

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. Climate change continues to underline the increasingly interconnected world, where disasters are more frequently impacting 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 is predicted.

Progress made in poverty reduction, climate action, peacebuilding as well as regarding the universal access to healthcare and other basic infrastructure services is undermined by existing and emerging disaster risks. Not only the major disasters threaten developmental gains, but also the impact of regularly occurring, smaller events. Disruption and failures of infrastructure, services, supply chains and other essential components of daily life impede future progress and jeopardise advances made in equitable and sustainable development. More vulnerable or marginalized population groups are especially affected by 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,

- populations and economic capital settling in hazard-exposed areas,
- cities or infrastructure being inadequately planned and managed,
- natural resources and ecosystems being overused,
- 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; Colombia, Georgia, Pakistan, Southern Africa
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Our approach

To minimize 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 fully integrate disaster and climate risks in decision-making processes.

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 contribute to safeguarding of development gains also through cooperation.

To this end, 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. The project promotes cross-sectoral exchange on risks and relies on a global exchange of best practices.



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 Bogota, 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.

specific contexts. By embedding its activities in already existing projects, GIDRM ensures that implementation meets the needs of partner structures 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. Every development decision has the potential to promote resilient and sustainable development, but also potentially contributes to the creation of 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 'Good financial governance', 'Climate change and development', 'Urban development' and 'Sustainable economic development'.

By cooperating with ongoing projects and their partners, GIDRM aims at **mainstreaming DRM as a cross-cutting issue in sectoral processes in bilateral and regional portfolios** of international cooperation. The Initiative relies on established cooperation structures in the partner countries and regions to jointly develop integrated solutions for regional, country- and sector-

Where we work

GIDRM works in four country and regional contexts across the globe to strengthen risk-informed development, namely, Colombia, Georgia, Pakistan, and Southern Africa. For all four contexts, framework analyses on the Enabling Environment for Risk-informed Development" (EE4RID) are conducted to assess and prioritise systemic risks and identify entry points for risk reduction measures.

Along the EE4RID analysis in each country and region and considering gender equality aspects, tried-and-tested examples, methods, and concepts for integrating DRM approaches are provided. 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 for national development planning processes, to using disaster risk data for social protection schemes, or conducting participatory risk assessments for urban development projects, or fostering the resilience of small-and-medium enterprises, 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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