

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

In face of the rising global challenges from disaster risks, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has set up the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) in 2013. **GIDRM aims to strengthen the German contribution to improve (disaster) risk management worldwide** and to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disasters (just as we are currently experiencing with the **COVID-19 pandemic**) have impacts on a variety of areas such as public health, the economy, governance, tourism, critical infrastructure (e.g. water, health care, communication, transport) and can have devastating effects in already fragile contexts. Disaster risk management is a cross-sectoral issue.

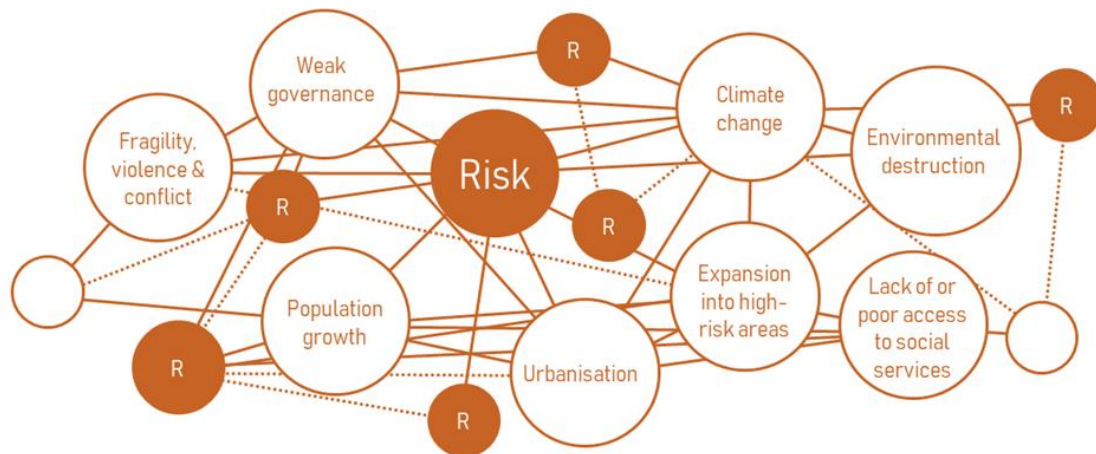


GIDRM III (2020-2023): STRENGTHENING RISK-INFORMED DEVELOPMENT

Societies, ecosystems and infrastructure worldwide are increasingly exposed to natural, technological, geophysical and man-made hazards as well as slow-on set events and disasters with cascading effects. Extreme events often have a disastrous impact if the state and the population were not sufficiently prepared and/or the preventive measures in place were inadequate. This is intensified by risk drivers such as population growth, urbanization or weak governance. Those states which are already worst affected by fragility, conflict, and violence often lack the capacity to protect their population from such hazards and disasters leading to loss of life, displacement and exacerbating inequality. Climate change amplifies these factors. Risks are increasingly becoming interdependent, complex and transnational in nature. However, current

risk management approaches within development are often limited to considering one threat at a time (usually a natural hazard such as flooding or earthquakes), thereby, falling short of recognizing multiple concurrent threats and emerging global hazards.

A lack of ability to understand and manage systemic risks jeopardizes the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals. Advances in poverty reduction, disease control, and access to health, education and social services are fragile and undermined by new and emerging threats. **Disasters can suddenly wipe out many years of development achievements and reduce the development opportunities of the countries affected.**



Despite an increasing understanding of the complexity of risks, these are not always adequately considered in development planning and programming, either in the partner regions and countries or by international donors. **There is no doubt, that we will need to transform the way we govern risk.**

Against this background, the third phase of GIDRM is geared towards strengthening **risk-informed development (RID)**, i.e. an understanding of development that takes into account multi-faceted, dynamic, interdependent, transnational, simultaneous and systemic risks. RID helps to enable participation in political decision-making to foster resilience and leave no one behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, is illustrating the vulnerability and interdependencies of all social policy fields and sectors worldwide. Almost no state was adequately prepared for the impacts and challenges of the pandemic. However, managing the crisis is particularly overwhelming for those countries without efficient state institutions (i.e. weak governance), fragile statehood or those countries at risk from extreme events. The parallel occurrence of various hazards (so-called multi-hazards situations) result in system limits being quickly exhausted.

Often, the expertise, capacities and skills of actors and decision-makers are not yet at a level that would enable them to address

GOAL | GIDRM III aims at supporting selected decision-makers, regional organisations and initiatives in Southern Africa, Asia and Latin America in strengthening their capacities and skills to use risk-informed development while taking account of context-specific fragility factors.

risks effectively: **It's all about risk governance.** COVID-19 has already demonstrated that a narrow focus on a small set of hazards, by one or two government agencies, is not enough to prevent or even respond to complex disaster risks. Risk Governance aims at systematically understanding multiple hazards and complex risks and crafting development decisions that avoid risk creation (where possible) and enable risk reduction.

Applying the risk governance lens in all sectors and on all governmental levels while ensuring the participation of all members of society is crucial to strengthen risk-informed development.



GIDRM II (2018-2020): FOSTERING COHERENCE FOR RESILIENCE

Disaster risk management is at the heart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is also reflected as cross-sectoral issue in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The importance of DRM is therefore recognized by all important international post-2015 agendas and its implementation is a globally accepted requirement for all nations. However, coherence among these agendas is lacking, which can create a significant additional burden for countries (e.g. overlapping responsibilities or duplicated data collection). Different financing and support mechanisms of the global agendas reinforce inefficiencies.

The second phase of GIDRM began in February 2018 and ended in November 2020 and aimed at counteracting this situation with the approach to **foster practical coherence for resilience**. GIDRM II supported selected international and national, governmental and non-governmental actors in

their ambition to achieve coherence between the Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, with regards to planning, implementing and reporting on disaster risk management.

GIDRM II launched regional initiatives in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Within those two regions, the project focused on two pilot countries: Mexico and the Philippines. The project identified national and subnational examples of **successful agenda-coherence**. These so-called good practices were presented at regional platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Asia-Pacific-Region and subsequently introduced as regional recommendations at international conferences, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

GIDRM I (2013-2018): DEVELOPING RISK-REDUCING APPROACHES

The first phase of the project began in May 2013 and ended in January 2018. GIDRM I had aimed at matching the demand for specialized services and technologies ‘Made in and with Germany’ more effectively. To this end, it brought 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 I collaborated with regional stakeholders in the pilot countries Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Germany.

By relying on this international network and the shared know-how, GIDRM I and its regional partners identified risks and then jointly developed and strengthened risk-reducing approaches.

The three priority areas were:

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

