Report: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025 Webinar

Theme: *"Fund Resilience, Not Disasters"*
Date: 16 October 2025
Organized by: SIDRRA Consortium (IRC, ADRRN, Duryog Nivaran)

Opening Session

Welcome Remarks – Linda (ADRRRN)

Linda welcomed participants from across Asia and outlined the purpose of the webinar:

- Commemoration of IDRR 2025 under the theme "Fund Resilience, Not Disasters".
- Shift the conversation from *reacting to disasters* to *investing in resilience*.
- Emphasis on innovative financing, local voices, and inclusive disaster risk governance.
- Introduced the CIDRA Consortium and its role in strengthening inclusive DRR governance.

Opening Remarks – Takeshi Komino, Chairperson, ADRRN

Takeshi set the tone by reflecting on increasing climate risks:

- Communities in Philippines and Indonesia report longer dry months, sporadic intense rainfall, and frequent flooding (10–20 times a year).
- Urbanization and private development often increase risks during project implementation.
- Investment is needed at multiple levels, especially:
    - **Communities:** Support local leadership, proactive risk identification, mitigation, and continuous learning.
    - **Private sector:** Must identify and reduce risks during development, not only at planning stage.
    - **Research & academia:** Need more evidence on what adaptation solutions work and why (providing the science for replicating best practices).
- Emphasized the importance of individual and household-level resilience investments.

SIDRRA Project Approach to Resilience – Cathy Gordo (IRC)

Cathy highlighted the SIDRRA Consortium's approach and early lessons:

- SIDRRA promotes inclusive and integrated disaster risk governance by:
    - Supporting local leadership and local organizations.
    - Strengthening policy-to-practice linkages through local innovations.
    - Strengthening regional networks to amplify the voices from the communities and grassroot level organizations in larger platforms (RHPW, APMCDRR, GSCS for Sendai GAP)
    - Ensuring affected populations, including women and at-risk groups, are engaged in planning and decision-making.
- Stressed the importance of ensuring community actions have access to financing to sustain solutions.
- Noted that many CSOs face funding cuts due to shifting donor geographies and priorities.
- Reinforced that global disaster losses exceed USD 2.3 trillion annually (including indirect and ecosystem impacts), making investment in resilience essential.
- SIDRRA continues to explore local financial mechanisms to reduce dependency on international aid.

Panel Discussion – Moderated by Ramona Miranda (Duryog Nivaran)

The panel examined the ongoing gaps between resilience financing and escalating disaster risks, while also highlighting emerging innovative approaches. The discussion was structured in two parts: the first focused on the challenges and evolving dynamics of national disaster risk financing, and the second explored how these challenges are being addressed or mitigated through innovative financing mechanisms.

Safi Hassan Rizvi – Advisor, NDMA India

- Five years ago, 100 percent of public disaster finance in India went to relief and response. Mitigation, preparedness, and recovery were absent from the public finance architecture.
- Two alternative finances: Non-profits (foundations) & For-profits (private CSR)
- India is working to activate:
    - **For-profit models** for DRR services (e.g., automated glacial lake monitoring, cool-roof technologies).

    - **Insurance expansion**, as property insurance penetration is only about 1%. (parametric products with less delays, risk pools, catastrophe bonds)

- India has now introduced the **10–20–30–40 financing window**:
    - **10%** preparedness
    - **20%** mitigation
    - **30%** recovery and reconstruction
    - **40%** response and relief
- This restructuring ensures resilience is a **budget rule,** not an occasional project.
- Money is being pushed directly to districts and village-level governance bodies (Gram Panchayats).
- Alternative finance includes donor foundations, CSR contributions, and for-profit DRR enterprises.

Radhika Abeynaike – Director of Strategy & Learning, Asia Foundation

Radhika analyzed systemic paradoxes and gaps in DRR financing:

- The global paradox: "*billions spent after disasters, but almost nothing before*".
- Three major gaps:
    1. **Prevention and Post-disaster Budget gap** – prevention loses out due to the "politics of visibility"
    2. **Financing architecture gap** – lack of comprehensive national risk financing strategies.
    3. **Governance gap in Localization** – resources do not reach where resilience is actually practiced.
        - Lack of capacity, data and authority causing delay in funds reaching the local level
        - Changes in the funding landscape (post-aid landscape) – the pot has shrunk and also increasingly come with conditions (but this gives the opportunity for these efforts to be reported in a "reform story" rather than as a side project)

Key recommendations:

- Make DRR a **budget rule** by reserving a consistent fixed percentage of capital budgets for risk-proofing & maintenance.
- Mix domestic revenue, IFI support, and private capital under clear resilience rules.

- Approve comprehensive **national risk financing strategies** (treasury buffers, contingent credit lines, insurance).

- Expand private sector engagement with accountability frameworks – through innovative co-financing & legal and accountability mechanisms

- Strengthen **civil society** as a bridge linking communities, government and private sector.

- Localize money: move funds to provinces and municipalities; use performance-based grants for hazard-aware planning at local government level.

- Emphasized: ***Resilience is local, or it is not resilience at all***.

Mohammad Tariq Waqar – National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Pakistan

Tariq talked about three examples of enhancing community resilience through innovative financing solutions.

1. Climate-Linked Insurance for Solar Energy: help to cover the installation cost though an insurance scheme based on the assessment of cloud cover (low productivity)
2. Carbon Market Opportunities: provide some incentive to the beneficiaries for afforestation, energy efficient stoves & biochar
3. Climate Tech Ecosystem Financing: As a VCF-accredited entity, they secured a USD 50 million project to support climate-tech startups in Pakistan.
   Focus areas include:
   - Renewable energy generation
   - Low-emission transport (EVs)
   - Efficient appliances for buildings/industry
   - Health, food, and water security solutions

   This approach channels private-sector financing into community-level mitigation and adaptation.

Tariq shared two proven community financing models from Pakistan:

1. Tahafuz Model (coastal Pakistan)

- Community-based DRR platforms:
  - Hazard mapping.
  - First aid and basic skills training.
  - Small funds for critical infrastructure (raised platforms, evacuation paths).
- The model links communities directly with District Disaster Management Authorities.

2. Union Council-Level Livelihoods Fund Model

- Grants (5–6 million PKR per council) provided to community institutions/Union Councils (made up of 8-10 rural villages/5000-6000 households)

- Over 170 councils received 500 million PKR total.
- Funds were **rotated as small loans** to poor households.
- Achieved a **90% recovery rate**, disbursing **1.6 billion PKR** over six years.
- Demonstrated that **trust, organization and mobilization** enable effective community-led finance, even in low literacy areas.

Swati Chowdhury – Women's World Banking

Swati highlighted constraints in development finance for resilience:

- Much available climate finance flows to large-scale infrastructure, not to women or small enterprises.
- Small adaptive finance remains scarce, limiting local economic resilience.
- Identified three "white spaces":
  1. **Institutional**: Financial institutions lack business evidence and internal systems to sustainably serve women.
     - Over 800 million women lack reliable channels for receiving relief or recovery payments.
     - Four out of five women without formal financial access live in climate-exposed areas.
     - COVID-19 showed the importance of universal financial access for emergency relief distribution.
  2. **Product gaps:** Need for comprehensive products such as bundled parametric insurance to prevent economic backsliding.
  3. **Capital gaps**: Limited philanthropic and catalytic capital to test models and build business evidence.

Resilience finance must be a permanent part of financial systems.

1. Designing Finance for Women Serves a Broader Population

- Financial systems that are not designed for women will inevitably exclude them.
- When finance is intentionally designed for women, it benefits a much wider customer base.

2. Working Across the Financial Ecosystem

Women's World Banking partners with:

- Banks, microfinance institutions, fintechs
- Apex bodies and regulators to embed women-centered design into standard financial operations.

3. Fragmented Demand is the Core Challenge

- Low-income women's financial demand is fragmented and hard to reach sustainably.
- This limits the ability of institutions to serve them effectively.

4. Aggregation Models are Essential

- Aggregation models help financial institutions recognize women as a viable, large, and important customer segment, not a niche.
- The goal is to ensure finance reaches the last mile reliably.

5. The "Energy Grid" Analogy for Finance

Swati describes an inclusive financial system as a grid:

- **Generation:** investors, development finance, depositors
- **Transmission:** financial institutions designing relevant products
- **Distribution:** last-mile channels such as branches, agents, collectives, digital platforms

When women can connect to this "grid," they gain financial continuity during shocks.

6. Resilience finance works at three levels

1. **Policy level:** Government priorities such as *women-led development*
2. **Institutional level:** Relevant products and reliable delivery systems
3. **Access level:** Ensuring women can actually use these services

7. Practical Models in India

They work with regional rural banks in Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra to build **bundled resilience products** combining:

- Savings
- Microinsurance
- Flexible credit
- Digital payments (ensuring continuity during disruptions)

8. Using Hazard Mapping to Protect Borrowers

- Partners like Annapurna Finance use hazard mapping to identify borrowers at risk of cyclones or floods.
- Institutions then contact borrowers early, reschedule repayments, or offer recovery loans, turning finance into a resilience mechanism.

Dam Vertido – Mindanao Land Foundation, Philippines

Dam described a local innovation in ecosystem-based financing:

1. Context and Local Perspective

- The insights presented are based on practical experience in Davao City, which differs from national or regional governance approaches.
- The focus is on a very local collaboration-centered on the indigenous people (IP communities) living around the Mount Apo Range.

2. Importance of the Mount Apo Ecosystem

- Mount Apo is a major ecosystem that supplies water to several surrounding provinces and cities.
- For this discussion, the focus is on the ecosystem services provided specifically to Davao City, one of the four major cities around the mountain.
- The IP communities have historically protected the primary forests in their ancestral domain, allowing the continuous flow of high-quality spring water to millions of residents in the city.

3. Emerging Threats and Governance Challenges

- The ecosystem is increasingly under threat from competing land uses.
- Although the IP communities have been effective stewards of the forest, they lack the legal and financial means to address these threats and enforce protection.

4. Developing a Local Financing Mechanism

- The key question was how to ensure sustained financial support for the IP communities who protect the ecosystem that supplies water to the city.
- A multi-stakeholder approach evolved, involving IP leaders, urban poor groups and civil society organizations.
- The concept of **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)** emerged as the most practical and sustainable solution.

5. Learning from Other Areas and Innovating in Davao City

- PES mechanisms have been implemented successfully in other locations, typically integrated into the water billing system.
- In these models, a percentage of each household's water consumption is collected, channeled to a managing agency and placed in a development fund.
- This fund is usually managed largely by the IP communities, who are responsible for protecting the ecosystem that produces the water.

6. The Payment for Ecosystem Services Model for Davao City

- The Davao proposal adapts these principles and introduces a locally grounded innovation.
- The key elements include:
    - Recognition that the ecosystem is the producer of the product, which is water.
    - The city and its citizens function as the consumers.
    - Citizens pay directly to support those who protect the ecosystem, primarily the IP communities.

    - Funds are used for protection and development plans for the ecosystem.
- This design allows the primary forest to be maintained and gradually expanded, since both the IP communities and the citizens see tangible and shared benefits.
    - The IP communities protect their ancestral homeland.
    - Urban poor groups, who are most affected by water scarcity, gain improved access to a reliable supply of clean water.
- In Davao City, this is being formalized through a proposed local ordinance that is progressing in the legislative council.

7. Why Local Legislation and Citizen Contributions Matter

- This initiative avoided pursuing national legislation, due to the complex and high-risk governance environment, including corruption concerns.
- Local legislation is more feasible, locally accountable and responsive to the specific ecological and social context.
- Crucially, the mechanism involves direct citizen contributions, not government subsidies.
    - Government subsidies risk politicization and administrative delays.
    - Citizen-financed contributions create transparency, ownership and accountability.
- This citizen-funded approach is the foundation of the emerging resilience mechanism in Davao City.

8. Contribution to Local Resilience Building

- The proposed PES ordinance is positioned as an innovative and sustainable local financing mechanism for ecosystem protection.
- By ensuring the continuous protection of the water-producing ecosystem, the mechanism directly strengthens climate and disaster resilience.
- The initiative illustrates how a community-driven, ecosystem-based financing model can operate effectively at the local level.
- It offers a practical example of a resilience mechanism that links ecological protection, community empowerment and sustainable water security

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Q&A Highlights

Key exchanges included:

- How governments and donors can shift priorities to long-term resilience:
    - Safi Rizvi stressed **government leadership** in mandating budget allocations for mitigation and preparedness.
    - Community-led models (Pakistan) proved that **local institutions can manage rotating funds**.
- Given declining donor grants, there is an urgent need to mobilize **private capital and business investments.** These investments should target activities that are both **financially viable** and **support resilience.**

- Local communities have deep cultural, spiritual, and practical knowledge of their environments. Their understanding of local risks is often far ahead of external actors, making their **consent and partnership** essential for any resilience or risk-mitigation effort.
- Importance of ensuring that resilience funding is **inclusive**, **gender-responsive**, and **socially grounded**, not only technical.

Closing Reflections – Ryce Ruangkhao Chanchai, UNDRR

Ryce summarized the central message of the day:

- Resilience financing is **not a cost**, but an **investment** in dignity, stability, and hope.
- Global disaster losses now exceed **USD 200 billion annually**, yet only a fraction goes to prevention.
- Every dollar invested in resilience saves at least **four dollars** in avoided losses.
- Early warning systems that reach women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups can save countless lives.
- Financing must be **inclusive** and close existing inequalities.
- Women, indigenous peoples, and at-risk communities must be **co-designers**, not passive beneficiaries.
- “Resilience is built in anticipation, not in response.”
- Called for strengthened partnerships, cross-silo collaboration, and embedding risk reduction in business models.

Closing of the Event – Linda (ADRRN)

Linda concluded the session encouraging continued collaboration to ensure every investment (public, private, or community-driven) funds resilience, not disasters.

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Purpose of the Event

The webinar mobilized regional stakeholders to highlight the urgent need to shift financial priorities from post-disaster response to sustained and inclusive resilience investments. It created a platform for governments, civil society, financial institutions, and community actors to share evidence of what works in resilience financing and where the sector continues to face systemic constraints.

1. Key Outcomes and Evidence

1.1 Clear Case for Investing in Resilience, not Response

- Global disaster losses now exceed USD 200 billion annually, yet only a small fraction of this is invested in prevention.
- Evidence demonstrates that USD 1 invested in resilience saves at least USD 4 in avoided losses.
- Disasters are not inevitable. They are shaped by the investments governments, donors and local institutions choose to priorities.

1.2 Emerging National Pathways for Structural Resilience Financing

- India’s new 10–20–30–40 financing window mandates preparedness, mitigation, recovery and response allocations, transforming resilience from a project to a fiscal rule.
- Funds are being pushed directly to local government bodies signaling a shift toward decentralized risk governance.
- The growth of for-profit DRR services and parametric insurance demonstrates increasing market demand for resilience-oriented solutions.
- Hazard-mapping-enabled credit protection and bundled resilience financial products in India show that inclusive finance enables continuity during shocks.

1.3 Evidence of Successful Local and Community-led Financing Models

Pakistan’s NRSP demonstrated two proven models:

- *Tahafuz community DRR platforms*: hazard mapping, emergency skills and micro-infrastructure that directly link communities with district disaster authorities.
- *Union Council Livelihoods Funds*: 90% repayment rates over six years; more than 1.6 billion PKR mobilized and rotated through community institutions.
  These models show that community-managed finance is viable, accountable and scalable, even in low-literacy contexts.

1.4 Innovative Financing Approaches Expanding across the Region

Examples from Pakistan on enhancing community resilience through innovative financing solutions.

- Climate-linked insurance for solar productivity uses cloud-cover assessment to protect small adopters.
- Carbon market models built around afforestation, energy-efficient stoves and biochar provide dual adaptation and livelihood benefits.
- Climate-tech ecosystem financing catalyzing private investment in renewable energy, EVs, building efficiency and food/water security.

The Davao City PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services) initiative demonstrated:

- A citizen-financed model that pays Indigenous communities for forest protection that safeguards urban water supply.
- Locally driven legislation ensures transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.
- It shows the potential of ecosystem management and community empowerment directly strengthen urban resilience and water security.

1.5 Women-centered Financial Systems are Critical for Resilience

- Most climate finance still bypasses women and small enterprises. Four out of five financially-excluded women live in climate-exposed areas.
- Over 800 million women lack reliable channels for receiving emergency payments, demonstrating a major gap in digital and financial infrastructure.
- Financial systems that are not designed for women will inevitably exclude them. When finance is intentionally designed for women, it benefits a much wider customer base.
- Inclusive financial systems require attention to:
    - Institutional readiness
    - Product innovation (bundled savings/insurance/credit)
    - Catalytic capital for experimentation

1.7 Local Knowledge and Community Authority are Central

- Communities often have far greater awareness of real risks than external actors.
- Risk interventions must be co-designed with communities, who hold cultural, spiritual and environmental knowledge essential for success.

2. Cross-Cutting Priorities Identified

2.1 Localization of Resources and Decision-Making

- Resilience must be financed at the level where it is practiced: local governments, community institutions and indigenous community organizations.
- Performance-based grants, local budget allocations and rotating community funds were strong examples.

2.2 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

- Financing mechanisms must close existing inequalities.
- Women, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups must be co-designers, not only beneficiaries.
- Inclusive access to finance, early warning, information, land and decision-making are essential.

2.3 Multi-Sector Collaboration and Private Capital Mobilization

- Declining grant funding demands greater use of private investment.
- Partnerships across public, private, civil society and community sectors are necessary to reshape financing flows.

2.4 Strengthening Policy-to-Practice Pathways

- National policies must be supported by models that reach communities:
    - Bundled financial products
    - Local DRR platforms
    - Last-mile delivery systems
    - Inclusive governance structures

3. Strategic Value of the Webinar

3.1 Elevated Regional Dialogue and Collective Learning

- Brought together government leaders, financial institutions, civil society organizations and community actors from across Asia.
- Highlighted shared challenges and regionally relevant solutions.

3.2 Positioned SIDRRA as a Regional Convener and Knowledge Leader

- Provided practical, evidence-based models to the donor community.
- Strengthened the consortium's role in inclusive governance, localized DRR finance and community engagement.

3.3 Showcased Scalable Models Ready for Donor Investment

- Community finance mechanisms
- Local legislative innovations

- Women-focused financial infrastructure
- Climate-tech and market-based financing
- National policy reforms

These present immediate pathways for donors to invest in high-impact resilience solutions.

3.4 Reinforced the Global Call to Shift from Crisis Response to Risk Reduction

- Aligned with UNDRR priorities and global DRR frameworks.
- Demonstrated that resilience is achievable with the right financing architecture.

4. Overall Message to Donors

Resilience financing is one of the highest-value investments available today. It reduces losses, strengthens communities, drives inclusion, activates markets and protects national development gains.

The webinar demonstrated that:

- The cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of investment.
- Local and women-led financial systems deliver measurable and sustainable impact.
- Community and Indigenous models protect both ecosystems and livelihoods.
- National governments are increasingly ready to embed resilience in fiscal policy.
- Private sector and climate-tech financing can significantly expand the resource base.

Donors have a critical opportunity to catalyze a shift from funding disasters to funding resilience. By supporting inclusive, locally anchored and financially innovative approaches, donors can help shape a future where communities across Asia are not just surviving shocks, but thriving despite them.