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AMBASSADOR'S FUND GRANT PROGRAM

Improving Disaster Preparedness



The Ambassador's Fund Grant Program (AFGP) is a five-year (2017-2022) initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) managed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA). The purpose of the Fund is to award grants to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of Pakistan.

The Fund supports high-impact activities focused on five priority areas: Culture and the Arts, Disaster Preparedness, Energy Solutions, Social Entrepreneurship and Vulnerable Populations. This document explains the Disaster Preparedness priority area, provides advice about designing a grant project related to this priority area, and describes a sample project.

What is "Improving Disaster Preparedness"?

Some of the natural disasters most common in Pakistan include floods, earthquakes and drought. Landslides and avalanches are other examples. These kinds of disasters cause injury and death to both people and livestock, damage to crops and agricultural lands, and destruction to property and infrastructure, including buildings and roads. Between 1990 and 2013, as many as 71.2 million people in Pakistan were affected by various natural disasters, including 78,000 people who lost their lives in the 2005 earthquake and 18 million people who were harmed by the 2010 floods.



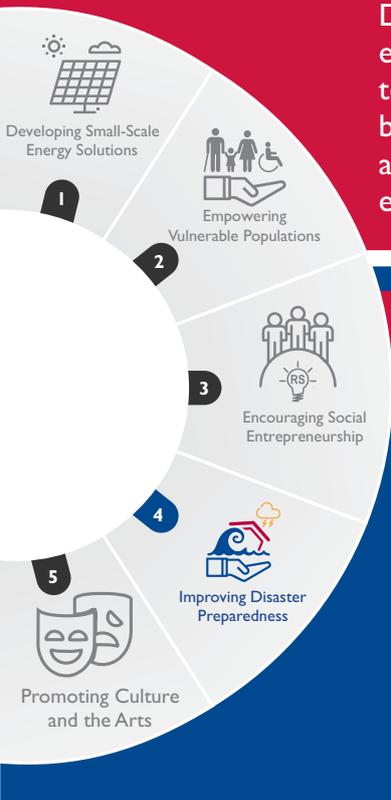
Such damages and losses can potentially be lessened during future natural disasters if individuals, families and communities are better prepared in advance. Disaster preparedness provides communities with knowledge and skills related to natural disasters so that they can take practical, coordinated action to save lives and avoid damages and losses. Communities that prepare better in advance can respond more effectively and recover more quickly. Disaster preparedness is what communities do before disaster strikes to help them be more effective during a disaster and more resilient after a disaster.

One critically important dimension of disaster preparedness is to engage directly with communities, equipping citizens and their community leaders with information and tools to prepare for disasters in their local areas. Another essential component is connecting communities with the relevant government authorities so that they can complement and coordinate with government disaster preparedness plans, rather than duplicating or replacing those efforts.

For the USAID AFGP, grant projects related to the Priority Area of Disaster Preparedness should be designed to prepare communities to respond to natural disasters and improve their resilience. Most importantly, projects should enhance communities' ability to complement and coordinate with government disaster preparedness efforts in districts and provinces/regions.



Disaster Preparedness grant funds may be used for training and technical assistance, equipment and supplies, and workshops and awareness-raising events. Training and technical assistance should always be based on expertise and materials that have already been developed in Pakistan by national and international experts. Relevant equipment and supplies might include communication systems, emergency kits and plants to prevent erosion. Construction activities cannot be funded.



Grant Application Approach

Disaster Preparedness grant applications should address the following points:

1. What are the local area's disaster risks, existing resources and needs? What relevant work has already been done by government or others in the local area?
2. How have the women and men of the relevant local community been involved in developing the plans for the project?
3. How are various planned activities clearly linked together into a coherent project?
4. How does the project align with the guidelines of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and coordinate with relevant government departments, including the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)?
5. How will the benefits be sustained after the project ends?

Common Natural Disasters in Pakistan:

Flood



Earthquake



Drought



Natural Disasters Can Affect:

Infrastructure



Agriculture



People



Grant Project Example

ABC Development Society has identified 10 villages on the bank of the Indus river in a low-lying, frequently-flooded area. To design a useful project, ABC held Focus Group Discussions with women and men in each village, including members of a minority community, as well as religious and other community leaders in the area.

ABC plans to establish 10 Village Flood Management Committees (VFMCs) with women and men from each village. ABC will facilitate them to develop Village Flood Management Plans (VFMPs) and to establish communication channels with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Irrigation Department for regular flood forecasts and related information.

ABC anticipates that a government elementary school situated at a higher level can be used as a gathering site. ABC's preliminary plan is to install an emergency radio and a solar panel at the school, along with emergency kits with flashlights, grain stores (to be replaced annually) and other items. Five boats also will be stored in the school compound for emergency evacuation.

VFMCs will be trained to educate their villages about reinforcing levees and preventing soil erosion with appropriate planting as well as communication and evacuation plans in a disaster event. Emergency phone numbers will be distributed to villagers and posted at the school. VFMCs will organize practice drills before monsoon every year and will make announcements when required through mosque loudspeakers and Urdu text messages to heads of households.

The project ends, but the impact for the women and men in the 10 villages continues. The communities collaborate to reinforce embankments and plant trees. Community leaders are linked to relevant government authorities, and preparations are ready for communication and evacuation. Villagers feel confident because they are helping to avoid future disaster and they are capable of dealing with a crisis if it happens.

Improving Disaster Preparedness

