

Early Results

- A comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy being developed for Sub-Saharan Africa includes technical and legal assessments of building codes and disaster reduction practices in the region's urban areas.
- In Vietnam, GFDRR is helping to build local capacity for disaster risk management through activities such as risk mapping, building code reviews, and an index-based flood insurance pilot project in support of the Government's disaster reduction program.
- The growing momentum for disaster prevention and mitigation is fostering intra-regional cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. Disaster risk assessments are scheduled for Yemen, Djibouti, and Algeria.
- National programs to reduce disaster vulnerability have been agreed with the national agencies responsible for disaster management in Malawi and Mozambique. National policy and strategy development, communication systems, disaster information management, capacity building, and training programs are being implemented. Track II implementation has resulted in disaster reduction and recovery being included in World Bank Country Assistance Strategies.
- In Latin America, GFDRR is supporting the organization of reconstruction and risk reduction efforts following the Peruvian earthquake on August 15, 2007. Work on the development of a probabilistic risk modeling platform is about to start in Nicaragua and will eventually be expanded to all of Central America.
- A comprehensive Disaster Risk Management program has been launched in the South Asia region to increase the disaster resilience of countries while decreasing underlying risk factors and vulnerabilities. The program centers on preparation of a regional hazard risk management strategy, knowledge sharing and dissemination activities, and internal training and capacity building. It will provide a roadmap for identifying and implementing high priority risk mitigation activities.
- In Nepal, GFDRR support is enabling the Government to undertake a multi-risk hazard assessment, develop mitigation strategies for potential glacial lake outburst flooding, and investigate methods to improve the seismic safety of schools.
- GFDRR has supported the South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Preparedness Initiative, which includes a vulnerability assessment of SEE countries; a feasibility study for the development of an integrated weather forecasting and flood early warning system; and disaster risk insurance.
- As part of the campaign to promote public awareness of how climate change is aggravating disaster risks, a media workshop on disaster risk reduction drew leading journalists from around the world. The BBC also broadcast a documentary on how Vietnam and Honduras (after Hurricane Mitch) are adapting to climate change and reducing the impact of future disasters.
- With GFDRR encouragement, a growing number of universities, academic institutions, and scientific organizations are promoting disaster risk reduction education, training, research, and knowledge sharing.
- A collaboration with the European Union's Joint Research Centre is identifying disaster-prone urban areas and integrating disaster risk assessments into city development strategies. The first case study is underway in Yemen.



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Reducing Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

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Overview

Since the 1990s, disasters have killed nearly 60,000 people a year, on average, and affected the lives and livelihoods of millions more. Asia and Africa have been hardest hit: nearly 90 percent of those killed and 96 percent of those affected live in those regions. Developing countries are at highest risk because they lack the financial and material resources, including technologies and institutional capacity, to take the steps necessary to prevent or mitigate risks from future catastrophes. Relief and recovery efforts run into the billions.

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) was established to help developing countries – particularly those identified as the most vulnerable natural disaster “hotspots” – enhance their capacity for disaster prevention, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. GFDRR is a unique long-term partnership of the World Bank, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

GFDRR was created to support and strengthen the ISDR system that was established to reverse trends in disaster loss. Launched in September 2006, GFDRR responds to a call from the international community to accelerate the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Hyogo Framework is the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts adopted by the United Nations.

GFDRR Progress and Expected Outcomes

GFDRR's initial focus was on laying the groundwork for strengthening national, regional, and global capacities to reduce disaster risk, building a stronger case for disaster risk reduction as a core dimension of sustainable development, and putting in place the tools needed for intelligent planning and preparation. Priorities include expanding innovative partnerships and networks to meet critical needs; enhancing regional cooperation; standardizing and harmonizing risk management methodologies and practices; undertaking baseline studies to identify strengths and weaknesses of disaster reduction programs; and documenting best practices and lessons learned.

The GFDRR Mission

The GFDRR's mission is to mainstream disaster reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards



GFDRR Focus Countries

GFDRR provides financial and technical assistance to disaster-prone low and middle-income countries as well as small island countries and fragile states at risk from recurring multiple natural hazards. According to UNDP, at least six developing countries are hit by between two and eight disasters every year.

With funding from the UK Department for International Development in fiscal year 2007, GFDRR is working in Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. The goal is to catalyze serious national efforts to set up early-warning systems, expand emergency preparedness for populations living in high-risk areas, raise the quality of building and infrastructure construction, spur larger investments in disaster prevention and preparation, and capture the synergy of the private sector to minimize economic devastation in the wake of disasters.

Priority countries for fiscal year 2008 include Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

Priority countries for fiscal year 2009 are Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Senegal, Swaziland, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Panama, Djibouti, Morocco, and Tunisia.

How GFDRR Works

The GFDRR Charter was adopted in February 2007. It outlines the organization's governance, management, operations, and financial structure. GFDRR governance includes a Consultative Group, Results Management Council, and Secretariat.

The Consultative Group serves as GFDRR's Board of Directors, with the World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development acting as Chair. Members include official donors contributing at least \$3 million, developing country governments contributing at least \$500,000, and the Chair of ISDR.

The Results Management Council is responsible for providing technical guidance and expertise regarding all GFDRR-funded activities. Members include a World Bank Director appointed by the Chair, the Director of the ISDR Secretariat, the Manager of the GFDRR Secretariat, and representatives of inter-governmental, financial, and civil society organizations.

The Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day operations and administration of GFDRR programs and activities.

GFDRR Funding

The GFDRR funds both *ex ante* and *ex post* activities at global, regional, and country levels. They are strategically focused and responsive to changes in the global environment, including the impacts of climate change on the world's poorest countries.

Track I financing targets global and regional deliverables. Track II financing covers country and transboundary disaster reduction projects. Track III will support accelerated disaster recovery in primarily low income countries through creation of a Standby Recovery Financing Facility and Callable Fund to leverage supplemental financing for priority recovery interventions.

The GFDRR Partnership

The World Bank established the GFDRR and hosts the GFDRR Secretariat. In addition to heading the Consultative Group, the Bank manages the GFDRR on behalf of the donors and provides intellectual, financial, and political leadership. The Bank's participation helps establish effective linkages at the country level and enables countries to take disaster risks into account in all policies and programs.

In partnership with the World Bank, ISDR participates in the highest level of GFDRR's governance to ensure coherence with the ISDR system and the Hyogo Framework. ISDR manages GFDRR's Track I funding to enhance global and regional advocacy, partnerships, and knowledge management.

Who's Most at Risk?

At high risk of at least one hazard
1 • 3.4 billion people
• 25 million square kilometers

At high risk of more than two hazards
2 • 770 million people
• 3.8 million square kilometers

At high risk of three or more hazards
3 • 105 million people
• 0.5 million square kilometers