World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)
Consultation Meeting in Oslo, Norway

Feedback Summary

Date: June 3, 2019
Location: Oslo, Norway
Audience: Multi-stakeholder Consultation

Overview: The World Bank Group (WBG) FCV Strategy concept note was presented by Mr. Franck Bousquet, Senior Director of the World Bank’s FCV Group, at a consultation hosted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) that featured the participation of stakeholders from government, international organizations, civil society and academia. Following the presentation, participants were invited to share their views. The summary below captures the key points, recommendations, comments and feedback raised during the meeting.

Feedback from Stakeholders

1. Areas on Engagement

- Strong support expressed for the Strategy’s focus on addressing root causes, investing in prevention, gender, and adopting a people-centered approach.
- Focusing on the drivers of violent extremism, and effective prevention strategies is very important.
- Country ownership is critical for effective engagement in FCV and to address the drivers of fragility. It is thus crucial to support those champions of reform in fragile environments who are seeking to tackle the most difficult challenges.
- Escaping the fragility trap requires the state to become self-sufficient over the long term. Interventions should therefore focus on building domestic resource mobilization and taxation systems.
- Critical for the WBG to remain engaged in fragile settings over the long-term.
- Important to recognize that forced displacement is not just a consequence of FCV, but can also be a cause.
- Critical for the WBG’s engagement in FCV settings to be informed by political economy analyses. This is important in order to fully understand the drivers of fragility, such as elite capture.
- Important for the WBG to support local and informal small enterprises in FCV settings. While increasing foreign investment is important, the focus should be on strengthening and providing financing to the domestic private sector.

2. Partnerships

- Participants expressed strong support for the focus on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the Strategy Concept Note.
Feedback from Stakeholders

- Important for Strategy to explore the modalities by which the WBG can partner more effectively with humanitarian organizations with strong field presence in FCV settings.
- Strategy should help ensure the WBG is fit-for-purpose and efficient when engaging in FCV settings.
- Strategy should focus on the need to be more flexible and rapid in terms of partnering with other organizations on-the-ground in FCV settings.

3. Operationalization of the Strategy

- The focus on the 4 P’s is critical to effectively operationalize the Strategy.
- Important to have both a strong presence on-the-ground as well as create the necessary incentives for staff to work in FCV.
- Financing is key in FCV, but even more importantly is using those additional resources to effectively address the drivers of FCV.
- Important for the Strategy to explore the risks of increased engagement in FCV.

4. Additional Issues for Consideration

- Participants welcomed the strong focus on youth. Moving forward, it would be important to focus on children, and in particular child protection and education as well.
- The “do not harm” principle is key, but the Strategy should focus on “conflict sensitivity” to guide the WBG’s engagement.

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List of participants: Representatives from Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad, Norwegian Refugee Council, CARE, Red Cross, Scanteam, UNDP, Office of the auditor general of Norway, and Norwegian Church Aid.