

## South-South Cooperation Program for Disaster Risk Reduction

### *Policy Brief*

Recognizing the growing humanitarian impacts and development losses resulting from natural disasters, the U.N. General Assembly adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities* as the comprehensive guide for disaster risk reduction efforts. The U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) is an inclusive global movement dedicated to implementing the Hyogo Framework

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a unique partnership of the World Bank, UN/ISDR, and governments. It was established to help developing countries enhance their capacity for disaster prevention, emergency preparedness, and recovery, including adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The GFDRR operates through three tracks. Track I, which supports the UN/ISDR System and Secretariat, focuses on enhanced global and regional advocacy, partnerships, and the standardization of disaster risk management tools, methodologies, and practices. Track II provides technical assistance to high risk countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning, and programming. Track III, through a Standby Recovery Financing Facility, supports rapid and predictable disaster recovery operations by providing low-income countries with incentives to invest in disaster risk reduction.

### Why South–South Cooperation?

GFDRR assistance focuses on the most disaster-prone low- and middle-income countries<sup>1</sup> – the so-called South countries. Decades of experience in many sectors—i.e., agriculture, health, trade and even disaster management—have shown that the sharing of knowledge and expertise within the South is crucial to finding the most relevant, effective, and efficient solutions to common development challenges. Thus, South-South Cooperation is inspired by a spirit of mutual solidarity as well as a shared and enlightened self-interest in providing real benefits for the most vulnerable people. South-

---

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank report on *Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis* identified high-risk geographic regions and countries to better inform and design development efforts to reduce disaster-related losses in the future.

South Cooperation also fosters developing country leadership and ownership of the disaster risk reduction agenda. To capitalize on existing innovations and initiatives of the South and to facilitate networks of knowledge sharing, GFDRR has set up a special South–South Cooperation Program.

### **What is the GFDRR South–South Cooperation Program?**

The South–South Cooperation Program is a new GFDRR initiative to facilitate collaboration among low- and middle-income countries and help them mainstream disaster risk reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation, into development programming. The Program is expected to mobilize US\$100 million for South–South Partnerships between 2008 and 2015; this includes the partners' own commitments and contributions. The Program recognizes the vital role of South-South partnerships in achieving poverty reduction objectives and attaining the Millennium Development Goals. It capitalizes on the strong leadership, creativity, technical know-how, and practical disaster risk reduction experience of Southern governments, institutions, networks, and communities. Multilateral institutions, regional organizations, bilateral donors, and other partners in the North can play a catalytic role in South-South partnerships and are invited to support the initiative as accompanying members.

### **What principles guide the GFDRR South–South Cooperation Program?**

Effective South-South Cooperation is demand-driven and based on shared objectives as well as a common interest in learning from partners. Commitments to these partnerships stem from concrete needs identified by national and local analyses. The resulting collaboration facilitates the mutual exchange of knowledge and expertise, benefiting each partner on a reasonably equitable basis. Such collaborations also build long-term institutional capacity and deliver tangible results.

The above principles form the core of the Program's "Code of Good Partnership" and should be endorsed by all partners. The Code also implies that partners cooperate with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism, and that the collaborations are based on mutual respect, dedication, cultural sensitivity, and responsiveness. Partners commit their own intellectual, financial, technical, and human resources, and share the responsibility for the risks and outcomes of the collaboration.

## What does the South–South Cooperation Program deliver?

The Program catalyses South–South Cooperation in disaster risk reduction by matching “well-informed demand” with “responsive supply” and supporting public, private, and civil society partnerships between institutions and organizations in low- and middle-income countries. Over the next three years, the Program will offer grant financing to at least 15 partnerships, subject to available resources. These partnerships, established among Southern constituencies, are led and driven by the South.

The Program supports two types of partnerships: *enabling partnerships*, which bring together policy makers and practitioners to provide essential upstream analyses and create supportive policy and financing environments for effective development programming, and *executive partnerships*, which focus on the implementation of specific aspects of risk management related to individual hazards, climate change adaptation, disaster mitigation, and recovery. The Program will also encourage establishment of Southern-focused networks of “Centers of Excellence.”

During the 2008-2010 phase, partnerships can be developed around the following themes: building safer, resilient communities; financial risk sharing mechanisms; legislation and public policy development; risk assessment methods and systems; early warning and emergency preparedness; post-disaster needs assessment and recovery; information, education, and communication approaches; hazard-related risk mitigation; and risk reduction in particular areas, such as urban centers and small islands. Particular attention should be given to the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and women.

## What is the South–South Cooperation Trust Fund (SSCTF)?

The South–South Cooperation Program is financed by a multi-donor South–South Cooperation Trust Fund (SSCTF), which is managed by the GFDRR Secretariat under the guidance of the GFDRR Consultative Group. SSCTF complements GFDRR’s other financing modalities in order to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of global, regional, and national resources for disaster risk reduction and recovery, including adaptation to the impacts of climate change. It builds on the global and regional processes supported under Track I and helps Track II countries share, learn from, and collaborate with each other to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development planning and

programming. The SSCTF also supports collaboration and knowledge sharing through expeditious recovery initiatives funded by Track III technical assistance.

## Who can request SSCTF support?

A typical SSCTF-supported partnership has two or more “principal members” from disaster-prone low- and middle-income countries with more than 30 percent of their population and GDP in areas at risk from one or more hazards or those requiring special attention due to adverse geo-economic factors, such as small-islands or fragile states. Priority is given to designated GFDRR Track II countries. Partnering countries must be committed to the Hyogo Framework and should be implementing or planning a risk reduction strategy as well as establishing a UN/ISDR-compatible national platform. Partners should have the potential to leverage additional national and donor resources. They should also have specific institutions and organizations that are committed to developing cooperative partnerships with comparable bodies in other countries.

The members of an SSCTF-supported partnership should be legal entities. Partnering entities might be government agencies, sub-national entities, public and private sector institutions, or non-governmental and civil society organizations. They must be endorsed by their respective national platform or the equivalent national coordination authority for disaster risk reduction. One of the principal members is expected to act as a focal point by assuming the responsibility for facilitating the collaboration and reporting on results on behalf of all members.

Developed country institutions and international and multilateral bodies that are part of the UN/ISDR system are welcomed as “accompanying members.” Their role is to assist the collaboration with additional financial and technical support. Regional economic commissions and regional organizations are also encouraged to participate.

Every partner is required to identify the specific commitments that they will bring to the partnership. These core commitments may include financial contributions and quantified, in-kind technical assistance, products, and services.

A pre-condition for SSCTF support is the commitment of principal members to contribute financial resources or specified and quantified technical inputs to sustain or expand the partnership beyond the initial period of SSCTF support. If and when members of a specific partnership decide that the partnership should be discontinued, i.e. after having fully or partially achieved its objectives, it is

anticipated that principal members will contribute financially or technically to one or more of GFDRR's three tracks.

## How can potential partners apply for SSCTF support?

The SSCTF Operations Manual is available at [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org). It lists the priority countries, describes eligibility criteria and the application process, and provides the associated templates. Beginning in 2008, proposals will be accepted twice a year, between June 1 - 30 and December 1 – 31.

To qualify for a South-South Cooperation Grant, the scope of partnership should include one or more areas of risk management, climate change adaptation, disaster mitigation, or recovery through technical cooperation activities. These activities involve developing and sharing knowledge and experiences about evidence-based public policies and action plans, including their monitoring and evaluation; piloting specific risk reduction technologies or interventions; strengthening organizational and institutional capacities, including training and establishment of "Centers of Excellence; and designing innovative financing approaches, such as risk transfer.

All proposals undergo a two-stage review process. Stage 1 proposals are assessed against SSCTF priorities, eligibility, and evaluation criteria. Qualified applicants are then invited to submit full Stage 2 proposals<sup>2</sup>. To comply with the World Bank fiduciary requirements, applicants may be requested to submit additional documentation, such as financial reports and proof of legal status.

The full partnership proposals are peer-reviewed by an expert panel appointed by the GFDRR Secretariat. As part of the evaluation process, the GFDRR Secretariat will assess the capacity of the identified focal point to administer funds, including a review of the organization's financial statements and its track record, if any, in grant fund administration.

Approved proposals are initially funded up to a maximum of US\$500,000 over three years through a grant agreement with the focal point as the recipient of the grant. The grant agreement becomes effective when all partners sign a mutually agreed MOU outlining the objectives, terms, and conditions of the partnership. The disbursement of funds is linked to an agreed work plan and the grant is administered according to Bank guidelines.

---

<sup>2</sup> In exceptional cases Partnership Preparation Funds (PPF) up to US\$100,000 can be requested for preparation of the Stage 2 proposal. The recipient shall administer the funds in accordance with the World Bank rules and regulations.

## How is success of the South South Cooperation Program assessed?

The success of the Program depends directly on the effectiveness of the partnerships that it supports. Each partnership submits a quarterly implementation report and an annual consolidated narrative and financial report. The reports include the partners' reflections on lessons learned, which are incorporated into the GFDRR Secretariat's Results-based Management System for the monitoring and evaluation of all projects. The key performance criteria for assessing the outcomes of the South-South Cooperation Program include the extent to which the supported partnerships:

- Catalyze or leverage additional technical and financial resources for country-level actions in disaster risk reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation;
- Ensure the sustainable development or expansion of country-level and regional capacities for disaster risk reduction;
- Impact the magnitude and quality of national disaster risk reduction planning and programming.

(Box)

### Tribute to GFDRR Partners

Since its establishment in September 2006, the GFDRR has evolved into a partnership of Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN/ISDR, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, and the World Bank.

Detailed information about joining the South-South Cooperation Program is available at [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

1818 H Street NW

Washington, DC 20433 USA

T 202-458-0268

F 202-522-3227

Contacts:

Saroj Kumar Jha, GFDRR Manager:

[sjha1@worldbank.org](mailto:sjha1@worldbank.org)

Katalin Demeter, South - South Cooperation Team Leader

[kdemeter@worldbank.org](mailto:kdemeter@worldbank.org)

Mukesh Kapila, GFDRR Adviser

[mkapila@worldbank.org](mailto:mkapila@worldbank.org)

May 2009