



# CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A CROSS-CULTURAL SETTING

International Student and Scholar Services

## NAFSA

Association of  
International Educators

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## Responding to a Natural Disaster in an International Student or Scholar's Home Country

By Daphne Orr

Crises in a student or scholar's home country may be political, social, economic, environmental, or health related, and can cause significant stress on the international students and scholars studying abroad. In the event that a natural disaster occurs in a person's home country, the international student and scholar services office can utilize this checklist to provide assistance and support to the international community.

For additional guidance and resources on ways to mitigate the emotional, academic, and financial impacts such a disaster may have on an international student or scholar, read "Responding to a Natural Disaster in an International Student or Scholar's Home Country" in *Crisis Management in a Cross-Cultural Setting*, which can be purchased online from the [NAFSA bookstore](#).

### CONDENSED CHECKLIST

- Get factual information on the scope of the event.
- Identify the number of international students and scholars at your institution from the affected country/region.
- Provide embassy/consulate contact information to students and scholars.
- Help students and scholars cope with trauma of the event.
- Reach out to those students and scholars in a proactive manner.
- Know your resources on campus and in your community.
- Help others help your students and scholars.
- Anticipate and be prepared for media attention.
- Forward relevant updates such as provisions for financial and immigration assistance.
- Set up educational sessions for the campus.
- Identify areas of fundraising efforts and any potential barriers.
- Assist with immigration-related issues where able.
- Understand the potential impact a crisis may have on a student or scholar's funding.
- Know what is and is not within the scope of an international student and scholar adviser.