

# *Taking Stock – Challenges in connecting DRR policy and practice*

**UCL DRR Conference 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

*Marcus Oxley. Global Network of Civil Society  
Organisations for Disaster Reduction*



***Views from the Frontline 2009:*** “Bottom up” perspective of progress towards implementation of Hyogo Framework



**7000 views**

**400 organisations**

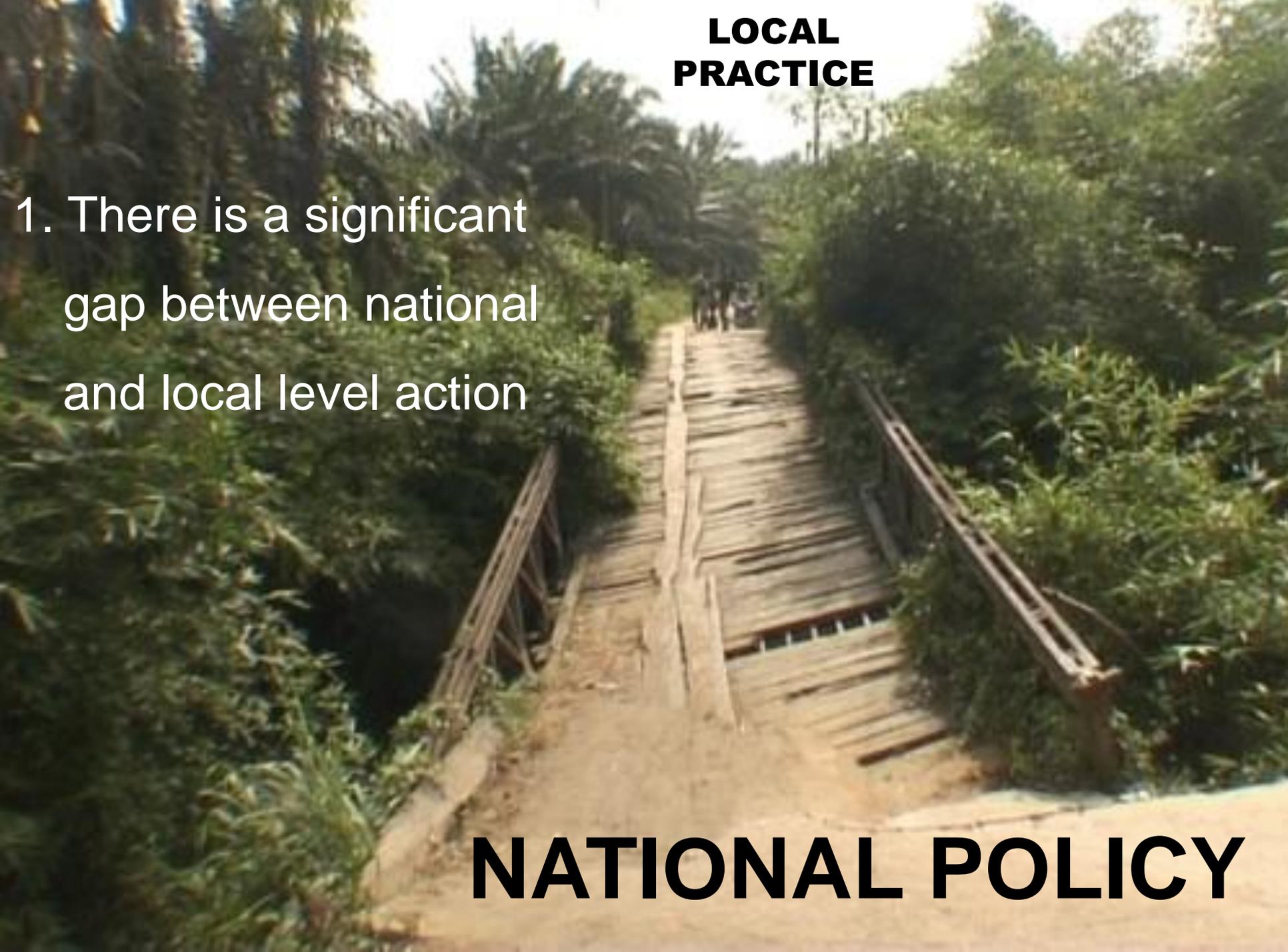
**48 low, low-middle  
income countries**

- **Participatory monitoring process**
- **Compliments UNISDR 2009 Global Assessment Report**
- **Connects *policy formulation* with realities of *policy execution***



*“The people I work with every day see many clouds – international initiatives and plans, but very little rain – actual change at the frontline”*

**“Clouds but little rain..”**

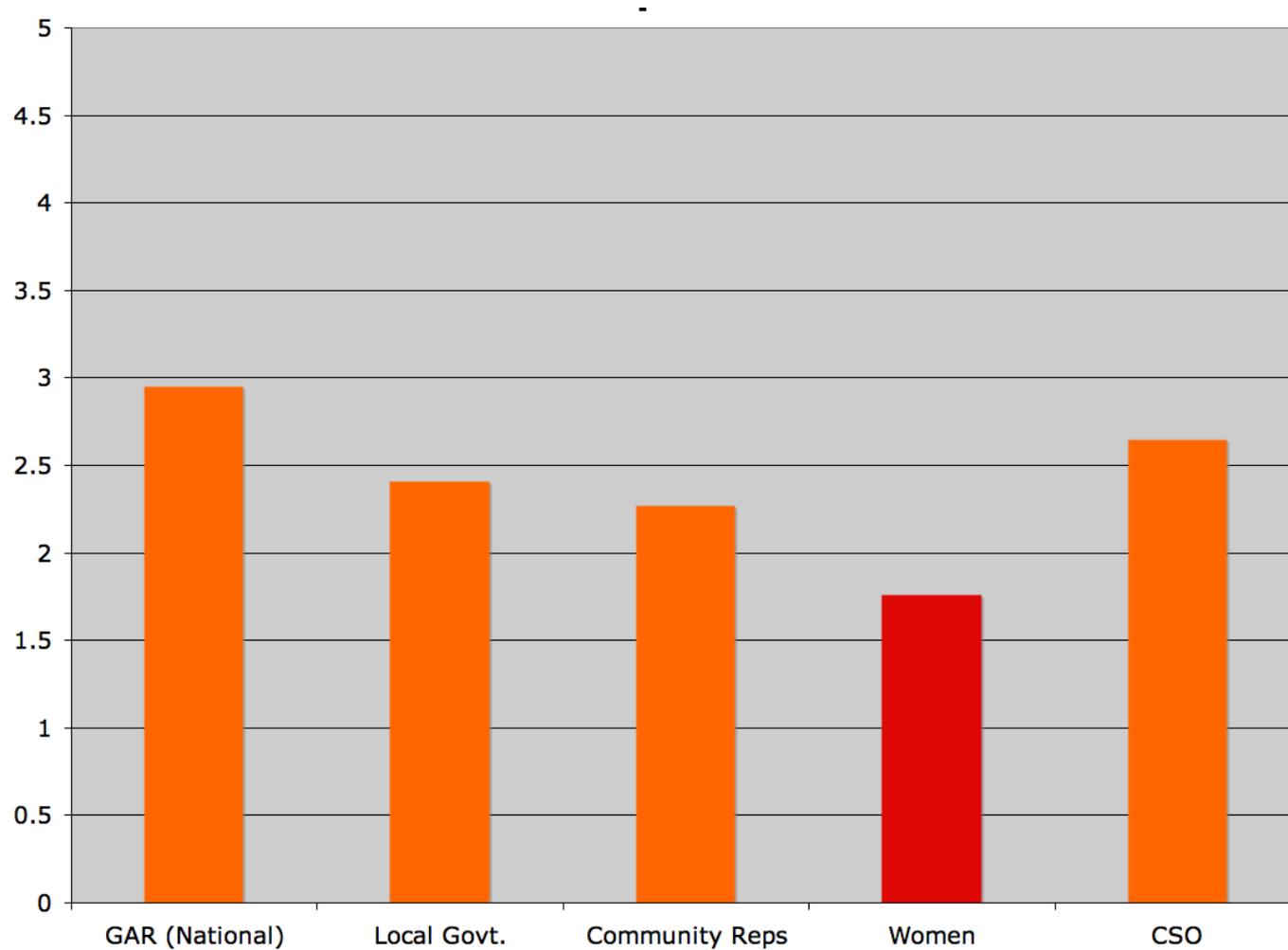
A photograph of a wooden bridge spanning a river in a lush, tropical forest. The bridge is made of weathered wooden planks and has simple wooden railings. In the distance, a group of people is walking across the bridge. The surrounding vegetation is dense and green, with palm trees visible in the background. The sky is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**LOCAL  
PRACTICE**

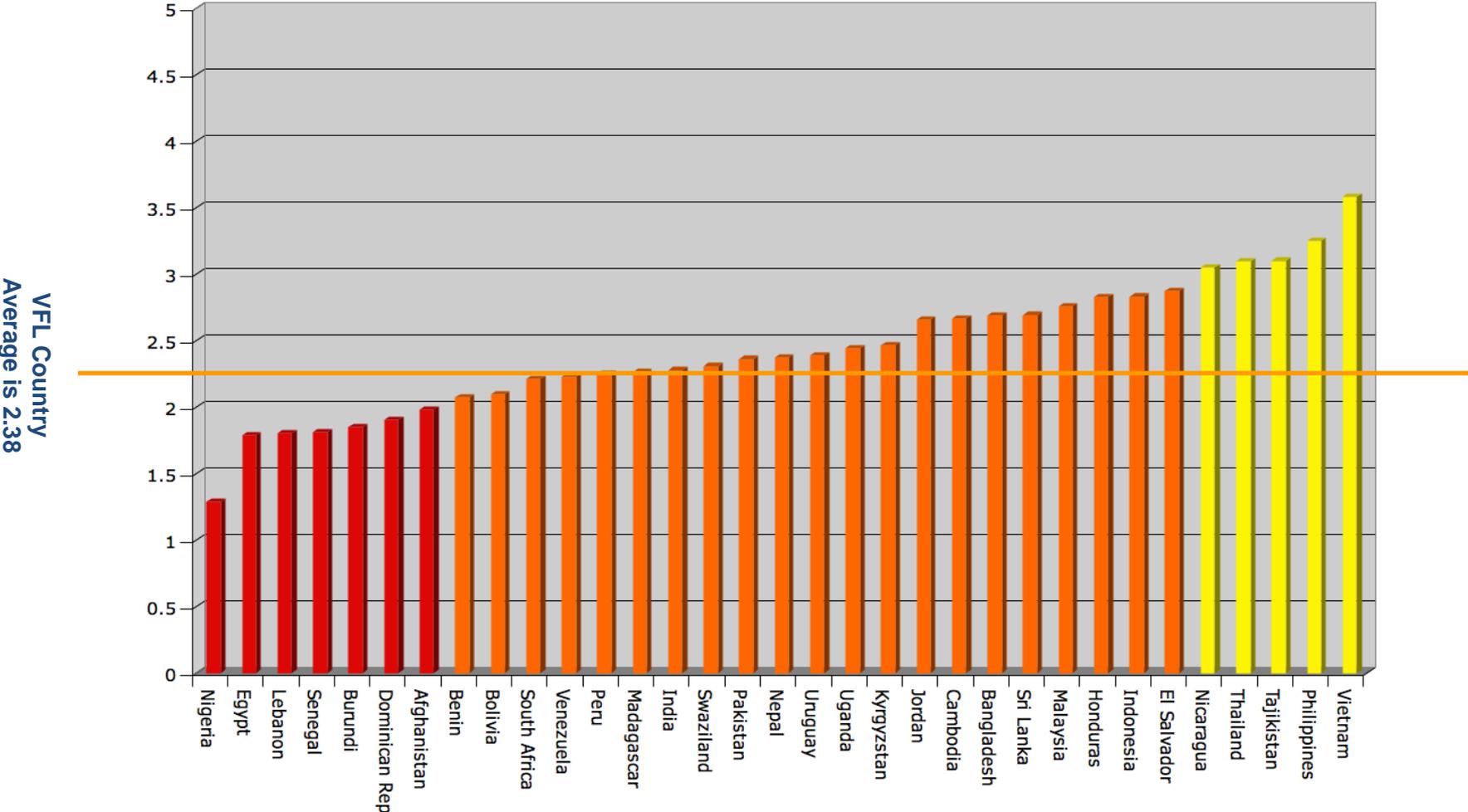
1. There is a significant gap between national and local level action

**NATIONAL POLICY**

# Results show a *'fading-out'* of progress from national level to vulnerable communities and people



# DRR implementation varies across countries and regions





**2. The foundation for building resilience is an awareness and understanding of the risks vulnerable people face.**



3. Resources are scarce and considered a major constraints to progress... but there are substantial resources at local level which remain untapped

**4. At the local-level people understand poverty, disasters and climate change in a holistic way**

***Poverty***



***Disasters***

***Climate Adaptation***

**Common Goal : the security and wellbeing of lives, livelihoods and assets**

Addressing *underlying drivers* of vulnerability can reduce poverty, disaster and climate risk

***Poverty Alleviation***

***DRR***



***Climate Adaptation***

Climate change is creating “political momentum” for increased investments ....

**5. Turning policy into practice means finding the right balance between *top-down* and *bottom-up* engagement**



**Need to proactively and systematically deepen engagement and accountability to vulnerable people**

## 6. Difficult to gauge effectiveness of policy interventions without an ability to measure local level change



**Need to connect measurable *inputs* at the national level with measurable *outputs* at the sub-national levels**

## ***Six findings at the frontline.....***

- 1. Nationally-formulated policies are not generating widespread changes in local practices.**
- 2. Resources are scarce and a main constraint to progress... but there are resources at local level which remain untapped.**
- 3. The foundation for reducing vulnerability is an understanding of the risks people face.**
- 4. Vulnerable people address disaster risk, climate change and poverty in a holistic way**
- 5. Turning policy into practice means finding the right balance between *top-down* and *bottom-up* engagement**
- 6. Cannot measure effectiveness of policy interventions without local monitoring framework and baselines**

# Some questions to consider....

1. How to proactively and systematically deepen engagement with at-risk communities ?
2. How to raise greater political commitment for building resilient communities ?
3. How to strengthen domestic accountability of national governments to poor vulnerable people ?
4. How to raise *customer demand* for building resilience ?
5. How to support / resource local institutions and partnerships at scale?
6. Are there common characteristics of climate and disaster-resilient communities ?
7. How can climate smart VCA assess “*future*” risks ?
8. How to horizontally share good practice and learning ?

# **Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction**



**Putting the interests and concerns of  
vulnerable people at the heart of DRR policy  
and practice**      **[www.globalnetwork-dr.org](http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org)**

# **Benefits of an impartial local-level monitoring and evaluation process**

- 1. Credible evidence-base to link policy and practice**
- 2. Baselines to measure future progress**
- 3. Opens political space for dialogue, building consensus and trust between actors (social capital)**
- 4. Increases awareness of what resilience looks like.**
- 5. Raises “customer demand” for appropriate services**
- 6. Strengthen *domestic accountability* and transparency**
- 7. Increases political commitment**
- 8. Strengthen local research, analytical and advocacy capacities**