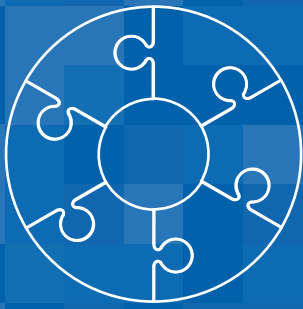




Executive Summary

Landscapes Analysis Report on Innovation for Disaster Risk Management in Asia



Executive Summary

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) operations are growing in complexity and require innovative technologies, systems, approaches, and tools. More efficient and cost-effective solutions that are easily accessible and adaptable across the DRM are also urgently needed. Furthermore, new ways of thinking and DRM innovation is increasingly important. Such innovations being applied in the DRM field can take many different forms, such as novel products or tools, services, processes or models, organizational forms or improvements to existing systems. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 emphasizes the “use and expansion of thematic platforms of cooperation, such as global technology pools and global systems to share know, how, innovation, and research and ensure access to technology and information on DRR.”

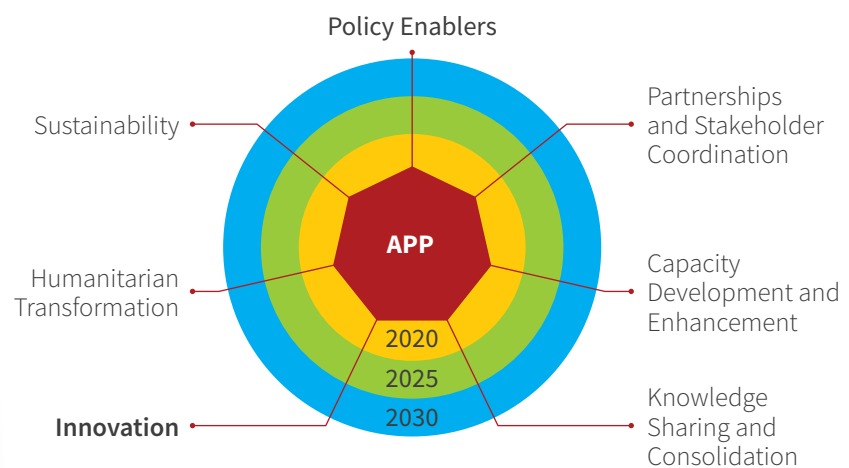
The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) serves as the secretariat of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), a multi-stakeholder partnership established with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) and United States Agency for International Development Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA).

Aligning to the SFDRR, innovation has also been identified as one of the key seven dimensions of change for APP’s strategy as shown in the figure below.

The overall goal or ‘North Star’ of APP:

“Safer and well-prepared communities through locally led DRM actions, so that disaster impacts on at-risk communities of Asia will be reduced”

Seven Dimensions of Change for APP



APP defines localization as a process of which local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and non-government organizations, the private sector, media, academia etc., taking a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding.

In December 2018, APP organized the “Innovations Forum for Safer Asia” in Kathmandu, Nepal. Building upon the recommendations resulting from the forum, the **Landscape Analysis Report on Innovation for Disaster Risk Management in Asia** aims to determine the scope and approach for APP activities going forward.

The report presents a comprehensive evidence-base by assessing the current innovation landscape in each country, as well as at the regional and global levels. Furthermore, it aims to clarify the key barriers and enablers that must be navigated to accelerate a systematic approach for addressing DRM, in which innovations are identified, nurtured, scaled, and disseminated in a manner consistent with the localization agenda.

The following methodologies were applied in the landscape analysis:

- ▼ Desk research and secondary data collection
- ▼ Key informant interviews (KIIs) with selected institutions, both in-person and online
- ▼ Focus group discussions (FGDs)

Primary data collection through KIIs and FGDs was conducted during a field mission to Kathmandu in February 2020. Other interviews were conducted virtually via Skype or telephone due to restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there were fewer opportunities for networking and interactive discussions during the data collection process. Additionally, some agencies actively engaged in the COVID-19 response were unable to respond in detail to requests for information.

While the findings are derived from primary and secondary data, ADPC and the authors of this report acknowledge limitations as the analysis includes subjective views of the current status in each country and for the region. The findings were reviewed by stakeholders and representatives from the target countries in order to cross-check, verify and reduce subjectivities in the findings.

Drawing on relevant definitions of innovation from different development partners and stakeholders in the DRM field, a working definition of innovation for APP is proposed as follows:

Innovation is a process of identifying, nurturing, scaling, and disseminating new ideas, solutions, products, services or tools that simultaneously meet a social need and lead to new or improved capabilities and cost-effective utilization of assets and resources, especially for locally-led actions for DRM.

The study maps innovation initiatives, programs, and platforms at global and regional levels pioneered by UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and government and local actors in selected countries of Asia. The findings reveal that there are common enabling factors as well as challenges and gaps concerning innovation across the region.



Key Findings

The results identify five key enablers of innovation, namely **Partnerships, Policy Directives & Frameworks, Champions, Access to Funding and Expertise & Capacities**, which determine the current status of innovation for DRM in the respective focus countries. Furthermore, key challenges for facilitating innovative practices for DRM in Asia identified in the study are as follows:



Lack of engagement in innovation among DRM actors



Gap in collaboration and coordination between innovators and DRM actors



Absence of dedicated social innovation mechanisms for DRM in the region



Limited access to sustainable funding for innovations by local actors



Current approaches for DRM innovation do not align with the localization agenda



Local innovators lack a voice at regional and global levels

Broadly, the challenges identified point to the lack of any overall facilitator for coordinating the systematic identification, nurturing, and dissemination of innovations for DRM in the Asia region, particularly in a way that engages local actors. There is an opportunity for organizations and networks active in the region, such as ADPC and APP, to assume such a facilitation role for supporting and enhancing regional innovations for DRM.

Recommendations

Key recommendations from the study are categorized across three priority areas for supporting innovations for DRM. These include Partnerships & Mechanisms, Capacity & Expertise Development, and Dissemination:

Partnerships and Mechanisms

Recommendation 1: Partner with relevant local organizations already engaged in innovation related work in respective APP and program countries

Establishing partnerships with relevant local organizations already engaged in innovation-related work would leverage the existing local partnerships in APP countries by expanding to include “innovation actors”. These potential partners would include organizations who are aware of the local context and landscape for harnessing innovations, engaging innovators, and disseminating innovative products, tools, and approaches either at the pilot stage or as finalized products. Depending on the specific context in each country, the local partners for innovation may be social enterprises, academic institutions, government agencies, or dedicated innovation labs or platforms (e.g., in Nepal there are a number of organizations such as World Vision Innovation Lab and YI-Lab that serve as focal points for social innovation activities for DRM). APP’s linkages with private sector networks are a particular area of opportunity, as corporate and business sectors in many countries are progressive in the uptake of innovations.



Recommendation 2: Create an APP-led “Social Innovation DRM Grand Challenge” to serve as a mechanism for identification, nurturing, and scaling of DRM Innovations in Asia

A “Social Innovation Grand Challenge” should be institutionalized within ADPC as part of the ongoing APP initiatives. The platform would have a focus on providing access and support to local actors and add specific value in this space by encouraging social innovations aligned with the localization agenda, and promoting cross-learning and exchange of ideas across different countries. The grand challenge would be open for APP member countries to access resources and guidance for identifying, nurturing, and disseminating innovative solutions for timely issues on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery at the ground level.



Capacity and Expertise Development

Recommendation 3: Form a network for DRM innovations that provides meaningful access to resources and expertise for local actors

ADPC, as a regional organization, and APP, as a multi-stakeholder ‘network of networks’, are uniquely positioned to provide a space for local DRM actors to operate and meaningfully contribute in the innovation space. A network for DRM innovations embedded within APP would also serve as a platform for awareness-raising and sensitization on the value and approaches of innovation for DRM among local actors. Just as there are dedicated regional thematic working groups in the private sector, and inclusive approaches already active as part of APP, a dedicated network for DRM innovations that is consistent with the localization



approach could help to address the gap between innovators and DRM actors. It would also provide an opportunity to address the limited access to sustainable support and funding for innovations by local actors.



Recommendation 4: Facilitate “matchmaking” between local innovators, end-users, and DRM actors

ADPC’s role as a regional organization and APP’s linkages with multiple stakeholders in various countries should be leveraged to facilitate “matchmaking” between end-users and DRM actors (e.g., NDMOs who require innovative solutions with local innovators who have ideas, tools, and products that can address pertinent challenges in different contexts). Such “matchmaking” should encompass fostering partnerships between innovators, local DRM actors, and dedicated facilities such as incubators, labs, or conclaves for supporting and nurturing social innovation at the country level. The APP regional and national partnerships can therefore play a key facilitator role in coordination, collaboration, and engagement between these key players.

Dissemination



Recommendation 5: Capitalize on ADPC and APP’s roles as regional entities and partnerships to promote south-south learning and knowledge exchange

APP’s South-South Learning and Knowledge Exchange hub can serve as a repository for good practices, lessons learned, and case studies for innovative approaches at the regional level, as well as a conduit for sharing local innovations from the Asia region at the global level. This should include the development and dissemination of knowledge products on innovative approaches and solutions sourced from local DRM actors active in the APP networks and beyond. It could also include documentation of the identification processes, development of the proof of concept, nurturing processes up to adaptation, and wider use of innovations for DRM for dissemination across the region and beyond.



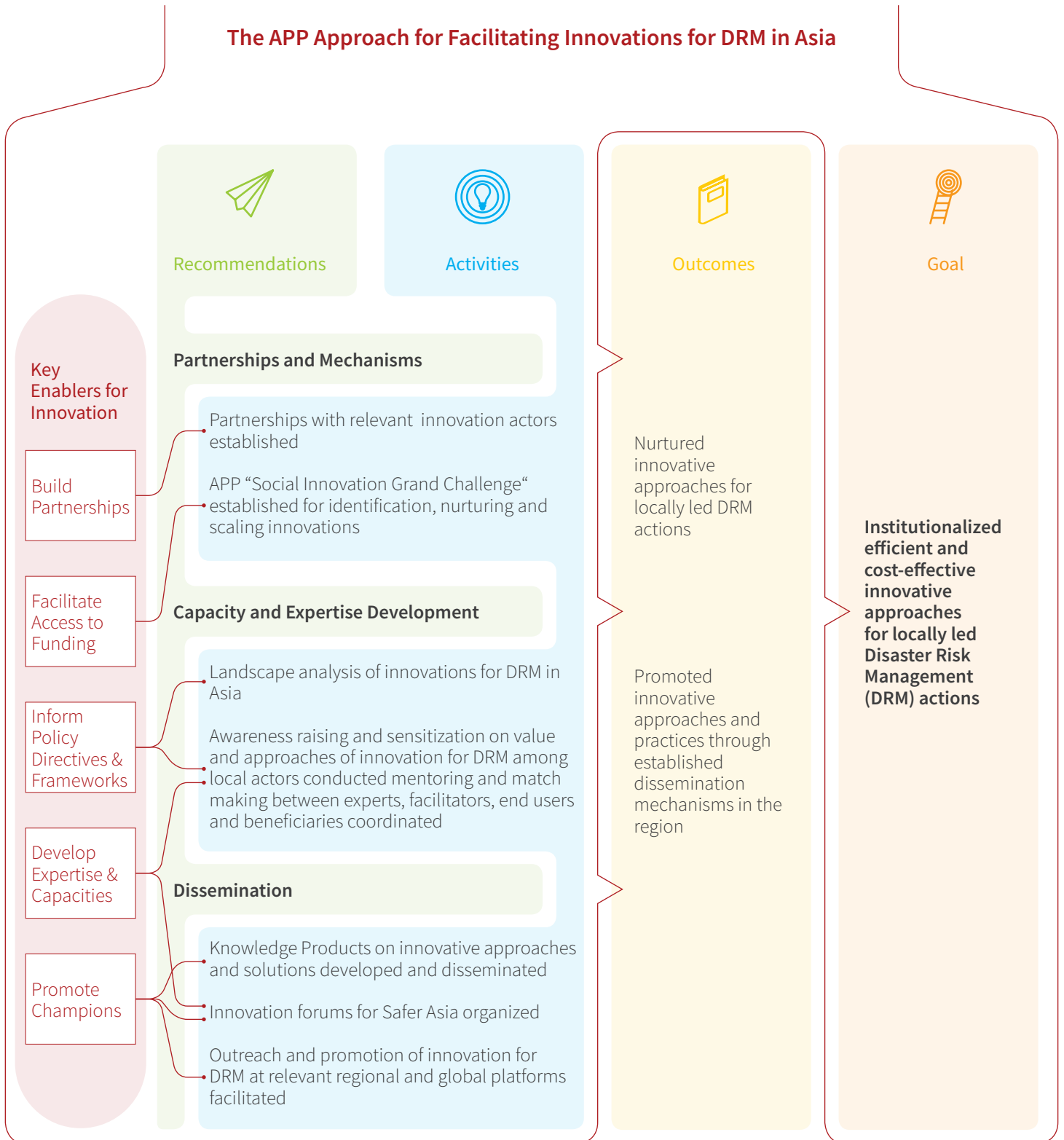
Recommendation 6: Outreach and promotion of innovations for DRM at relevant regional and global platforms

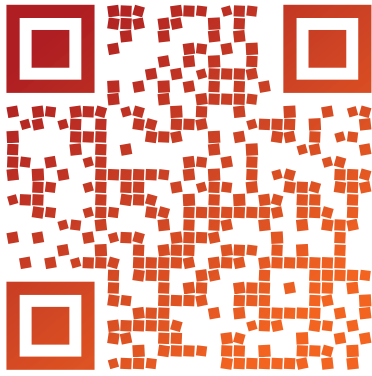
Recognizing the clear need for dedicated platforms to promote and discuss innovation for DRM at the regional level in Asia, ADPC, as the regional secretariat of APP, is well-positioned to organize a dedicated series of innovation forums, webinars, or dialogues. Such forums would be critical for sharing good practices, lessons learned, and case studies for innovative approaches to a wide audience. The forums would provide opportunities for humanitarian organizations to further discuss and identify priority areas for DRM innovations. Good practices and innovations identified and nurtured through the “Social Innovations Grand Challenge” can be promoted and shared at other similar innovation forums platforms such as “Dubai 2020 Live Expo”. This will ensure that lessons learned are not limited to APP program countries, but also have wider use and adaptation at the regional and global levels.

These recommendations serve as a guide for ADPC and APP to assume key roles as facilitators of DRM innovations in the region. They can be achieved through nurturing innovative approaches for locally-led DRM actions and establishing dissemination mechanisms for promoting innovative approaches and practices. These interventions would contribute to establishing innovative institutionalized, efficient, and cost-effective approaches for locally-led DRM actions.

The overall intended impact of these interventions related to innovation under APP is to contribute to a goal of “institutionalized efficient and cost-effective innovative approaches for locally led Disaster Risk Management (DRM) actions” as illustrated in the figure below. The recommendations are linked to the key enablers for innovation as identified and explored in the main study.

The APP Approach for Facilitating Innovations for DRM in Asia





Find out more by accessing the full report at:
<https://app.adpc.net/publications>



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Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
Head Office:
SM Tower, 24th Floor, 979/69 Paholyothin Road,
Samsen Nai Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Tel:+66 2 298 0681-92 | Fax:+66 2 298 0012

E-mail: app@adpc.net 

<https://app.adpc.net> 

@AsiaPrepared 

Asian Preparedness Partnership 