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Section I: Fragility, Conflict, And Violence In The World (page 3-11)

Tearfund appreciates the opportunity to participate in the consultation of the World Bank Group's first strategy on fragility, conflict and violence. We look forward to the strategy being operationalised in country. Our comments and recommendations on this draft strategy are based on operational experience and working through local partner organisations in over fifty countries. Fragile states is one of three corporate priorities for Tearfund, alongside economic and environmental sustainability, and church and community transformation. Tearfund aims to see communities in fragile states work across social divides to address the root causes of fragility, restore broken relationships and respond to crises. To address the root causes of fragility, Tearfund is focusing on key areas including leadership, youth, peacebuilding, healing, building resilience and advocacy.

Section I

Climate change

Tearfund welcomes the World Bank's acknowledgement of climate change as a driver of fragility and a threat multiplier, including increasing competition over natural resources such as land and water. We are pleased to see the references to the impact of climate change on poverty and increasing migration.
(Paragraph 16)

In Tearfund's operations, we have seen the combined impacts of conflict, drought and food security that left more than 20 million people facing famine in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen in 2017-18. The Greater Horn of Africa is experiencing first-hand the complex interplay between the global climate crisis and conflict and violence, with the most vulnerable people across the region suffering the effects. Many of the areas hardest-hit by floods in South Sudan have been conflict hotspots in recent years, meaning that people were already in desperate need before this latest shock. In Somalia, climatic shocks may exacerbate recruitment by extremist groups, according to a recent report, *Climate Related security risks and Peacebuilding in Somalia*, published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. In Ethiopia, drought and violence have overlapped in key regions.

Coping strategies can often compromise long-term growth and environmental health, leading to greater

vulnerability in the future. Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan have already reported significant new displacement due to the drought and floods, and there are concerns regarding increased school drop-outs, in a region where at least 12.4 million children are already out of school, including over 3 million in Somalia, 2.2 million in South Sudan and nearly 3 million in Sudan. Families may resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour and child marriage.

Climatic shocks significantly increase protection risks due to family separation, with male breadwinners moving in search of livelihoods, placing children and women at risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and isolation from humanitarian assistance. As highlighted by experience in 2017, droughts in the Horn of Africa also tend to increase older people's vulnerabilities, negatively affect their traditional roles and increase the household burdens they face.

Section II: Framework For WBG Engagement In FCV A. Guiding Principles (page 12-17)

Resilience and adaptation We welcome the need to mitigate risks and strengthen resilience, including managing natural resources successfully to prevent conflict. Resilience building and climate change adaptation should be integrated across programmes and approaches, including peacebuilding, youth employment and resilience livelihoods in urban and rural contexts. Whilst also building the adaptive capacity of states to deal with devastating consequences of climate change. (Paragraphs 46, 79, 142)

Social inclusion and creation of safe spaces.

Times of conflict dramatically exacerbate the vulnerability and fragility of some populations more than others. In the midst of what is a more chaotic situation where even the minimal systems get broken down, people run looking for safety; safety that is physical, emotional, social and spiritual too. Understanding what makes people feel safe is critical. One's sense of what is a safe space is different to others. People already on the margins and at great risk, get pushed further away, become excluded and isolated putting them at great risk during such times. Ensuring knowing who these most vulnerable populations are, ensuring their understanding and prioritisation of safety, what that means and looks like needs to be a priority. This is a key aspect of the Protection agenda and facilitating the investment in access to safe spaces has to be a part of any strategy of FCV. (Paragraph 47)

Youth

We welcome the focus on youth as critical agents of change. In Nigeria, Tearfund is seeing a perfect storm of drivers of fragility: very high unemployment; different socio-economic, ethnic, and religious groups living in close proximity; an increase in the youth population; and climate change. Within this context Tearfund is implementing approaches that seek to address multiple drivers of fragility, working with both young Christian and Muslim groups on green jobs such as solar installation and briquette making. Having the young people work together towards a common goal and reimagining a future Nigeria together helps to bring understanding between the different groups and prevent tensions. (Paragraph 50)

B. Pillars of Engagement (page 7-29)

Prevention

We welcome the focus on preventing conflict as a cost effective approach, including addressing the key drivers of fragility such as climate change and gender inequality, and the importance of strengthening resilience. Conflict undoes previous development gains. For example, it costs the average developing country around 30 years of GDP growth, takes a country 14 years to return to its previous growth path post-civil war and 20 years for trade to return to pre-war levels (World Development Report: Conflict, Security and Development, 2011). Further more, the economic impact of containing or dealing with the consequences of violence was 12.6 percent of world GDP in 2016 (Positive Peace Report, Institute for Economics and Peace). (Paragraph 61)

Local voices

A people-centric and participatory approach should be taken in ensuring that the World Bank country partnership frameworks systematically address the key drivers of fragility. This means the voice of the most vulnerable and affected should be included in the process of identifying the key drivers and contributing to the country partnership frameworks. (Paragraphs 63, 64, 141)

Education and livelihoods

Prevention should be a key focus of the World Bank's work in fragile contexts, particularly through education and religious institutions with opportunities for livelihoods (internships, vocational opportunities as well as jobs) through the corporate sector and equal opportunities (where there is marginalisation) created through the governmental and legal systems (held to account by civil society). (Paragraphs 61, 64, 100)

Gender-based violence

Addressing fragility, violence and conflict at the macro level is important, but it's important to acknowledge fragility, violence and conflict is exacerbated in interpersonal and community level spaces, and women and girls are at increased risk of violence. There's significant evidence on the role and impact of faith-based approaches in fragile contexts in addressing interpersonal and community level fragility, violence and conflict (Tearfund's report Rethinking Relationships, 2019). Therefore Tearfund would recommend acknowledgement within the strategy for a need to utilise the effectiveness of faith-based approaches to gender-based violence prevention, by addressing root causes of violence, using a gender transformative process (including male engagement), reproductive health, and support for survivors of violence, including healing of trauma and psychosocial support. Similarly, approaches to addressing GBV at the interpersonal and community level need to include working to address social norms and behaviours across the whole of a community and its members, alongside interventions that specifically target and empower those affected by and vulnerable to GBV. (Paragraph 72)

A systems approach

Tearfund welcomes the need to work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In addition, we would recommend that a whole systems approach is needed, including faith actors, women, youth, men, media, security apparatus, local (and national) governance, systems for justice. A systems approach needs

to bring in key elements often missed out like education systems (particularly universities) and religious institutions alongside corporate/financial, civil society, governmental and legal systems.

We need to think in systems and the different parts need to talk and work with each other. As INGOs one of the roles we can play effectively is to be a convenor of space and dialogue where that may have broken down locally. (Paragraph 78)

Local actors and peacebuilding

Strengthening local and community level peacebuilding efforts and ensuring better coordination between actors should be prioritised. Peacebuilding at local levels can often create political space which can enable higher level agreements, whereas the lack of peacebuilding at local levels can frustrate higher level processes if agreements do not have buy in at community level. Juma Mabor Mariel, a lawyer who works for African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries, a Tearfund partner in South Sudan which runs peace and reconciliation projects and trauma counselling, believes that 'until local conflicts are solved, we cannot solve the national conflict. The church is a very important partner in peacemaking. We can be intermediaries in local conflicts – we can find out what is happening and report to higher levels. It is the best-place institution because it meets people all the time – it has access to them every Sunday.' This is backed up by the findings of Christian Aid's report *In it for the Long Haul? Lessons on Peacebuilding in South Sudan*, which cites the people-to- people and Wunlit process, developed by New Sudan Council of Churches, as an example 'that peace- making is a multi-level, consultative and painstaking process commencing long before any statement of reconciliation and continuing long afterwards. 'FBO's and faith leaders are well positioned to assist this.

Tearfund welcomes the World Bank's recognition to work in collaboration with international and local organisations. Tearfund would encourage the World Bank to ensure that local actors do not become deprioritised with respect to international humanitarian organisations in accessing World Bank resources.

For example in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tearfund is working alongside local faith actors in responding to the Ebola crisis. These local faith actors are trusted and have been able to maintain presence in locations where local attitudes have rejected the presence of many international humanitarian actors. Similarly, as trusted members of the community, they have been able to influence behaviour change where external messaging has been less effective.

Engagement with humanitarian organisations, NGOs, civil society and local actors should also be undertaken collaboratively as opposed to contractual relationships that utilise them as "a means to an end". Developing shared goals and approaches will increase the effectiveness of engagement, and reduce the risk of competing agendas creating tensions and inhibiting progress during implementation. (Paragraphs 79, 81)

Disability

Populations living in fragile states and conflict affected areas are at a much higher risk of acquiring a disability, including psychosocial disabilities arising out of trauma. In fact it is estimated that forty to seventy per cent of refugee populations in conflict settings experience depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (World Bank Social Development Notes, Mental health and conflict, 2003). When populations are forced to relocate because of conflict, unproductive land, rising water levels or extreme

weather events, relocating is often significantly harder for people with disabilities because of physical barriers and less access to resources. This means they are often left behind.

The World Health Organisation has also estimated that armed conflict will be the eighth most common cause of disability worldwide by 2020. This is in addition to the approximately fifteen percent of the general population who live with disabilities. It is important that all response and rebuilding programs make efforts to address the particular needs of people with disabilities, including mental health and psychosocial support services practices. Persons with disabilities often do not get adequately included in planning, response and rebuilding processes because authorities incorrectly presume that people with disabilities are unable to contribute or their inclusion needs will be adequately covered by the mainstream programmes. Inclusion of persons with disabilities, especially women, in the planning of response, reconstruction and peace building can ensure both their unique abilities are realised, as well as ensuring that their needs and rights are considered. (Paragraph 101)

Displacement and climate change

We welcome the focus on forcibly displaced communities. We recommend that this should include a focus on displacement resulting from, or exacerbated by, climate change. Especially given that disasters cause greater forced displacement than conflict globally (according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement) and these disasters are often climate-related and becoming more intense and frequent (e.g. floods, droughts, sea level rise). Displacement, exacerbated by climate change, can lead to protracted crises and erode government capacity to support climate migrants with adequate services. So a strategy focused on prevention around displacement related to climatic factors will be important. (Paragraphs 88, 104)

C. Areas of Special Emphasis (page 9-32)

We welcome the areas of special emphasis, particularly investing in people, creating jobs especially for frustrated youth, building community resilience and preparedness, and climate change and environmental degradation, and scaling up community approaches to address drivers of fragility. (Paragraphs 109 and 113)

Section III: Operationalizing the WBG's Strategy for FCV A. Policies, Processes, and Practices: Ensuring the WBG is Fit-for-Purpose (page 33-37)

B. Programming: Maximizing Impact On-The-Ground (page 7-40)

Appreciating that people and communities are not all equally affected, robust analyses, including Risk and Resilience Assessments, should take into account and prioritise community and civil society inputs, ensuring that those most vulnerable to shocks and stresses are at the centre, and in order to maximise impact on the ground for the most vulnerable. The approach to partnerships in the draft strategy should

be linked more with the approach to programming in this regard of civil society involvement in assessments (Paragraphs 142 and 166).

There is a need for increased dedicated and long-term funding which effectively supports multi-level peacebuilding processes and prioritises the role of local actors. It should be based on a strong understanding of local contexts and what matters to communities. As well as ensure accountability and ownership to communities for programmes to adjust and change as projects and policies are outworked. (Paragraphs 148 and 195)

C. Partnerships (page 1-43)

Leverage the role of faith actors in peacebuilding and building resilience

The World Bank, and national and local governments should collaborate with faith based actors in the design and implementation of resilience, fragility and humanitarian policies and programmes at all levels to reduce vulnerability. Local faith actors are often not well-integrated into humanitarian response, despite the fact that they are more likely to be front line responders to crises.

We recommend bottom up peacebuilding as top down approaches can struggle to engage with the lived experiences of people and the legacies of trauma and violence. Faith groups also form a network that is simultaneously local and global, so can bring grass root reality into higher level negotiations. Linking grass root peacebuilding with higher level peacebuilding can ensure that the voices of those most affected, including youth and women, are heard in higher level negotiations which are often dominated by the existing political elites. Bottom up peacebuilding can reduce tensions and build space within which higher level negotiators can find room for agreement.

Local Faith Communities (LFCs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) play an invaluable and unique role in peacebuilding and building the resilience of individuals and communities. Faith leaders and FBOs are well positioned as they often hold a high degree of trust, authority and influence in their communities. The role of faith leaders is evidenced in Tearfund's Keeping the Faith report on responses to the Ebola crisis, and the Does Faith Matter? and Rethinking Relationships briefs on violence against women and girls.

They often support the most vulnerable to access government services and support the local government understand the needs of the community.

They are often present in hard to access regions where no other networks are present, including in insecure areas, and will remain present longer than many international organisations responding. The knowledge that faith leaders have of the local cultural, economic and social norms of their community is indispensable, particularly when seeking to change attitudes and behaviours. They are often the first responders in the aftermath of disasters, social unrest and violence. Tearfund's joint report Missed Out: The role of local actors in the humanitarian response in the South Sudan conflict found that 'the churches are not very visible within the humanitarian response and discourse because they are not part of the cluster system. The majority of churches receive very little funding and, away from Juba, most have

limited interaction with international organisations (apart from a select few which have longer-term direct relations). Funding is primarily limited by a lack of capacity in the church institutions and a lack of understanding of how they operate on the part of many international humanitarian actors. Recognising the value of the existing and potential role of the churches through stronger relationships and networks could benefit humanitarian efforts, peacebuilding and recovery'. Tearfund would recommend that greater emphasis and resources be given to the development of locally grown peace initiatives and investing in local peacebuilders. (Paragraphs 155 and 165)

D. Personnel (page 3-46)

E. The Financing Toolkit for FCV Settings (page 6-51)

F. Risk Management in FCV Settings (page 2-53)

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?