



World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)

Summary of External Feedback from Phase 1 Consultations

Date: August 21, 2019

Overview: The following summary includes the main themes and recommendations received from external stakeholders on the upcoming World Bank Group (WBG) Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) during the first phase of consultations, which ran from April 17 - July 19, 2019. This summary is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather provide a snapshot of the key points that were raised across numerous consultations. For more granular and in-depth information, please find summaries of each of the consultations on the [FCV Strategy consultations website](#).

Feedback on the FCV Strategy Concept Note was received from 1,721 individual stakeholders in 88 countries and territories through face-to-face consultation meetings, an online questionnaire, detailed email submissions, and social media. Of this total, there were face-to-face meetings in 37 countries with 1,438 individual stakeholders representing governments, international organizations, global and local civil society, and the private sector.

Specific Inputs from Stakeholders
<p>1. General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents and meeting participants expressed strong support for the development of a World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence, as well as the overall approach and areas of engagement identified in the Concept Note. • Respondents stressed the importance of developing a more nuanced classification of fragility, conflict and violence than the definition currently used to determine the Harmonized List of Fragile Situations. In particular, the need for a more differentiated approach was raised and it was noted that a new classification should reflect the diversity of situations that a country may face. • The WBG has a valuable role to play in helping countries address and overcome FCV challenges, in particular by working in complementarity with humanitarian, civil society, security and other actors, and leveraging their respective comparative advantages. • The Concept Note's focus on implementation (the "4 P's") was appreciated. This was recognized as critical for the success of the Strategy, and therefore respondents highlighted the importance of including concrete ways to operationalize the strategy and practical examples of country-level engagement.
<p>2. Addressing the root causes of conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A focus on addressing the causes and drivers of fragility, conflict and violence is critical – both in terms of prevention and to help countries achieve sustainable peace. • Drivers of fragility, conflict and violence often stem from local grievances, a lack of effective and accountable governance, and challenges to the social contract between citizens and the state. To meet the WBG's goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in FCV contexts,

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participants stressed that the WBG needs to address the core drivers of FCV, and the Strategy should articulate how it could do this in partnership with relevant bilateral, regional, and multilateral organizations.

- Respondents highlighted that the Strategy should articulate how the WBG can effectively operate in situations where the state may be contributing to the escalation or exacerbation of FCV challenges. In these contexts, it was raised that the Strategy should also explore how the WBG can work with local actors and non-governmental groups while engaging constructively with government institutions.
- Respondents and meeting participants encouraged the WBG to look at its own operating structure to ensure flexibility in delivery and implementation of operations in FCV contexts. This is particularly important given the rapidly changing dynamics on the ground in most FCV situations.

3. WBG Approach to engagement

- The differentiated approach outlined in the Concept Note was seen as fundamental to effective engagement in FCV contexts and should be systematized across the WBG's programming in FCV settings.
- There is strong recognition that no single organization can address FCV challenges alone, with respondents emphasizing the need to be inclusive and collaborative. In particular, the Strategy should clearly articulate the WBG's comparative advantage to help:
 - facilitate coordination, collaboration, and complementarities with other organizations working on different aspects of FCV;
 - focus expertise and resources on issues and contexts in which the WBG has a comparative advantage and value-add, while leveraging the expertise and experience of other actors;
 - stress the WBG's commitment to providing long-term development support and remain engaged in situations of conflicts and crises.
- Respondents urged the WBG to explore ways of systematically taking a participatory approach in its programming. To this end, it is important to ensure that programs in FCV situations are designed and implemented in consultation with local stakeholders to facilitate ownership and buy-in.
- Specific mention was made of the need for the WBG to engage closely with civil society organizations at the local and national levels. A number of respondents highlighted the shrinking space for civil society in many FCV situations, noting that it is often a symptom of increasing fragility, particularly in contexts where FCV is being driven by a fraying of the social contract. In many FCV settings civil society plays a critical role to provide services to vulnerable communities and populations impacted by FCV, which can make them critical partners.
- Respondents and meeting participants supported the Concept Notes's emphasis on personnel – the WBG's own human resources in FCV settings. In particular, participants encouraged the WBG to continue expanding its presence on-the-ground with highly-skilled staff who are trained in the nuances and complexities of addressing FCV challenges.

4. Areas of Focus

- The majority of respondents urged the Strategy to consider focusing on issues that would have an effect on the root causes of conflict, by focusing on interventions that would build the institutions necessary for effective, accountable and inclusive governance and respect for the rule of law.
- Participants recognized the importance of addressing violence as part of the Strategy. To this end, it was stressed that engagement in situations impacted by high levels of gang and interpersonal violence should focus on strengthening criminal justice institutions as well as citizen security initiatives.
- There was strong support for the WBG to address climate change as a major driver of fragility in FCV settings.

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- Many respondents and participants urged the Strategy to consider how to stimulate the private sector in FCV contexts, in particular through support to local SMEs and the enabling environment. The stabilizing potential of increased private sector development was repeatedly emphasized. Participants also stressed the importance of adopting a conflict-sensitive approach in these settings in order to avoid private investment that can exacerbate local tensions. Respondents encouraged more public-private partnership, more robust underwriting of risk to encourage investment in FCV contexts and continued enhancement of the investment climate in developing countries.
- In addition to the focus on supporting communities that have been forcibly displaced – which was strongly supported – participants stressed the importance of addressing the development needs of other vulnerable groups, including ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, women, children and youth, disabled, and old.
- The Strategy should also recognize the impact of social norms – such as those which condone gender-based violence, or the exclusion of certain groups, including women, and ethnic, religious and other minority groups – in creating and exacerbating the grievances underlying and driving conflict.
- The Strategy should focus on issues that are critical to economic and social inclusion, such as addressing gender inequities, as well as increasing the access of minorities to resources and services such as education, health and finance.
- Participants stressed the importance of governance and capacity-building to strengthen national institutions. In particular, respondents highlighted that the strategy should also focus on addressing corruption and increasing accountability of governments and policy-makers, as well as working not just with national governments, but also with state, local and municipal governments.
- Respondents urged the Strategy to articulate engagement with the security sector, highlighting the nexus between security, peace and development. Focus was given to ways that development actors can support the reform of the security sector, protect civilians, as well as engage constructively with security actors in insecure environments to deliver development support.
- Respondents stressed the importance of effective Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) tailored to FCV situations. In this context, respondents encouraged greater use of ICT tools and urged the WBG to help support better data gathering and analysis in FCV settings.
- In terms of the process, respondents recognized the inclusive consultation process and stressed the importance of continuing consultations in some form during the implementation phase of the strategy.