

InnovationLab

Further your understanding of disaster risk



GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY **GFDRR**

The Challenge Fund

Improving our understanding of risk

The starting point for improved disaster preparedness and resilience is to better understand risk. Over the past decade, there has been a marked improvement in the availability and accessibility of risk information, but many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries have been left behind.

The demand for more robust, accessible, high-resolution and trusted risk data and analyses is rising. Emerging technologies and new ways of thinking provide an unparalleled opportunity to increase the accessibility of risk information and to revolutionize this sector. For example, crowdsourcing is now flourishing to deliver new data. But, there are also challenges.

Supporting solutions

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) new competitive Challenge Fund

seeks to pilot new and innovative approaches to overcome these challenges and strengthen disaster and climate risk decision-making in developing countries.

Providing funding for innovation

This Challenge Fund seeks to provide small grants to projects that address the challenge in bridging the gap between technology and on-the-ground user needs in the field of disaster risk identification.

Risk identification is seen as the foundation of all disaster risk management decision-making, whether risk reduction, preparedness, financial protection, or resilient recovery. The Fund seeks to support the development of data, products and approaches to support disaster risk management decision making and build resilience, including through better information, but also strengthening key steps in moving from information to insight and behavior change.

Grant funding

First Phase:

Category 1: up to USD 50,000

A proposal that builds on existing initiatives and requires new tools or approaches to achieve a greater impact.

Category 2: up to USD 100,000

Proposals funded under Category 2 aim to demonstrate a fully innovative approach to an intractable challenge, and therefore may require more funding.

Second Phase: up to USD 150,000

Proposals that have demonstrated success in the first round may be eligible for further funding. Success will be determined a demonstrated uptake from the first round and the potential scalability of the project.

The deadline for the initial phase is May 1, 2015, with the conclusion of the Challenge Fund approximately September 2016.

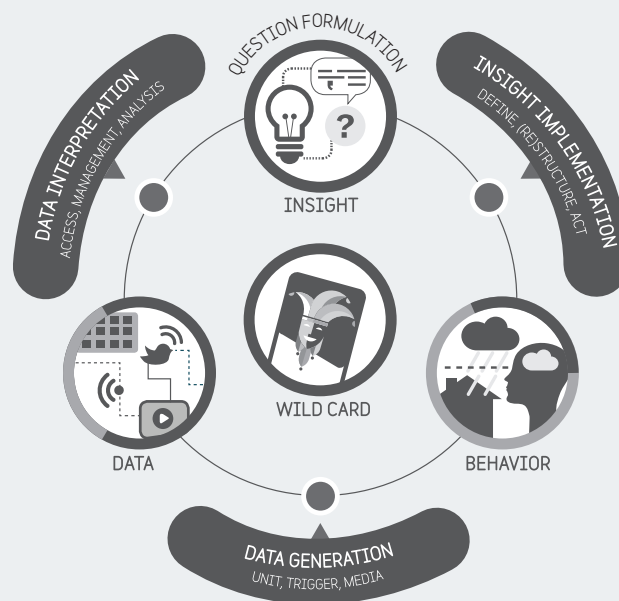


Challenge Fund



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The challenges

Consultations have revealed three broad challenges in disaster risk identification. These three areas are regarded as equally important and funding will be allocated accordingly. A key principle of the fund is that all the data, products and approaches supported by the fund will be open and accessible to all. Individual projects may focus on one or multiple thematic areas.

► Thematic Area 1: Availability and Accessibility of Data and Tools

Fundamental data sets are missing, e.g. many countries lack critical vulnerability data and high-resolution datasets suitable for risk modeling. Accessing and sharing the data that does exist is another major challenge. There is also an absence of appropriate data to model exposure, e.g. information on human and infrastructure assets. In addition, there is limited availability of appropriate risk models.

► Thematic Area 2: Moving from Information to Insight

Even the most robust, accurate risk information will have no impact if it is not tailored to meet a specific demand and if it is communicated poorly. Today, many tools that exist are not often well tailored for users in developing countries; there is a gap between the developers and those people who are intended to benefit. We now know a lot about how to bridge this gap, to move from information to insight; the challenge is to deliver it in practice.

► Thematic Area 3: Beyond Insight to Triggering Changes in Behavior

To promote behavior change and good risk management will often require a deeper engagement beyond just products and tools. Currently, the use of information is contained by a lack of trust and buy-in to the information as well as a lack of capacity to interpret it effectively. We require new modes of communicating risk information to ensure that information is actionable, and methods to build capacity at the local level to effectively utilize the data and tools available.

► Thematic Area 4: Wild Card

We are looking for respondents to propose challenges not listed here, and creative solutions to them.

① More info at www.gfdr.org/the-challenge-fund



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