

GFDRR on Civil Society and Community-Driven Resilience

Since its launch in 2007, GFDRR has supported initiatives engaging civil society and community leaders on disaster risk management. Through its Civil Society Partnership Strategy, GFDRR works with civil society in 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. When communities, civil society organizations (CSOs),² and governments partner together, disaster risk management 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 disaster risk management.

What We Do

GFDRR promotes the role of community leadership and civil society in disaster risk management 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 disaster risk management 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.

GFDRR held consultations with **more than 300** representatives of international CSOs and local community leaders **in 11 countries** to inform its Civil Society Partnership Strategy.

The Strategy has guided **new pilot country engagements** and the development of an online platform to connect CSOs working in disaster risk management.



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
Mali
Niger
Sudan
Ethiopia
Uganda
Kenya
Eritrea
Djibouti
Somalia

GFDRR Support

- \$500,000 or Less
- \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
- More than \$1,000,000
- Civil Society and Community Driven Resilience Engagement⁴

Horn of Africa

GFDRR Project: Horn of Africa Open Data Mapping Project

Partners: Red Cross Kenya, Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development, World Food Programme, and the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Description: This project promotes open access to geospatial information about the ongoing drought response in the Horn of Africa. In October 2013, GFDRR supported the regional Random-Hacks-of-Kindness event in East Africa, which had nearly 200 participants.

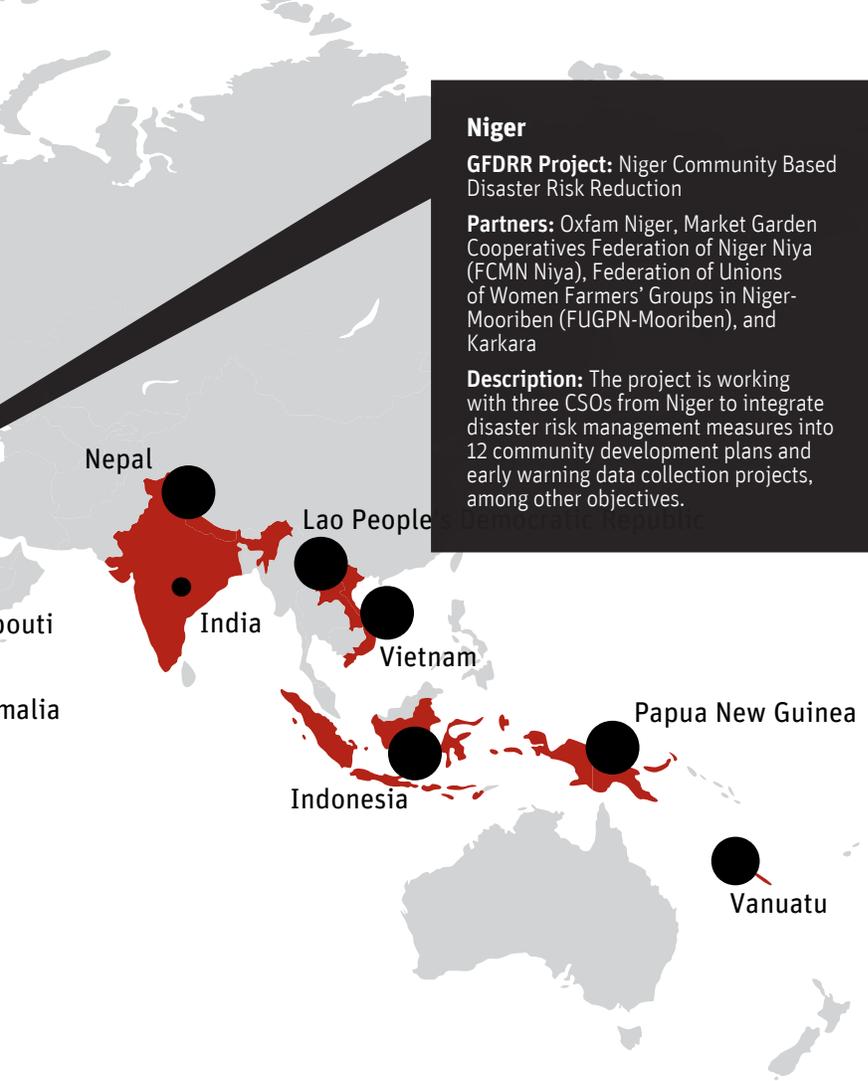
GFDRR Civil Society Partnership Strategy

In October 2010, donors requested that GFDRR scale up engagement with civil society. GFDRR drafted its Civil Society Partnership Strategy through an in-depth consultation and dialogue with CSOs, governments, donor agencies, UN agencies, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the World Bank. GFDRR's Consultative Group endorsed the strategy in April 2012 for a two-year pilot period.

The strategy has led to GFDRR pilot country engagements:

- Nepal: GFDRR awarded a US\$600,000 contract to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Nepal Red Cross Society to build flood resilience using a community-based approach, benefitting at least 70,000 people in the Kosi Basin. This is part of a wider national program to invest in community-based resilience.⁵
- Papua New Guinea: As part of a larger 2012 project, GFDRR made a \$700,000 grant to help launch an agricultural technical assistance project to improve farmers' resilience to natural disasters and climate change. One component of the project—the Small Grants Pilot—is bringing together the national Office of Climate Change and Development, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, and CSOs, including Women in Agriculture, farmer cooperatives, and faith-based organizations.

GFDRR is supporting the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction to create an online platform that maps civil society engagement in disaster risk management across the world. This tool will create a clear picture of civil society engagement with a map that pinpoints specific regional and country activities.



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.

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 leverage 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.

- > **World Bank Civil Society Review:** GFDRR works closely with the World Bank's Civil Society Team to promote the integration of disaster risk management into its activities. Through this collaboration and GFDRR's increasing engagement with civil society, the World Bank's Bi-Annual Civil Society Engagement Review showcased disaster risk management for the first time.⁶

- > **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

Where GFDRR Works

Since its inception, GFDRR has supported civil society engagement in disaster risk management in 32 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 civil society engagement leverages:

- Engagement with governments to create space for constructive cooperation with CSOs;
- 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.

Highlights

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

St. Lucia: Empowering Communities to Reduce Landslide Risk

GFDRR supported the government of St. Lucia's work to improve its disaster risk management through the second phase of its Disaster Mitigation Project with the World Bank. This helped expand the Management of Slope Stability in Communities (MoSSaiC) program to reduce landslide risk—a major risk in the cyclone-prone volcanic islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

Outside experts worked with residents in communities across the island, including the capital city of Castries. Residents, using their detailed knowledge of highly localized slope features, worked with local engineers, who understood landslide processes, to develop community-wide drainage plans and to hire local contractors for construction. Drains were designed to intercept the overland flow of rainfall and water from households, reducing the risk of landslides.

GFDRR's support of the project also resulted in a hands-on MoSSaiC guidebook and enabled further rollout of the methodology within the Caribbean. Since November 2011, 80 community leaders and 40 government staff in Jamaica have been trained to use the approach, with plans to bring the approach to eight more countries.

Facilitating Women's Leadership and Partnerships for Disaster Risk Management

In 2010, GFDRR awarded \$300,000 to CSOs Swayam Shikshan Prayog of India, Fundacion Guatemala, and the indigenous Garifuna organization WAGUCHA of Honduras to bring together policymakers and practitioners from these countries to share experience and knowledge on community-led disaster risk management practices with community-based women's groups and local governments.

During the two-year project, women significantly reduced their households' food insecurity, improved their ability to recognize drought and flooding conditions, and used new techniques, such as



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.

120 participants from 20 countries

came together at GFDRR's
Community Action for Resilience
Forum in Jakarta in 2011.

reforestation and river bank protection, to protect their homes and communities from these hazards. In addition, all three participating organizations built productive partnerships with their local governments and national disaster risk management and development agencies.

Open Data for Resilience Initiative (OpenDRI)

GFDRR's OpenDRI partners with governments, international organizations, and CSOs to develop online open systems for creating, sharing, and using disaster risk and climate change information. OpenDRI seeks to bring civil society, communities, and government together to improve risk identification. The Indonesian Scenario Assessment for Emergencies (InaSAFE), a free open-source software for better risk-informed planning, preparedness, and response that GFDRR supports, shows how working together—in this case with the Indonesian government, the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction, the East Asia AusAID Infrastructure for Growth Trust Fund, and the World Bank—can promote a deeper engagement with civil society and communities.

Lessons Learned

Connecting community leaders to higher-level policymakers makes both more effective.

Scaling up and sustaining community-based resilience calls for bridging the gap between the local, sub-national, and national levels, and understanding the complementary roles of formal and informal institutions. GFDRR's civil society engagement has helped drive those connections.

After participating in GFDRR's Facilitating Women's Leadership and Partnership program from 2010 to 2012, the participating network of indigenous Mayan women's organizations, members of the ethnic Garifuna

Fostering Partnership with Civil Society

GFDRR brings together CSOs, governments, and development partners:

- **Code Sprint / Random Hacks of Kindness:** GFDRR supports volunteer technical communities applying their skills to the challenges of disaster risk management. Launched in 2010, the Random Hacks of Kindness—a partnership that includes the World Bank, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo!, NASA, and Hewlett-Packard—brings together 150 government, private sector, and civil society partners to find technological solutions to support response in crisis and emergencies.
- **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.
- **GFDRR Training with CSOs:** GFDRR does a variety of training with and through civil society. In May 2012, GFDRR partnered with InterAction and the World Bank to organize a workshop on free and open source mapping tools, with the American Red Cross, Institutionalizing GIS, and OpenStreetMap providing hands-on demonstrations on projects in Haiti, Indonesia, and Kenya. GFDRR launched an online training program in 2010 offering 32 courses, ranging from three to six weeks in duration, to more than 1,400 professionals involved in disaster risk management activities.
- **UN Conference on Climate Change (COP17):** In Durban, South Africa, in 2011, GFDRR held a workshop to strengthen policy dialogue between governments and civil society and included the government of South Africa, ActionAid, the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of East Africa.
- **Understanding Risk 2014:** GFDRR launched the Understanding Risk Online Community of Practice in 2010. The Understanding Risk Forum comes together every two years to showcase disaster risk management's best practices and latest innovations. The global Community of Practice includes 2,850 members from 135 countries. The 2012 Understanding Risk Forum was held in Cape Town and attracted 500 government officials, insurance experts, engineering firms, risk modelers, space agencies, and CSOs, such as Red Cross Kenya and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team.

community, and fisherwomen in Guatemala became certified by the national disaster agency as public disaster risk reduction trainers and experts. In fact, the governments of Guatemala and Honduras both included grassroots women activists on their official national delegations to the UN Global Platform for Disaster Reduction in May 2013.

Communities are organized, have expertise, and want to work as partners.

At the Community Practitioners Academy and the Global Platform, organized community groups showed that they are not vulnerable, invisible, or working at a small scale. For reducing disaster risk and building long-term resilience in the face of climate change, natural disasters, and food insecurity, communities are often organized and can collaborate in strong partnerships with a variety of stakeholders.

In Honduras, the Garifuna indigenous women's network developed a collaborative relationship with the country's technical planning and external cooperation ministry, positioning the Garifuna organization WAGUCHA as a source for grassroots experts to show local authorities how to partner effectively with community groups. As a result of this collaboration and others, the Guatemalans, Hondurans, and affiliated Nicaraguan women's groups have created a new methodology to teach mayors and local authorities how to launch a collaborative UNISDR Resilient Cities campaign that deeply involves women's groups and other grassroots organizations.

Women are often the designers and builders of community resilience in poor communities.

The World Bank and many other institutions have found that women's empowerment is a key ingredient to building disaster and climate resilience. To maximize the impact of its support, GFDRR is prioritizing women's leadership in its engagements.

In India, government officials recognized the actions women were taking through their savings and credit groups to adapt to drought and ensure access to food. Recognized by the government as community drought experts, women leaders help connect drought-affected communities with government services.

Looking Ahead

Through the Civil Society Partnership Strategy, GFDRR will continue to support:

- Grants for projects that involve communities and civil society and help connect them to different levels of government, including in GFDRR's civil society pilot country engagements in Nepal and Papua New Guinea;
- Documentation of good practice on disaster risk management partnerships between communities, CSOs, and their local and national governments;
- Civil society policy forums, with ongoing dialogue and collaboration through the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience;
- The online platform for mapping civil society engagement in disaster risk management;
- Capacity development and knowledge exchange, including GFDRR's partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Tulane University's Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, as well as its support for disaster risk management-focused hackathons;
- Making disaster risk management a key part of development partners' civil society initiatives, such as through its collaboration with the World Bank's Social Resilience Team in publishing *Climate and Disaster Resilience: The Role for Community Driven Development* in 2014; and
- Strengthened civil society collaboration through the Recovery Framework, a GFDRR flagship initiative that is consulting civil society at the country level through case studies documenting good practices.

In addition, GFDRR's partnership with the 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 continue to support the inclusion of civil society voices in global disaster risk management 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 PrayogIndia, 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.



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