

World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Consultation Meeting with Government of Nigeria, Civil Society and International Donors

Feedback Summary

Date: June 24, 2019, 9 am to 4 pm

Location: Abuja, Nigeria

Audience: Government, donors, CSO, etc.

Overview and Key Issues Discussed: Hiroshi Tsubota, Program Leader and Acting Country Director for the World Bank in Nigeria, welcomed the participants and introduced Amara Konneh, FCV Advisor, who presented the FCV strategy concept. Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views. The following summary are highlights of the relevant comments and recommendations that were provided by stakeholders.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

1. Summary of comments

Comments:

- Stakeholders expressed their deep appreciation for the WBG's renewed focus on FCV demonstrated by the increase in IDA18 resource envelope and the upcoming strategy;
- They welcomed the consultative approach the WBG is taking to the formulation of the FCV Strategy, particularly by getting the inputs of those who are living with and confronting FCV challenges daily.
- The key issues raised by the stakeholders were: 1) the state of Nigeria's fragility; 2) humanitarian-development-peace-nexus delivery challenges, 3) exclusion of women and youth from governance, 4) human capital challenges, and 5) economic governance and corruption; and 6) private sector and jobs.

2. Theme: FCV in Nigeria

Comments:

- Participants at the CSO/Donor session highlighted the north-south politics, exacerbated by the Boko Haram insurgency, as the main FCV issue in Nigeria.
- Nearly all participants at the CSO/Donor session questioned why Nigeria was not on the Harmonized List of FCV countries, given that fragility was profound in the country with rural and urban poverty prevalent across the country.
- Participants also argued that FCV challenges are everywhere in the country. They argued that Nigeria was too large a country that needed a differentiated approach to how the WBG delivered its operations.
- Participants suggested a sub-regional approach to addressing the root causes of some of the
 profound FCV issues in the Nigeria. For example, they welcomed the idea that one of the FCV
 challenges the FCV Strategy is trying to address is for the WBG to remain engaged in conflicts
 and crisis situations. They then asked why the WBG was not in Borno when all other donors
 and humanitarian agencies are, emphasizing the importance of the convening power of the
 Bank in such a crisis.

Recommendations:

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

Participants recommended that the new FCV Strategy creates flexibility for WBG staff working
in FCV countries to take risks to delve into some of the challenges that money and technical
solutions are unable to address in Nigeria.

3. Theme: Exclusion as a driver of FCV

Comments:

 Participants, especially those from Adamawa State, identified the exclusion of women and youth as one of the main drivers of FCV in Nigeria. Representatives from Borno State identified the stigma imposed on former militants of extremist groups and their marginalization as one of the main constraints to reintegration and ending the violence. Participants highlighted that women and children suffered the most during conflicts.

Recommendations:

- Participants recommended WBG's social safety net operations to help vulnerable populations, particularly women and youth, through CDD types of operations similar to what the Bank is doing in Afghanistan. They encouraged the strategy to put emphasis on community engagement operations, stating that without peace, there would be no development.
- They also recommended that the WBG helps traumatized IDPs and ex-combatants of extremist groups return to their homes and receive psychosocial support, emphasizing that this should be a focus in the FCV strategy.

4. Theme: General comments

Comments:

- Government participants suggested stronger partnerships between the WBG and the federal
 government to address some of the constraints presented by the "exclusivity" in WBG's
 approach to addressing FCV. They called for flexibility in WBG's collaboration with other
 development partners.
- To address human capital challenges in Nigeria, participants suggested teacher training, particularly training on how to work with children traumatized by the conflict in NE Nigeria through functional basic education and vocational education.
- In terms of human capital, participants suggested that the WBG revisit the FCV list of countries given Nigeria's low HDI and high poverty rates with an emphasis on improving education and healthcare delivery services in the regions hardest hit by FCV challenges to improve human capital.
- Participants highlighted the absence of the private sector in the FCV region of Nigeria (northeast) and encouraged the WBG to support Nigeria's private sector with job creation for young people as a cornerstone of the FCV strategy.
- Participants expressed frustrations over the slow practical implementation of the H-D-P Nexus
 in Nigeria. Specifically, representatives from the humanitarian assistance community
 expressed frustrations about the lack of a sustained dialogue between government and the
 regions and communities on peacebuilding to end the conflict in the NE which is hampering
 the delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations trapped in conflict zones.

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Participants List

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Samira Sheriff	Angels of Hope Foundation
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Ram Kishan	Mercy Corps
Olatunji Sonoiki	World Food Programme
Roger Hollo	UNHCR
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Anthony Alabi	NAN
Alkasim Abdulkadir	Freelance
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Lansana Wonneh	UN Women
Scott Clayton	U.S Embassy
Mukhtari Shitu	USAID
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