

Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management

Developing global partnerships – strengthening resilience to disaster and climate risks

The challenge

The complexity of global challenges has brought about changes in international cooperation, including in its approach to disaster risk management (DRM). An increasingly globalised economy, rapid urbanisation, demographic growth, the over-exploitation of resources in disaster prone areas, and climate change all mean that more and more people, economic goods and infrastructure are now vulnerable to disasters and climate-related risks. For example, around 200 million people each year are affected by extreme natural events such as earthquakes, extreme storms, drought and flooding. And while the numbers of casualties around the world as a result of disasters have fallen over recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the economic costs of these disasters.

A functioning system of disaster risk management is crucial to boosting the resilience of societies and mitigating the impact of both natural and technological hazards.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) 2015 Global Assessment Report (GAR) estimates that investing USD 6 billion in disaster risk management over the next 15 years would prevent losses of more than USD 360 billion. Taking disaster and climate risk into account when public and private investment projects are planned and implemented can reduce losses and is proven to make investment more sustainable. However, effective DRM requires not only further investment but also new partnerships between policy-makers, civil society, academia and the private sector to expand existing tried and tested approaches with innovative solutions.

Our approach

Against the backdrop of these global challenges from disaster risks, the German Government has set up the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) utilizing German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) financing.

The Global Initiative aims to strengthen the German contribution to improved disaster risk management worldwide. To this end, it brings together German and regional experts from the public and private sector, academia and civil society to facilitate mutual learning across regions and to develop and pilot innovative solutions. GIDRM clusters competencies in the field of disaster risk management and helps match the demand for specialised services and technologies 'Made in and with Germany' more effectively.

The Initiative has three priority areas:

1. Strengthening disaster response preparedness and civil protection
2. Resilient critical infrastructure and economic cycles
3. (Further) development of effective early warning systems

The Initiative's objective is to help implement the international Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and put regional and national action plans in place.



Beginning with eight Asian countries, the GIDRM expanded its operations in 2015 to activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Where possible, the Initiative seeks synergies with other German development cooperation projects in its partner countries.



Left: Evacuation exercise in the Philippines ©GIZ, Dave Martinez.

Centre: Floods in Bangkok, Thailand 2011, ©GIZ

Right: Simulation exercise in Bangladesh, ©GIZ

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IZR budget title

Since late 2011, BMZ has had the budget title 'International Cooperation with Regions for Sustainable Development' (known by its German abbreviation as IZR). Measures funded under this budget title fulfil specific criteria, including:

- Taking a cross-sectoral and cross-regional approach to tackling global challenges
- Building networks with stakeholders from politics, administration, civil society and the private sector
- Cost-sharing with cooperation partners and others involved; financial involvement is assessed for its potential for up-scaling

Examples from the field

Strengthening the resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises

In many countries in South-East Asia, more than 95% of the economy is made up of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are often particularly hard hit by the economic consequences of extreme natural events. Many SMEs serve international supply chains, and a large part of their economic success depends on earnings from trade in supplier products. However, globally networked business cycles mean that when SMEs go out of business as a result of a disaster in their region, this often has an impact on markets and companies in other regions. Disaster risks are increasingly perceived as factors in location decisions and competitiveness. Investment in risk reduction and management measures not only reduces the losses incurred by SMEs but also helps to boost competitiveness and secure jobs in the long term. Working with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the agencies responsible for SMEs in its partner countries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, the GIDRM draws up country studies to inform its specific services and to document the institutional, legislative and operational framework.

Such work focuses on developing one-stop shops for SMEs, which tackle the full range of DRM issues. These one-stop centres are financed by the responsible government agencies and business associations. As well as conducting risk analyses to enable SMEs to better assess their own vulnerability, these organisations work together to identify appropriate risk reduction measures and approaches to risk transfer and funding as well as business continuity management for companies.

Disaster risk reduction in public investment

Public transport infrastructure and public services, such as water and health care, are particularly vital to a functioning society. Where such critical infrastructure is destroyed or damaged by extreme natural events, the impact on the population is frequently catastrophic and can have a sustained effect on socioeconomic development. For sustainable development, it is therefore particularly effective for public sector investment projects to take disaster and climate risks into account. The advisory services of the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management are based on an approach first used in Peru, in which investment projects systematically identify risks and select and implement risk reduction measures according to their cost-benefit ratio. This approach also ensures that investments are sustainable. As it develops this approach further, the GIDRM is focusing on investment in corrective management and disaster-resilient reconstruction.

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Cooperating with	Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK), Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), German Aerospace Center (DLR), Red Latinoamericana de Gestión del Riesgo y Cambio Climático en la Inversión Pública (Red GRICCIP-LAC), Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
Countries	Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Germany
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