

Activation criteria for the Rapid Response Facility

The Rapid Response Facility (RRF) is one of the tools that gives FCDO the flex to provide niche funding to pre-registered NGOs to respond immediately to new crises. With RRF funding, partners can provide first line assistance for up to three months of an emergency.

It will always be context specific as to when FCDO would use this mechanism, however the RRF will most likely be activated in a large rapid onset crisis, predominantly a disaster setting, where the UK government anticipates spending more than £5 million ODA as part of its bilateral response. It is likely FCDO will only activate the RRF when there is a FCDO team on the ground or a CHASE team has been deployed.

FCDO will use the following criteria to assess the suitability of using the RRF:

1. All decisions to intervene in a rapid onset crisis, or to respond to a spike in a protracted crisis must be framed in our intervention criteria, these provide a common baseline for us deciding to respond to a new humanitarian crisis.
2. Additionally, FCDO will consider the level of humanitarian risk and the severity of the crisis assessed by the global crisis severity index GCSI (forthcoming).
 - a. 3. When deciding to activate, FCDO will consider the following additional parameters:
 - a. What is the magnitude of the crisis? In the case of a large rapid onset crisis covering multiple geographical locations, activating the RRF would be likely.
 - b. Are RRF partners or their local partners on the ground and operational already?
 - c. Would an RRF complement or duplicate other funding initiatives such as existing bilateral funding arrangements, a DEC appeal¹ or START fund² money? [To note: FCDO does not rule out activating the RRF where a DEC appeal and/or START is active].
 - d. Have our key humanitarian NGO partners provided analysis supporting an RRF activation?
 - e. Does the host government want this type of humanitarian support?

Consultation process on RRF activation

In order to ensure the highest level of transparency in the decision-making process for RRF activation, FCDO will set up a brief pre-activation teleconference with key partners, including DEC, START, and representatives of the RRF to:

- a. Solicit evidence on FCDO's added value in responding;
- b. Identify key vulnerabilities and communities in need; and
- c. Map what other partners are planning to do in a response.

During this consultation partners are at liberty to interrogate FCDO's intervention criteria, however the decision whether to activate the RRF or not remains with FCDO.

¹ <https://www.dec.org.uk/article/when-we-launch-an-appeal>

¹ <https://startnetwork.org/sites/default/files/dl/start-fund-practical-guide.pdf>