

GFDRR on Civil Society and Community-Driven Resilience

Since its launch in 2007, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has supported initiatives engaging civil society and community leaders on disaster risk management through its projects and advocacy, while also leveraging community-driven development investments with its partners.

Why Civil Society and Community-Driven Resilience Matter

Recent reports by the United Nations (UN), the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, and the World Bank¹ highlight the persistent gap between national policy and local action on disaster risk management (DRM). When communities, civil society organizations (CSOs),² and governments partner together, DRM efforts can be considerably more effective. Meaningful partnerships can reduce the costs of projects, ensure local acceptance and sustainability, and build social capital.

CSOs can provide access at the local level, bring in-depth on-the-ground knowledge, and build on trust they have already established with communities at the grassroots level. Communities and civil society are critical partners for achieving effective DRM.

What We Do

GFDRR promotes the role of community leadership and civil society in DRM at all levels, by supporting the engagement of CSOs in country-level investments and engaging them as partners in developing policy, knowledge, and advocacy activities:

- **Country-Level Investment:** GFDRR promotes the involvement of civil society organizations in national DRM investment decisions. It also supports a community-driven approach to development projects, in which control over planning decisions and investment resources is given to community groups and local governments.
- **Policy, Knowledge, and Advocacy:** GFDRR supports the development of partnerships among communities, CSOs, and governments for effective policy making. GFDRR also directly partners with civil society for knowledge, capacity development, and advocacy.

Working with many partners, GFDRR supported communities, civil society, and the government in Indonesia to map **more than 1 million buildings.**

They worked together using an open online platform—raising risk awareness and allowing greater preparation efforts.



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

St. Lucia

GFDRR Project: Support for St. Lucia, Management of Slope Stability in Communities (MoSSaiC)

Partners: Government of St. Lucia, University of Bristol, World Bank, local communities in various cities, including St. Lucia's capital, Castries

Description: The MoSSaiC approach taps communities' detailed knowledge of local slope characteristics, allowing them to work jointly with engineers to design effective measures for reducing landslide risk. The approach was shown to have a very advantageous cost-benefit ratio and GFDRR support has promoted its scale-up in the Caribbean.³

Guatemala
Honduras
Belize

Mauritania
Cape Verde
Senegal
Guinea-Bissau
Guinea
Sierra Leone
Liberia
Burkina Faso
Ghana
Togo
Nigeria
Ethiopia
Uganda
Kenya
Mali
Niger
Sudan
Eritrea
Djibouti
Somalia



Civil Society and Community Driven Resilience Engagement⁴

Indonesia

GFDRR Project: Disaster Risk Knowledge Exchange Initiatives in Indonesia

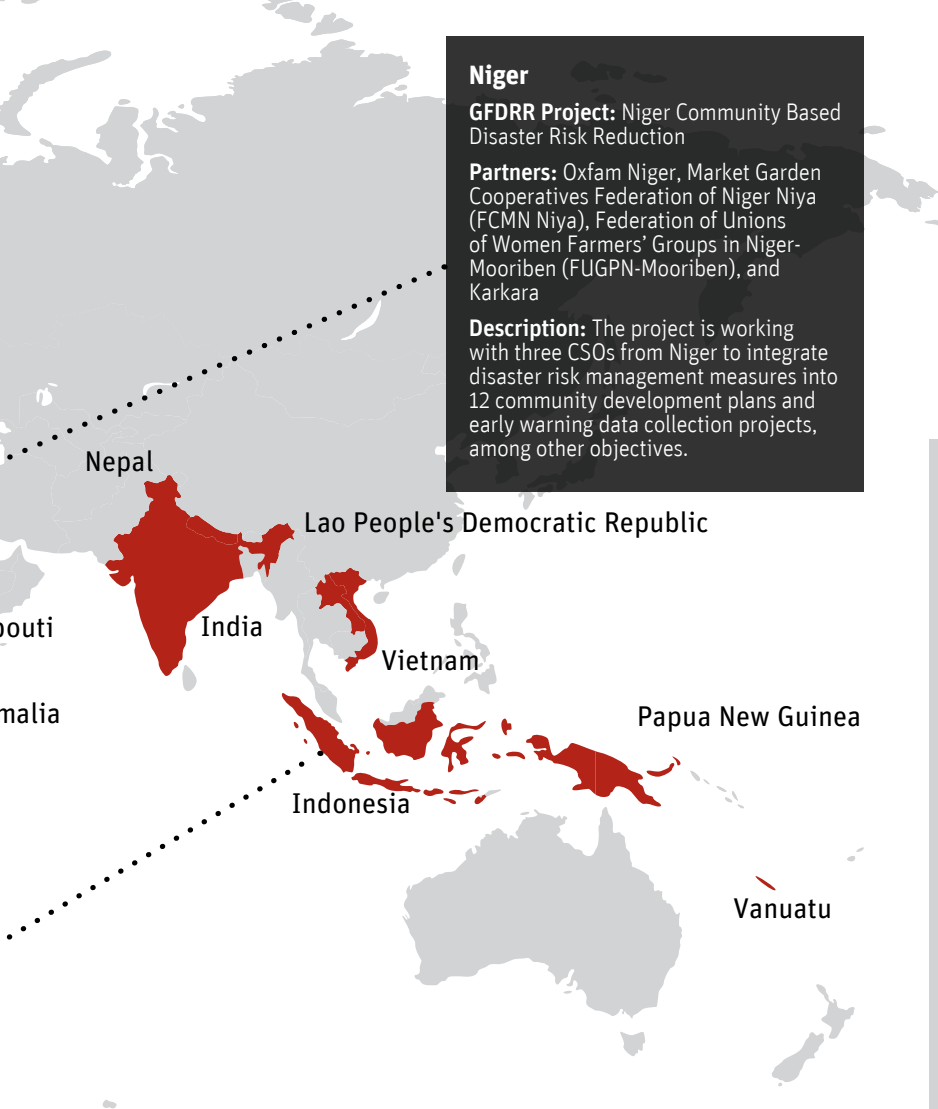
Partners: World Bank, Indonesia's National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB)

Description: With the support of GFDRR, the World Bank's collaboration with BNPB has strengthened local capacity to reduce disaster risk through knowledge exchange initiatives focused on capacity building. Drawing on experiences from over 50 disaster events, it has helped BNPB develop knowledge products and delivery platforms for widespread sharing, as well as inform future disaster planning. This initiative has provided shared knowledge training to over 752 practitioners from 53 districts during FY2015 alone.

GFDRR Civil Society Partnership Strategy

Building on learning gained from the 2012-2014 Pilot Civil Society Partnership Strategy, GFDRR established a thematic program on Inclusive Community Resilience (ICR) during FY2015, to be implemented during the 2015-2017 period. The ICR program aims to:

- Influence and mobilize country investments that put resources directly in the hands of poor households and communities;
- Promote citizen and civil society engagement and inclusive approaches in DRM investments;
- Support innovation, knowledge, and learning to promote the voice of vulnerable communities in national and global policy dialogue and DRM.



Niger
GFDRR Project: Niger Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
Partners: Oxfam Niger, Market Garden Cooperatives Federation of Niger Niya (FCMN Niya), Federation of Unions of Women Farmers' Groups in Niger-Mooriben (FUGPN-Mooriben), and Karkara
Description: The project is working with three CSOs from Niger to integrate disaster risk management measures into 12 community development plans and early warning data collection projects, among other objectives.

Where GFDRR Works

Since its inception, GFDRR has supported civil society engagement in disaster risk management in over 40 countries, partnering with CSOs, donor agencies, and governments at all levels to improve the resilience of communities vulnerable to risk.

How GFDRR Leverages Impact

GFDRR's support for civil society informs and mobilizes:

- Engagement with governments to create space for constructive cooperation with civil society;
- Analytic, knowledge, and advisory expertise to promote the value of civil society in disaster risk management; and
- Fiduciary mechanisms, implementation monitoring, and reporting requirements that meet the needs of a range of potential donors in providing financial support to civil society.

Snapshot: Leveraging in Practice

GFDRR promotes the role of civil society and community leadership in disaster risk management, working with key partners, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the European Union's (EU) Global Climate Change Alliance, to influence and catalyze greater impact.

- **Costa Rica:** A GFDRR and World Meteorological Organization pilot project helped emergency committees in five towns use and respond to flash flooding information generated by a modernized and accurate early warning system. In 2012, the committees successfully held an emergency simulation with hundreds of volunteers, local and national disaster risk management agency staff, and CSOs.
- **Togo:** GFDRR is co-financing \$7.6 million for the Integrated Disaster and Land Management project, which builds the capacity of key national, regional, local, and civil society partners. (Total project: \$18 million, GEF and TerrAfrica Leveraging Fund).
- **Vanuatu:** GFDRR \$2.7 million grant is supporting knowledge sharing and improved agricultural production and resilience to climate change working with CSOs to provide training and pilot field nurseries and demonstration plots with farmers. (Total project: \$11.5 million, GEF, EU, government of Vanuatu).

GFDRR's work with the World Bank leads to an improved engagement with civil society.

- **Social Resilience:** GFDRR works with the World Bank's Social Resilience Team to assess the role of community-driven development approaches for building disaster and climate resilience. Together, they also developed a toolkit with case studies and guidance for integrating disaster and climate risk into social protection systems and safety nets for strengthening household and community-level resilience.⁷

Highlights

Through its on-the-ground engagements, GFDRR has strengthened partnerships between communities and government to improve disaster resilience.

Engaging communities to reduce seismic risk in Kathmandu, Nepal

In 2012, GFDRR and partners assembled a team of mappers and community mobilizers involved in Nepal's then-nascent OpenStreetMap (OSM) community. The team surveyed more than 2,600 schools and health facilities in the Kathmandu Valley, and created a comprehensive base-map by digitizing building footprints, mapping the road network, and other major points of interest.

In addition, the project established a local NGO, Kathmandu Living Labs (KLL), to continue mapping activities in Nepal. When the earthquakes struck in April and May 2015, the KLL team coordinated over global 7,000 volunteers to map the affected zones using the OSM platform. These maps were widely used by the government and international organizations during the response and recovery activities.

Code for Resilience

GFDRR's Code for Resilience is a multi-year global initiative that works with wide-ranging global partners from the public, private, CSOs, and the technology sector, aims to build community resilience to disasters caused by natural hazards through innovative uses of information and communication technologies. Among its activities in 2015 that fostered collaboration, the initiative supported the Asia Resilience Forum in partnership with the Japan Foundation, the World Bank, and Race for Resilience, which brought together over 150 technologists from the region who engaged in developing civic apps for community-based disaster resilience.



Lessons Learned

Scaling up and sustaining community-level disaster risk management requires bridging the gap among the local, sub-national, and national levels, as well as understanding the complementary roles of institutions.

For example, in Central America, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea, GFDRR leveraged the World Bank's convening power at the country-level to facilitate and foster collaboration among civil society actors, local and national governments, and the private sector. Due to these efforts, communities have become connected to higher-level policymakers, technical assistance, and information for effective DRM support.

Inclusive community resilience needs to emphasize socially inclusive approaches to DRM.

Marginalized groups such as children, disabled people, displaced people, elders, indigenous peoples, migrants, youth, and women suffer disproportionately from disasters and should have equal access to necessary resources and services to manage risk. Many marginalized groups also have unique perspectives or skills that contribute to community resilience,

demonstrated by the experience of Ofunato, Japan, where elders were empowered to help their community recover. After the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, the elders of Ofunato worked with the community to establish the Ibasho Café, which operates as a sustainable business and serves as a critical resource for the community to strengthen social capital and build resilience to future natural hazards.

Empowering women is a critical element to create resilience, as women are often the designers and builders of community resilience at the local-level.

To maximize the impact of its support, GFDRR needs to also prioritize women's leadership in its community-level engagements, as the World Bank and many other institutions have found women's empowerment is a key ingredient to building disaster and climate resilience.

In the pastoral communities of Kenya and Ethiopia, for example, capacity-building support to women's savings and loans groups have improved livelihood diversification (income generation, asset preservation, and enhanced food security), as well as helped communities better manage the risks associated with

Advancing Community-Driven Resilience through Fostering Partnerships with Civil Society and Sharing Knowledge

GFDRR brings together CSOs, governments, and development partners:

- **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR):** GFDRR helped to advance the inclusive community resilience agenda at the WCDRR in March 2015 by providing analysis, evidence, and learning events. These include, "Community-Led Partnerships for Resilience," which documents cases where grassroots organizations are working in partnership with their local and national authorities to better manage risk in poor communities; and "Elders Leading the Way to Resilience," which evaluates the experience of Ofunato, Japan, following the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. GFDRR also produced a documentary on the latter, and efforts to transfer the approach of engaging elders to lead recovery efforts in Ormoc, Philippines, which was hit by Typhoon Haiyan.
- **Global Assessment Report:** Prepared as input to the 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, GFDRR's report, "Building Social Resilience: Protecting and Empowering Those Most at Risk," explores progress and documents good practices related to the implementation of policies and plans to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.
- **Community Practitioners Academy, Global Platform:** In May 2013, GFDRR supported the first Community Practitioners Academy as a preparatory meeting to the UNISDR Global Platform in Geneva, Switzerland. Convened by GROOTS International, Huairou Commission, UNISDR, World Bank, GFDRR, Act Alliance, Action Aid, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, Cordaid, and Oxfam, the Academy was planned in partnership with the community practitioners from their respective networks. Forty-five community practitioners from 17 countries met for the Academy, marking the first time that many community practitioner partners had been able to participate.
- **Understanding Risk (UR):** GFDRR established UR in 2010, an open global community made up of over 3,300 risk identification professionals from more than 125 countries representing government agencies, the private sector, multilateral organizations, NGOs, research institutions, academia, and civil society. In July 2014, almost 1,000 risk assessment experts and practitioners, including strong representation from CSOs, gathered in London for UR's third biennial forum. Under the theme, "Producing Actionable Information," the forum explored the creation of risk information for decision-making. The next UR Forum will be held in Istanbul in

the 2005–2008 drought cycle. In addition, in India, the National Rural Livelihoods Mission has worked to strengthen women’s self-help groups and progressively build experience with savings and microcredit, and the Agriculture Research and Training Centre in Osmanabad, Maharashtra appointed ten women farmers as trainers, responsible for transferring sustainable farming, organic, bio-composting, and local seed preservation practices to neighboring villages. These projects demonstrate the spectrum of good practice and public advocacy women’s groups can take in highly vulnerable communities to strengthen community DRM.

Looking Ahead

Through the Inclusive Community Resilience program, GFDRR will continue to:

- Promote broader civil society, citizen engagement, gender, women’s empowerment, and social inclusion mechanisms into its program to ensure DRM efforts are responsive to community priorities and improve development impact;
- Engage community-driven development and social protection investment operations to integrate disaster and climate risk management approaches; and,
- Generate and share evidence on effective community-led DRM approaches, and promote community and civil society voices in global DRM policy dialogue.

In addition, GFDRR’s partnership with the World Bank’s Social Resilience Team will improve its ability to fund and provide technical assistance at the community and household-level, such as through community-driven development projects, social funds, and safety nets.

GFDRR will also continue to support the inclusion of civil society voices in global DRM and climate change adaptation policy dialogue and to strengthen capacity across regions and among development partners on supporting local resilience building efforts.

Strategic Partners

GFDRR works with a wide variety of partners, including:



Global Environment Facility



United Nations
International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction



Community Practitioners
Platform for Resilience



GROOTS International



Huairou Commission



Global Network of Civil Society
Organizations for Disaster Reduction



Red Cross/Red Crescent
Climate Centre



International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies



Oxfam



Cordaid



Action Aid



Japan NGO Center for
International Cooperation



Act Alliance

“Grassroots women are doing a lot of practices to address their issues, like for safe drinking water, climate change, food security. They do all this innovative work to support their communities and women in their communities, and so that work is now being recognized and financed by the government and the funding agencies.”

—Godavari Dange, Swayam Shikshan Prayog India, India

NOTES

¹ Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013. <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2013/en/home/index.html> and Views from the Frontline 2013 <http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org/views-from-the-frontline/vfl-2013.html>

² “Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) refer to wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), labor unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations,” as per the GFDRR civil society strategy.

³ Holcombe, E.A., S. Smith, E. Wright, M.G. Anderson (in press). An integrated approach for evaluating the effectiveness of landslide hazard reduction in vulnerable communities in the Caribbean. *Natural Hazards*. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-011-9920-7. <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/my-esrc/grants/RES-343-28-0001/outputs/read/cab94a31-4197-4548-819f-68aa4f3a8d2a>

⁴ Denotes countries with GFDRR grant or team engagement with civil society and/or community-driven resilience.

⁵ All monetary amounts are in US dollars unless otherwise indicated.

⁶ World Bank Civil Society Engagement Review FY 2010-2012 at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/CSO/Resources/228716-1369241545034/CSReviewFY10-12FINAL.pdf>

⁷ *Climate and Disaster Risk: The Role for Community Driven Development*, World Bank, 2013 <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1237844546330/5949218-1237844567860/CDD-CR-LJ-final.pdf>



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