Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies

1. The Bank’s policy on rapid response to crises and emergencies rests on four guiding principles:

(a) application of the rapid response policy to address major adverse economic and/or social impacts resulting from an actual or imminent natural or man-made crisis or disaster;

(b) continued focus of the Bank’s direct assistance on its core development and economic competencies and always in line with its mandate, including in all situations where the Bank supports peace-building objectives and relief to recovery transitions;

(c) close coordination and establishment of appropriate partnership arrangements with other development partners, including the United Nations (UN), in line with the comparative advantage and core competencies of each such partner; and

(d) appropriate oversight arrangements, including corporate governance and fiduciary oversight, to ensure appropriate scope, design, speed, and monitoring and supervision of emergency operations.

2. Consistent with these principles, the Bank may provide a rapid response to a member country’s request for urgent assistance in respect of an event that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact associated with natural or man-made crises or disasters. The Bank's assistance may consist of immediate support in assessing the emergency’s impact and developing a recovery strategy or the restructuring of existing, or provision of new, Investment Project financing.

3. In all cases, the Bank adapts its rapid response in form and scope to the emergency's particular circumstances and takes into account the Bank’s assistance strategy for the country.

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In this OP, unless the context requires otherwise, the term: (a) “Bank” means IBRD and IDA (whether acting in its own capacity or as administrator of trust funds funded by other donors); and (b) “financing” means any loan, credit, or grant made by the Bank from its resources or from trust funds funded by other donors and administered by the Bank, or a combination of these.

See OP 10.00, Investment Project Financing.
The country financing program may be adjusted to accommodate emergency operations, normally within the country’s general financing allocation, taking credit risk and IDA financing policies into account.

Objectives of Bank Rapid Response

4. The Bank may provide rapid response in support of one or more of the following objectives:

   (a) rebuilding and restoring physical assets;
   (b) restoring the means of production and economic activities;
   (c) preserving or restoring essential services;
   (d) establishing and/or preserving human, institutional, and/or social capital, including economic reintegration of vulnerable groups;³
   (e) facilitating peace building;⁴
   (f) assisting with the crucial initial stages of building capacity for longer-term reconstruction, disaster management, and risk reduction;⁵ and
   (g) supporting measures to mitigate or avert the potential effects of imminent emergencies or future emergencies or crises in countries at high risk.

5. In support of these objectives, the Bank focuses direct assistance on areas of its core development and economic competencies, and, in response to a country’s request, and subject to the guiding principles set out in paragraph 1 of this OP, may (a) extend such assistance to all country agencies and institutions involved in the emergency recovery effort; and/or (b) support, in partnership with other donors, an integrated emergency recovery program that includes activities outside the Bank’s traditional areas, such as relief,⁶ security, and specialized peace-building.⁷ The Bank recognizes the lead of other international institutions, in particular the UN, in such activities, and forms appropriate partnership arrangements with other donors for the

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³ These may include, for example, refugees, ex-combatants, and internally displaced people. In support of this objective, emergency operations may include activities forming part of the government’s transitional social safety net programs, including cash payments, grant or micro-credit programs, and reintegration packages.

⁴ For guiding principles on the Bank’s support of the peace-building objective, see OP 2.30, Development Cooperation and Conflict.

⁵ In support of this objective, emergency operations may include studies and institutional and policy analysis relating to disaster management and risk reduction. In post-conflict situations, they may also include a full range of capacity-building activities necessary to restore state functions that have collapsed.

⁶ Activities that form part of the government’s transitional social safety net programs described in footnote 3 do not constitute "relief" within the meaning of this OP.

⁷ For guiding principles on Bank support of integrated programs involving such activities in conflict-affected areas, see OP 2.30, Development Cooperation and Conflict.
These policies were prepared for use by World Bank staff and are not necessarily a complete treatment of the subject.
disasters or crises, including prevention and mitigation measures, into national development strategies. Where appropriate, these issues are reflected in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF).