



Global Preparedness Partnership

Update on 2017 Progress

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Background and Executive Summary:

The Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) was initiated at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 by the V20 member states, UN agencies and the World Bank to address a long-standing problem of a piecemeal approach to preparedness funding and activity.² The GPP aims to provide coherence to preparedness efforts, and a predictable preparedness funding stream, where national governments are in the driver's seat, with the full support of key multilateral partners.

The goal of the GPP is for countries to reach a level of preparedness so that most disaster events can be managed locally with reduced need for international assistance. It will initially support 15 countries to ensure that they attain a minimum level of preparedness by 2020, substantially meeting the call of the UN Secretary-General to enhance the emergency response capacity of the 20 highest risk countries by 2020. The GPP will be funded by a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) as the main resourcing modality, which will be governed by a Steering Committee that is responsible for setting priorities and strategic direction of the partnership. Inspired by the Sendai Framework's Priority Four, the GPP is unique in that it aims to provide an 'umbrella' for national governments, providing a comprehensive service that links other global initiatives while working with a broad range of partners in an area of narrow focus – preparedness for disaster response and recovery. The GPP is aligned with, and supports the delivery of, the Agenda for Humanity, especially Core Responsibility Four: "*Working differently to end need*", and Core Responsibility Five: "*Invest in humanity*".

Twenty-five applications for GPP support were received in October 2017 and country level activities have started in six countries. Although the GPP is now operational, the MPTF remains unfunded and the success of the initiative will now depend entirely upon donors and their support.

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² The current partners include the V20, a group of finance ministers of 48 countries highly vulnerable to climate change, representing some 1.5 billion people, FAO, UNDP, UNOCHA, the WB/GFDRR, and WFP.

Achievements to date

Effective response preparedness helps protect previous development gains in multiple sectors: health, livelihoods, education, and food security, among others. The GPP blends humanitarian skills, techniques and financing to ensure the humanitarian-development nexus is strengthened, as it enhances preparedness for response and preparedness for recovery.

Country Support Process

After an initial launch period, the GPP became operational in the second half of the 2017. It held its first Operational Subcommittee meeting on September 6th, in Geneva, co-chaired by the Geneva Ambassadors of Barbados and the Philippines. This meeting was significant as it approved the process and the documents for countries to be able to apply for GPP support.

The first round of applications closed on October 8th and 25 applications out of 48 contacted countries were received. A GPP MPTF Steering Committee decided to accept seventeen of the twenty-five country applications and eight countries were requested to resubmit their applications and provide more details. By February 2018 all twenty-five applications were considered successful².

The MPTF established to support the GPP remains unfunded, but in order to ‘kick start’ the GPP process, and to help to attract longer term in-country donor support, the World Bank has chosen six countries³ where it will partially or fully finance the initial diagnostic work. The remaining countries not selected by the World Bank, the GPP partners will approach key country-specific donors to provide funding. The Diagnostic Reviews are now underway in at least 6 countries and Preparedness Programmes are planned to start late 2018 and 2019.

Awareness-raising

While the establishment of country-level activities and support has been ongoing in late 2017 and the start of 2018, the GPP Secretariat continued to raise awareness about the initiative and the importance of preparedness by taking part in policy discussions in Geneva. The GPP was for example active during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (5-9 February 2018) and hosted two key events. The first was “Breaking the Begging Bowl”, a panel investigating the current financial architecture for supporting preparedness and the other key event was a GPP Operational Subcommittee meeting. The GPP secretariat also attended the “Preparing for Shock: Is Preparedness the New Frontier?” global conference and chaired a panel on innovative programming and funding models for preparedness financing. Other outreach work has included the development of various infographics and communication products as well as taking part in relevant preparedness related work-streams and meetings.

² The full list includes: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Palestine, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, The Gambia, Tunisia, Viet Nam.

³ Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Examples of good practice that could help to advance the initiative

GPP has been actively engaging with other initiatives in order to identify mutual areas of interest and to avoid duplication of efforts. Where there have been complementarities in terms of focus countries, the GPP has been effective in joining forces with similar disaster risk reduction initiatives. The GPP has for example cooperated with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) to plan joint country missions in order to assess gaps in national emergency preparedness. CADRI's broader capacity assessment can include a more in-depth part that looks at preparedness and serves as the GPP "Scoping Process".

Additionally, the GPP is also working together with its partners to develop a hybrid diagnostic review tool. This tool will be based on the World Bank's Ready2Respond tool, which examines extensive as well as intensive risks. This more quantitative tool will be complemented by taking some qualitative elements from CADRI's assessment tool. The tool will be used for a diagnostic review, which is a country-led self-assessment of national preparedness and aims to identify priority gaps in preparedness for both response and recovery. An output of the review is a 'Preparedness Programme Proposal' for possible GPP co-financing.

Lastly, and most importantly, the GPP can be seen as a great example of trying to break from the traditional institutional and siloed way of looking at emergency preparedness. The GPP is led by the national governments (V20) and brings together both humanitarian and development actors in order to support risk-prone countries to be better prepared for responding to, and recovering from disasters caused by natural hazards. In this way, the GPP supports a smarter use of financing, as disaster events are better managed locally with reduced need for international assistance

The obstacles/impediments to progress

Although the GPP is now operational in the country level, the main challenge to progress remains the lack of funding support to countries and to the MPTF. First of all, preparedness is traditionally a difficult funding request and donors are confused about the difference among global preparedness initiatives and where GPP fits. Although there have been many efforts from the side of the GPP secretariat to raise awareness about the differences and complementarities among the various preparedness initiatives and the GPP, additional outreach is needed.

Secondly, the lack of secured long-term funding continues to seriously slow down the concrete results of the GPP in its focus countries. The success of the initiative will now depend entirely upon donors and their support. The current funding needs include 2,5 million for the Diagnostic Reviews and 90 million for the overall Preparedness Programmes.

Donor states need to understand the potential the GPP has in enabling partners to align objectives and resources, agree on preparedness interventions, develop synergies to achieve more than they would individually and to provide a coherent approach to national readiness.

Recommendations

1. Continue to investigate, and pursue different funding options for the GPP country support both on the global and country level.
2. Continue to connect with other processes and initiatives including the private sector both globally and nationally.
3. Continue to increase awareness about the GPP and its linkages to other initiatives among donors.

About this paper

All stakeholders who made commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in support of advancing the Agenda for Humanity were invited to self-report on their progress in 2016 through the Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation (PACT) (agendaforhumanity.org). The information provided through the self-reporting is publicly available and forms the basis, along with other relevant analysis, of the annual synthesis report. The annual synthesis report will be prepared by OCHA and will highlight trends in progress, achievements and gaps that need more attention as stakeholders collectively work toward advancing the 24 transformations in the Agenda for Humanity. In keeping with the multi-stakeholder spirit of the WHS, OCHA invited partners to prepare short analytical papers that analyze and assess self-reporting in the PACT, or provide an update on progress on initiatives launched at the World Humanitarian Summit. The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat.