



Global Preparedness Partnership

Update on Progress since the World Humanitarian Summit

This paper was prepared by:¹



Executive Summary:

The Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) was initiated at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016 by the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20), United Nations 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 multi-lateral 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 United Nations 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 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 Priority Four of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), 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*”.

The core partner organizations and the V20 Member States are fully committed to the GPP. The success of the initiative will now depend upon donors and their support. Donor states need to understand the potential that the GPP has in enabling partners to align objectives and resources, agree on preparedness interventions, and develop synergies to achieve more than they would individually and to provide a coherent approach to national readiness. A coherent and coordinated preparedness approach with all key actors on board will ultimately save

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² The current partnerships 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.

lives and livelihoods. As well as saving time and money by preparing for humanitarian action, past development gains can be protected by preparing for response and recovery and planning for the transition between them.

Achievements up to date

Since its launch in 2016, the GPP has been establishing the organisational and operational aspects of the partnership. Progress so far has included the development of key documents based on discussions with partners and an operational manual developed in a workshop held in Geneva in January 2017. These documents outline the structure of the partnership and provide the guidelines and templates for future functioning of the GPP.

The first GPP foundational planning meeting was held on 22 May 2017 prior to the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Reduction in Cancun, Mexico. This meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue directly between V20 Member States and the core partner organisations. It was recommended at this meeting that a V20 Sub-Committee meet in the second week of June to follow up on the operational manual and other issues requiring consideration raised at the meeting, notably resource mobilisation, and regional engagement of the GPP.

The next steps of the GPP include hiring a Secretariat Support Specialist, who will manage the GPP Secretariat and carry out administrative tasks necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat and provide direct support to the GPP Steering Committee and Sub-Committee in executing the overall work plan of the partnership. All efforts need to be geared towards raising funds so that the GPP will be open for country applications in the second half of 2017. The GPP will then be set to lead the way as a unique partnership in supporting risk-prone countries to be better prepared for responding to emergencies.

The main barriers/ challenges to progress

Although much has been achieved in a short time, it is possible to identify some clear obstacles that have been hindering the progress of the GPP initiative. Firstly, there are multiple preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives underway globally, and these initiatives also include many of the GPP partners. This has created confusion about the value added of the GPP, despite its unique focus and unique membership. The challenge for the GPP partners is to better articulate the importance of the initiative as an overreaching partnership not just between the UN and other multilateral actors but also between affected governments and donor states. No similar and international approach such as the GPP currently exists for financing and supporting risk-prone countries.

The multi-partner structure with development and humanitarian partners joining with Member States, has created some challenges both when meeting with potential donors and in day-to-day operations. Bridging the gap between humanitarian and development actors is recognised as a vital way forward in the New Way of Working and in line with point ten of the Grand Bargain 'Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors.' However, what has become clear in the multiple donor discussions and briefings held in 2017 is that, due to the structures of many donor states, it can be difficult to identify which government agencies to approach for funds. Similarly some donor governments struggle to determine where preparedness sits in their own internal distinction between development aid and humanitarian action, and argue that the development component inevitably relates to foreign policy while other donors believe a distinction should not be made.

The lack of secured long-term funding for preparedness has seriously slowed down the ability of the GPP to deliver concrete results in affected countries. Preparedness is traditionally a difficult funding request. It lacks the voter constituency appeal of humanitarian action, and is a niche activity, undertaken by humanitarians within a development timeframe, that does not always sit comfortably in a broader development approach. Between 1991 and 2010, less than 0.5% of official development assistance (ODA) has been spent on disaster risk reduction, and only a fraction of this on preparedness. These limited investments are often fragmented and piecemeal, and span humanitarian, development and climate finance.

Examples of good practice that could help to advance the initiative

As the GPP is not yet operational it is impossible to highlight best practices on the ground. However, there are some core principles that the partnership relies on and could be adopted for other similar initiatives. Working in line with the *IASC Common Framework for Preparedness's* operating principles, the GPP will ensure national ownership; context based joint planning; and a catalytic approach that builds on existing national risk management policies and frameworks.

The investment needed for real transformational change in preparedness capacities must be first and foremost mobilised nationally. Governments must have the lead role for preparedness, complemented by civil society and the private sector, and will be supported through the GPP by providing technical support for capacity building, as well as helping to identify, leverage and align other investments, including risk finance.

Under the leadership of national governments and based on their priorities, the GPP partners will jointly plan and identify specific actions and investments required to strengthen national and sub-national preparedness, recognizing the comparative advantage of each organization to support government. Supporting national and local capacities for preparedness should be context specific and should recognize and build on country and regional initiatives and the GPP will take a catalytic approach that is an integral part of wider national disaster risk reduction and risk management policies and frameworks.

If funding is secured, the GPP has the potential to link all preparedness actors and processes in country, and link the Agenda for Humanity with the Sendai Framework. Originally the request for a predictable preparedness facility came from donor countries, yet none have so far pledged to fund the partnership. Unless donors see the value of the GPP and come forward with resources, the initiative will not be able to function and support governments.

Recommendations

1. Finalise the terms of reference and membership and establish the GPP Operational Sub-Committee. The sub-committee could specifically include in its mandate developing a strategy to persuade donors to provide support to the initiative.
2. Investigate, and advertise, a variety of options for funding modalities to find alternative methods of providing support for donors who are reluctant to provide un-earmarked funds to a common fund.
3. Expand the membership base by improving connections to the private sector, both globally and nationally.

4. Review the proposed budget, examining how it could be adapted to reduced funding flows.
5. Establish links to other processes, such as Grand Bargain task teams, to seek support in addressing issues around funding and portfolios falling between institutional divides.

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.

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