



**World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)  
Consultation Meeting in Berlin, Germany**

**Feedback Summary**

**Date:** May 6, 2019

**Location:** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin, Germany

**Audience:** Multi-stakeholders (Government, CSOs, Foundations, Academia)

**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. Opening remarks were provided by Mr. Rüdiger König (Director-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding, and Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office) and Dr. Stefan Oswald (Director-General for the Marshall-Plan with Africa, BMZ). The meeting was moderated by Dr. Jörn Gravingholt (German Development Institute). 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.

<b>Feedback from Stakeholders</b>	
<b>1. Overall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad support expressed for the strategic directions and areas of engagement articulated in the concept note.</li> <li>Welcome the focus on the “4 P’s”, recognizing that addressing these areas – programming, partnerships, personnel and processes – is critical to successfully operationalizing the strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Key Areas of Engagement</b>	
	<i>Pivoting towards prevention</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong support for the concept note’s focus on prevention.</li> <li>Building on existing analytics, the WBG should present additional case studies of successful prevention efforts to articulate the importance of prevention to other bilateral and multilateral stakeholders.</li> <li>Important to recognize that prevention is not just about acting early, but also about <i>how</i> interventions are carried out. To this end, a broad range of types of activities, at different times in the spectrum of conflict, can be preventive in nature.</li> </ul>
	<i>Remaining engaged in situations of conflict and crisis</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important to articulate the criteria for when the WBG remains engaged in conflict situations.</li> </ul>
	<i>Helping countries escape the fragility trap</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity and institution-building programs in FCV settings is key. In particular, it is important to support strong public financial management, and build an FCV-specific approach to such activities.</li> </ul>
	<i>Mitigating the impact of FCV on the most vulnerable</i>

<p><b>Feedback from Stakeholders</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy should take into account different types of displacement and migration challenges, as they call for tailored approaches.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. State Legitimacy</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to articulate how the WBG operates in situations where is a lack of legitimacy and trust in state institutions, and in which the state may be contributing to the drivers of fragility.</li> <li>• Policy dialogue can be a useful way to engage with governments on sensitive political economy issues, including on trust and state legitimacy challenges.</li> <li>• The absence of legitimacy is an important driver of conflict, and could therefore be considered as a criterion when developing a typology of FCV situations</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Prioritization and Tradeoffs</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical to prioritize the types of interventions in FCV settings in order to maximize impact.</li> <li>• Selectivity in FCV contexts is key, particularly given there are important tradeoffs to consider. For instance, there may be a tradeoff between delivering rapidly to show “quick wins” and taking a longer-term approach building institutions. The strategy should make these tradeoffs explicit, and articulate principles for how the WBG should address them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Gender and Youth Issues</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy should emphasize the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout the WBG’s FCV programming.</li> <li>• An intersectional gender-contextual approach is needed an FCV, including by considering gender dimensions as part of conflict analyses.</li> <li>• Crucial for staff to understand gender sensitivity issues when working in conflict settings.</li> <li>• Addressing the impact of conflict on children is essential, as they form one of the most vulnerable communities. It is estimated that 400 million children around the world are affected by conflict. Therefore, the strategy should consider child protection issues, as well as support psychosocial and mental health support to vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• The strategy should emphasize youth engagement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Partnerships</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy should articulate the WBG’s comparative advantage, and how it can partner with actors in the humanitarian sector.</li> <li>• Important to develop principles and guidelines of when, and under what conditions, the WBG channels funds through governments or through partner organizations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Operationalization</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical to have staff with the right type of skills on-the-ground in FCV settings.</li> <li>• A more flexible is required in FCV settings, which may entail needing to more regularly adapt projects after they have been approved in order to respond to rapidly changing dynamics on-the-ground.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Strategy Development Process</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WBG should consider engaging with security actors and members of the military as part of the consultative process.</li> <li>• A feedback round summarizing which recommendations, comments, and inputs have been taken onboard would be helpful.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Additional Issues for Consideration</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urbanization issues needs to be addressed as part of the strategy. FCV-impacted countries are increasingly becoming more urban. This entails distinct challenges, and calls for a different approach to development than in more rural areas.</li> </ul>

**Feedback from Stakeholders**

- The strategy should explore leveraging behavioral insights to build trust and promote social cohesion. These types of interventions can often have a strong impact, and be more flexible and adaptive to local needs.
- Data collection in FCV settings is critical. The WBG should invest in attaining robust data, and making it open and accessible to other actors.
- Critical to address the drivers of fragility, but the strategy should also articulate what are the drivers of peace.
- Conflict analyses are critical to informing programming in FCV. They should be done regularly given the rapidly changing dynamics on-the-ground, and in coordination with international, regional and local stakeholders to ensure a consistent understanding of the challenges and how different actors can most effectively partner.
- In FCV settings strong monitoring and evaluation tools are needed, as well as systems to capture on-the-ground risks and adequate approaches to address them.

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**ANNEX A**

**List of Participants:**

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