Through the Inclusive Community Resilience (ICR) initiative, GFDRR taps into grassroots expertise in disaster risk management and promotes scalable models that engage directly with communities, making them equal partners with governments. In the event of disaster, studies show that 90% of survivors are rescued by their own neighbors. This core community strength in responding to—and protecting against—natural hazards and climate change is at the center of the ICR initiative.
INVESTING IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

By bringing disaster and climate risk management into large-scale country investment operations, ICR helps to channel risk management resources directly to poor households and communities.

For example, in the Philippines, ICR is training people in selected villages on risk management and community mapping and is drawing on local knowledge as part of the effort. This information is then shared with all community members, who factor it into overall investment decisions in a broader community-driven development program. The end goal is to expand this initiative to all villages included in the program, in some 800 municipalities.

DEVELOPING AN EVIDENCE BASE

ICR places a high priority on documenting and sharing evidence on successful community-driven disaster and climate risk management approaches.

The ICR initiative supports the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience—a network of grassroots organizations with a focus on community resilience—in documenting the role of women in strengthening disaster and climate resilience in their communities. In Guatemala, for example, the network helped launch a reforestation program, led by women in highland communities, after Tropical Storm Agatha damaged the ecosystem and cut water supplies. Using trees that purify water and contain erosion, the project rebuilt water supplies (see below).

PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

Integrating citizen engagement and gender into investments.

Through ICR’s Gender Action Plan, GFDRR is bolstering its commitment to integrating gender issues into climate and disaster risk management efforts by:

- Understanding and addressing the different needs of men and women in disaster risk management investments;
- Promoting women’s empowerment for broader resilience strengthening.

Charting a New Course for Communities in the Pacific

In the Solomon Islands, a community-driven initiative to revive the water supply system destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Nina directly benefited 700 households. It is projected to scale up to four provinces and will reach about 79,000 people.

In Timor-Leste, GFDRR supported efforts to identify risk and reduce vulnerability in 49 municipalities. The project, which included the development of community-based guidelines for disaster-risk management and features climate- and disaster-resilient road infrastructure, is expected to reach 87,000 beneficiaries and improve livelihoods throughout the country.

Recommendations on Strengthening Social Resilience

Core Properties of Resilience

- **Modularity (networks)**
  - Support bottom-up approaches that make use of social networks and support autonomous adaptation based on the lived experience of poor communities.

- **Responsive, Regulatory Feedback**
  - Support communities to increase diversity and fallback options (e.g., diversification of livelihoods into activities less sensitive to climate-related or other forms of risk, such as through voluntary migration).

- **Diversity and Redundancy**
  - Enhance social learning and sound governance as a form of regulatory feedback (e.g., building capacity in participatory approaches to scenario-based planning or measures to increase social accountability in the use of public finance for climate change response).

- **Women’s Empowerment**
  - Understand the gender dimensions of climate change and empower women as resilience champions.

We can use the reforestation program in our community as a living barrier against disaster because the trees have an impact on the force of the wind. The project helps women by providing an income and helps the community, which has been heavily damaged by disasters in the last few years.

—Josefina Sincal
Community leader and recipient of grant from GFDRR | Patzún, Chimaltenango, Guatemala
ICR Targets

Over the next 5 years the ICR initiative aims to:

Reach 250 MILLION PEOPLE in communities around the world.

INFLUENCE $5 BILLION in the World Bank’s funding for communities and households ($1 billion per year).

Support GFDRR’s objective to have 100% OF ACTIVITIES gender-informed.

AFGHANISTAN: Community-Driven Development

The project will support activities led by communities including local risk assessment; participatory risk planning; and training programs on community-based disaster risk management developed and rolled out across 12,000 communities.

JAMAICA: Social Protection

The project will support Jamaica’s objectives of greater preparedness of poor and vulnerable households by improving the design of critical social protection channels and providing capacity building and training for staff and beneficiaries.

This project is also complementing the efforts of existing projects worth $110 million, strengthening the links between Jamaica’s social system and disaster risk management.

SOMALIA: Gender-Based Violence

Violence against women increases in the aftermath of disaster as existing strains are exacerbated. This pilot project in Somalia seeks to address this dynamic by:

• Increasing the economic opportunities of women to improve livelihoods and build resilience; and
• Improving gender-based violence response services, such as hotlines and shelters.

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Social Protection: Protecting Livelihoods and Improving Fallback Options

Social protection provides an important way to directly reach millions of poor people facing increasing disaster risk. These programs harness existing state channels to provide financial aid such as cash transfers, subsidies and social insurance. This enables communities to better manage shocks and helps to avoid negative coping responses such as removing children from school or selling off assets.

GFDRR is implementing innovative approaches, focusing on the links between social protection, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation. In addition, these efforts support the call for a greater focus on the social dimensions of climate change and related vulnerability.

For example, GFDRR is working with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre to anticipate forecast-based financing needs in Africa’s Sahel region. This approach, the first pilot of its kind, will enable countries to roll out social protection mechanisms before hazard events strike, thus, significantly reducing the negative impact of extreme climate events.

Indonesia operates the largest community-driven program in the world, empowering residents at a local level to decide how development funds should be spent. The program is also a compelling example of how GFDRR works within larger investment projects to strengthen local-level resilience at scale.

After years of success in rural villages, in 2012 the Indonesian government focused on urban areas and slums for upgrading, with support from the World Bank, the government provided a loan of more than $150 million to be shared among 75,000 wards—or villages in urban areas. At this point, GFDRR issued a grant of $3 million to help some of these communities consider disaster risk management in overall development projects.

Indonesia

The grant was primarily used for technical assistance in identifying risk. Local community committees hired consultants who were trained on disaster risk management. At the same time, GFDRR also trained the consultants on communicating the results and mobilizing communities to discuss development issues.

Provided with this risk information, communities could then make decisions on which basic projects to prioritize—for example drainage in a ward prone to flooding.

The GFDRR grant created an original model, which was then scaled to a national level across 75,000 wards, including government distribution of disaster risk training manuals and the incorporation of the techniques into mainstream approaches to slum upgrading.

Tracking the Community Impact of Disaster

During the recovery period, GFDRR supported the close monitoring of the social impact of the devastation through four rounds of studies. Such analytics support GFDRR policy around the world and help shape future recovery efforts.

This graph reveals long-term effects of Cyclone Nargis, showing that, even five years after it struck Myanmar and killed 146,000 people, villages in the Ayeyarwady Delta continued to face dire economic straits.
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GFDRR THEMATIC INITIATIVE: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
Empowering Communities For Resilience