

## World Development Report 2011

### Conflict, Security and Development

Violent conflict and state fragility are major development challenges: conflict destroys communities and infrastructure, and can cripple economic prospects. A quarter of IDA-eligible states are experiencing conflict, with poverty rates in conflict-affected countries averaging 54 percent, compared with 22 percent for low-income countries as a whole. Many other IDA countries are considered fragile, and thereby prone to violence. A number of middle- and high-income nations are affected by sub-national conflict and severe crime-related violence. Moreover, conflict does not respect borders, and today's world is witnessing serious transnational spill-overs from conflict-affected countries---contributing to regional destabilization, globalized terrorism, drug trafficking and refugee flows.

Building peaceful nation-states which respond to the aspirations of their citizens takes strong leadership, both international and domestic. The international community has an important role to play in assisting countries to avoid, contain and recover from conflict, and the recent past demonstrates how much can be achieved when global and national incentives align, and program implementation is appropriately designed and well-managed. Too often, though, efforts to grapple with conflict have been undercut by conflicting global political agendas, recalcitrant local leadership, or sub-standard international support efforts. As a result, and in spite of extensive regional and international engagement, relatively few countries have managed to put conflict and fragility decisively behind them.

The goal of the WDR 2011 is to contribute concrete, practical suggestions to the debate on how to address conflict and fragility. Since solutions involve cooperation between a wide variety of actors at local, national, regional and global levels, the WDR process will invest considerable effort in reaching out to a range of different players and communities.

The report will discuss

- **Trends, Causes, Consequences:** The WDR will review key thinking on the evolution of violent conflict and fragility and on its causes; it will also assess the human and economic devastation caused by various types of conflict.
- **Key Ingredients of Successful Governance:** Among the key contributors to stability and prosperity are strong leadership, popular legitimacy, and policy approaches which can successfully integrate security, justice, avenues for political expression and opportunities for economic advancement. The WDR will analyze the evolution of policies designed to address conflict and fragility, and will assess the extent to which they have been effective in helping prevent or resolve conflict. Particular attention will be paid to the types of institution- and state-building models advocated by the international community, and the extent to which these have encouraged, or stifled, innovative approaches by national actors.
- **Gaps in Policy and Implementation, and Proposed Remedies:** Among the issues likely to be addressed are more effective ways to support responsible local leadership, develop conflict prevention strategies at both national and regional levels, improve coordination between policy communities (in particular, security, state-building and development actors), nurture institutions suited to specific local contexts, implement critical but under-funded

interventions and focus attention on the decentralized provision of basic services and economic opportunities.

In addition to reviewing the state of research and policy-formation on fragility and conflict, the WDR will research a series of case studies of historical and ongoing conflicts. Given the multiplicity of stakeholders, several complimentary approaches will be used to ensure that sufficient numbers of actors are consulted over the 18-month WDR cycle. The consultation process will take account of the progressive engagement on these issues by the world's emerging economic powers, which now play important roles in conflict response, peace-keeping and state-building.

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