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Reducing Disaster Risks for Sustainable Development

GFDRR

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



International Strategy
GFDRR
for Disaster Reduction



World Bank

Results

- Disaster-prone countries have increased their awareness and political support following the Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign and Tool Kit, developed in partnership with UN ISDR, WHO, and the World Bank.
- Specific tools for cities prone to climatic risks, including a primer for "Climate Resilient Cities", are available to help local officials reduce vulnerability and mainstream climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in urban planning and development.
- The African Union, the Association of East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Commission of Western African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the League of Arab States, have strengthened their capacities to advance disaster risk reduction and lead collective responses to regional disaster issues.
- State-of-the-art information hubs, such as PreventionWeb.net and Dreamis.info expand access to the latest data and knowledge on efficient disaster risk reduction for policy-makers, researchers, and civil society.
- More than 50 disaster prone countries' development strategies incorporate disaster risk management-related considerations through an upstream review of Country Assistance Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.
- Two thirds of the world's least developed countries are improving their capacity for disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, and institution building through the GFDRR's technical and financial assistance.
- Ethiopian households are being insulated against drought-related production shortfalls through the country's weather risk management framework. Costa Rica and Nicaragua have a stronger capacity to respond to natural disasters based on the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA).
- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are being integrated in national strategies. For example, Morocco's national drought management strategy addresses the plight of drought-affected farmers and herders as well as long-term climatic challenges. Bangladesh, East Africa, and the Caribbean are analyzing their climate change risks and identifying adaptation options for mitigating the impacts of floods, sea level rise, and tropical cyclones.
- Governments are reducing their fiscal burdens when catastrophes strike through innovative new risk financing mechanisms. These tools are made possible through the GFDRR and include catastrophe bonds in Central America, Chile, and Mexico; regional risk pooling in the Pacific Islands, Central America, and South Eastern Europe; and national agricultural insurance schemes in Nepal.
- Several disaster-prone countries are taking concrete steps to implement proactive disaster risk reduction strategies. For example, Vietnam is improving drainage systems in coastal cities; the Republic of Yemen is expanding its flood protection infrastructure; the Pacific Islands are adopting building codes that address sea level rise; Burkina Faso is developing hazard warning and monitoring systems; Senegal is undertaking hazard mapping and land use planning; and Liberia is adopting integrated coastal zone management.
- Compelling economic arguments for the integration of disaster risk considerations in sustainable development policies are emerging from the first-ever joint World Bank-UN Assessment of the Economics of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Specific city-level risk reduction solutions are being developed through cooperation among municipalities in disaster-prone areas, supported by the GFDRR's South-South Cooperation Program.
- Countries recently affected by major disasters in the past two years, including Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Madagascar, Myanmar, Haiti, Yemen, and Namibia are better equipped to coordinate and lead post-disaster damage, loss, and need assessment and to efficiently plan their recovery.
- Several hundreds of disaster recovery experts at the World Bank, regional development banks, UN agencies, NGOs, civil protection and other government agencies have been trained in damage and loss assessment methodology.
- A Quick Reaction Team (QRT) roster at the World Bank has been created, in order to mobilize expertise faster and more systematically, in support of the World Bank's new Rapid Response Policy.

An alarming trend

Disasters wipe out decades of progress and development in just a few seconds. Their impact, both in terms of deaths and economic losses, is increasing dramatically. In 2008, the death toll from natural disasters tripled to 235,000 from an annual average of 66,000 over the period 2000-2007. Economic losses totaled \$181 billion, more than double the annual average of \$82 billion over the same period. Moreover, climate change is expected to magnify frequency and impact of extreme weather events. Poor countries will be the most severely affected, due to intrinsic vulnerability to hazards and comparatively low capacities for risk reduction measures.

To reverse this alarming trend, 168 governments adopted in 2005 the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts. In order to support its implementation, in September 2006 the World Bank, the United Nations, and major donors launched the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). This partnership is a commitment of the international community to support disaster risk reduction in vulnerable developing countries for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Progress and Expected Outcomes

The GFDRR's initial focus has been on establishing the groundwork for strengthening national, regional, and global capacities to reduce disaster risk. In this way, it has been able to build a stronger case for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in countries' development plans and create the necessary tools for intelligent planning and preparation. In less than three years the GFDRR has become the leading global partnership for advancing disaster risk reduction and sustainable recovery, receiving more than \$83 million in donor pledges. This includes a \$15 million contribution from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility to develop a coherent and coordinated approach to risk reduction through global and regional cooperation programs in close cooperation with the UN ISDR.

Priority Countries and Operations

Having initiated operations in 54 countries during its first two years, the GFDRR is currently deepening its engagements in 20 disaster-prone countries to support long-term, strategic programs for disaster risk management. These countries have the highest vulnerability to natural hazards and low economic resilience to cope with disaster impacts including those anticipated from sea level rise and effects of climate change.

The GFDRR Mission

To mainstream disaster reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies and to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards



Priority countries include: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Togo, Vietnam, and Yemen. In addition, donors of the GFDRR have earmarked 11 countries, including: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

For non-priority countries, a flexible funding envelope finances innovative, high impact projects that catalyze integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development strategies. Examples include: the establishment of resource centers in National Disaster Management Offices, the set up of risk financing and micro-insurance facilities, small grants for bottom-up community-based pilot initiatives in disaster risk management through public-private participation, etc.

Low-income **countries hit by disasters** can apply for financial support from the GFDRR's Stand-by Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) for technical assistance, such as post-disaster needs assessments, as well as for recovery and reconstruction financing.

How the GFDRR works

The GFDRR's governance, outlined in the Partnership Charter adopted in February 2007, includes a **Consultative Group, a Results Management Council, and a Secretariat.**

The **Consultative Group (CG)** serves as the GFDRR's Board of Directors, with the World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development acting as Chair. Members include official donors contributing at least US\$ 3 million over three years, developing country governments contributing at least US\$ 500,000 over three years, and the Chair of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR). Besides official donors, the CG includes observer governments, several of them middle income countries.

The **Results Management Council (RMC)** is responsible for ensuring quality, relevance, and impact of all the GFDRR's activities. Members include a World Bank Direc



tor appointed by the Chair, the Director of the ISDR Secretariat, and the Manager of the GFDRR Secretariat.

The GFDRR Secretariat, located at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, carries out the GFDRR's mission and manages its day-to-day operation.

The GFDRR Business Model

The GFDRR offers a new business model for advancing disaster risk reduction based on ex ante support to high-risk countries and ex post assistance to disaster-hit countries to accelerate transition from relief to development.

Ex ante, the GFDRR supports:

- Knowledge, advocacy, and partnerships at regional and global level to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda
- Integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development plans
- Technical assistance for disaster risk assessment, mitigation, and financing
- South-South cooperation among governments, institutions, networks and communities working jointly on disaster risk reduction solutions
- A flagship study presenting credible economic arguments for disaster risk reduction

Ex post, the GFDRR assistance aims at bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and long term development in post-disaster situations by focusing on longer term, sustainable recovery, while using the opportunity to introduce disaster risk reduction in the reconstruction phase. Ex post business lines include:

- Preparedness and contingency planning
- Comprehensive post-disaster needs assessments
- Recovery and reconstruction planning

Who's Most at Risk?

At high risk of at least one hazard

- 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



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