Asian Development Bank

Proposed Revised Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy

External consultation
March 2021
ADB’s role in disasters and emergency assistance

ADB focuses on risk reduction, preparedness, early recovery and reconstruction in accordance with its development focus.

ADB’s mandate does not allow it to engage in peacemaking, peacekeeping, or humanitarian relief.

The Assam Integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (approved in 2010) in India has given villagers confidence to live and work in the area.
Purpose of the consultation

To discuss opportunities for ADB to increase its engagement with CSOs in reducing disaster and emergency risk and responding to events

To seek CSO views on paras. 47-71 of ADB’s draft Revised Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy
Rokeya Akter, site engineer, is responsible for the construction of a three-story multipurpose cyclone shelter to hold 2,000 people and 500 cattle at a school in Bangladesh under the Coastal Towns Environmental Infrastructure Project (approved 2014)
Introduction
Extreme weather and geophysical events, epidemics and pandemics, and conflicts, have caused significant loss of life, assets, and economic productivity in ADB’s developing member countries (DMCs), with particularly detrimental impact on the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.

The impacts of climate change are expected to increase disaster and emergency risk unless urgent action is taken both to reduce this risk and tackle climate change.
Disaster risk management (DRM) at ADB

ADB engagement is currently guided by the 2004 Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy (DEAP) covering:

- ADB’s broad approach to disaster and emergency assistance
- ADB’s emergency assistance loan modality

The 2004 DEAP has extended earlier disaster and emergency policies by placing increased emphasis on risk reduction, leading in particular to increasing consideration of disaster risk reduction in ADB country partnership strategies and projects.
Types of ADB support for disasters and emergencies

**Investments in risk reduction and preparedness**
- Disaster risk reduction and preparedness projects
- Communicable disease control

**Post-disaster support**
- Technical support for post-disaster needs assessments
- Small-scale humanitarian assistance
- Fast-tracked early recovery
- Longer-term reconstruction

**Knowledge**
- Capacity development
- Publications and knowledge dissemination
Operational engagement with CSOs

ADB has directly engaged CSOs in delivering disaster and emergency assistance, including in areas of:

- Community-based disaster risk reduction
- Community–disease control
- Post-disaster recovery
- Post-conflict recovery
- COVID-19 response
The 2004 DEAP has steered ADB’s approach to DRM and emergency assistance in broadly the right direction, supported in its implementation by

- relevant action and operational plans
- the establishment of various trust funds and earmarked assistance and a contingent disaster financing lending instrument, providing more rounded assistance
- an increase in technical staff

One year after Typhoon Yolanda hit, new classrooms built under the Emergency Assistance and Early Recovery for Poor Municipalities Affected by Typhoon Yolanda Project (approved 2013) in the Philippines are providing children with the opportunity to learn in a clean and safe environment.
... but room for improvement

- ADB’s “disaster management cycle” approach to risk management as articulated in the 2004 DEAP is outdated
- The 2004 policy does not mention climate change
- Financial preparedness for disasters and emergencies is not covered
- COVID-19 has also highlighted a critical lack of preparedness of many DMCs for severe outbreaks of communicable diseases
Revised DEAP
Revised DEAP

The Revised DEAP seeks to enhance the efficiency and impact of ADB’s support to DMCs to strengthen long-term resilience to disasters and emergencies, including the enhanced management of residual risk.
Underlying principles

The revised policy rests on four underlying principles, collectively establishing a solid and systematic framework guiding ADB’s disaster and emergency assistance and leaving no country behind by

- stressing that risk management begins with risk reduction;
- recognizing disaster and emergency risk management as an integral part of the development process;
- acknowledging that DMCs have differentiated risk profiles and, thus, opportunities for enhanced resilience; and
- emphasizing that timely, carefully planned, and well-designed relief, early recovery, and reconstruction interventions and solutions reduce the near- and longer-term social, institutional, and economic impacts of disasters and emergencies and facilitate resilient recovery.
Key proposed changes include

- a revised framework approach to risk management
- the synchronization of agendas addressing disaster and climate resilience and integrated actions to enhance climate and disaster resilience
- increased emphasis on financing arrangements for residual risk
- the bifurcation of the 2004 DEAP to cover the emergency assistance loan instrument in a separate policy.
The new policy emphasizes the importance of:

- Building partnerships and coordination, including with CSOs
- Addressing gender dimensions in building resilience and responding to disasters and emergencies
- Applying participatory approaches, particularly through meaningful dialogue with and active participation of poor and vulnerable groups
- Regional cooperation
Questions for discussion
1. Do the four proposed underlying principles in the proposed Revised DEAP align appropriately with CSO approaches and international good practice?

2. What additional key considerations should be reflected in the policy?

3. How could ADB enhance its engagement and collaboration with CSOs in reducing risk and responding to disasters and emergencies?

4. How can ADB engage most effectively with communities in the design of risk reduction, preparedness and response assistance, including in targeting the strengthened resilience of the poor, women, and other vulnerable groups?
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