



GFDRR in Haiti: Country Snapshot

Haiti is subject to devastating hurricanes in addition to several other natural disasters. Storm damage has traditionally been intensified due to high levels of poverty, environmental degradation and climate change. In recognition of the country's high vulnerability to natural disasters, and with support from the GFDRR, Haiti is pursuing various projects on enabling disaster resiliency, strengthening knowledge of hazards and vulnerabilities, and building response and recovery capacities.

Mainstreaming and Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction in Key Ministries

With GFDRR funding, a new project on disaster recovery and risk reduction will support the Government of Haiti's Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE) fulfill its post-disaster coordination role through the establishment of a new division within the MPCE. The division will be responsible for i) coordinating the preparation and execution of the post disaster recovery and reconstruction program, ii) monitoring and evaluating the implementation progress of the program, and iii) ensuring that disaster risk mitigation is mainstreamed in sectoral policies and national strategies through the creation of disaster risk reduction units in line ministries. The project will enable significant capacity building at the strategic level, as well as at the technical level, thereby providing a strong basis for the MPCE to coordinate and manage the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction program and possible future events.

Working towards safe schools

The Haitian Government is making safe schools a national priority in response to growing evidence that the country's school infrastructure is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. For example, over 950 schools were damaged when four major storms struck the country in August and September 2008. The GFDRR is providing technical assistance to Haiti to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a core element of the reconstruction and recovery efforts. A World Bank Project will rebuild twenty public primary schools and develop, with GFDRR's help, a national business strategy to ensure that education infrastructure is disaster resilient and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education. The overall outcome is toward the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction in the education sector, through measures such as the training of Master Trainers. Additionally, selected schools will be upgraded so that they can be used as emergency evacuation shelters.



Strengthening Knowledge Base on Vulnerabilities

Haiti falls under the Caribbean Risk Atlas which, with GFDRR support, builds capacity in the region to analyze disaster risk in terms of potential losses and to use this type of analysis in the development of comprehensive risk management strategies. The project consists of four basic components including the development of a risk modeling platforms, asset vulnerability identifications and assessments, the education and socialization of risk assessments and risk reductions, and an analysis of flood modeling techniques and their applicability for the Caribbean region. The platform is hosted at the University of the West Indies, which is actively supporting the project through the development of the datasets and offering courses in risk assessments.