by UNDRR with a focus on nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction. As per May 2021, Caritas will replace Helvetas as the lead in this mandate.

### Climate Alliance

Besides their long-term lobby engagement on divestment of the Swiss Pension Funds and the Swiss National Bank from fossil fuel, the Climate Alliance spent a lot of its forces in 2020/2021 for its lobby activities towards a yes for the new CO2 law, which will be voted on by the Swiss public on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Climate Alliance held a sensibilisation event on the linkages between the investment policy of the Swiss National Bank and international climate justice during which the Facing Climate Change Videos (German version: Dem Klimawandel die Stirn bieten), were shown. The Swiss NGO DRR Platform takes active part in the meetings ('Delegierten-versammlungen') of the Swiss Climate Alliance and ensures, together with other actors from the development sector, that international climate justice, is not forgotten in the lobby activities of the alliance.

## 2.8 Visibility

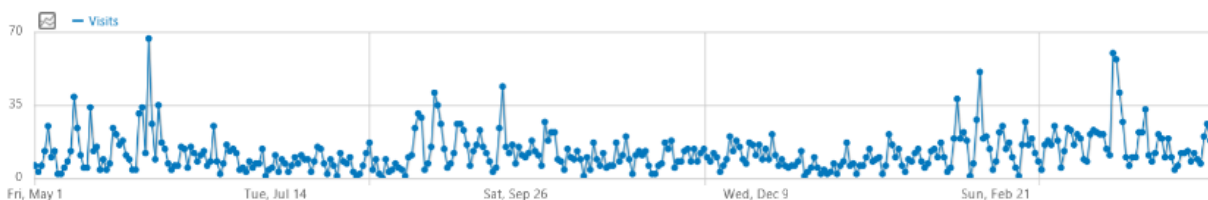
### Website Visits during reporting period:

- 4'493 visits
- 7'622 page views
- 2'091 downloads
- 476 out links
- 1min 59s average visit duration
- 2.4 actions (page view, download etc.) per visit
- 59% left website after one page

### Top downloads:

Element (Resource, Event)	Downloads
DRR Module 0 (Introduction)	76
DRR Module 1	65
DRR Module 2	48
DRR Module 3	47
DRR Module 4	54
Annual Workshop Nexus	100
DRR Flyer	92
Mainstreaming Guidance	81
Decision Tree CBA	57

Visits Over Time





### 3. Organisation

#### 3.1 Member organisations

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform was founded in 2011 by seven Swiss based NGOs. Since then, new member organisations joined the Platform almost each year. In 2020, two new member organisations joined the Platform: Swissaid and Drone Adventures, and one member organisation, the Global Risk Forum Davos, left it. In April 2021, the Platform counted 20 member organisations.

No.	Organisation	Membership
1	Caritas Switzerland	2011
2	HEKS / EPER	2011
3	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	2011
4	Medair	2011
5	Solidar Suisse	2011
6	Swiss Red Cross	2011
7	Terre des hommes (Lausanne)	2011
8	World Vision Switzerland	2012
	Proact Network (was dissolved in 2015)	2012-2015
	Global Risk Forum Davos (GRF)	2012-2020
9	Bread for All	2013
10	Tearfund Switzerland	2013
11	Christoffel Blinden Mission	2014
12	Save the Children Switzerland	2014
13	Innovabridge	2015
14	ADRA	2015
	Plan International (no more focus on DRR)	2015-2016
15	Zoï Environment Network	2016
16	Vivamos mejor	2017
17	Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions	2019
18	Solidarmed	2019
19	Swissaid	2020
20	Drone Adventures	2020



#### 3.2 Structure and steering mechanisms

##### Permanent Platform Bodies

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

The **Steering Committee**, consisting of SRC, Helvetas, and Caritas Switzerland, is responsible for ensuring that mission and regulations are followed and approves the mandates. The Steering Committee held two (one F2F and one virtual) joint monitoring meetings in 2020-21 with the Core Group.

The **Core Group**, which includes SRC, Helvetas, Caritas Switzerland and HEKS/EPER, carries out the ongoing operational tasks as well as quality assurance. The Core Group held monthly meetings throughout the reporting period.

The **Secretariat** is held by the SRC.

An internal Financial **Review Commission** (consisting of Terre des hommes and Medair) is a further permanent body of the Platform. It reviewed and approved the financial report at its meeting from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **Platform Working Groups**

To implement the programme, working groups were established for the six activity lines and sub mandates. The working groups consist between 3 (activity line working at scale), to 4 (DRR and CCA Mainstreaming, Nexus, Leaving no one behind), to 8 (climate change) and on to 10 (nature-based solutions) contributing member organisations. Sub working groups with an average of 3 member organisations are responsible for the implementation of each Platform event or product.

### **Collaboration with SDC**

SDC is closely involved in the planning, monitoring and steering, and reporting activities of the Platform. SDC and the Core Group of the Platform held three exchange meetings during the reporting period (30.06.2020, 24.11.2020 and 17.03.2021), coordinated upcoming activities and discussed further collaboration opportunities.

## 4. Resources

The total expenditure for the reporting period (01.05.2020-30.04.2021) amounted to CHF 358'130 of which CHF 197'414 consists as Platform contribution and CHF 160'716 (45%) requested as SDC contribution.

## 5. Outlook

For the second year in a row, the Platform achieved less than planned and spend less than budgeted; the initial workplan is considerably delayed. The Covid-19 crisis and the ongoing trend of decreasing resources will continue and affect the third programme year; to what extent is still unclear. Implications may include the downsizing of planned activities, involvement of more member organisations, outsourcing of products externally and/or stronger coalitions with existing partners. Trends and implications will be analysed in more detail by the external evaluation, which is planned to take place in the second half the third programme year.

**Milestones** of the third programme year:

- **Activity line 1 – DRR and CCA mainstreaming:** F2F event on 'Minimal Standards for risk-informed and climate-resilient programming', planned for March 2022. The event will require the prior conduction of a couple of practitioners' workshops on 'Risk screening/assessments in sector programmes' on 'Monitoring' and on 'Evaluation of DRR and CCA mainstreaming' to serve as input providers. Preparation of the ETH NADEL DRR module (providing that NADEL decides to conduct the module in 2022). Webinar 'Basics for DRR and CCA mainstreaming' planned for 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2021.
- **Activity line 2 – LRRD / Nexus humanitarian aid – development cooperation:** Deepen the work on the nexus through: explore how to integrate conflict-sensitive programme management in DRR-CCA-programmes through conceptual work and learning event, start development of a how-to-guide to operationalizing the nexus in practice.
- **Activity line 3 – Nature-based solutions:** Practitioners' exchange workshop in Haiti on NBS-WOCAT, now planned for early summer 2021, should the Covid-19 situation allow for it. Further field-based, WOCAT-related learning events are planned, which could be transformed into webinars if the situation does not allow F2F-exchanges. Concretisation of the signature approach through practitioners' exchanges as well as hopefully through a collaboration with IUCN. Clarifications on existing valuation methods and assessment of possible partnerships with research institutes. An NbS field-visit into the Swiss Alps organised by FDDM will be conducted in late summer.
- **Activity line 4 – Climate Change – Fit for purpose:** Data collection and compilation of case study material for the mandates on the Climate Change and Migration Nexus as well as on Weather and Climate Services. For the Climate Change and Migration Nexus the case study compilation is planned to be ready in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2022 and will then be presented to the Platform members and others interested in a Learning Event. Furthermore, exchanges both on Climate Finance as well as on the organizational CO2 footprint (walk the talk) as well as a Learning Event on Climate projections along with an information brief on how to make use of climate projections in project and programme planning.

- **Activity line 5 – Working at scale:** explore existing assessments and tools that support projects and programmes in scaling up their interventions, share them with Platform members in the form of a learning event and/or briefing note.
- **Activity line 6 – LNOB:** 2 events are currently planned for the third programme year: The webinar 'How to better integrate the Leave No One behind Agenda & Disaster Risk Reduction', which will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the learning event on DRR and Gender, which is organised together with SDC and is planned for September 2021.

The budget for the third programme year amounts to CHF 779'200 of which CHF 424'890 consists as Platform contribution and CHF 354'310 (45%) is requested as SDC contribution.