

GFDRR on Resilient Recovery

GFDRR supports resilient reconstruction planning and post-disaster assessments, helping more than 50 disaster-affected countries with these approaches since its launch in 2007.

Why Resilience Matters for Recovery

With growing urbanization and settlement near coasts and rivers, the amount of people and economic infrastructure exposed to natural hazards—including earthquakes, landslides, and cyclones—is rising. With the risk awareness of governments and people at its highest in the aftermath of disaster, recovery and reconstruction planning presents an important opportunity to change practices that have led to underlying vulnerabilities.

What We Do

GFDRR helps developing countries implement post-disaster recovery and reconstruction programs that are efficient, transparent, and financially predictable, while reducing the risk of future hazards. GFDRR supports resilient recovery by:

- Implementing the Recovery Framework methodology, an emerging international approach to post-disaster recovery and reconstruction that focuses on longer-term resilience to future disasters through prioritizing recovery activities sequentially, improving financial management, and ensuring monitoring and evaluation;
- Promoting reliable and internationally-accepted damage, loss, and needs assessments after major disaster events;
- Providing technical assistance for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning; and
- Helping countries improve their disaster recovery strategies and governmental institutions in order to manage recovery before a disaster strikes.

Post-disaster needs assessments allow countries to accurately assess the economic impacts of a disaster, and mobilize the technical and financial resources necessary for recovery. In partnership with the European Union (EU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank Group, GFDRR is working to ensure that the methodology behind these assessments leads to more resilient and inclusive recovery and reconstruction processes.

After the June 2013 flooding in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, a GFDRR-supported rapid assessment helped guide a

\$250 million

International Development Association reconstruction project approved in October 2013.¹

When a violent storm hit the island country of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in December 2013, GFDRR provided a rapid damage and loss assessment within two weeks, which helped the government to raise

\$19 million

in disaster aid from international donors.



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

West Bank and Gaza

GFDRR Project: Support for Rapid Damage, Loss, and Needs Assessment—Winter Storm Alexa (2013)

Partners: United Nations, European Union, Palestinian Authority

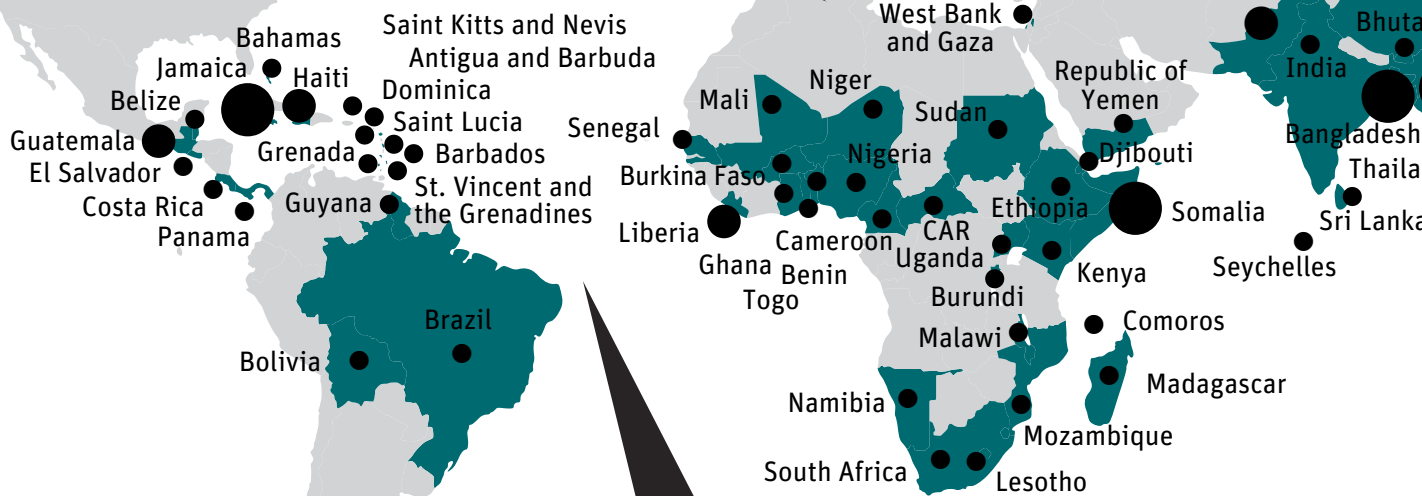
Description: GFDRR completed a rapid damage, loss, and needs assessment in the West Bank and Gaza following winter storm Alexa in December 2013, one of the strongest storms to hit in half a century. The assessment provided information on physical damage and economic losses from the storm, and laid the groundwork for a longer-term disaster risk management framework, outlining areas for government and international partner assistance.

India

GFDRR Project: Support for Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment—Cyclone Phailin (2013)

Partners: Odisha State Government, World Bank Group

Description: GFDRR supported India's Odisha state government in conducting a rapid post-disaster needs assessment following Cyclone Phailin in October 2013. The assessment's recommendations for recovery measures in the short and long term led to a \$153 million IDA project to rebuild 30,000 houses and restore public services and infrastructure, including schools and health centers.



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

GFDRR Project: Rapid Damage and Loss Assessment—Flash Floods and Landslides (2013)

Partners: Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, international donors

Description: In December 2013, a violent storm hit the island country of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, producing flash floods and landslides that impacted more than 13,000 people. A GFDRR grant provided a rapid damage and loss assessment two weeks later, helping the government identify losses of \$108 million (15% of GDP). The assessment demonstrated which public and private infrastructure were hardest hit, allowing the government to prioritize spending and reconstruction efforts. The assessment also helped the government to raise \$19 million in disaster aid from international donors.

Where GFDRR Works

Through post-disaster needs assessments and other engagements, GFDRR has supported resilient recovery in more than 50 countries.

GFDRR Support

- \$500,000 or Less
- \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000
- Resilient Recovery Engagement ²



Philippines

GFDRR Project: Policy and Technical Guidance for Reconstruction—Typhoon Haiyan (2013)

Partners: Government of the Philippines, World Bank Group

Description: Within days of Typhoon Haiyan's landfall in November 2013, GFDRR and its partners began providing the government of the Philippines with policy and technical guidance for reconstruction efforts, based on international post-disaster experience. Five weeks later, the government had a comprehensive reconstruction plan to guide the recovery and reconstruction of the economy, lives, and livelihoods. The plan also helped to inform and secure a \$500 million World Bank post-disaster reconstruction loan.

Snapshot: Leveraging in Practice

Post-disaster support from GFDRR led to or informed the design of at least 61 World Bank-funded medium and long-term recovery projects, worth over \$6.3 billion in total, including \$3.36 billion for disaster-specific components. GFDRR helps the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, target its large-scale projects so that vulnerable countries can recover more quickly and better manage their disaster risk:

- **Benin:** Emergency Urban Environment Project (\$56.4 million, IDA)
- **Bolivia:** Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project (\$4.4 million, IDA)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Floods Emergency Recovery Project (\$100 million, IDA)
- **India:** Uttarkhand Disaster Recovery Project (\$250 million, IDA)
- **Niger:** Disaster Risk Management and Urban Development Project (\$107 million, IDA)
- **Philippines:** National Community Driven Development Program (\$479 million, IBRD)
- **Samoa:** Agriculture and Fisheries Cyclone Response Project (\$5 million, IDA)
- **Serbia:** Floods Emergency Recovery Project (\$300 million, IBRD)
- **Solomon Islands:** Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk Project (\$9.1 million, GEF and GFDRR)
- **Tonga:** Cyclone Ian Reconstruction and Climate Resilience Project (\$13.8 million, IDA and GFDRR)

How GFDRR Leverages Impact

GFDRR's work in resilient recovery leverages:

- Policy and planning changes that promote disaster risk management and reduce risks to future hazards;
- Recovery financing and investments from development partners, such as the World Bank Group, UNDP, regional development banks, and partner countries;
- Improved coordination between the international donor community and governments to develop recovery programs, improve current plans and projects, and determine long-term priorities; and
- Innovative knowledge products on resilient recovery, including the *Disaster Recovery Framework* and country case studies.

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Highlights

In FY2014, GFDRR provided 41 grants to 27 countries to help governments with disaster recovery and reconstruction planning. It provided financial and technical support for post-disaster assessments and recovery planning in 21 countries. These initiatives helped governments improve or prepare for recovery efforts. Many of these assessments were conducted in partnership with UN agencies, the EU, other international and regional organizations, and donors.

India: Post-Disaster Assessment Leads to Disaster Recovery Framework

In June 2013, unprecedented heavy rainfall in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India produced flash floods and landslides, resulting in the loss of 580 lives and impacting more than 900,000 people. GFDRR, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, helped the Uttarakhand government to conduct a rapid post-disaster needs assessment, which informed a detailed recovery framework that the government is using to guide its recovery efforts.

The recovery framework includes solutions for both emergency recovery needs and longer-term disaster risk reduction measures. The assessment has also led to \$31 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to rebuild disaster resilient housing and public infrastructure, as recommended by the framework.

Kyrgyz Republic: Institutionalizing the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Methodology

In the Kyrgyz Republic, a GFDRR grant is supporting the institutionalization of the post-disaster needs assessment methodology. In FY2014, the initiative developed a national action plan for improving post-disaster needs assessments and recovery planning, as well as a guidance manual for government authorities to conduct their own assessments. The Kyrgyz Republic previously lacked modern procedures and guidelines for assessing damages, losses, and recovery needs following a disaster, including the economic impact of damaged infrastructure and lost livelihoods.

The new methodology was endorsed by the National Technical and Scientific Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the Kyrgyz government agency overseeing disaster response and emergency preparedness, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations provided training on its use to 280 government staff. The methodology has also become part of university curriculum for students studying emergency management at Kyrgyz Slavonic University.



PHOTO: SUDIPTO DAS

“Recovery is not a choice, it is a development imperative and we can plan for it.”

—Jo Schuer, Coordinator, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Team, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP

Lessons Learned

Well-coordinated and credible post-disaster needs assessments play a critical role in recovery.

When post-disaster needs assessments bring together diverse stakeholders such as government authorities, international organizations, and civil society groups to jointly identify post-disaster needs, they can dramatically improve the effectiveness of the recovery process.

Assessments that point to clear facts, accurate data-drive estimates, and transparent methodologies also increase the credibility of the process and make recommendations that are more likely to influence policymakers.

Nigeria's 2012 post-disaster needs assessment following damaging floods shows the importance of coordination and credibility in the process. Disagreement over which government entity had the legal mandate to lead the recovery process delayed the assessment by several months.

Efficient post-disaster assessments allow a quicker shift into detailed recovery planning.

Countries face complex issues during recovery that cannot be addressed by a post-disaster needs assessment alone. Issues include managing financial flows, prioritizing and sequencing recovery interventions within and across sectors—such as health, education, and transportation—and passing appropriate legislation and policies that support an efficient and equitable recovery process. A post-disaster needs assessment cannot address all these issues and must be done quickly to allow for detailed recovery planning.

Following the severe floods in Uttarakhand, India in

After Cyclone Phailin struck the Indian state of Odisha in October 2013, a GFDRR-supported rapid assessment helped guide a

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150,000 people

will benefit directly from the project.

Advancing Resilient Recovery Knowledge

- **World Reconstruction Conference 2:** In September 2014, GFDRR hosted the second World Reconstruction Conference (WRC 2) in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the European Union and United Nations Development Programme. More than 500 participants from 60+ countries assembled to share lessons learned in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. Discussions focused on the topics of technical and green innovations, recovery in conflict and fragile contexts, empowering women and communities, bridging humanitarian and development efforts, and recovery institutionalization, among others. More than 30 countries and organizations issued a joint conference statement in support of resilient recovery in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

At the first World Reconstruction Conference in 2011, countries around the world called for an internationally applicable

tool to guide resilient recovery efforts. In response, GFDRR, UNDP, and the EU launched several knowledge products at the WRC2, which will be further developed and disseminated to stakeholder countries and other partners³:

- **Disaster Recovery Framework Guide:** A tool to assist governments in planning, prioritizing, and financing recovery programs to ensure resilience in recovery and development.
- **Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Guide:** The EU, UN, and WBG standard for the government-led exercise to provide a coordinated and credible basis for the international community to assist the affected government in recovery and reconstruction.
- **Disaster recovery case studies** from nine countries: Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, and Yemen.

June 2013, GFDRR mobilized a rapid assessment team in August 2013 in partnership with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The assessment was completed in six weeks, informing a \$250 million International Development Association reconstruction and resilience building project approved in October 2013. The speed of the assessment allowed the government to start its recovery planning efforts quickly and with adequate resources.

Planning for resilient recovery requires institutionalizing key functions.

A GFDRR review of its post-disaster needs assessment portfolio since 2007 pointed to a need to institutionalize—before a disaster strikes—the key government functions that will be needed during recovery, such as specific social, infrastructure, and productive sector recovery strategies to allow each to identify key constraints to their normal functioning during a disaster.

For example, in the Kyrgyz Republic, GFDRR is supporting a project that is evaluating and improving standard operating procedures for conducting post-disaster needs assessments. This will help drive systematic and criteria-based disaster needs estimates and decisions about key priorities for recovery from future disasters

Looking Ahead

To improve the ability of governments to lead and manage the recovery process, create disaster-resilient communities, and build back better, GFDRR will continue to work with UNDP and the EU to expand the *Disaster Recovery Framework Guide*, developed in response to the growing demand from developing countries for sustained technical assistance after a post-disaster needs assessment is concluded.

The *Disaster Recovery Framework Guide* helps governments implement the full range of recommendations from post-disaster needs assessments. It also provides guidance on how to better coordinate recovery planning between governments, the World Bank Group, the EU, UN, and other stakeholders, such as civil society and the private sector.

GFDRR will continue to shift its focus from providing primarily disaster response-related support toward incorporating a significant preparedness element into its technical assistance programs. For example, GFDRR has piloted programs in India, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Malawi that are helping these countries develop stronger disaster recovery institutions.



Strategic Partners

GFDRR conducts its post-disaster assessments under the terms of the 2008 Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Response—a tripartite agreement between the EU, UNDP, and World Bank Group to coordinate all post-crisis interventions under the lead of the affected country’s government. GFDRR coordinates with UNDP and EU delegations in the field to carry out joint post-disaster needs assessments. These assessments often benefit from technical expertise offered by donor countries and regional development partners. Recent post-disaster disaster needs assessments were completed in cooperation with:



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



Asian Development
Bank



IGAD Climate
Prediction and
Application Center



Economic Community
of West African States



National Aeronautics
and Space
Administration



International
Labour Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization



World Food
Programme



United Nations
Human Settlements



UNICEF



World Meteorological
Organization



World Health
Organization



UNISDR



UNDP- Bureau for
Crisis Prevention
and Recovery

“We have a number of NGOs, with the support of UNDP and the World Bank, which have studied pilot projects on recovery. We hope to build on their experiences so that we can incorporate these experiences in our long-term planning.”

—Mr. Paul Chiunguzeni, Director, Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Malawi

NOTES

¹ All monetary amounts are in US dollars unless otherwise indicated.

² Denotes countries where GFDRR grant or team engagement has supported resilient recovery.

³ GFDRR, World Bank Group, EU, UNDP (2014). Guide to Developing Disaster Recovery Frameworks. <https://www.gfdr.org/recoveryframework>



GFDRR

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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GFDRR PILLAR: Resilient Recovery

Disaster-affected countries seeking GFDRR support will improve the quality and timeliness of recovery and reconstruction.