



United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations

Preamble

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank, conscious of the critical and complementary roles that our respective organizations play in supporting early and sustainable recovery during and after crises, are committed to strengthening the partnership between our organisations in order to make the international response in these contexts more effective and sustainable.

In pursuit of the goals set out in the United Nations Charter, the United Nations galvanizes the international community in response to crisis and post-crisis situations and engages in a variety of activities, including humanitarian assistance delivery and coordination, support to national reconciliation, re-establishment and maintenance of peace and security, transitional political processes, democratic governance, recovery and development. Consistent with its mandate for reconstruction and development, the World Bank is a major financier of activities which support national institution-building, economic and social resilience and recovery in countries vulnerable to natural disaster and conflict. We recognize the interdependence of such activities and the importance of integrated political, security and development frameworks in pursuit of lasting recovery and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Developments within the World Bank and United Nations have improved the opportunities for our productive partnership. The United Nations has put in place structures and processes to ensure a more integrated UN approach and effective delivery in crisis and post-crisis contexts, including efforts to “deliver as one”, integrated planning processes, an evolving architecture for peace-building and humanitarian reform. The World Bank has developed new policies and tools to strengthen the speed and effectiveness of its response to crisis and post-crisis situations.

Building on these measures, we welcome progress already underway to strengthen cooperation between the World Bank and United Nations entities. Important practical synergies have been achieved, in cooperation with national authorities, in situations such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Liberia and the disaster-affected regions of Indonesia. In-country collaboration is supported by increased strategic coordination and collaborative policy development at Headquarters, including the establishment of joint approaches to post-conflict needs assessments and recovery planning, and World Bank participation in the Peace-Building Commission. The World Bank and the United Nations have also collaborated in contributing expertise and advice on development and economic aspects of peacemaking and post-crisis economic governance.

Our partnership will vary depending on the specific context, evolution of crisis situations and the range of national and international partners involved. A flexible approach will remain the hallmark of an effective response. Our partnership can be further enhanced through clarifying the basic principles for our collaboration and strengthening mechanisms for strategic and operational

coordination and cooperation. These include regular communication, strategic and operational planning, financial interoperability, and the deepening of a culture of collaboration.

1. Guiding Principles

The United Nations and the World Bank support the following principles in our respective engagement in crisis contexts:

- Our roles and mandates differ, but our efforts are interdependent and must be mutually reinforcing.
- Integrated efforts are particularly important in working with national authorities and partners to strengthen national capacity for effective prevention and response and to support the implementation of national recovery and development strategies that encompass political, security, human rights, economic and social dimensions within the framework of the rule of law and good governance.
- We need to be flexible to respond to different country needs, taking into consideration the country context, national priorities, UN-mandated tasks, appropriate division of labour and the role of other regional and international partners.
- Regarding humanitarian action undertaken by the United Nations and its partners, the recognized humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence will be respected.

2. Strengthening our Collaboration in Post-Crisis Settings

An effective strategic and operational partnership will be facilitated, inter alia, by progress in an initial four priority areas:

2.1 Communications

The United Nations and the World Bank will strengthen mechanisms for ensuring consistent and effective institutional contacts in crisis and post-crisis situations, inter alia through the following communications protocol:

- In the event of a crisis or a significant change in country circumstances, immediate contacts are made between the senior World Bank and UN officials in the country (normally the Country Director or Country Manager for the World Bank and the SRSG and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for the United Nations).
- At headquarters, agreed institutional points of contact and liaison between appropriate country desks support communications at country-level.
- Institutional points of contact are responsible for ensuring effective information sharing and coordination between headquarters and field offices, including attention to issues that cannot be resolved at the country level, and for on-going communication.
- Regular country level communications between the World Bank and UN officials is maintained through existing coordination mechanisms, such as the UN Country Team.

2.2 Assessment, planning, and operational frameworks

Many of the planning processes for United Nations and/or World Bank support to countries in crisis and post-crisis situations are undergoing reform. The United Nations and the World Bank recognize that early strategic dialogue and engagement is an essential foundation that can be built upon as crisis management and recovery efforts move from planning to implementation, and agree to:

- Within existing frameworks to support national ownership, and with due respect to humanitarian principles, work to bring strategic planning and assessment processes into closer coordination across the political, security, development and humanitarian spectra, including participation in respective planning processes and the development of shared benchmarks/results frameworks and joint processes for monitoring and review.
- As part of this effort, use a common methodology for post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments and a coordinated approach to recovery and planning.
- Collaborate in the analysis and presentation of external financing needs, including linkages between the relevant components to be funded.

2.3 Financing policies and procedures

The United Nations and the World Bank recognize that efforts to strengthen collaboration around funding mechanisms are critical to enhance opportunities for collaboration. The United Nations and the World Bank are committed to efforts to develop appropriate arrangements in this regard and welcome the conclusion of the Fiduciary Principles Accord as part of such efforts.

2.4 A culture of collaboration

In order to strengthen the culture of collaboration and promote cross-fertilization between the two institutions, the United Nations and the World Bank will:

- Participate in relevant respective training programmes for Headquarters and field personnel, and develop, as appropriate joint training programmes to enhance staff understanding of shared approaches as well as instruments and approaches related to each organization's differing areas of mandate and competence.
- Conduct joint events and regular briefings on crisis and post-crisis approaches.
- Conduct joint lessons learned exercises, joint missions where appropriate, and collaborative research and assessments.

The United Nations and the World Bank agree to review the partnership periodically – both globally as well as in the context of specific country experiences – in order to adjust institutional arrangements, document good practices, identify opportunities and constraints, and assure continual attention to the impact of our collaboration on the effectiveness of the crisis and post-crisis response.

Signed at United Nations Headquarters, October 24, 2008.

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