The World Bank

Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations (FCS)

At a Glance

- More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by violent conflict.
- Poverty rates are 20 percent higher in countries affected by repeated cycles of violence, and every year of organized violence is associated with lagging poverty reduction of nearly one percentage point.
- An estimated 40 percent of fragile and post-conflict countries relapse into conflict within 10 years.
- Fragile and conflict-affected situations account for:
  - a third of the deaths from HIV/AIDS in poor countries
  - a third of the people who lack access to clean water
  - a third of children who do not complete primary school
  - half of all child deaths
- As of April 2011, none of the low-income fragile or conflict-affected countries had achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. The World Bank has scaled up to respond more effectively to the particular challenges of fragile and conflict situations through policy and institutional reforms, more human and financial resources, stronger partnerships, and a focused program of research and learning to catalyze innovation and sharpen the effectiveness of our operations.
- Since 2000, the International Development Association (IDA)—the World Bank’s fund for the poorest—has provided over $11.2 billion in post-conflict reconstruction assistance to fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS), which include countries, and regions within countries, affected by conflict.

The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development called for a paradigm shift in the development community’s approach to fragile and conflict-affected situations, based on the premise that violence and other challenges cannot be resolved by short-term or partial solutions in the absence of institutions that provide people with security, justice, and jobs.

The New Deal and the g7+. A group of fragile countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, known as the g7+ and their international partners successfully advocated for a new framework for engaging in FCS. The New Deal calls on development partners to support peace-and state-building goals as essential prerequisites for achieving the MDGs and to commit to transparency, risk sharing, use of country systems, strengthening of capacities, and timely and predictable aid. The New Deal was endorsed by 40 countries and international organizations, including the Bank, at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (November 2011).

Supporting the New Deal and putting WDR 2011 into practice. In April 2011, the Bank placed support to fragile and conflict-affected situations at the forefront of its development agenda with the paper, “Operationalizing the 2011 World Development Report.” The World Bank Group is working to transform the way we engage with these countries guided by recommendations of the 2011 World Development Report and the New Deal. These changes are part of a broader agenda to modernize the institution. We recognize the need to work differently in fragile and conflict-affected situations if we want to maximize results.

- The Bank is working to make our country strategies more ‘fragility-sensitive,’ by addressing drivers of conflict and ensuring that conflict prevention is mainstreamed in our operations. Progress is ongoing in Guinea-Bissau, Cote d’Ivoire, South Sudan, Yemen, and DRC.
- The Bank is developing proposals to enhance, simplify, and adjust the framework for allocating IDA resources to FCS to make it more poverty focused and more flexible to respond to the unexpected challenges and opportunities in these situations. The Bank is also seeking additional resources for our State- and Peace-Building Fund, to use it as a vehicle to pilot the New Deal at the country level.
• The Bank is revising its policies to enable more informed risk taking, more nimble operational responses, more hands-on implementation support, and new approaches to measure results in FCS aligned with the state- and peace-building indicators being developed by the g7+.
• The Bank is also working on a package of human resources measures to ensure that FCS get more ‘face time’ with experienced staff to help package programs and to fast track implementation.
• Bringing together all the instruments across the World Bank Group, the Bank is also working to support a comprehensive approach to promoting jobs and livelihoods in FCS. This includes government grants through IDA, private sector investments through IFC, risk guarantees through MIGA, and the full range of knowledge and technical assistance services.

Global Center on Conflict, Security and Development. In July 2011, the World Bank launched its Global Center for Conflict, Security and Development (CCSD) to provide technical leadership on issues related to conflict and fragility. With offices in Nairobi and Washington, DC, the center is connecting those working in fragile and conflict affected situations across the globe, providing access to the latest research and knowledge on what works in volatile environments, and helping the World Bank strengthen its leadership on the global FCS agenda. The center is staffed by a team of Bank experts who provide support to country teams and work closely with the U.N. and other partners to help improve development results in situations of fragility.

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1 Afghanistan, Burundi, CAR, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Timor Leste and Togo