

Response to the DFID Multilateral Aid Review Update 2013

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) welcomes the recent update of the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) conducted by DFID, highlighting the progress made in the priority areas since 2011 and the remaining challenges to improve the impact of the investments supported by GFDRR by improving its existing monitoring and evaluation system. The GFDRR team feels that some of the substance contained within the full report was lacking in the summary, and provided important background for the main messages the summary delivers. This response seeks to bring attention to these issues in particular. But moreover, GFDRR notes the rigor and usefulness of the update and welcomes the constructive dialogue that the MAR process fosters between DFID and its partners, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of aid.

Comments

Overall, in the last 12 months GFDRR has demonstrated progress in more areas than those reflected in the update summary. In particular, the GFDRR Consultative Group has agreed on a new Partnership Strategy and approved a detailed three-year Work Plan for the first time that builds on improved planning, deeper engagement with actors on the ground and increased the foresight resulting from analytical work conducted in recent years. This is acknowledged in the full mini-MAR report, but is absent in the summary.

Furthermore, GFDRR is currently testing on a revamped M&E framework and grant management system. The new framework will considerably improve the extent to which reporting at the grant level can feed into aggregate reporting at the program level. It will also improve the extent and quality of program data available to evaluators when they come to assess the contribution of the program to broader outcomes in disaster prone countries (see below). A new format for the Annual Report was discussed at the Consultative Group Meeting in May 2013 and will be implemented in the course of 2013-2014.

The report also highlights GFDRR's commitment to the independent evaluation of its program in the countries supported by its activities. GFDRR recently launched several such evaluations, including two projects funded by the DFID Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Fund looking at improving the evidence base around the impact of new and innovative programs in risk assessment and risk financing, started in recent months. In addition, a detailed evaluation of GFDRR country programs will take place in a sample of five countries during 2013-14. GFDRR will collaborate with a broad set of partners in this effort, recognizing that national agencies and their development partners all have an interest in learning how to better benchmark progress in reducing disaster risks and building resilience. DFID has been particularly supportive of these efforts, providing guidance on the structuring of these studies and funding when needed.

The MAR update report highlights that - despite its short lifespan – the GFDRR program has already been able to leverage substantial investment to support disaster risk-related activities. GFDRR fully recognizes the need and opportunity to improve mechanisms to track the impact of these investments on the ground. A new tracking system recently put in place shows that GFDRR activities have helped guide more than \$2 billion of investment in risk reduction.

The MAR update report also highlights the role GFDRR is expected to play to support the World Bank in playing a stronger role in coordinating donors' investments in DRR. The Sendai and Resilience Dialogues, the World Bank active participation in the UK-led Political Champions for Resilience, its involvement in the post-2015 MDGs and HFA discussions are all very important steps towards increased coordination, where GFDRR has played a key role. The World Bank and GFDRR will also continue to play an active role in supporting partner countries in the coordination of activities related to disaster risk management, such as for example post-disaster needs assessments and recovery planning.

GFDRR is committed to build a partnership of an array of stakeholders including civil society and other non-governmental partners. This is a clear focus area of the GFDRR strategy and work plan, building on a number of partnerships already existing at country level. A more in-depth portfolio review is being conducted in 2013 to identify the extent of operational collaboration with civil society. The recent biennial World Bank review of civil society engagement for Fiscal Years 2010-2012 highlights GFDRR's facilitating role in the Bank's engagement with civil society in disaster risk management.

The summary rightly sets expectations on the CSOs Strategy developed by GFDRR "which now needs implementing". GFDRR is happy to report that the implementation of the GFDRR CSO Strategy as endorsed by the Consultative Group is now well way and progress on this front will be reported to the next Consultative Group meeting in 2014. In addition, GFDRR is also actively exploring avenues for stronger partnership with other non-traditional partners, such as the private sector, foundations and other development banks, as advised by the Consultative Group.

Finally, GFDRR welcomes the recognition of the efforts to improve performance in fragile states, and better document learning and guidance in this area, in particular to investigate how GFDRR interventions can contribute to stabilization and conflict prevention, although GFDRR's mandate does not allow engagements with countries with the primary purpose of stabilization and conflict prevention. GFDRR engagements in Yemen and Somalia are good examples of conflict and fragility mitigation.

Conclusion

GFDRR welcomes the continued commitment of the UK to raise the profile of DRR and its support to the GFDRR partnership.

GFDRR Secretariat

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