



**GBDRRRF**

**THE GLOBAL BANK  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND**

*Public Affairs Section of the  
Global Bank*



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CASES OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN 35 COUNTRIES:  
GLOBAL BANK TO HALT NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL**



Los Angeles, CA – January 31, 2020 – The COVID-19 public health emergency is a rapidly evolving situation. The [Global Bank](#) Group (@GlobalBankGroup) is mindful of the health and safety of the public and our staff including those in Global Bank Group’s Agencies, Funds and Programmes, Contractors, and Non-governmental Organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bank Group is taking these important considerations into account as we all continue our work to protect human health and the environment. Accordingly, the Bank Group has issued a temporary policy in an extraordinary advisory to not travel anywhere abroad because of the coronavirus pandemic, and that the employees should either return home or stay in place.

“Many areas throughout the world are now experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and taking action that may limit employees, and consultants travel mobility and impact resident mission’s ability to provide services in [infrastructure](#), [sustainable development](#), climate change, including to [disaster-prone areas](#), including quarantined areas and regions,” the president of the Global Bank Group [Ron Nechemia](#) (@RonNechemia) said in a statement. “Even countries, jurisdictions, or areas where cases have not been reported may restrict travel without notice.”

The Global Bank Group authorized the departure of personnel and family members from any diplomatic or resident mission post in the world who have determined they are at higher risk of a poor outcome if exposed to COVID-19 or who have requested departure based on a commensurate justification. These departures may limit the ability of the Global Bank Group and the Global Bank Group’s Agencies, Funds and Programmes. They span across all areas of work and may substantially impact the critical support of the Bank Group’s resident mission<sup>1</sup> to provide services in infrastructure, sustainable development, and climate change including to disaster stricken areas in all regions.

The Global Bank Group and the Global Bank Group’s Agencies, Funds and Programmes, are expected to comply with local emergency orders, including requiring both staff and patrons to follow the local face-covering order and abide by appropriate guidance issued by the relevant government authorities including isolation or quarantine order. At present, the Global Bank Group is making every effort to assist its employees overseas who wish to return to the United States.

The Global Bank Group continues to monitor the health situation globally and recommends that individuals follow health official guidance and avoid government-designated affected areas. The Bank Group remains committed to partnering with organizations and companies to tackle this deadly virus and promote the welfare of citizens all around the world.

The advisory affects Global Bank headquarters staff and the Global Bank Group’s Agencies, Funds, Programmes employees, and outside consultants.

### **Travel Alerts and Warnings**

You are encouraged to visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to view individual Travel Advisories for the most urgent threats to safety and security. Please also visit the website of the relevant U.S. embassy or consulate to see information on entry restrictions, foreign quarantine policies, and the most recent health information provided by local governments.

### **About GB-DRRRF**

The Global Bank Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Fund – an Umbrella Trust Fund (GB-DRRRF), established in 2017, is a multi-donor partnership and grant-making financing mechanism. Its purpose is mainstreaming climate change into development to help achieve the [Sendai Framework targets by 2030](#) - a decade-long plan to help make the world safer from disasters caused by natural hazards, to support the implementation of the [Global Climate Agreement in Paris](#), and prevent disasters undermining progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The rapid and flexible support offered by the [Global Bank Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Fund](#) makes it a central pillar of the [Global Bank Group](#) agencies’ humanitarian response architecture.

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<sup>1</sup> The Global Bank Group Resident Missions are diplomatic offices representing the various Global Bank Group’s Agencies, Funds and Programmes within the state or nation which is its host. They are responsible for maintaining client relations and delivering the Global Bank Group assistance to countries. The Resident Missions specifically maintain relations with the government, other development partners, and various stakeholders that are operating in the host country. They also manage the pipeline of future grant assistance and oversee the implementation of the Bank Group’s projects.

More detailed information can be found on the GB-DRRRF's website <http://www.gbdrrrf.org/>

## **About Global Bank**

[Global Bank](#) is the Global Bank Group's long-term sovereign lending institution. As a development bank with an agenda driven by G-7/G-8 and G-20-priorities, its leading priority is to promote global economic and social development. Unlike the multilateral development banks (MDBs), Global Bank is not restricted to operating only in developing countries.

The Global Bank Group represents, develops, and supports the collective interests of the Global Bank and its business interests globally. Global Bank is a full-fledged private sector global development bank, **in formation**, – the *world's second global development bank* – positioned next to the *World Bank Group* and next to the preeminent regional development banks. It combines the characteristics of a multilateral development bank with those of a private financial institution. The primary objective of the Global Bank is to reduce poverty in middle-income countries and creditworthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development. To this end, Global Bank finances primarily public sector infrastructure projects and sustainable development through the provision of sovereign loans to developing countries. Global Bank's financial objective is not to maximize profit, but to earn an adequate income to ensure its financial strength and to sustain its development activities.

For information about the Global Bank, please visit <http://www.global-bank.org>

## **GLOBAL BANK EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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