

Tribute to GFDRR Partners

Since its establishment in September 2006, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) has evolved into a partnership of 18 countries and international organizations that are committed to helping developing countries reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards.



Australia



Canada



Denmark



European
Commission



Finland



France



Germany



Italy



Japan



Luxembourg



Norway



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



United
Kingdom



UN International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction



USAID Office of Foreign
Disaster Assistance



THE WORLD BANK

A series of horizontal stripes in various shades of blue, ranging from a deep navy to a lighter, muted blue, creating a decorative background for the title.

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into the Fight Against Poverty

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
Annual Report 2007

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Foreword

The risks from disasters caused by a changing climate present a growing threat to developing countries that lack the financial or material resources to prevent disasters or mitigate their risks. The response by the international community must not only be comprehensive and carefully thought out, but also be characterized by innovative partnerships and long-term commitments by the key stakeholders.

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is the World Bank's premier global initiative to enhance national capacities to reduce vulnerability by integrating risk reduction in country development strategies. The GFDRR helps developing countries fund projects and programs that enhance local capacities for disaster prevention and emergency preparedness.

I am very pleased that since its creation in September 2006, the GFDRR has helped to support and strengthen the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system to promote disaster risk reduction as a core component of the global agenda for sustainable development. Early results from all regions, particularly Africa, are quite impressive and give us hope that the increasing trend of disaster losses can indeed be reversed by 2015.

The work of the GFDRR would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, whom I wish to thank on behalf of all partners of the GFDRR.

Laszlo Lovei, Director, Finance, Economic and Urban Department, World Bank

Building capacities for disaster risk reduction in highly vulnerable countries is at the core of our partnership with the World Bank and its Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Disaster risk reduction is a long-term challenge and cannot be addressed successfully through country-based actions alone.

More than ever, this agenda requires strong international cooperation and team efforts at all levels, from bilateral, to local, to regional, to global. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is committed to providing the enabling environment for coherent and concerted actions by all partners gradually engaging in the worldwide movement called the ISDR system.

Building stronger commitments and leveraging additional resources remain central to the effective use of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to reduce the risk of and vulnerability to natural hazards around the world by 2015.

Salvano Briceño, Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (ISDR)



Overview

GFDRR Contributions to the Hyogo Framework for Action

There are two ways to ensure a healthy future for countries and communities that are highly vulnerable to disasters: help them reduce the risks before disaster strikes and—when it does—ensure that reconstruction and recovery are long term and sustainable.

Helping governments and people develop the skills and knowledge needed to take on disaster risk challenges is at the heart of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). This partnership between the World Bank and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system is only a year old, but early results are promising.

The GFDRR's mission is to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards by mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into country development strategies. A key goal is enhancing the speed and efficiency of international assistance after disasters occur in the Bank's high-risk client countries. It also supports the ISDR system by catalyzing global and regional partnerships that help achieve the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction that was ratified by 168 nations.

The GFDRR's core business principles include building on strong partnerships, adopting an inclusive approach, and focusing at the country level. The GFDRR emphasizes a results-based approach and affordable, effective interventions. Regional and global knowledge networks facilitate the sharing of information, practices, and lessons learned.

The GFDRR contributes to the development and implementation of disaster risk management strategies by funding both *ex ante* and *ex post* activities at the global, regional, and country levels. Using a three-track funding approach, the GFDRR:

- supports regional cooperation and knowledge sharing to enhance global awareness and civil society engagement (Track I);
- provides technical assistance for country and transboundary disaster risk reduction projects (Track II);
- offers readily available mechanisms—the Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) and the Callable Fund—for pre-disaster planning and the mobilization of donor resources for accelerated disaster recovery (Track III). The Callable Fund was activated to support Bangladesh's cyclone recovery programs.

In addition, a new thematic fund will enhance South-South cooperation by making additional technical assistance available for inter-country partnerships.

The GFDRR is helping to accelerate implementation of the HFA by:

- engaging national governments and building consensus on priority areas of action to reduce disaster risks and losses;
- leveraging the World Bank's development portfolio so that disaster risk reduction is included in country activities;
- helping to mainstream disaster risk reduction as a dimension of public management;
- providing high-risk countries with analytical tools and policies, and with regulatory and investment instruments, to address natural disasters, reduce vulnerabilities, and adapt to climate change;
- catalyzing greater investment in disaster prevention and emergency preparedness;
- strengthening international cooperation on all aspects of disaster risk reduction, particularly on joint needs assessments and recovery planning after a disaster;
- providing an effective platform for donor coordination and aid effectiveness;
- focusing special attention on Africa.

Although this is a long-term effort, a number of countries are already integrating disaster risk reduction into country assistance and poverty reduction strategies, annual country economic memoranda, and assessments of progress toward the Millennium Development Goals.

The GFDRR's mission is becoming more urgent with the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. Hard-earned development gains have been set back by the droughts in

Africa and massive flooding across Asia last year, as well as by the more recent floods in Eastern Africa. Many smaller disasters with large localized economic and social consequences are compounding the situation. Overall, natural disasters have affected the lives and livelihoods of more than 134 million people in 108 countries, killing 23,000 and causing economic damage and losses totaling over US\$35 billion.

Ten Worst Natural Disasters in 2007 (by number of deaths)

Cyclone Sidr, November	Bangladesh
Flood, July-August	Bangladesh
Flood, July-September	India
Flood, August	Korea, Democratic People's Republic
Flood, June-July	China, People's Republic
Earthquake, August	Peru
Heat Wave, July	Hungary
Cyclone Yemyin, June	Pakistan
Flood and Landslides, June	Pakistan
Flood, July	India

Sources: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database

The threat of climate change—and its close links to economic development and poverty reduction—are giving new impetus to the GFDRR agenda. According to the *Fourth Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in February 2007, it is likely that tropical cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes), glacier lake outburst floods, and sea-level rise will increase. The GFDRR's well-established methods of disaster risk reduction are tailor made to help countries cope.

A GFDRR Milestone — Stockholm Forum for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



▲ Forum participants took advantage of informal opportunities to share experiences and best practices.

> The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and World Bank cosponsored the Stockholm Forum.



▲ Swedish media interviewed disaster experts, such as Xavier Chavano, Team Leader in Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management.

▼ Takeshi Osuga, Director of Global Issues Cooperation in Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Eiji Torisu, Director for Disaster Preparedness and International Cooperation, Cabinet Office of Japan, at the Consultative Group meeting.





▲ The Stockholm Forum drew several hundred disaster, climate change, and poverty experts from around the world.



▲ Denmark was elected as cochair of the GFDRR Consultative Group with the World Bank. Shown here, left to right, are Saroj Kumar Jha, GFDRR Manager; Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Head of Department at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Laszlo Lovei, Director of the World Bank's Finance, Economics, and Urban Department.

▼ Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, far left, addressed the session on integrating climate change and disaster risk considerations in poverty reduction plans. With her are panelists Anna Marie Torres Nunoz, Chief of Colombia's Office of Risk Analysis and Control, Ms. Albrechtsen, Mr. Chavano, Anders Wijkman, a Member of the European Parliament, and Abdulkhaleq Al-Ghaberi, Director General of Environmental Emergency in Yemen's Ministry of Water and Environment.



▲ Magnus Lindell, Sida Assistant Director General, right, and Salvano Briceño, Director of the ISDR Secretariat, at the Consultative Group meeting.

< Consultative Group member Isabelle Forge, Advisor for Sustainable Development and Risk Reduction of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Stockholm Plan of Action for Integrating Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts into Poverty Reduction

October 24, 2007, Stockholm, Sweden

Over 200 participants, representing national governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organizations, experts, and researchers gathered in Stockholm and together endorsed a strong message on the need to more effectively integrate natural hazard and climate change risks into national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies.

The workshop was organized jointly by Sida, the World Bank, and the ISDR under the GFDRR.

The workshop emphasized the ongoing and long-term risks of climate change and disasters—due both to climate and geological hazards—to economic growth and poverty, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Climate change increases, for instance, communities' social and economic vulnerability, affects livelihoods and settlement patterns, and causes political tensions and conflict. Poorer communities are most vulnerable to the impact of small- and large-scale disasters, as well as climate variations, and have less capacity to prevent and prepare for disasters and respond and then recover when they occur.

The workshop took into consideration the outcomes of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held June 5–7, 2007, and the recent findings of the IPCC, particularly the fact that climate change is likely to increase the frequency and intensity of severe weather events and climate variability.

The workshop recognized the long-term, gender-sensitive engagement required to address the underlying vulnerability and poverty factors that affect communities' resilience in the face of disaster and climate change risk. This engagement was presented as an important contribution to sustaining progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

Participants outlined the challenges and described the successes and benefits of integrating disaster and climate change risk into poverty reduction strategies, with a strong emphasis on the regional, national, and local contexts. The presentations highlighted the fact that while the global agenda is now strongly driven by climate change, national concerns are focused on current disasters and climate variability.

In the context of the above, the following priority actions emerged from the discussions:

1. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation cannot be dealt with in isolation.

Enhanced institutional and policy coordination are needed at the individual country, region, and global institution levels on disaster risk reduction and climate change. This includes closer collaboration and research, as well as the development of common strategies for integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and poverty reduction strategies. These efforts should also link to policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which also contribute to reducing disaster risk.

Climate change focal points, representatives of relevant bilateral and multilateral organizations and international financial institutions (IFIs), and in-country experts, including from civil society organizations, were encouraged to engage in the meetings and activities of national disaster risk management mechanisms, such as ISDR system national platforms where they exist.

2. Risks due to disasters and climate change must be known and measured. Alongside urgent action to respond to the challenges, continuing and systematic socioeconomic and poverty analysis is required, therefore making the case for mainstreaming adaptation and disaster risk reduction into development plans. This includes increased recognition of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction concerns by national governments, in particular ministries of planning and finance, and relevant sectoral ministries.

Engagement of bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as research institutions that are working in the national context on development and poverty reduction issues, is also required. This should be included, when appropriate, under GFDRR in its Track II countries.¹

Disaster and climate change risk need to be addressed in the context of each country's social political, cultural, and institutional specifics. Efforts are required to understand how these and other country characteristics interact with hazard and climate change patterns and affect overall vulnerability, especially for the poor.

Tracking of investments and available resources will further assist in coordinated action and support targeted resource mobilization.

3. Disaster and climate change risk analysis must be integrated into national planning processes, including the poverty reduction strategy process in each country. The findings of disaster and climate change risk analyses should be relevant to and targeted toward national development strategies and budgets, as well as a country's poverty reduction strategy.

This will require mainstreaming risk of climate change and disasters into core IFI and other donor diagnostic and related country planning and budgeting processes. The findings should include information on the various options for reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change.

¹ The list of countries supported by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is available on the GFDRR Web site at www.gfdr.org.

Links to other relevant national processes also are required. Common country risk analysis should build on and contribute to a country's efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, and support post-disaster response and recovery efforts, as well as the National Communications and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action for Least Developed Countries as requested under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Common country risk analysis should also allow for identifying national priorities for reducing disaster risk as part of national development plans, including as a basis for GFDRR Track II work plans.

4. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are not sectors, but need to be factors in all sectors. Key sectors such as agriculture, energy, health, water resources, urban development, forestry, and environment need to be engaged in national risk analysis and the prioritization of risk reduction actions through multi-sectoral national dialogues on disaster risk as called for by the HFA.

5. Capacity building is required at the local, regional, national, and global levels, again with a focus on Global Facility priority countries that are particularly prone to natural hazards. A major challenge for mainstreaming disaster and climate change risk is raising awareness among policy makers and practitioners of the concept and practice of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and ensuring they have access to a regular and consistent flow of information.

The workshop recognized the need to accelerate efforts to reduce disaster risk, as called for by the HFA, in countries with high levels of vulnerability to natural hazards and the risks of climate change. Disaster risk reduction is an urgent item on national agendas in order to reduce poverty and adapt to climate change. It requires increased investments through international funding, as well as in national and local government budgets and private sector engagement.

Additional attention must be given to support efforts leading to the post-Kyoto agreement, currently under discussion in the context of the UNFCCC, to ensure that the limited attention to adaptation and associated funding gaps are appropriately addressed, recognizing the important role of disaster risk reduction.

Finally, strong appreciation was expressed to Sida for hosting the event, the speakers, and other contributors, support staff, as well as for the co-organizers, the ISDR secretariat and the World Bank.