



Draft Note on GFDRR's Engagement in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence

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GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

GFDRR's Engagement in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence

OVERVIEW

The international community is facing an era of unprecedented complexity of crises. An increasing number of countries are challenged by both, disaster and conflict risks, which are mutually reinforcing. On the one hand, inadequate response to disasters can exacerbate pre-existing tensions and trigger the eruption of violence. On the other hand, conflict is a major driver of vulnerability. It displaces people into hazard-prone areas and undermines the capacity of governments to provide protection. Our promise to 'leave no one behind' cannot be delivered if we do not act on the complex interplay of disasters and conflict.

GFDRR has already reacted to the growing demand from fragile and conflict affected countries. Building on strategic principles articulated in the 2016 CG Discussion Paper "Disasters, Conflict and Fragility: A Joint Agenda" there are currently 27 engagements in fragile and conflict-affected countries, with over \$50 million in grant commitments. Through engagements such as the post-disaster assessment of the 2016/17 drought in Somalia, GFDRR has accumulated substantial knowledge on how disasters and conflicts interact. However, such engagements have emerged in a rather ad-hoc manner.

A new initiative for disaster risk management (DRM) in situations of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) helps to respond to the increasing demand with a strategic approach. It supports exploiting the deep technical expertise of the Bank, and fostering systematic cross-fertilization of experiences in disaster and conflict.

THREE MAIN MESSAGES

DRM expertise and adapted tools improve the effectiveness of engagements in FCV countries. Based on GFDRR's profound experiences in Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs), the Middle East and North Africa (MNA) Resilience Team developed a new hybrid methodology to conduct remote Damage and Needs Assessments (DNAs) in conflict situations. It combines cutting-edge remote-based technology such as satellite imagery and social media analytics to effectively assess recovery needs in countries such as Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. These fast and easily replicable DNAs enable tailored solutions to support highly dynamic FCV countries and provide a sound basis for more comprehensive Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBAs).

GFDRR adjusts its DRM approaches for FCV settings by collaborating with, and learning from, conflict and peacebuilding experts. Insufficient government capacities, political tensions or acute outbreaks of violence require tailored, conflict sensitive DRM approaches. The new initiative will bring together disaster and conflict expertise from across the World Bank Group (WBG), to create a critical mass that collaborates effectively under a common umbrella. A first step is to incorporate a module on conflict sensitivity in trainings and guidelines for PDNAs and Disaster Recovery Frameworks (DRF) to ensure that recovery processes strengthen resilience to both, disasters and conflict.

BOX 1. MITIGATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND STRENGTHENING DROUGHT RESILIENCE IN SOMALIA

Somalia faces recurrent droughts, which displace people and put women and children in particularly precarious situations. Droughts have a disproportionate impact on the livelihoods, safety and wellbeing of women, who are already suffering from alarmingly high levels of exclusion and inequality. Experience shows that already widespread violence against women and girls is intensified in times of drought.

To counter both gender-based violence and vulnerability to drought, GFDRR supports the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with a grant that improves the provision of prevention and support services to mitigate gender-based violence, while simultaneously empowering women and strengthening their resilience to droughts.

The project financed an emergency drought needs assessment that had a special focus on gender issues and promotes savings groups. It assesses the impact of savings on men and women as well as patterns of violence. The project also works with men to discuss and address gender-based violence. To increase the sustainability of the impacts, the program partners with local Community-Based Organizations that will carry on the work once the grant comes to an end.

A systematic deepening of GFDRR's engagement in FCV countries ensures that DRM activities support stabilization and peaceful development. Tailored DRM engagements will contribute to a more holistic crisis prevention. Based on an analysis of past experiences and in close collaboration with peacebuilding, social inclusion, and community reconciliation experts, we will further develop and implement DRM approaches to reduce the impact of shocks on already fragile situations and open new avenues for dialogue and cooperation.

GOING FORWARD

With the latest replenishment, IDA doubled the amount of funding available for fragile and conflict affected countries to almost \$5 billion per year. Specific funding of about \$3 million per year over the next three to five years would allow GFDRR to build and maintain the capacities required to leverage these investments and support an increasing number of conflict affected countries to prepare for and respond to disasters and contribute to crisis prevention in a holistic manner.

BOX 2. BUILDING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO POST-CONFLICT ASSESSMENT USING DRM TOOLS: COMBINING SOCIAL MEDIA AND SATELLITE IMAGERY TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF IRAQ'S RECOVERY

Based on experiences and tools used in post-disaster recovery, the MNA Resilience Team employed a new hybrid methodology to conduct a Damage and Needs Assessment (DNA) in post-ISIS Iraq. This assessment is unprecedented in both its sectoral and geographic scope, covering damages, losses, and needs for building back in a resilient manner across 19 sectors in all seven conflict-affected governorates in Iraq.

The Iraq DNA relied on cutting-edge remote-based technology drawing on satellite imagery, publicly available information, and social media analytics from local residents to triangulate and verify ground-based data provided by the Government of Iraq. This hybrid methodology allowed the team to overcome security and data challenges and for the first time, expand the DNA to soft sectors like governance and social assessments.

The Iraq DNA, which was completed in less than 4 months, served as the base document for the "Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq" raising over \$30 billion of pledges. Three previous phases of the Iraq DNA informed various operations, leveraging over \$750 million for the Emergency Operation for Development Project, and a prospective Housing reconstruction program.

BOX 3. REDUCING DISASTER RISK IN THE CONTEXT OF FRAGILITY AND CONFLICT – EXPERIENCES FROM AFGHANISTAN



Since 1980, disasters have affected nine million people and inflicted more than 20,000 fatalities in Afghanistan. In recent years, the government has taken important steps to advance DRM by developing institutional DRM frameworks as well as national and provincial DRM plans. However, implementing these frameworks and plans remain a challenge due to insufficient budget, lack of capacity, and the tense security situation.

Since 2015, GFDRR has provided extensive technical assistance to strengthen the government's DRM capacities. Activities comprised (i) a countrywide multi-hazard risk assessment; (ii) a geospatial platform to enable the integration of disaster risk considerations into planning processes; (iii) an assessment of institutional capacities of the National Disaster Management Authority; (iv) a roadmap to strengthen hydro-meteorological and early warning services; (v) a DRM framework for the energy system; and (vi) DRM trainings for staff of various line ministries.

The Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment is the first of its kind in a fragile state. Its results have been visualized in the Afghanistan Risk Profile and the online Afghanistan Disaster Risk Info GeoNode. Policy makers, government counterparts, and partner organizations have now access to critical risk information. This helps the government to better understand the country's exposure to natural hazards and take proactive measures to reduce risks.