

# Transforming development to minimise risk creation

## Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) IV

### The challenge

Disasters claim human lives, destroy livelihoods, lead to the destruction of ecosystems, and are often still felt by societies years later. This was illustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In our increasingly interconnected world, climate change exacerbates disaster impacts in societies across all sectors. The economic loss due to extreme events and disasters has more than doubled in the past three decades. This trend further exacerbates existing inequalities as the human cost of disasters falls overwhelmingly on low- to middle-income countries. At the same time, an increase in disasters and disaster losses are predicted.

Progress in poverty reduction, climate action, peacebuilding, and universal access to healthcare and other basic infrastructure services is being undermined by both existing and emerging disaster risks. Not only the major disasters threaten developmental gains, but also recurrent smaller scale events result in adverse impacts. Disruption and failures of infrastructure, services, supply chains and other essential components of daily life impede future progress and jeopardise advances made towards equitable and sustainable development. More vulnerable or marginalized population groups are especially affected due to inadequate opportunities for participation and interruptions of basic services.

**Decisions on development processes and investments can contribute to the emergence of new risks** if they lead to, for example,

- settlement of populations and economic assets in hazard-prone areas,
- insufficient planning and management of urban development or infrastructure,
- excessive utilisation of natural resources and ecosystems,
- or social inequality being promoted by development decisions.

Project name	Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) IV
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Global; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Laos, Pakistan, Southern Africa
Duration	01.11.2023-31.10.2026

### Our approach

To minimise risk creation and foster resilience of people and infrastructure, stakeholders across all sectors need to be strengthened in their capacities to understand risks and apply approaches to integrate disaster and climate risks in decision-making processes.

The GIDRM aims to strengthen the **application of disaster risk management (DRM) approaches as integrated solutions** in selected development cooperation projects (technical and financial cooperation) and their partner structures. Experiences and lessons learned from the integration process will be used to inform future portfolio development to better take risks into account and safeguard development gains.

The project prepares context-specific risk analyses to build a common understanding of prioritized measures that strengthen resilience. Risk data is also systematically made available, risk-reducing measures are implemented together with local partners and lessons learned from these approaches are disseminated. Overall, the GIDRM promotes cross-sectoral knowledge exchange on risks and sharing best practices globally.



*L. to r.: Road infrastructure in Georgia, Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre in Mozambique*



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L. to r.: dam infrastructure in Pakistan,  
urban development in Bogotá, Colombia

**Module objective** | The application of disaster risk management approaches as integrated solutions in the selected partner countries of German development cooperation and international cooperation is strengthened.

cooperation structures in the partner countries and regions to jointly develop integrated solutions for regional, country- and sector-specific contexts. By embedding its activities into ongoing projects, the GIDRM ensures implementation needs of partner structures are met while also adding towards the longevity of measures, capacity building and knowledge management in the portfolio.

## The benefits

**Risk-informed decision-making is a prerequisite for sustainable development.** While every development decision has the potential to promote resilient and sustainable development, it also carries the inherent potential of generating new or additional risks.

Further implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) requires new and transformative approaches to understand and address systemic risks and prevent the emergence of new risks. Transformative approaches entail opportunities to reduce or avoid risks by supporting paradigm shifts for development pathways.

## Success factors

The focus lies on the integration of DRM approaches into the BMZ key topics 'Adaptive Social Protection', 'Climate change and development', 'Good financial governance', 'Protecting our natural resources', 'Sustainable economic development' and 'Urban development'.

By cooperating with ongoing projects and their partners, the GIDRM aims at **mainstreaming DRM as a cross-cutting theme in sectoral processes in bilateral and regional portfolios** of international cooperation. The Initiative leverages established

## Where we work

The GIDRM works in five country and one regional context to strengthen risk-informed development, namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Laos, Pakistan, and Southern Africa. For all six contexts, the framework analyses on the Enabling Environment for Risk-informed Development (EE4RID) are conducted to assess and prioritise systemic risks while identifying entry points for risk reduction measures.

By examining the EE4RID across each country and region while considering gender equality, the initiative offers proven methods and concepts for integrating DRM approaches. The GIDRM also aims at promoting global learning and exchange opportunities between relevant actors of international cooperation, for example, by providing digital training materials. From strengthening risk awareness to integrating DRM approaches into the budgeting of national development planning, utilising disaster risk data for social protection schemes, conducting participatory risk assessments for urban development projects and fostering the resilience of small-and-medium-sized enterprises, the GIDRM aims at making use of synergies between the local needs and identified entry points for mainstreaming disaster risk management to strengthen risk-informed development.

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