



# CRITICAL EVALUATION - DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FROM WORLD BANK'S PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract :** This paper attempts to research the various initiatives of the World Bank for Disaster Risk management in various countries and the impact of these initiatives so far. It also critically evaluates the road ahead for increased results in these programmes.

## **WORLD BANK AND ITS STINT WITH DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

There is considerable evidence that establishes the fact that disasters have been the root cause of the extinction of various civilisations. Hence, there has always been a need to help the people/countries affected by various disasters. There are various organisations across the world working to assist the vulnerable and the poor in surviving these tough times. The World Bank is one such global organisation which has been instrumental in addressing this global problem over the last decade. But, it has its share of challenges that have affected its productivity and delivery on various fronts.

World Bank was primarily set up to fight poverty of which recovery from natural disasters is an important component (Kreimer & Arnold, 2000). However, the extent to which Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has been achieved by the World Bank is a subject of discussion (Bank, 2022).

## **STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION TO LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES**

The World Bank has been tasked with supporting all regions the world over, with a special focus on low-income countries where disasters are accompanied by violence, conflict and fragility (Group, 2024). Some key initiatives such as the Paris agreement, the Sendai Framework for Risk Management and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have also been instrumental in helping the World Bank drive towards its targeted results (Group, 2024). While the World Bank has contributed significantly during many disasters, there still remain some regions that have witnessed coverage gaps – North Africa and the Middle East to name a few.

## MAJOR PROJECTS

There are more than 1000 projects of the World Bank working considerably towards disaster risk management across the globe. Major programmes initiated by the World Bank include –

- ✓ Support to the Government of Chad for the exploration of nature-based solutions (NBS) for resilience (Bank, 2024). This would help in the reduction of pluvial and fluvial flood risks as well as address the concern pertaining to urban heat in N'Djamena, the country's capital.
- ✓ Pilot programme for enhancement of the capacity of flood risk analysis in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia (Bank, 2024).
- ✓ Programme for inclusivity of emergency preparedness and response system in Romania (Bank, 2024).

## STATISTICS

### Active Projects

The World Bank has been actively contributing in various regions running various programmes to help the countries wage through disasters and calamities. Active Projects by the World across various regions is as mentioned in Table 1

Region	Number of Active Projects
East Asia and the Pacific	152
Eastern and Sothern Africa	238
Europe and Central Asia	114
Latin America and the Caribbean	180
Middle East and North Africa	64
South Asia	128
Western and Central Africa	1920

Table 1 - Source: (Group, 2024)

## PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

Apart from these, there are many projects in the pipeline, some of which are highlighted in Table 2 –

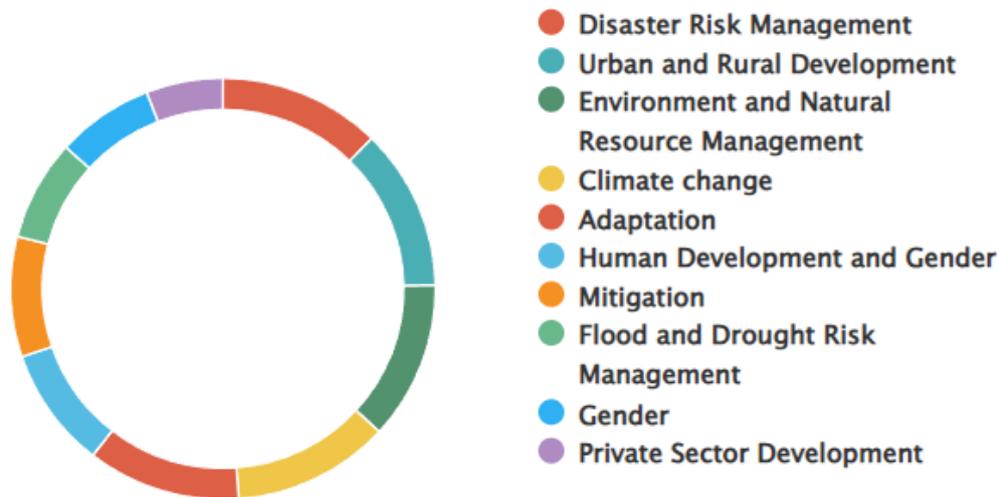
### RECENTLY APPROVED PROJECTS

Project Title	Country	Approval Date
Surat Resilience Enhancement Project	India	October 9, 2025
Support to the Bogota Metro Line 2 Project (Series 1)	Colombia	September 25, 2025
Wastewater management for environmental restoration and water security in the Bogota River Basin	Colombia	September 12, 2025
Gurugram Metro Huda to Cyber City, Haryana	India	August 28, 2025
Second Urban Institutional & Infrastructure Development Program	Ethiopia	August 26, 2025
Access to finance for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems	Colombia	August 7, 2025

Table 2 – Source: (Group, 2024)

A major chunk of the projects initiated by the World Bank goes towards disaster management programmes, as is evident from the chart below –

## Themes



Source: (Group, 2024)

### OTHER INITIATIVES

The World Bank is not alone in helping countries cope with various disasters – both natural and man-made. There are many other organisations and different programmes that have been initiated for this purpose. One such programme is the **Global Program for Disaster Risk Analytics (GPDRA)**. This programme was developed for the purpose of the development of innovative tools, data information and knowledge products to aid evidence-based decisions for the World Bank and organisations working for this purpose (GFDRR, 2024).

### THE WAY AHEAD

The diversity in the regions demonstrates the inclusive nature of the World Bank when it comes to dealing with disaster management. However, there is still a lot more to be achieved. According to a study by the World Bank, 26% of its operations during the period 2011-2022 were focused on disaster risk management with a total funding of US\$143 billion (GFDRR, 2023). A number of measures need to be undertaken for this purpose such as the introduction of specific thematic projects as an addition to the core World Bank projects. Raising awareness among the countries by using newsletters to disseminate information is another initiative that is already being planned by the World Bank. Another strategically important initiative could be the designing and embedding of the monitoring processes that would help analyse the links between disaster risk management and Fragility, conflict and violence in disaster-hit countries.

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