



World Development Report 2011 - Conflict, Security and Development

Objective and Approach

From its beginnings, the World Bank has seen violent conflict as a profound development challenge. The establishment of the Bretton Woods agencies in the aftermath of the Second World War reflected a belief that reconstructing countries devastated by warfare was an international responsibility. Much of the world has made rapid progress in building stability and reducing poverty in the past sixty years, but areas characterized by persistent violence and by fragile institutions are being left far behind, their economic growth compromised and their human indicators stagnant. Violent conflict thus remains a central development concern and an issue for the World Bank's clients across all regions and income levels. The goal of the 2011 World Development Report (WDR) is to showcase new thinking and contribute concrete, practical suggestions to the debate on how to address violent conflict and fragility.

Given the wide range of stakeholders involved in the debate on conflict, several complimentary approaches will be used to ensure that the WDR benefits from the widest possible range of voices over the 18-month WDR cycle:

- **Country and Regional Engagements:** The WDR is undertaking case studies and consultations on fragile and conflict-affected countries and regions, featuring field visits and in-country roundtables.
- **Expert Consultations:** A series of expert brainstorming sessions are being held to gather prominent academics, policymakers and civil society representatives to share their knowledge and experience.
- **WDR Advisory Council:** A WDR Advisory Council has been formed to offer guidance, including representatives from emerging economic powers, regional organizations and conflict-affected countries.
- **Regional Consultations:** The WDR team is holding dialogues that gather policymakers, experts, and civil society, to discuss the regional implications of WDR findings.
- **Bilateral and Multilateral Outreach:** Particular attention will be given to close consultation with the United Nations system and reaching out to political, security and development communities.
- **Civil Society and the Private Sector:** The experience and views of nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, from both North and South will be prioritized in WDR outreach.

With the Report itself as the centerpiece, the 2011 WDR is aiming to stimulate a wide-ranging debate, and to capitalize on the current surge in attention to conflict and fragility. To enrich the WDR's empirical base and to communicate important insights to diverse audiences, the WDR will make use of the web and social media and use video and film to underline the realities of conflict and the development challenge it poses.



Early Findings

Conflict-affected and fragile states are experiencing repeated and interlinked violence that crosses borders. Analysis reveals the persistence of conflict and marked increase in fighting after formal ceasefires, as well as cross-border violence, trafficking, and organized crime. A lack of focus on the continuing risk of violence during 'post-conflict' recovery, and an excessive focus on assistance to the individual nation state, is mismatched with the challenge of transnational and cyclical violence.

Internal and external stresses burden countries with low capability to respond. Stresses that are both *external* (economic shocks, cross-border trafficking, external interference) and *internal* (rising inequality, youth bulges, legacies of violence and trauma) overwhelm national capabilities. Both formal and informal institutions often lack the technical capability and also, critically, leadership, shared values and social cohesion to respond.

A deficit in international support that is coherent, flexible and well-targeted: In conflict-affected and fragile states, building national capability is paramount, but external support can be essential. However, international supplementary capacity is plagued by fragmented strategy between political, security, and development actors, unpredictable and inflexible aid flows, unrealistic timelines for progress, risk-averse instruments, and a lack of global measures to track progress.

Doing Better – An Action Agenda

Apply new instruments for prevention and regional action to manage conflict: Increase international investment to prevent the onset or recurrence of conflict, with a greater focus on supporting preventative transitions and countries undertaking difficult reform processes; as well as greater use of standby arrangements for political, security and economic assistance which can be drawn upon in the case of rapid shifts in priorities and new conflict risks. Explore innovative regional initiatives to address transnational threats, including joint action on trafficking, organized crime, resource scarcity, cross-border violence, and regional economic and administrative integration.

Invest in under-resourced sectors: Target international assistance to fill gaps, including bridging institutional and financing deficits in the rule of law sector (in particular for justice and policing system), to promote public-private partnerships for job creation, and to reach insecure areas, including agriculture investment.

Coordinate strategy, improve performance of international assistance: Complex conflict environments require integrated strategy across political, security, and development interventions as well as improvements in the speed, duration, and predictability of aid. More realistic international benchmarks for institutional progress are also needed, based on average and "fastest-ever" transition times.

Monitor success: Current Millennium Development Goals do not measure progress based on the unique challenges faced by conflict-affected states. Simple global measures of actual levels of violence and popular perceptions of progress toward stability would allow the international community to track progress, alongside the MDGs.