



Revised July 1, 2014

"OP/BP 8:00" *Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies*", were revised on July 2014 to take into account the recommendations in "World Bank Group A New Approach to Country Engagement" (R2014-0089), which were approved by the Executive Directors on May 22, 2014. As a result of these recommendations, [OP/BP 13.16](#), *Country Portfolio Performance Reviews* has been retired, [OP/BP 2.30](#) *Development Cooperation and Conflict* references to ISN were replaced by CEN and included in the Country Engagement Directive; [OP 1.00](#) *Poverty Reduction* footnote 2 has been deleted; [BP 3.10](#), *Financial Terms and Conditions of IBRD Loans, IBRD Hedging Products, and IDA Credits*, [OP/BP 4.02](#) *Environmental Action Plans*, [OP 8.00](#), *Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies*, [OP 11.00](#), *Procurement* have also been updated to reflect editorial changes.

Questions may be addressed to [OPCS Help Desk](#).

Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies

1. The Bank's¹ 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.²
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.

¹ 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 .

² See [OP 10.00](#), *Investment Project Financing*.

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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

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](#).



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preparation, appraisal, and supervision of activities outside its core competencies in line with the comparative advantage and core competencies of each such donor.⁸

6. Emergency operations do not address long-term economic issues, including those that are triggered by economic shocks and require a policy response from the government that the Bank normally supports through development policy operations.⁹ They should also not include conditions other than those directly related to the emergency recovery activities and, if appropriate, to preparedness and mitigation. The duration of emergency operations should be realistically linked to the issues being addressed.

Risk and Design Considerations

7. The Bank recognizes both the inherent risks involved in working in emergency situations, including the risks and lost opportunities associated with a delayed response, and the critical importance of speed, flexibility, and simplicity to an effective rapid response.

8. To maximize Bank assistance in emergency and crisis situations, at the country's request, the country director may approve a temporary increase in the cost-sharing limits in all Bank-financed operations in the country.

Cooperation and Coordination with Development Partners

9. Harmonization, collaboration, and cooperation with other development partners—including participating in joint strategy discussions and conducting activities in concert with them—are key to mobilization of needed resources and to a successful response to an emergency. In this respect, trust funds can play a vital role. To ensure maximum coordination, harmonization, and flexibility when administering emergency-related trust funds, the Bank may administer such trust funds in accordance with specific policies and procedures agreed with the trust fund's donor(s), and may agree with such donor(s) to joint preparation, appraisal, and supervision of activities supported under the trust fund.

Risk Reduction and Crisis Prevention

10. Recognizing the importance of integrating risk reduction and crisis prevention into the development strategies of countries at high risk of disasters or rising conflict, the WBG encourages countries to include policies and procedures intended to reduce the impact of future

⁸ The government concerned, local groups, bilateral relief programs, local nongovernmental organizations, and specialized international relief organizations often have a comparative advantage in providing immediate relief. Similarly, other agencies, including bilateral agencies, United Nations peace-keeping operations, and regional organizations often have a comparative advantage in providing support in the areas of security and political governance.

⁹ See [OP 8.60](#), *Development Policy Lending*, including paragraphs 32 and 33, which set out policies related to development policy lending to countries in crisis or conflict.



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disasters or crises, including prevention and mitigation measures, into national development strategies. Where appropriate, these issues are reflected in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF).