

# United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations

## 1. 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 crisis-affected situations, including in contexts of fragility, conflict, violence and disasters (hereinafter referred to as crisis-affected situations), are committed to continue to strengthen our partnership in support of global public goods and to make international engagement in crisis-affected situations more effective and sustainable. This commitment is based on a shared recognition that eliminating poverty, ending needs, and supporting peaceful societies in crisis-affected situations remains one of the most pressing challenges captured in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In pursuit of the goals set out in the United Nations Charter, the United Nations galvanizes the international community in response to risks and crisis, in prevention and post-crisis situations, and engages in a variety of activities, including coordination, development, humanitarian assistance, support to inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation and re-establishment and maintenance of peace and security. Consistent with its mandate for reconstruction and development, the World Bank supports institutions and statebuilding, economic and social resilience and recovery in countries vulnerable to violent conflict and disasters. We recognize the interdependence of such activities and the importance of integrated political, security and development frameworks in pursuit of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the commitment to ‘leaving no one behind.’

Today there is recognition that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts are complementary and should reinforce each other, and that development institutions and longer-term socioeconomic approaches are needed to prevent economic losses, the impact of disasters and violent conflict, reduce humanitarian needs, sustain peace and eliminate poverty.

Member States have issued a global call for the United Nations and the World Bank to work closer together in crisis-affected situations. Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, adopted on 27 April 2016 resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to explore options for strengthening the United Nations-World Bank collaboration in conflict-affected countries. In May 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit called for a “new way of working” that shifts the focus from meeting needs to reducing needs, risks and vulnerability in support of both the SDGs and the immediate requirements of the affected people<sup>1</sup>. These commitments are being met by significant changes in how resources and instruments are responding to the needs of crisis-affected people.

In light of the above, and recognizing achievements and progress made in our partnership, the UN and the World Bank have agreed to a dedicated and specific partnership framework for their collaboration with the objective of further institutionalizing and scaling up results in crisis-affected situations.

This updated framework builds on the 2008 United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and World Bank President and is a supplementary arrangement pursuant to the 1947 Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the World Bank. The 2008 framework has fostered almost a decade of efforts to strengthen collaboration in culture, communication, financing policies and procedures, and

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<sup>1</sup> This was cemented in the signing of a Commitment to Action on “Transcending humanitarian-development divides: Changing People’s Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need” by the UN Secretary-General and 8 UN Agencies and endorsed by the World Bank President in May 2016.

assessment, planning, and operational frameworks, in crisis-affected contexts. This document presents the guiding principles, strategic intent and commitments for a strengthened United Nations-World Bank Partnership in crisis-affected situations from 2017 onwards.

While acknowledging the complementarity of future frameworks between the UN and the World Bank, this framework will serve to inform existing and future Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), strategic frameworks, operational annexes, and statements of intent between UN entities and the World Bank and other third parties in crisis-affected situations. Existing sector MoUs, operational annexes, agreements and statements of intent will remain in effect, as is, including – among others – the United Nations Development Group-World Bank Post-Crisis Operational Annex; the Fiduciary Principles Accord; and the European Commission-United Nations Development Group-World Bank Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning.

## 2. Guiding Principles

In addition to the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the commitment to universality and indivisibility, the United Nations and the World Bank support the following principles in our respective engagement in crisis-affected situations:

1. Our comparative advantages and mandates differ, but our efforts are interdependent and must be mutually reinforcing;
2. Preventing and responding to crisis is the primary responsibility of national partners, and we support national ownership and leadership, ensuring, in this regard, that all segments of society are engaged, that their needs are taken into account and that accountability to affected populations is strengthened;
3. Recognizing that our collective efforts encompass developmental, humanitarian, political, security, peacebuilding, human rights, economic and social dimensions of response, we are committed to advancing integrated solutions as appropriate based on country context, within our respective mandates driven by coherent, effective and efficient country operations;
4. We adopt a flexible approach in our response to country needs taking into consideration the country context, national priorities, UN-mandated tasks, and the role of other regional and international partners;
5. We will ensure transparency and where possible, we will align our communication to Member States and partners; and
6. Regarding humanitarian action undertaken by the United Nations and its partners, the recognized humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence will be respected.

## 3. Strategic Focus and Intent

Recognizing that coherent and complementary action is critical to address the drivers, causes and impacts of crises, and recalling our mutual commitments to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN and the World Bank commit to:

**Build resilience of the most vulnerable people, reduce poverty, enhance food security, promote shared prosperity, and sustain peace in:**

- a) Situations at risk of violent conflict;
- b) Situations of ongoing violent conflict;
- c) Situations with a high prevalence of forced displacement;
- d) Protracted and post-crisis (post-conflict or post-disaster) situations, requiring substantive support; and
- e) Where climate change impacts and risks, disaster and disaster risks have a (possible) bearing on the above situations this framework applies as expressed in the guiding principles.

## 4. Operational Commitments

To advance the strategic focus and intent, we will work together to:

- identify and reduce critical multi-dimensional risks of crisis and prevent violent conflict in relevant countries or regions within our mandates;
- coordinate support to situations of protracted crisis, aligning, where possible, strategies, objectives and collective outcomes, in particular, to populations affected by forced displacement, based on joint analysis and assessments;
- develop joint analysis and tools where the complementarity of our mandates may enable more effective solutions;
- scale up impact, by leveraging existing financing and comparative advantages, and continuously seek to ensure that operational policies, frameworks and tools used by both organizations facilitate co-operation and improve the efficiency and complementarity between our respective operations;
- address upcoming issues that need our collective engagement.

## 5. Financing

We keep in mind the Addis Ababa Action Agenda arising from the 2015 conference on Financing for Development, which noted that financing the SDGs and financing of development in crisis-affected situations must be additional to Official Development Assistance.

The partnership will provide the framework for a strategic and scaled-up collaboration, recognizing the critical importance of aligning and leveraging financial resources, to do more, and jointly building, prioritizing and financing innovative, data-driven operational responses through a transparent and consultative process.

We will ensure that funding for UN-World Bank collaboration is integrated into the broader financial architecture of our respective organizations. We are building on the collaboration and trust achieved as a result of the Trust Fund established to support the implementation of the 2008 framework and the valuable lessons learned. We will also recognize the diversified nature of financing resources in countries, and will strengthen our analysis and collaboration in bringing in timely, adequate, efficient financing instruments.

## 6. Flexibility

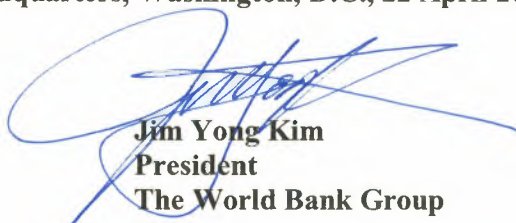
The United Nations and the World Bank recognize that our partnership will vary depending on the specific context, evolution of crisis-affected situations and the range of national and international partners involved. A flexible approach will remain the hallmark of an effective response. Our partnership can be further enhanced through subsidiary and complementary documents, such as annexes and MoUs, that clarify our operational modalities and mechanisms for strategic and operational coordination and cooperation.

We agree to review the partnership periodically – both globally as well as in the context of specific country experiences – as needed to ensure the effectiveness of our response in crisis-affected situations.

**Signed at World Bank Group Headquarters, Washington, D.C., 22 April 2017**



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