

Sustaining lives and livelihoods in the face of disasters **ACT Alliance key asks on the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction**



ACT is an alliance of 146 church and church-related organisations. We work together for sustainable change in the lives of people affected by poverty and injustice through coordinated humanitarian, development and advocacy work.

146

members, rooted in the communities we serve

76%
global
south

22%
global
north

2%
global

25,000

member staff and volunteers in

140

countries, working together for sustainable change

ACT Alliance is on the frontlines of addressing systemic poverty; supporting survivors of disasters, wars and conflicts; training rural communities in sustainable agricultural techniques; helping people adapt to environmental change; and influencing governments and other key decision makers to safeguard human rights.



For ACT Alliance, 2015 marks an important milestone in the global debate forging the way forward in addressing climate change, promoting the eradication of hunger and poverty, reducing the risks of and increasing protection against disasters, encouraging community resilience and ensuring social protection.

Many expect that by 1 January 2016, we will have a new universal and politically binding agreement addressing sustainable development. It is hoped that this agreement will include ambitious and evidence-based goals, targets and indicators to eradicate poverty and promote equality for all with lasting results. ACT Alliance believes that all stakeholders – including governments, civil society and the private sector – will have a role to play in the implementation and achievement of future goals. However, to ensure the success of these goals, they must be designed to enhance resilience among the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

ACT Alliance believes that true resilience requires a comprehensive, integrated approach that combines Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and sustainable development within a framework that addresses social, economic and other forms of inequalities between individuals, communities and states.

For ACT Alliance, the post-2015 development framework would need to support the ability of people to live in freedom, without fear or injustice, and to enjoy their full human rights within planetary boundaries. Our goal is to end poverty and to make power accountable.

ACT Alliance calls for an ambitious, universal and global post-2015 development framework which reflects a rights-based approach to development. The post-2015 development framework needs to address the root causes of poverty, conflict, insecurity and ecological destruction and the key concerns of economically disadvantaged people and communities.

The post-2015 development framework must be based on commitments to universal human rights norms and standards, promoting a common universal set of goals requiring action from all countries but allowing national differentiation based on context, capacities and need. For ACT Alliance, the post-2015 development framework needs to address inequalities, make power accountable, and create conditions for living within planetary boundaries and without fear. The framework needs to have a robust implementation, monitoring and reviewing framework with clear indicators to track progress.

Member States of the United Nations need to agree on one participatory process to define the post-2015 development framework, which will bridge the gaps between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Hyogo

Framework for Action 2 (HFA2) post-2015. It is essential that those affected by injustice and those living in poverty are welcomed to the decision making table as experts on the needs of the communities that they represent. The post-2015 framework must, therefore, seek to reduce disaster risks globally by building on the understanding of the realities of people affected by past disasters as well as those in at-risk areas.

Disasters affect the majority of world's population, economic losses connected with disasters continue to grow, and people killed by disasters are overwhelmingly from developing countries. The majority of disaster losses are due to "small-scale" recurrent disasters while children, women and the elderly suffer disproportionately.

For ACT Alliance DRR can only be effective through participatory and coordinated action by affected people, communities, civil society organisations, international organisations, and governments. For effective response disaster risk reduction needs to be mainstreamed in development policies and programmes.¹

¹With its recommendations the ACT Alliance aligns with the recommendations from the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction. "Views from the Frontline: Beyond 2015. Recommendations for a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework to strengthen the resilience of communities to all hazards". Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction. 2013.

Post-2015 sustainable development framework, in all its parts, needs to consider DRR in the following ways:

1 Recognising the impact of everyday disasters on lives, livelihoods and assets as a means of poverty reduction

The new SDGs must:

- Represent a comprehensive agreement which allows for effective universal application yet exhibits the flexibility to represent local manifestations of catastrophic events: namely, sea level rise, typhoons, tsunamis, desertification, severe storms, hurricanes, earth quakes, drought, and others.
- Ensure focus on small-scale recurrent everyday disasters by taking into consideration issues of food security, sustainability of food systems, and small farmer crop resilience and yield maximisation.

2 Prioritising the most at-risk, poorest and marginalised people

The new SDGs must:

- Represent local realities and local knowledge and practices of resilience conducted by those directly affected by disasters, particularly low-income households, economically disadvantaged communities, and minority and fringe populations.
- Recognise the particular burden faced by migrants and displaced persons.
- Strengthen local risk assessments and community resilience strategies to ensure that the people in high-risk areas, the economically disadvantaged, and other marginalised people are fully involved in these processes.

3 Tackling the underlying cause of people's vulnerability to disasters

The new SDGs must:

- Strengthen resilience of communities through strategies that integrate social protection, climate risks, and development needs.
- Internalise links between disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.
- Feed in resilience principles, the know-how of people most at risk, and gendered perspectives on disaster risk reduction within the broader post-2015 development policy framework and in the UN process of developing set of sustainable development goals.

4 Mobilising political commitment by focusing on rights, responsibilities and accountabilities

The new SDGs must be:

- The result of a process which ensures political commitment and accountability for the implementation.
- A global commitment to increase local resilience to hazards, especially in everyday disasters and with the most vulnerable segments of society.
- Geared towards including disaster risk reduction in national development plans.
- Based on appropriate provisions of funding for commitments made.
- Allowed to measure progress against indicators.

Promoting partnerships and public participation

The new SDGs must:

- Promote the involvement of disaster affected communities and local governments in design and implementation of any policies and practices.
- Promote transparent and multi-stakeholder approaches to disaster risk reduction policy planning and implementation by national governments.



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