

THE STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE FUND PHASE 2: 2022 CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

Theme

Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of COVID-19 and the climate crisis

About the Strategic Collaborative Fund

SEI Asia, with support from the Swedish government (SIDA), launched the Strategic Collaborative Fund Phase 2 (SCF2) programme in 2018 to enhance the current 2030 Agenda efforts in Asia. SCF2 aims to foster regional cooperation and policy dialogue for sustainable development and environmental sustainability through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and increased collaboration.

Human rights and gender equality are central to SCF2, as it champions regional and inter-regional collaboration for transboundary environmental policy development. To this end, the [Guidance Note on Integrating Gender and Human Rights-Based Approaches](#) in SCF2 supports the inclusion of gender equality and human rights into the SCF2 programme. We strongly encourage the potential partner organisations to use the note as a guide for developing the concept notes.

Learn more about the SCF2 programme and details for concept note submissions [here](#).

Specific Focus and Priority

2022 is set to be a crucial year for disaster risk reduction (DRR) action in Asia, with the seventh session of the [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GP2022) and the [Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (APMCDRR) both due to take place in the region. Building on the momentum generated at COP26 around resilience, adaptation and loss and damage, 2022 also presents opportunities to the DRR community to strengthen coherence with climate policy and action across the region, such as through the Asia-Pacific Climate Week.

In this global and regional policy context, SCF2 seeks to support event activities that contemplate the **transformation of DRR through social equity and empowerment, built on the meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in decision-making and action in Asia.**

Specifically, proposed event(s) should explore visions for the future of DRR in relation to climate action in Asia and in the context of COVID-19, **for and by people who have historically been sidelined and faced discrimination**, including but not limited to indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, non-normative gender and sexual identities, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.

Rationale

The implementation period of the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030) is nearly at the halfway point, and the time for critical reflection on progress is now and made even more pressing by the escalating climate crisis and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Asia region, so often tagged as the ‘most disaster prone’ region, should be at forefront of transformative action, and in the process overthrow the Global North-centric framing, theorizing and operationalization of DRR, ‘resilience’ and related concepts and approaches.

DRR policies and practices have constantly evolved as major disasters push their limits, challenge existing norms, and produce new knowledge. The on-going global pandemic COVID-19 is no exception. It highlights fundamental challenges about the relationship between our society and disaster, and therefore can play an active role in shaping the future of DRR. One such challenge is the disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities. This reminds us of the need to tackle systemic risks and root causes of vulnerability, including the climate crisis, while also ensuring gender equality and human rights fulfilment.

Indeed, GP2022 is themed “From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World”. Against this context, this SCF2 call poses the question: ***What is the future of DRR in a climate and COVID-19 transformed world?***

Who is most affected?

Under the theme of inclusion and empowerment for transformative DRR and climate action, we have previously supported the inclusion of specific stakeholder/social groups often marginalized based on their identities and their intersectional impacts: non-normative genders and sexualities, children and youth, and indigenous peoples.

The COVID-19 pandemic shows that more can and should be done to ensure that their voices are heard, and needs acted on. This year, we seek proposals that can bring together perspectives from diverse groups, including those we have previously supported and beyond, to share and debate future pathways for DRR in a climate and COVID-19 transformed world, built around principles of inclusion, empowerment, and social equity.

How can we address the gaps?

To help societies shift towards a safe, healthy, and sustainable future, one that is resilient to pandemics, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc., and capable of averting crises, transformation is needed. By transformation we mean enacting **fundamental changes in policy and practice to significantly reduce or minimize risks for those most vulnerable to disasters and climate change**. This could be achieved in alignment with global development and climate change agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework, through:

- Recognizing and bridging diverse types of disaster knowledge to create and implement DRR measures that reflect the lived experiences of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups in the Asia region

- Facilitating multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral collaboration at a regional or sub-regional scale to strengthen DRR action, including public services that address root causes of vulnerability
- Exploring opportunities to reduce disaster risks through achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (i.e., SDG1.5; SDG11.5; SDG11.b; SDG13.1), including by reducing exposure and vulnerability, building resilience, and strengthening regional cooperation.

Proposal Criteria

Given this context, we seek proposals for regional event(s) that meet the below criteria relating to i) event themes and content, and ii) event approaches and methodologies. Event(s) may take the format of a one-off, a series, or a combination of policy dialogues, trainings, workshops, webinars, and field visits, among other modalities you may wish to propose.

Event themes and content

- Explore solutions to current disaster and climate change issues specific to the Asia region and/or its subregions
- Discuss the implications of COVID-19 and the climate crisis for DRR, interrogating existing norms and approaches in DRR, to ultimately form new visions of the future of DRR
- Contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia, the Asia Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, and enhanced coherence with the Paris Agreement and climate action
- Engage directly with the themes and programmes of GP2022 and the APMCDRR 2022 (SCF2-supported events may take place prior to or during these platforms), and connect with climate policy discussions following COP26 and leading up to COP27
- Demonstrate intended contribution to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Event approaches and methodologies

- Ensure the meaningful participation and engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups in Asia, or grassroots and local organizations representing these groups in at least three countries in the region, from concept design through to event implementation
- Proactively amplify the voices of local and grassroots leaders, indigenous leaders, youth leaders, and women leaders, and facilitate their meaningful participation in regional and global decision-making fora
- Mainstream gender equality and human rights goals throughout event design, implementation, and evaluation
- Deploy creative and innovative methods for hosting events, both online/virtually and in-person, that facilitate the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and practices from diverse perspectives
- Put in place measures to ensure accessibility and meaningful participation for persons with disabilities and people who use different languages.

Expected Results and Outcomes

We expect proposals to expand upon the following anticipated results and desired outcomes of the project (see Table 1 for the full theory of change):

- Improved understanding and integration of lessons learned from the pandemic and climate change into DRR policies and practices at different levels in Asia, centrally from the perspectives of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups
- Visions for the future of DRR from the perspective of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups
- Contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, such as through engagement with GP2022 and APMCDRR 2022, and its alignment with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement in Asia
- Strengthened regional collaboration to enact transformative DRR, with empowerment and inclusion as core values.

Table 1. Theory of change

Theory of change			
Outputs	A regional-scale event or a series of events with multiple and diverse stakeholders (can also include preliminary/side events).	A report outlining key policy messages and next steps for policy influence. This includes a concept note/proposal to create a community of practice or regional network/alliance with a focus on transforming DRR through social equity and empowerment.	Communications products from/about the events, in various formats to target diverse stakeholders
Potential Target Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers • Regional alliance • NGOs/ advocacy groups • Marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers • NGOs/ advocacy groups • Marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers • Researchers • Marginalised groups
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visions for the future of DRR from the perspective of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened regional collaboration to enact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved understanding and integration of lessons

	<p>historically marginalized and vulnerable groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from the pandemic and climate change into DRR policies and practices at different levels in Asia, centrally from the perspectives of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups • Contributions to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through engagement with GP2022 and APMCDRR 2022, and its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action 	<p>transformative DRR, with empowerment and inclusion as core values.</p>	<p>learned from the pandemic and climate change into DRR policies and practices at different levels in Asia, centrally from the perspectives of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups</p>
Relevant Policy Framework(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sendai Framework for DRR, and Asia Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024 • Sustainable Development Goals • Paris Agreement • ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response 		
Impacts/Goals	<p>Informed, inclusive and equitable decision-making</p>	<p>Strengthened regional collaboration</p>	<p>Greater attention and investment towards transformative DRR</p>