

## **A Guide to the South-South Cooperation Program for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a unique partnership of the World Bank, the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and governments. It was established to support implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities*, the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction adopted by the United Nations.

The South-South Cooperation Program is a major GFDRR initiative to facilitate collaboration among low- and middle-income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation, into development planning. Through grant financing up to US\$500,000, the Program fosters demand-driven and results-oriented South-South partnerships designed around specific needs, common interests, and shared objectives. The Program aims to strengthen the leadership role of developing countries in finding the most relevant, effective, and efficient risk reduction and recovery solutions that are part of wider efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Program matches “well-informed demand” with “responsive supply” and supports public, private, and civil society partnerships between institutions and organizations in low- and middle-income countries through the multi-donor South-South Cooperation Trust Fund (SSCTF). These partnerships are expected to mobilize at least US\$100 million between 2008 and 2015. Building on the partners’ commitments of intellectual, financial, technical, and human resources, the Program will support at least 15 partnerships over the next three-years.

The Program includes two types of partnerships: *enabling partnerships*, which bring together policy makers and practitioners to provide essential upstream analyses and create a supportive policy and financing environment for effective programming, and *executive partnerships*, which focus on the specific implementation aspects of risk reduction. The scope of these partnerships must include one or more areas of risk management, climate change adaptation, disaster mitigation, or recovery. Subsidiary activities involve developing and sharing knowledge and experience about evidence-based public policies and plans, including their monitoring and evaluation; designing innovative risk financing approaches; piloting specific risk reduction technologies or interventions; and strengthening organizational and institutional capacities. Partnerships can be developed around the following themes: building safer, more resilient communities; financial risk sharing mechanisms; legislation and public policy development; risk assessment methods and systems; early warning and emergency preparedness; post-disaster needs assessment and recovery; information, education, and communication approaches; hazard-related risk mitigation; and risk reduction in specific areas, such as urban centers and small islands. Particular attention should be given to the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children and women.

A typical SSCTF-supported partnership has two or more “principal members” from disaster-prone low-and middle-income countries that require special attention because of adverse geo-economic factors. Developed country institutions and international and multilateral bodies that are part of the UN/ISDR system are welcomed as “accompanying members.” Their role is to provide additional financial and technical support. Regional economic commissions and regional organizations are also encouraged to participate.

Key outcomes of the South-South Cooperation Program will include the leveraging of additional technical and financial investments in country-level disaster risk reduction and recovery and the expansion of sustainable institutional capacities, all of which ultimately impact the magnitude and quality of national disaster risk reduction programming.

(Box)

### **Tribute to GFDRR Partners**

Since its establishment in September 2006, the GFDRR has evolved into a partnership of Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN/ISDR, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, and the World Bank.

**Detailed information about joining the South-South Cooperation Program is available at [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)**

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