Mainstreaming Community Access in FRLD

B4- Observer Workshop - Manila

Workshop Objectives

- Highlight the importance of mainstreaming community access to the FRLD
- 2. Present **principles and mechanisms** for realizing community access
- 3. **Gather Board Members' insights** on practical implementation and potential challenges
- 4. Start an **iterative and collaborative process** in mainstreaming community access on FRLD
- 5. Align on next steps

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First views: Mentimeter

Purpose of Ensuring Community Access

Why Community Access Matters

- FRLD's mission to address Loss and Damage (L&D)
- Key for innovation and effectiveness: affected people and local organisations know needs and priorities, and are first responders and can facilitate consultative processes
- Direct impact on vulnerable communities
- Aligning with equity, justice, human rights, inclusivity, and locally-led approaches
- Facilitate access to funding to rights-holders in context of restricted civic space, lack of recognition of Indigenous Peoples or limited state capacities due to conflict situations

Principles for Community Access

- **Equity and inclusivity:** Ensure that processes and outcomes prioritize fairness, addressing the disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable.
- Accessibility and subsidiarity: Decisions should be made as close as possible to those most impacted to ensure that designs and access to finance are tailored to specific areas, ensuring local relevance and enhanced accountability toward the most vulnerable.
- **Participatory decision-making:** Ensuring society is informed and activated is essential so that current climate risk and generational insight inform policy.
- Flexibility: Finance should be able to adapt to unique and evolving local needs, responding to uncertainties in climate impacts and social priorities, rather than being confined to rigid funding structures that are not fit-for-purpose.
- **Convergence:** Climate-related risk cannot be addressed by any single action; thus, coordinated action across funders and governance levels is essential.
- **Predictability:** Consistent and sustainable financial support is essential for building effective local resilience.
- **Transparency and accountability:** There should be disaggregated data reporting on how much L&D finance is reaching communities and actors at the local level.
- **Efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness:** The process should maximize impact with minimal delays, ensuring timely, targeted, and impactful interventions.

Community Access Modalities

Realizing community access includes the integration of different pathways

- Ensure a percentage of all fund activities is going to and benefitting local and affected groups
- Direct Budgetary Support (DBS)
 - Integration of community access and participation/ Participatory Budgeting
 - Social Protections
 - Cash Transfers
- Community Grant Mechanism/Programme/Envelope
 - Funding stream dedicated for community-led projects
 - Capacity building
- Partnerships with local, national and regional organisations
 - Involve intermediaries, when and if needed, and apply stringent requirements to ensure efficiency and minimal transaction cost.
- Community MERL mechanisms



• Knowledge sharing of good practices

- Establish **principles** by all stakeholders tao ensure **transparency, inclusivity, and accountability**
- Apply the Locally-led Adaptation Principles to a Locally-Led Loss and Damage

• Simplification

- Simplified application and keep reporting requirements to a minimum
- Facilitate funding to orgs representing most affected groups (e.g. Indigenous/women/youth/disability-led orgs, etc), not just service-providers
- Community access should be prevalent in all L&D funding mechanisms
- Prioritize mechanisms for participatory and accessible finance

Consultation Key Recommendations Active Observers or an International Observer Secretariat should be in a position to facilitate a **Participatory Review** and **Decision** of Proposals for the Community Direct Access [Mechanism]

• Trust building and effectiveness

- Use grantmaking structures that are already operating and know and respect local/traditional communities
- Intermediaries
 - Track record of proven transparency, accountability; experience in small grant management; identified in a participatory way,

• Accountability and Transparency

- Ensure two-ways accountability (also from grant-givers)
- Transparency in what money is available and where is being spent.
- Agree mechanisms for accountability and transparency, including access to information, with all stakeholders including communities
- Establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure communities are benefitting from the fund

Consultation Key Recommendations

Sample Case Studies



Programa Bolsa Familia in Brazil Conditional Cash Transfer

The **Bolsa Família Program (BFP)** is a government-introduced programme established in 2003, as a comprehensive social safety net, to both alleviate immediate poverty and inequiality while fostering the development of human capital among low-income families. Although the program is federally managed, local governments have significant roles in implementation. Additionally Social Control Councils (composed of civil society) monitor performance and compliance. The BFP linked cash transfers to **specific behavioral conditions** in education and healthcare to promote long-term human development. These conditionalities ensured that the program did not only provide financial support but also **improved access to essential services**/social protections. The program accounted for **28% of Brazil's total poverty reduction** from 2002 to 2012, helping decrease the number of people living on less than the national poverty threshold from 8.8% to 3.6%.

Lessons learned on decentralized management.

Sample Case Studies



PAWANKA Fund

Pawanka Fund Indigenous Led Grant Making

Global Indigenous led fund that responds to Indigenous Peoples needs based on trust, networking and articulation between local and global processes. Through its flexible and renewable grant-making it strengthens IP's self-determination development integrating traditional knowledge and intercultural philanthropy for power relations shift. The grant process begins with a cultural due diligence overview, overseen by a diverse governance body. The fund focuses on providing general and core support, allowing Indigenous communities to use the funds in ways that best meet their needs. The **Guiding Committee (GC)** consists of 10 experienced Indigenous leaders from 7 global regions, who oversee key operations. Pawanka's **transdisciplinary secretariat** bridges local communities and mainstream systems.

This fund has developed a creative MERL system with cultural due diligence process. On 2022 80% of the budget (USD 3.3 million) was allocated to grantee partners, (127 initiatives), 18%(USD 0.72 million) administration and management, <u>covering mentoring</u>, <u>monitoring</u>, institutional learning, evaluation, and communications. The remaining 2% (USD 0.10 million) covered other direct administrative expenses.

Community Direct Access Modality

Sample Case Studies



Christian Aid Cash and Voucher Assistance Program

The CVA programme reflects the commitment to promote localized, dignified, and sustainable humanitarian aid. CVA uses both individual cash transfers (ICTs) to support households and group cash transfers (GCTs) to empower community-based organizations (CBOs) to lead recovery efforts. promoting local ownership and coordination with existing social protection systems, it embeds sustainable development and resilience. Individual Cash Transfers (ICTs): ICTs provide unrestricted cash to individuals or families facing immediate financial difficulties, such as food insecurity or medical emergencies. Eligibility for ICTs is managed through participatory needs assessments and community committees that prioritize vulnerable populations, including the elderly, women-led households, and individuals without access to formal employment. Payments are made either through bank accounts, mobile transfers, or cash-in-hand, depending on local financial infrastructure availability. Group Cash Transfers (GCTs): The GCT model provides small grants per group to community-based organizations (CBOs), cooperatives, and self-help groups in Sulawesi and other regions affected by disasters. To ensure equity, the program prioritizes groups working with marginalized populations, such as women's collectives and youth networks. Eligibility is determined through a transparent participatory process: local leaders nominate groups based on community priorities, and Christian Aid verifies eligibility criteria, ensuring alignment with the program's goals. The flexibility of GCTs allows local actors to adapt projects to evolving circumstances, such as shifting from disaster recovery to pandemic prevention efforts.

In 2022 alone, general CVA reached \$7.9 billion in global funding, comprising approximately 21% of all international humanitarian assistance.

Community Access | Case Study Open Call

- **Open call for case studies** via an online form (accessible <u>here</u>, open since Nov '24)
- To date: 11 submissions from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and the Pacific, covering global, national and local scales from organisations and groups.
- The focus of these submissions include:
 - Participatory Grant Making
 - Mutual Aid
 - The Importance of Community Access
 - Participatory Grant Making
 - Social protection
 - Suggestions on How to Overcome Barriers to Access
 - Indigenous-led or Locally-led Funding Mechanisms
 - Participatory Budgeting
 - Challenges in Accessing Finance
 - Community-Based Trust Funds



CALL FOR CASE STUDIES ON COMMUNITY ACCESS TO INFORM THE BOARD OF THE FUND FOR RESPONDING TO LOSS AND DAMAGE

Case Studies to Inform the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage:

Ahead of the <u>fourth meeting</u> of the Board (B4) of the <u>Fund for Responding to Loss and</u> <u>Damage</u> (FRLD) which will take place on the 2–5 of December, 2024, in Manila, Philippines, we are seeking case studies on access to climate, development or humanitarian finance for communities, Indigenous Peoples, local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and organisations representing marginalised groups.

This form will stay open as long as access modalities for the FRLD are being discussed. The case studies submitted by the 25th of November at 23:59 GMT will be part of a submission to B4.

Myth-busting

Community access is not incompatible with budget support, programmatic approaches requiring resources at scale

- A community access grants approach can co-exist with and be integrated in large-scale interventions
- Budget support and programmatic approaches should facilitate local leadership, supporting long-term community-led projects and incorporate grants components for communities and affected groups
- Country ownership to be articulated through procedures that promote participation of multiple and diverse stakeholders, including often marginalised groups

A Community access window/programme is not a sub-fund

- Under the Board's governance and oversight
- Funding allocation to be decided by the Board, not through ear-marking by contributors to the FRLD

Next Steps

- Organise consultation sessions in different time zones, involving communities and local actors to further refine Community Access Modalities
- 2. Two online workshops in the first quarter of 2025 on Community Access with the FRLD Board members, Secretariat Staff and key stakeholders with invited experts
- 3. Submission of a background paper before the B5 Board Meeting.

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Discussion