

Japan-World Bank Partnership to Mainstream Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries



Left: Arahama Elementary School building was damaged by tsunami in Sendai, Japan.



Below: A young girl at evacuation center in the Philippines (2009). Disasters hurt the poor and vulnerable the most.

Background

Learning from years of experience confronting natural disasters, Japan has established itself as a global leader in mainstreaming disaster risk management (DRM) in development policies and practices. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA, 2005)—the first plan developed to describe what is required to reduce disaster losses—serves as the backbone of international DRM efforts, and Japan and the World Bank have been working together for several years to share Japanese experiences and knowledge in this area.

The collaboration was further strengthened in 2011 after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami through knowledge, advocacy, and operational initiatives, including the development of 32 Knowledge Notes and a series of capacity building programs and seminars in 2012-13. The World Bank and the Japanese Government also jointly drafted the *Sendai Report*, a conceptual framework designed to help countries mainstream DRM to reduce their risks from natural hazards. The report was launched at the Sendai Dialogue held in Sendai, Japan in October 2012 as the special event of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings, at which global leaders unanimously supported the DRM agenda.

Building on the *Sendai Report's* recommendations, Japan's Finance Minister and the World Bank Group President together issued the *Sendai Statement*, emphasizing "the importance of increasing technical assistance and financial support to vulnerable developing countries for building resilience to disasters, including the usage of Japanese know-how and expertise, and extending knowledge and partnerships to support DRM policies and programs."

To further this goal, Japan announced a five-year, US\$100 million program to mainstream DRM in developing countries in April 2013.



Above: Memorial Stone of Tsunami indicates where tsunami reached at Nehama coast in Kamaishi-city, Iwate, Japan.



WORLD BANK GROUP



Ministry of Finance, Japan



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

About the Program

The five year, \$100 million **Japan-World Bank Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Developing Countries** aims to connect Japanese experience and knowledge with global expertise to support developing countries in mainstreaming DRM in national development planning and investment programs. The Program, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), will support technical assistance, pilot projects, knowledge and capacity building activities, and thematic initiatives focused on:

- **Risk Identification:** Production, communication and use of risk information.
- **Risk Reduction:** Land use planning, building standards and institutional strengthening.
- **Preparedness:** Forecasting and service delivery, early warning systems, and contingency planning.
- **Financial Protection:** Sovereign disaster risk financing, risk retention and transfer strategies.
- **Knowledge Mobilization and Exchange:** Knowledge development and dissemination, capacity building and outreach.

Governance

A Steering Committee headed by the Ministry of Finance, Japan, and the World Bank, will meet annually to review the program's performance and approve future initiatives.

For more information on the Program please visit <https://www.gfdr.org/node/27950>

Tokyo Disaster Risk Management Hub



Above: Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, with Mr. Hideaki Suzuki, Executive Director for Japan, Mr. Cyril Muller, Vice President, External and Corporate Relations and Mr. Yasusuke Tsukagoshi, Special Representative, Japan at the entrance of the DRM Hub, Tokyo, celebrating its opening.

A new knowledge center, the *World Bank Disaster Risk Management Hub* has been established in the World Bank office in Tokyo. As part of the office's outreach and knowledge activities and the World Bank/GFDRR's DRM program, the Hub will work with Japan's public and private sectors to connect Japan's experience and expertise with developing countries through:

- a. Design and Implementation Support** – The Hub will work with World Bank teams to (i) provide on-demand support in preparing proposals; (ii) facilitate project implementation; and, (iii) monitor and report on project progress and results.
- b. Knowledge and Outreach** – The Hub will (i) develop and maintain a network of regional and Japanese centers of excellence in DRM; (ii) connect the knowledge and expertise of this network with World Bank teams to improve the design and/or implementation of projects; (iii) support knowledge development and dissemination, capacity building activities, as well as outreach and communication activities approved under the program.
- c. Partner Relations** – The Hub will further strengthen partnership with the public and private sectors in Japan and beyond for program implementation and knowledge mobilization.

About GFDRR

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) helps high-risk, low-income developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and adapt to climate change. Working with over 300 partners—mostly local government agencies, civil society, and technical organizations—GFDRR provides grant financing, on-the-ground technical assistance to mainstream disaster mitigation policies into country-level strategies, and a range of training and knowledge sharing activities. GFDRR is managed by the World Bank and funded by Japan and 40 other donor partners.

Contact:

Mika Iwasaki, World Bank Tokyo Office

Email: drmhutokyo@worldbank.org

www.gfdr.org