



**World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)  
Consultation Meeting with Government representatives**

**Feedback Summary**

**Date:** 05/28/2019

**Location:** Beirut, Lebanon

**Audience:** Government representatives

**Overview and Key Issues Discussed:** Olivier Lavinal and Stephan Massing from the WB FCV Group, welcomed the participants present in Beirut. Olivier presented the FCV strategy concept. Participants were then invited to ask questions and to express their views. For purposes of conciseness, the following summary highlights comments and recommendations that were provided by individual representatives.

<b>Specific Feedback from Stakeholders</b>
<b>1. Overall</b>
Participants welcomed the FCV Strategy and the consultations. Participants highlighted the intersectionality of the challenges faced by Lebanon. Interlinkages between political, social and economic divisions, added to ethnic/confessional divides and the impact of regional conflicts and refugees make the Lebanese scene hostage to many fragilities. Participants agreed with the overall relevance of the FCV Strategy in the Middle East and in Lebanon and insisted on the need to promote resilience.
<b>2. Theme: Need to identify, understand and monitor vulnerabilities</b>
Participants stressed that the first order of priority in countries of many vulnerabilities, such as Lebanon, is to accurately identify the root causes of fragility. This implies to have a fine understanding of the narratives and networks at play in Lebanon and capacity to manage the political divisions and influence policies for the better. The understanding of the political economy rests on access to social media and on close cooperation with humanitarian and security actors, at international (United Nations) and national levels. In Lebanon, the role of the private sector to curb fragility is critical and more could be done to partner with commercial banks, telecommunications companies, as well as start ups. To have a finger on the pulse, strong alliances with knowledge providers and communication enablers are essential.
<b>3. Theme: Working across the local and national levels</b>
One of the key dimensions for the WBG to focus on is the strengthening of local authorities and the relation between local and national actors, including through more effective and just intergovernmental transfers. While it seemed key to participants to involve central governments when implementing local governance and local economic development programs, it was also argued that more resources should

### Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

be devolved to municipalities, as the closest link to communities and households. The WBG has longstanding experience in the municipal sector and should aim to strengthen national and local institutions with the continued objective of delivering better services to communities and ensuring more transparency and accountability.

#### **4. Theme: Innovate for Impact: The Ministry of Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth**

Participants outlined the importance of creating ownership and strengthening the approaches and tools to promote citizen engagement and empowerment of women and youth. One participant shared the experience of the recent establishment of the Ministry of Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth. While this is still a nascent initiative, it seems to address the relevant issues by ensuring a holistic approach and focusing on the most vulnerable. This contributes to greater community service and awareness and is instrumental to push important development items, such as gender equality and economic empowerment. It was agreed that the participant would share initial lessons learned from this innovative experience.

#### **5. Theme: Sustainable development requires to enhance the legal framework and regulatory environment.**

One recurring theme was the need to advance on the legal framework – the rule of law in Lebanon, notably of the job market. This includes a sound and predictable legal framework for SMEs to develop and prosper and for innovation to bloom. Lebanon is a country of many skills and ideas in the private sector; the WBG should aim to support this ecosystem that will ultimately contribute to prosperity and decrease hostility and violence. In this regard, creating new businesses in the arena of digital transformation was clearly stated as a priority for the future of Lebanon.

**Prepared by:** Olivier Lavinal, FCV Group, olavinal@worldbank.org

**List of Participants:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Ministry of Finance	Talal Salman Nelly Habib
Preventing Violent Extremism - Lebanon Gov. Strategy team	Rubina Abou Zainab Muhammad Abu Shaqra
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Karim Majdalani
Ministry of Education	Fady Yarak
Ministry of Labor, Head of International Affairs dpt.	Denise Dahrouj
Ministry of Environment	Lama Mghames Monia Hamdan
Ministry of Economy and Trade	Christine Kassir Hadil Zebian
Ministry of State for Women and Youth Affairs	Maya Khoury
Ministry of Telecommunications	Fouad Khalt
Municipality of Tyr Union of Tyre Municipalities	Reem Salman
Municipality of El Chouf	Yehya Abu Karroum