

Recommendations and DFAT Management Response arising from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Mid Term Evaluation:

DFAT accepts the Evaluation findings and agrees with the five recommendations proposed.

DFAT welcomes the Evaluation's findings about GFDRR's progress in implementing its strategy; the extent to which GFDRR has contributed to client countries' alignment with the Sendai Framework Principles and results; and recommendations to strengthen the program and its operations. DFAT notes that evaluation's scope focused on the GFDRR Umbrella Program and grants approved in FY22 and FY23 (1 July 2021 through 30 June 2023).

The evaluation aligns with Australia's experience operating within the GFDRR overall governance framework and, as a result, DFAT built in additional evidence and reporting to adequately monitor and report on funded activities in the Indo-Pacific. DFAT is an active participant in the GFDRR Partnership Council and was involved actively in the Evaluation of the program and in discussions about its recommendations.

Recommendation	Response	GFDRR Management Response	DFAT Response	Timeframe
RECOMMENDATION 1: The PC and PMU should strategically consider the balance in GFDRR's operating model between inward focus on delivering concrete results in countries and external partnerships and presence.	Agree	<p>The evaluation findings strongly demonstrate GFDRR's intentional shift toward strengthening operational relevance and linkages with World Bank lending operations.</p> <p>To some extent, however, this shift has contributed to stakeholders' perception that GFDRR's role as a global leader on DRR and its engagement in global institutional partnerships has diminished. Promoting external visibility, maintaining institutional partnerships, and developing global public goods requires time and resources—which could otherwise be spent on grants to develop country- and project-specific assistance that has a more direct link to DRR outcomes and results on the ground. Hence, there is an evident trade-off that requires constant balancing and calibration between global public good contributions and local and national level contributions to outcomes and impact. At a global level GFDRR currently is prioritizing presence and participating in the G20 DRR Working Group, the Climate COPs,</p>	DFAT agrees with this recommendation and encourages GFDRR to continue regular engagement and consultation with donors through normal partnership processes to help inform this balance as needed.	This recommendation will be integrated into the activities planned for FY25 and reported in the FY25 Annual Report. Additionally, it will be carried forward and incorporated into the development of the new strategy, which will begin implementation in June 2025.

		<p>the UNDRR Global Platform, and the NYC Climate Week at the margins of the UNGA. GFDRR also has funded the global ‘Understanding Risk Conference’ every two years for more than a decade. GFDRR staff and management is present and participate in many other national and regional fora and events during the year too. The GFDRR co-chair (World Bank Global Director) meets four times a year with the Head of UNDRR and the Head of GFDRR meets UNDRR more regularly. UNDRR is always invited to GFDRR PC meetings as an observer. GFDRR staff participate in the CREWS steering committee and GFDRR facilitates channelling CREWS and SOFF resources through the Bank as implementing entity. GFDRR funded specialists engage with all the large MDBs, the large climate related fiduciary intermediary funds on selected DRR topics. The PMU seeks guidance from PC members on the balance they wish to see GFDRR pursue between global visibility and partnerships vis-à-vis country-level grant making. And if more global level engagement is desired, GFDRR appreciate specific guidance on which processes and partners the GFDRR members would like to see more engagement with.</p>		
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2: GFDRR should continue to increase its internal visibility among Bank task teams and collaboration with other programs within the World Bank.</p>	Agree	<p>The PMU agrees with this recommendation, as increasing internal visibility across World Bank teams and sectors will promote greater mainstreaming and engagement with a wider set of countries. It is important to note, though, that GFDRR already has a demand for grant resources that is five times higher than its available resources. Hence, more visibility may drive more competition for our support and grants, which could drive higher quality in the work we support and therefore higher impact, but we are unlikely to immediately be able to measure and monitor the result of increased visibility in terms of the outcomes it may drive. GFDRR will continue expanding its</p>	<p>DFAT agrees with this recommendation and supports GFDRR increasing internal visibility within the World Bank.</p>	<p>This recommendation will be integrated into the activities planned for FY25 and reported in the FY25 Annual Report. Additionally, it will be incorporated into the development of the new strategy,</p>

		<p>communication efforts to Bank regions and operational units around the breadth of its offer, with a focus on its knowledge service offers, including through newsletters, webinars and/or other learning events, and other channels. The goal would be for a wider range of task teams to better understand the specific technical expertise that is available to them and their external clients and who they can contact within GFDRR for more information. GFDRR will also continue strengthening its upstream collaboration with other World Bank programs—for instance in social protection, transport, or related to disaster risk financing—to ensure that integrated advice and analytics are provided. Furthermore, the PMU will emphasize to World Bank teams and programs collaborating with GFDRR the importance of providing appropriate visibility for GFDRR grant-funded activities and technical assistance in all related communications and materials, such as press releases, blogs, and publications, by including GFDRR logos or mentioning GFDRR’s support</p>		<p>which will begin implementation in June 2025.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 3: The PMU should strengthen its Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) system for capturing results in this and future Strategy cycles.</p>	Agree	<p>GFDRR has made important strides in advancing its M&R system over the last few years. In the second half of this Strategy cycle, GFDRR will focus on refining its M&R system to be in a stronger position for the next Strategy period. The PMU is considering the development of an approach for measuring the impact of development finance informed by GFDRR in the new Strategy. GFDRR will take into consideration the development of an “impact tile” approach used by ESMAP. This approach might allow GFDRR to track and aggregate relevant financing and results of the World Bank lending operations it informs. For the next Strategy, the PMU will establish a fully functional M&R system, revising the results framework to be both simpler and more meaningful, revisiting reporting templates to drive better</p>	<p>DFAT agrees with this recommendation. We acknowledge the strengthening of GFDRR’s data collection, but further reform is needed. DFAT strongly encourages GFDRR to provide additional information needed to capture the reporting of medium- and long-term outcomes of projects and</p>	<p>This recommendation will be integrated into the activities planned for FY25 and reported in the FY25 Annual Report. Additionally, it will be incorporated into the development of the new strategy, which will begin</p>

		<p>reporting on what was achieved and allowing GFDRR to connect through other information systems in the national context. GFDRR has already implemented changes to its grant proposals, progress reports, and completion reports in the M&R system that enables a stronger focus on accountability for performance and results delivery. The M&R framework adopted by GFDRR in 2023 will be revised to include well-defined targets for the next Strategy period. On the human resource side, the PMU has hired a full-time M&E expert to oversee implementing these actions</p>	gender disaggregated data collection and reporting.	implementation in June 2025.
<p>RECOMMENDATION 4: GFDRR should increase its ambition toward more gender- and inclusive- transformative actions in GFDRR grant making and reporting, including paying increased attention to intersectionality.</p>	Agree	<p>The PMU agrees with the recommendation to have a strong focus on inclusion. The current GFDRR purpose is to deliver impact on DRR objectives. GFDRR understands the recommendation in that context, which means that GFDRR works towards DRR objectives, with the understanding that inclusion more broadly, and gender focus more specifically, are key elements of effective and impactful DRR strategies. The PMU will continue to improve how it can drive further inclusion and mainstreaming into its finance and knowledge processes. GFDRR acknowledges, that effective inclusion in DRR cannot be measured only by a check box in a grant proposal system. It requires a combination of enabling knowledge and technical support, with a system capacity to monitor and capture outputs and results in the context of GFDRRs theory of change. GFDRR will, for most of its grants, rely on and support the gender action plans developed for the investment financing process. GFDRR will, in addition, frequently finance and provide technical support to specific guidance and implementation on inclusion, elements related to disaster risk management processes. GFDRR grant documents already require disaggregated reporting on gender and will continue to look for opportunities to track other</p>	<p>DFAT strongly agrees with this recommendation. We welcome further strengthening and improvements to the GFDRR's gender and inclusion transformative action and increasing attention to intersectionality</p>	<p>This recommendation will be integrated into the activities planned for FY25 and reported in the FY25 Annual Report. Additionally, it will be incorporated into the development of the new strategy, which will begin implementation in June 2025.</p>

		characteristics when the context and data systems allow. GFDRR will continue, through its support to the Inclusive DRR line of work, to provide training, streamlined data collection, and enhanced team capabilities and thereby enable meaningful and impactful inclusive approaches to DRR.		
RECOMMENDATION 5: To capitalize on its current momentum in building support for the disaster-Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) nexus, GFDRR should concentrate on optimizing the utility of its knowledge for World Bank country teams.	Agree	The PMU agrees with this recommendation which is a fundamental pillar for GFDRR support. GFDRR will continue to review and update GFDRR tools to ensure their relevance for identifying FCV-related vulnerabilities—including considering disadvantaged groups and intersectionality of drivers of FCV and disadvantage—and informing decision-making for enhancing DRR in FCV settings. GFDRR is committed to develop and mainstream conflict-sensitivity tools to enable country teams to identify conflict risks in client countries and target communities and self-assess their proposal and implementation for potential to inadvertently exacerbate existing conflicts or violence. The PMU will continue to provide knowledge support on demand where possible to development actors operating in FCV affected countries in which the World Bank cannot operate. GFDRR will fund work of the specialized team leading the FCV-DRM nexus work that serves as the World Bank’s knowledge centre on FCV-DRM issues.	DFAT agrees with this recommendation and acknowledges continued work to review and update tools to ensure consideration of disadvantaged group, intersectionality and drivers of disadvantage.	This recommendation will be integrated into the activities planned for FY25 and reported in the FY25 Annual Report. Additionally, it will be incorporated into the development of the new strategy, which will begin implementation in June 2025.