



# GFDRR Partnership Charter



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

# Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery<sup>1</sup>

## I. Background

1. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership program administered by the World Bank that supports countries most vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, with a focus on low income and small island developing states<sup>2</sup>, to understand, manage, prepare for, and reduce their risk to the impacts of natural hazards, climate change, and other perils. It also supports these countries in post-disaster response and sustainable recovery efforts.
2. GFDRR was launched on September 29, 2006 to support implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA)<sup>3</sup>. GFDRR supports countries to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030<sup>4</sup>, the successor to the HFA, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement.
  - a. Advocating for and enabling disaster and climate resilience through grant financing, analytics and technical support;
  - b. Improving institutions and policies for inclusive climate and disaster risk management; and
  - c. Supporting increased and better-quality investments in inclusive disaster and climate risk management.
5. GFDRR supports activities and prioritizes resources based on the following operating principles:
  - a. Demand Driven: GFDRR is focused on responding to the needs of people in low- and middle-income countries who are vulnerable to disaster and climate risks and to strengthen the capacities of the women, men, girls and boys who are vulnerable to disaster and climate risks. The funded activities respond to specific requests from regional, national, and sub-national authorities that are informed by the needs and priorities of communities, ensuring necessary ownership needed to achieve positive results. GFDRR also sources its demand through World Bank specialists who work across 170 countries.
  - b. Socially Inclusive: Resilient and sustainable development will not be achieved unless stakeholders participate meaningfully in the planning and implementation of disaster risk management and climate adaptation. GFDRR is committed to ensuring inclusive and equitable interventions, supporting community-driven development and capacity building, and engaging all people, regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or disability. It does so by working with governments, communities, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders to create more inclusive and resilient societies.

## II. Mission

3. The mission of GFDRR is to help communities, countries and regions reduce risk, prepare for, and recover from disasters by integrating inclusive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into development strategies and programs. GFDRR's mission supports the Sendai Framework's goal, which is to: "prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience."
4. GFDRR pursues this mission by supporting countries most vulnerable to climate and disaster risks, with a focus on low income and small island developing states through:

<sup>1</sup> The GFDRR Partnership Charter (the Charter) was adopted by the Consultative Group on February 23, 2007 and amended in 2010, 2013, and 2021. Pursuant to the amendment to the Charter effective on \_\_\_\_, 2021, the Consultative Group was reconstituted as the Partnership Council.

<sup>2</sup> The Charter follows the World Bank classification for countries.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/hyogo-framework-action-2005-2015-building-resilience-nations-and-communities-disasters>

<sup>4</sup> As adopted on March 18, 2015 by the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (March 14-18, 2015, Sendai, Japan) – United Nations, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, A/ CONF.224/CRP.1 (March 18, 2015), available at [www.undrr.org](http://www.undrr.org).

- c. Results Focused: GFDRR strives for a results-based management approach. This is embedded in its work plan and budget; program design and implementation; and monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities. GFDRR will continue to assess all activities prior to funding for links to advance its cross-cutting themes of social inclusion, climate change and environment, gender equity, and fragility, conflict and violence, as well as potential to leverage additional financing. It will also monitor and evaluate implementation of its program to improve portfolio performance, increase learning and knowledge exchange, strengthen accountability and inform decision making.

### III. Program Structure

- 6. GFDRR supports inclusive disaster and climate resilience globally, according to four priority areas, as outlined in its Strategy:
  - a. Risk Informed Decision-making: The objective of this priority area is to ensure countries and communities –including groups that have different levels of risk –people with disabilities, minorities, the elderly, women and children, have access to the information they need to make informed decisions, and to shift from understanding risk to managing risk and to promote and improve policies for effective decision-making in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
  - b. Reducing Risk and Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management: The objective of this priority area is to reduce existing risk by strengthening the resilience of infrastructure, urban and rural populations and livelihoods and mainstreaming disaster risk management across sectors to avoid creating new risks;
  - c. Financial Preparedness to Manage Disaster and Climate Shocks: The objective of this priority area is to improve governance to manage climate and disaster-related risks in the context of broader fiscal risks from unexpected shocks.
  - d. Disaster Preparedness Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction: The objective of this priority area is to improve community and government preparedness by improving equal and inclusive access to hydrometeorological data and early

warning systems, strengthening emergency response capacity, and supporting resilient recovery.

- 7. The program structure is implemented according to the World Bank Umbrella 2.0 Program principles through contributions provided by donors to trust funds, administered by the World Bank, including:
  - a. A main Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), which anchors the GFDRR Umbrella Program. The GFDRR MDTF will serve as the Umbrella Program Anchor and the central vehicle through which GFDRR implements its activities within the GFDRR work plan as approved by the Partnership Council; its geographic scope is global.
  - b. Associated Trust Funds, which comprise resources contributed by donors to support specific geographic or thematic preferences, contributing to the overall objectives of the GFDRR Umbrella Program. Resources in these Associated Trust Funds are allocated based on Annual Work Plans approved only by members of the Partnership Council who have contributed to said Trust Funds.
- 8. The allocation and use of resources under the trust funds is aligned with GFDRR’s work plan, results framework, and administrative arrangements.
- 9. The World Bank will administer the GFDRR MDTF and Associated Trust Funds in accordance with the provisions of the Administration Agreements/ Arrangements with donors.

### IV. Governance Structure

- 10. The Partnership Council (PC) will serve as the single governance mechanism of the GFDRR Umbrella Program. The PC will be supported by the Program Management Unit (PMU).
  - A. *The Partnership Council*
    - 11. The PC is GFDRR’s primary decision-making, oversight, and advisory body. The PC has a Chair and Co-Chair and will meet at a minimum on an annual basis. Only contributing members to the Anchor MDTF or Associated Trust Funds will have decision-making powers, while non-contributing development partners can be invited to participate as observers. A representative of the World Bank

- serves as permanent Chair. A member of the PC serves as Co-Chair, on a rotational basis and for a two-year tenure.
12. The members of the PC are:
    - a. The World Bank.
    - b. Countries, intergovernmental organizations, non-profit organizations and/or foundations that contribute financial resources to the GFDRR Umbrella Program (Anchor MDTF or Associated Trust Fund), as reflected in an Administration Agreement or amendment thereto.
  13. Observers are not members of the PC. Other countries may be invited to participate as observers at the request of the PC. Observers can be invited by the PC to participate in meetings from time to time and may include:
    - a. Former and prospective Members.
    - b. Intergovernmental organizations, including UN agencies, and International financial institutions.
    - c. Low income and/or small island developing states.
    - d. Civil society organizations.
    - e. Private sector organizations.
    - f. Private foundations.
  14. The roles and responsibilities of the PC include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Selecting the Co-Chair;
    - b. Providing strategic guidance and direction to the GFDRR program;
    - c. Reviewing and endorsing GFDRR's annual work plans, Strategy and results framework;
    - d. Reviewing financial reports and the annual progress report, including reporting of achievements based on the results framework;
    - e. Providing guidance on studies and reports, including monitoring and independent evaluation to confirm decisions and assess the progress and impact of the program;
    - f. Endorsing the creation, composition, and terms of reference of advisory or working groups; and
    - g. Approving and amending the Charter per recommendation of the PMU.
  15. The roles and responsibilities of the Chair, together with the Co-Chair, include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Calling and presiding over regular and any special meetings of the PC;
    - b. Consulting and providing strategic advice to the PC in coordination with the PMU;
    - c. Facilitating participation and dialogue in PC meeting discussions and decision-making by consensus;
    - d. Inviting observers to the PC;
    - e. Inviting technical experts and other stakeholders to join PC meetings, in consultation with the PC, on an as needed basis; and
    - f. Declaring all or part of the meeting to be open to contributing members only.
  16. The Co-Chair is selected by consensus of the members for a two-year term. The PMU facilitates the selection process following guidelines approved by the PC.
  17. The PC meets at least once each year, and meetings can be held in person or virtually. Donors contributing to a specific trust fund endorse or provide inputs to the annual work plans and budgets of that trust fund. Decisions will be made by consensus of the Chair and the donors contributing to a trust fund. Members that are unable to participate may provide inputs electronically in advance of the meeting to the Chair and Co-Chair.
  18. The PC may make decisions between meetings on an electronic basis through a process facilitated by the PMU.
- B. *The Program Management Unit***
19. The PMU supports the achievement of the mission of GFDRR and manages day-to-day operations. The GFDRR Unit of the World Bank serves as the PMU. It operates under the World Bank's policies and procedures.
  20. Staff of the PMU, including secondments from GFDRR partners, are employed following the policies and procedures of the World Bank.
  21. The roles and responsibilities of the PMU include, but are not limited to:

- a. Supporting the PC, including the Chair and Co-chair;
- b. Facilitating the selection of the Co-chair;
- c. Supporting the organization and deliberations of PC meetings;
- d. Undertaking upstream engagement, core coordination and implementation functions of GFDRR, including program management and administration of the GFDRR Anchor MDTF and Associated Trust Funds;
- e. Preparing GFDRR's work plan outlining key activities and programs to fund in the coming fiscal year as well as the Strategy and results framework;
- f. Preparing the annual report, including reporting of achievements based on the results framework, and studies and reports commissioned by the Partnership Council;
- g. Producing technical reports of interest to the Partnership Council;
- h. Monitoring and evaluating projects funded by GFDRR;
- i. Fostering partnerships, including with intergovernmental organizations, including UN agencies, research and academic institutions, civil society and private sector organizations;
- j. Managing relationships with donors and external partners (with NGOs, IFIs, IGOs including UN

agencies, research and academic institutions, and private sector organizations, etc.) and working closely with colleagues in the World Bank Global Practices and regions, including on joint fundraising activities;

- k. Implementing GFDRR's Communication and Visibility Plan, knowledge management activities, and conducting public outreach and information dissemination in order to effectively fulfill the mission of GFDRR; and
- l. Proposing and coordinating amendments to the Charter.

### III. General

- 22. No provision in this Charter is intended to be a waiver of, or impair or limit, any privileges or immunities of any Member, including the World Bank under its respective Articles of Agreement or equivalent documents, or any applicable law, all of which are expressly reserved.
- 23. This Charter may be adopted or amended by the PC in accordance with the decision-making procedures set forth in Sections 17 and 18 of this Charter. The PMU maintains and distributes records of any such amendments.
- 24. Any amendments to this Charter become applicable to the Administration Agreements in accordance with the terms of such Administration Agreements.



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