

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE UPDATE TO IDB INVEST 2020 IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL

This is an expanded and updated version of Section 3.11. in the 2020 IDB Invest Implementation Manual. Section 3.11. is part of Section 3, Client Management System, which describes how clients of IDB Invest are expected to achieve the objectives and meet the requirements of the 2020 Sustainability Framework. This expanded section will be appended to the current Implementation Manual, and included in the next version of the Implementation Manual along with other updates and guidance at a later date. The fully revised Implementation Manual will then be translated into Spanish and Portuguese and disseminated, including through a downloadable version on IDB Invest's website. The Manual, along with other guidance materials, will also be used in capacity building initiatives for IDB Invest and its clients.

As part of the overall environmental and social assessment process, clients should identify if the project has exposure to different types of risk, and what types of vulnerabilities may exist in the natural environment or among affected communities. All projects are required to have emergency preparedness and response mechanisms in place as part of their Environmental and Social Management System.

The client's organizational structure needs to be able to manage unexpected situations, ranging from the implementation adjustments discussed in previous sections of the Implementation Manual, to responding to emergencies and disasters. Incidents and accidents such as worker injuries or fatalities need to be managed and reported on, and staff need to be trained to deal with emergencies. Performance Standard 1 states that:

Where the project involves specifically identified physical elements, aspects and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, the ESMS will establish and maintain an emergency preparedness and response system so that the client, in collaboration with appropriate and relevant third parties, will be prepared to respond to accidental and emergency situations associated with the project in a manner appropriate to prevent and mitigate any harm to people and/or the environment.¹

Risks may include natural hazards and disasters, such as climate-related disasters, as well as man-made disasters and emergencies. Climate-dependent projects, e.g., projects whose operation is tied to hydrologic regimes such as hydroelectric power, should evaluate potential impacts due to existing or predicted changes in hydrology. In appraising projects, IDB Invest screens for disaster risks using the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) methodology. This looks at natural disaster hazards and climate change scenarios which may exacerbate existing disaster hazards. Other risks to local communities such as hazardous materials spills or leaks, explosion, fires, failure or collapse of structural elements or components such as dams, tailings dams, or ash ponds, should also be assessed.

All emergency situations are different. Causes and origins of emergency vary considerably, and it is difficult to

anticipate every emergency that can occur in a project. Companies, government authorities, and available human and material resources will vary. Emergency situations can be directly related to or caused by the project's activities, such as a dam failure. Emergency situations can also be unrelated to the project's activities; for example, an outbreak of violence in the project setting can affect the project and cause harm to its stakeholders.

IDB Invest's Sustainability Policy also states that it 'requires its clients to carry out appropriate disaster risk assessments and to adopt the necessary response measures.'² Specific requirements and considerations are discussed in the World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines, which form part of the IDB Invest Sustainability Framework.

Depending on the project and its setting, emergency preparedness and response should cover contingencies that may affect personnel or facilities of the project; health and safety considerations for project workers; and health and safety of affected communities.

Hazards posed to the public while accessing project facilities may also include:

- Physical trauma associated with failure of building structures.
- Burns and smoke inhalation from fires.
- Injuries suffered as a consequence of falls or contact with heavy equipment.
- Respiratory distress from dust, fumes, or noxious odors.
- Exposure to hazardous materials.

The area affected by a potential emergency situation should be defined, since an emergency situation may destroy physical assets, cause relocation, disrupt services, or damage people's livelihoods beyond the project's direct area of influence. Within this broader area, emergencies and disasters generally constitute higher risks in settings of high contextual risk, such as areas with high levels of conflict and violence, and areas characterized by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. There can be differentiated impacts within groups, which need to be considered in the risk assessment and management process.

¹ Performance Standard 1, para 20. | ² Sustainability Policy, para 15.

The emergency preparedness and response should also cover identification and management of potential risks related to natural hazards and disasters. This should include responses to communicable diseases, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, or outbreaks of cholera.

To address emergencies, clients should identify possible scenarios; specify response procedures and responsibilities; and provide appropriate training to workers. In high-risk circumstances clients are required to engage one or more external experts with relevant and recognized experience in similar projects.³

It is important that the client identify and collaborate with relevant public authorities and agencies, both at the national and local level. Clients should in all cases engage with stakeholders during the planning and operation phases and provide support to public authorities, and procedures for this should be agreed upon as part of the emergency response planning.

Developing emergency preparedness, enhanced resilience, and response plans also requires involvement of local affected communities. Emergency plans should be developed in close collaboration and consultation with potentially affected communities and other stakeholders.

Emergency plans should cover the following aspects of emergency response and preparedness:⁴

- Identification of emergency scenarios.
- Identification of what might be done to reduce the likelihood of an emergency.
- Specific emergency response procedures, including emergency contacts.
- Roles and responsibilities, including those of emergency authorities.
- Trained emergency response teams.
- Procedures for interaction and coordination with local and regional emergency and health authorities and agencies.
- Communication systems/protocols, such as audible alarms, vehicle mounted speakers, telephone or messaging call lists, and use of radio.

- Permanently stationed emergency equipment and facilities (e.g., first aid stations, fire extinguishers/hoses, sprinkler systems).
- Protocols for fire truck, ambulance, and other emergency vehicle services.
- Evacuation routes and meeting points, including clear, unimpeded routes; accessibility for persons with disabilities; marking and signing; and emergency lighting.
- Business continuity and contingency.
- Drills (annual or more frequently as necessary).
- Procedures for notifying local communities in the event of an emergency.

³ IFC Performance Standard 4, para 6. ⁴ See IFC Performance Standard 4, Guidance Note 23, and World Bank Group EHS Guideline 3.0