

Post-Cancun: GFDRR's Response for Enhanced Adaptation Action

It is clear that disaster risk reduction is a fundamental building block of any climate change adaptation action plan or strategy. The Cancun UN Climate Conference confirmed this by emphasizing the need for enhanced effort and international cooperation on climate change adaptation, calling for a country-driven approach and establishing the *Cancun Adaptation Framework* (CAF) (Art. 13).¹ The CAF invites parties to strengthen adaptation action in nine areas, including “*enhancing climate change-related disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action; early warning systems; risk assessment and management; and sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance, at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate*” (Art. 14e).

GFDRR is already delivering on the Cancun call for enhanced adaptation action. As part of its overall mission to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development strategies, GFDRR supports highly vulnerable developing countries to develop and implement disaster risk reduction strategies and programs, builds developing countries' capacity in climate risk assessment, financing and transfer, and provides global leadership in post-disaster damage and loss assessment. Each of these business lines directly enhances developing countries' *Climate Risk Management* capacity.

Moving ahead, GFDRR will further strengthen its climate risk management and financing work across five core program areas in line with the COP 16 decisions to: (I) Provide a comprehensive climate change baseline to facilitate ‘climate-smart’ mainstreaming; (II) Help countries better assess climate risks and inform development decision-making, including during post-disaster reconstruction; (III) Strengthen countries' climate and weather information services and early warning systems; (IV) Scale up community adaptation action, in partnership with CSOs; and (V) Promote innovation and facilitate access to climate risk financing and transfer solutions.

I. Synthesize comprehensive climate risk country profiles to facilitate ‘climate-smart’ mainstreaming:

Building upon its Country Disaster Risk Management Programs, GFDRR is rolling out country climate change adaptation profiles for each of the 31 priority countries that will offer a concise and user-friendly overview of a country's climate change baseline to inform ‘climate-proof’ country strategies and programmes. These profiles lay out existing and future climate vulnerability, along with a synopsis of a country's existing climate change policies, capacity, institutional set-up, and potential gaps. These profiles will greatly enhance the core mission of GFDRR to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation mainstreaming into development policies, strategies, and programs.

II. Help countries assess climate risks and inform development decision-making: Robust climate risk analysis is essential for supporting climate adaptation action. GFDRR has financed over 30 risk assessments and 21 Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) in the last three years alone and is investing in internal (WB) and external (EC, UN, IFIs, NASA, NOAA, Google, Microsoft, etc.) partnerships as a *leading service provider for climate and disaster risk and needs assessments*. The GFDRR's *PDNA practice* is now globally recognized for its role in informing post-disaster recovery and reconstruction activities by offering solid recommendations on how to ‘*build-back-better*’ with greater climate and natural hazard resilience, with significant mainstreaming impact upon longer-term development policies and strategies. In partnership with the WB Adaptation Global Expert Team, GFDRR will undertake a review of the PDNA methodology with the objective of better integrating climate adaptation considerations.

In addition, GFDRR's newly adopted *Comprehensive Approach to Disaster Risk Assessment (CADRA)* will integrate the best available data, science, technology, and practices for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management applications, offering a highly accessible and responsive global mechanism to provide: (i) *Client-driven risk assessment applications*; (ii) *Data sharing and management through open source standards and tools*; and, (iii) *Open-source risk assessment tools and products*.

¹Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention: Section II on *Enhanced Action on Adaptation* (Draft decision -/CP.16)

III. Strengthen climate and weather information services and early warning systems: GFDRR’s program to strengthen Weather and Climate Information and Decision-Support Systems (WCIDSSs) offers an entry point for deploying end-to-end early warning systems (EWSs) down to the community level. Strengthening WCIDSSs is equally critical for climate adaptation and sustainable development as they provide the basis for climate change assessments and cost-effective adaptation to weather and climate extremes.

As part of the GFDRR climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction portfolio (Track II), nearly two-thirds of all projects involve upgrading national hydro-meteorological services to improve emergency forecasts and early warnings. Moving ahead, the program for strengthening WCIDSSs will scale up the development of modern, sustainable, service-oriented weather and climate information systems as part of the GFDRR and WB investment portfolios, in three ways: (i) *Analytical Support and Knowledge Management*; (ii) *Capacity Building and Technical Assistance*; and (iii) *Support to Portfolio Development and Operations*.

IV. Scale up community adaptation action, in partnership with CSOs: GFDRR’s open and inclusive partnership structure allows for strong engagement with civil society and community-based organizations in technical assistance and capacity building for climate risk management and financing at the local level, and for climate-smart community planning and reconstruction. In order to realize the potential of GFDRR’s open and inclusive partnership structure, a new GFDRR civil society partnership strategy is being developed to structure and systematize its work with civil society, to facilitate stronger civil society participation in policy dialogue at local, national and international levels, as well as to support volunteer technical communities and community-based adaptation and training in ex-ante and ex-post situations. Much of this would be achieved by building on the existing country programs, with full government ownership and consultation. Such engagements could provide the seed financing necessary to scale up existing pilot work to an operational level, through tools such as Community Driven Development programs, social funds, micro financing, and contingency fund transfers.

V. Promote innovation and facilitate access to climate risk financing and risk transfer: In partnership with the WB Treasury, GFDRR has emerged as an intellectual authority on risk and damage assessment and associated climate risk financing, working to help governments and civil society plan and implement innovative financing solutions. GFDRR/WB will actively contribute to the *Cancun “loss and damage” work program process*, (Art. 26 & 28) providing technical expertise and leadership, client capacity-building assistance, and a platform to facilitate public-private Climate Risk Financing (CRF) partnerships. GFDRR’s efforts will continue to focus on supporting developing country CRF capacity for the identification and deployment of appropriate country-specific CRF solution(s) while offering technical support and convening services along a two-tier approach:

- > At the *macro* level, building client CRF capacity for the identification and deployment of appropriate country-specific CRF solutions, while offering technical support and convening services. To this end, GFDRR will work to develop an international platform that (i) provides technical assistance to countries for the financial assessment of climate-related disaster risks and the development of financial solutions and (ii) facilitates access to global capital and reinsurance markets through a web-based climate risk placement vehicle that lowers transaction costs.
- > At the *micro* level, supporting pilot work and scaling up of community CRF and adaptation programming as outlined above.

In implementing these program areas, GFDRR will further strengthen its *internal and external communications outreach and sustained engagement* in, respectively, the Bank’s UNFCCC outreach activities and the relevant satellite UNFCCC forums and processes—from actively supporting the WB’s UNFCCC contributions, to facilitating a global public-private CRF dialogue, and anchoring a (series of) major side event(s) at the Durban COP 17 preparatory meetings and at the COP 17 itself.