# Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries

# **World Bank Tokyo Disaster Risk Management Hub**

**Disasters hurt the poor and vulnerable the most.** Population growth, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and climate change are all contributing towards a rise in vulnerability, especially in developing countries. As populations become more exposed to disaster risks, effective Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is more critical than ever to protect human life, safeguard assets, and enable sustainable development for all.

#### What We Do

#### The World Bank Group (WBG) has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:



End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3%



Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country

The WBG is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Through its unique partnerships between member countries, the World Bank strives to reduce poverty and support economic and social development.

# The World Bank and Disaster Risk Management

The economic and human impacts of disasters disproportionately affect the poor, and millions are forced into poverty every year due to the effects of disasters. As such, the WBG supports countries to strengthen their capacity to manage disaster risks and build resilience to disasters, thereby driving the world's progress towards these two goals.



26 million people

**26 million people into poverty** (In other words, if all disasters could be prevented next year, 26 million fewer people would be in extreme poverty).



Global losses quadrupled from \$50 billion a year in the 1980s to \$200 billion in the last decade.



\$

Over the past 30 years, more than 2.5 million people and almost \$4 trillion have been lost to natural disasters.

# **How Japanese Experiences and Expertise Contribute to Reducing Disaster Risks Globally**

Japan is recognized as a global leader in building resilience through DRM policies and practices, built through years of experience combating the adverse effects and loss caused by numerous natural disasters. This leadership is also reflected through key documents and declarations driving the international DRM agenda, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which were spearheaded by Japan. Over the past two decades, Japan has forged a strong partnership with the World Bank Group to assist developing countries in reducing their disaster risks.



Japan ranks **3rd** in terms of absolute losses due to natural disasters.

Absolute losses between 1998 - 2017

Following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan scaled up its effort to assist developing countries by sharing its accumulated knowledge, experience, best practices, and technology on DRM.

# The Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries

In 2014, the Government of Japan and the World Bank partnered to launch the "Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries".

The Program, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and implemented by the Tokyo Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Hub, aims to:

1

Support developing countries in mainstreaming DRM in national development planning and investment programs through World Bank operations

2

Connect Japanese and global expertise in DRM with developing countries and World Bank teams

### **Our Focus of Work**

#### 1. Resilient Infrastructure:

Prioritizes activities that aim to integrate DRM principles and processes across the lifetime of infrastructure investments through design, construction, operations and maintenance, and contingency planning.

### 2. Risk Identification, Risk Reduction and Preparedness:

Supports activities to strengthen comprehensive approaches to enhance risk identification, risk reduction, and national DRM agencies.

#### 3. Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (DRFI):

Prioritizes activities that aim to enhance the financial resilience of developing countries against natural disasters by strengthening their capacities to better understand, mitigate, plan for, and meet post-disaster financing needs.

According to WBG's report "Unbreakable", "unavailability of transport or safe infrastructure after disasters causes affected people to lose workdays, implying a loss of income, productivity, and sometimes jobs"

"The benefits of providing universal access to early warning systems have the potential to reduce asset losses by \$13 billion each year"

"US\$330 billion is the average annual economic loss from natural disasters each year"

#### **How We Work**

The Tokyo DRM Hub connects Japanese and global expertise to facilitate DRM mainstreaming by:



#### **Informing World Bank Projects:**

The Program encourages technical expertise that directly supports project preparation of new World Bank investments or leverages World Bank financing.



#### **Sharing and Mobilizing Knowledge:**

Disseminating knowledge and lessons learned from disaster experiences in Japan and internationally, to strengthen DRM across sectors.



#### **Deploying Expertise:**

Deployment of experts to client countries for technical assistance and World Bank investment projects.



#### **Building Networks and Collaborations:**

Cultivating relationships with Japanese and global partners and experts, and coordinating with Japanese agencies for program implementation.

### **About GFDRR**

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Working with over 400 local, national, regional, and international partners, GFDRR provides grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management in policies and strategies. Hosted at the World Bank, GFDRR is supported by 37 countries and 11 international organizations.

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# **Key Achievemenets to Date**

**60** World Bank resilience investments with contributions from the Program's grants, in Quencing/informing a portfolio of approximately **US\$9.2 billion** in DRM-informed investments worldwide

**73** Projects and **56** Countries benefiting from in-country engagements

17 Knowledge Products and 128 knowledge exchange events

10.8 million beneficiaries from in-country engagements and \$81.7 million active Program Portfolio



# Impact Story: Kyrgyz Republic Introduces National Disaster Risk Reduction Day

The Kyrgyz Republic – a country prone to natural hazards – experienced a devastating earthquake in 2008.

Ten years on, in October 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic held disaster drills attended by 5,000 people nationwide to commemorate its first-ever "National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Day".

After taking part in an experts' visit to Japan under the Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries, Kyrgyz government olicials drew inspiration from the country's "National Disaster Prevention Day".

"The nation-wide simulation drills help improve knowledge, skills and preparedness of the people in case of a natural disaster. At the same time, the drills enable us to streamline coordination among key government institutions and agencies."

- Nurbolot Mirzahmedov, Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Whilst supporting improvements to the country's emergency management center and early warning systems, the World Bank and GFDRR continue to work closely with the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen disaster resilience by sharing best practices from Japan and around the world.



Photo: School children are trying firefighter clothing; Batken

#### **Partners**

Through the Program, the Tokyo DRM Hub is working across Global Practices to integrate DRM and resilience in its investments towards building quality infrastructure and resilient societies for all.

To achieve this, the Tokyo DRM Hub connects Japanese and global expertise, technologies, and innovations to developing countries.

Partners share Japanese and global good practices and lessons learned on DRM in Japan or in project countries. They also provide in-country support to client countries and World Bank Teams through preparation and implementation of investment programs.



Wehsite:

http://www.worldbank.org/drmhubtokyo

Inquiries: drmhubtokyo@worldbank.org