



Completion Report

Project Number: 48426-001
Technical Assistance Number: 8868
March 2016

Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Selected Urban Areas of Southeast Asia

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TA Number, Country, and Name:			Amount Approved: \$225,000	
TA 8868-REG: Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Selected Urban Areas of Southeast Asia			Revised Amount: NA	
Executing Agency: ADB		Source of Funding: \$200,000 (GIZ) \$25,000 (IDRM Fund)	Amount Undisbursed: \$29,014.78	Amount Utilized: \$195,985.22
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Description				
<p>Urban areas are rapidly evolving, requiring cities to manage a host of challenges, while staying ahead of emerging trends and continuing to provide critical infrastructure and deliver municipal services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. Managing disaster risk and adapting to climate change are a subset of this larger pool of challenges confronting the urban areas. Analyses of disaster impacts show that a high proportion of a country's population most affected by extreme weather events is concentrated in urban centers. Studies also show that absolute exposure to extreme events over the next few decades will be concentrated in large cities and countries with urban populations in low-lying coastal areas, as in many Asian countries.</p> <p>The regional small-scale research and development technical assistance (R-S-RDTA) will undertake a scoping study identifying regional and national actions for enhancing the enabling environment for strengthening disaster resilience in urban areas of selected Southeast Asia developing member countries (DMCs)—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines—of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).</p> <p>The scoping study is supported by the Government of Canada through ADB's Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) Fund¹ and by the Government of Germany through the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) coordinated by GIZ.</p>				
Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs				
<p>The expected impact of the R-S-RDTA will be strengthened urban resilience in the selected Southeast Asian DMCs. The expected outcome will be identification of regional and national actions to enhance the enabling environment for strengthening urban resilience in the selected Southeast Asian DMCs.</p> <p>Enhancing the enabling environment needed by cities to strengthen disaster resilience requires in-depth understanding of (i) the urban governance model pursued by a country and its interaction with current and future disaster risk; (ii) existing policies, legislation, institutions, and financing arrangements available across sectors to guide development in the different tiers of a city, and the degree to which these instruments support or, in some cases, work at cross purposes to actions to strengthen resilience; and (iii) factors that could incentivize local stakeholders to invest in interventions that strengthen resilience.</p> <p>The R-S-RDTA will engage with relevant national agencies and local governments from selected DMCs to gain a strong understanding of the above-mentioned factors in the selected DMCs; and to identify possible gaps and opportunities for strengthening disaster resilience based on available levels of finances and workforce competencies.</p> <p>The R-S-RDTA will also analyze regional policies and commitments at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) level for strengthening urban development and disaster and climate resilience. A review of past initiatives by other development partners to strengthen disaster risk management-related policy landscape will also be undertaken. These actions will lead to the development of a scoping study, identifying regional and national actions for enhancing the enabling environment for strengthening disaster resilience. The findings of the scoping study will be presented at a regional consultation workshop with participants drawn from relevant DMC agencies, regional organizations, development partners, and technical agencies.</p>				
Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities				
<p>ADB was the executing agency and the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division (SDCD) was the implementing agency for the R-S-RDTA. SDCD worked closely with the Southeast Asia Department during implementation. The R-S-RDTA utilized 18 person-months of individual consultant inputs provided by four international consultants and four national consultants. The performances of all consultants were satisfactory. Each</p>				

¹ Contributor: Government of Canada.

consultant efficiently delivered their required outputs and provided valuable inputs to the scoping study.

Field missions were undertaken to identify existing and planned urban resilience actions in three countries—Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines—and, at the regional level, with the ASEAN Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia. The initial findings of the scoping study were presented at a workshop held at ADB Headquarters on 22–23 June 2015. The workshop also served to gather inputs on possible implementation paths of strengthening urban resilience.

The workshop was attended by 65 participants: (i) officials from government agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines responsible for urban development, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, planning and investments, and finance; (ii) selected city governments; (iii) ASEAN Secretariat; (iv) selected development partners involved in implementing projects and programs on urban resilience; and (v) ADB staff.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The workshop was conducted successfully. The participants appreciated the initial findings of the scoping study and provided very useful comments for improvement. There was a productive discussion on possible implementation directions and follow-up actions that can be undertaken to operationalize the findings of the scoping study. As described in the R-S-RDTA study, the recommendations of the scoping study are being used to develop a regional TA from possible funding from the IDRM Fund. So too, the recommendations related to ASEAN have fed into the second phase of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2016–2020, which includes a specific priority on Building Safe ASEAN Infrastructure and Essential Service with a particular focus on city resilience.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The TA objective was timely and relevant to the Asia and Pacific region. The design and implementation arrangements were adequate and efficient. The workshop and resulting final scoping study reflected the gaps and needs to enhance the enabling environment of the selected DMCs to strengthen disaster resilience in urban areas. Overall, the TA is rated highly successful.

Major Lessons

TA implementation was quite challenging given the short period of time available to produce the scoping study. However, a very careful selection of the team of consultants that worked on the scoping study and right mix of expertise ensured the quality of inputs and the resulting TA outputs. TA implementation also benefited from the support provided by the Cambodia Resident Mission, Lao Resident Mission, and the Philippine Country Office.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

Follow-up activities are currently being developed based on the findings of the scoping study. A follow-on TA will be prepared in Q2 2016 to support selected DMCs and the ASEAN Secretariat implement specific recommendations of the scoping study. The TA will be financed from the IDRM Fund in the amount of \$1 million.

TA = technical assistance.

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