



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

FCV consultation website, social media and email

Feedback Summary

Date: July 1, 2019

Overview: The following summary highlights comments and recommendations on the future WBG Strategy for FCV, received in June 2019. A total of 121 responses were submitted in this period, through the online questionnaire, email, and social media. In total, more than 1,223 individuals and organizations from at least 84 different countries and territories have contributed feedback on the Concept Note for the future Strategy on Fragility, Conflict and Violence during the first phase of consultations, which ran from April 17th-June 30th, 2019.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders
<p>1. General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents welcomed the general approach laid out in the Concept Note, noting that it identifies key needs and relevant areas for engagement. • The Concept Note, however, is silent on some of the most important issues that drive Fragility, Conflict and Violence, such as corruption, poor governance, injustice, and a lack of respect for human rights. Many respondents considered it would be impossible to make real progress, particularly on the “pivot to prevention”, without addressing these, and other causal issues, such as certain social and cultural norms. • The inclusive approach to consultations on the Concept Note should be continued through the development and implementation of the Strategy, particularly with respect to new areas of engagement for the WBG, in which other organizations have valuable experience to offer.
<p>2. Definition of FCV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach to defining Fragility, Conflict and Violence differently is appreciated and considered important in helping to differentiate between sometimes various contexts, for example countries in which there is active conflict and others which might be at risk. • Some respondents wanted to know how situations where fragility, conflict and violence were present singularly or all together would be addressed specifically in the Strategy.
<p>3. Areas of engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus on prevention is important and many respondents are interested in understanding how this will be done. Will it entail engagement on political issues? Will the WBG seek to engage more with sub-national or non-state actors? If so, how will this be balanced with the need to support State institutions and to maintain a position of neutrality? • The differential approach is considered important. Respondents noted that:

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders

- With respect to particular groups the WBG should focus, in particular, on children and youth, and women and girls. Other groups highlighted by respondents include the old, disabled, religious, ethnic and sexual minorities, as well as men and boys.
- WBG should consider taking an intersectional approach in its focus on particular groups;
- It should mainstream its approach to working on particular groups.
- Thematically, responses emphasized the need for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach, tailored to the needs of the particular context. Many respondents underlined the foundational importance of education and health (including mental health), but infrastructure, environmental degradation/access to natural resources, access to energy, finance, personal identification, and capacities in the private sector, media and CSOs are examples of areas that all need to be addressed in helping States and communities find a path out of their situation.
- A number of respondents considered it important for the Strategy to consider engagement in the security and justice sectors as part of the Strategy, given they are often a part of the problem in FCV contexts. Related to this were suggestions to focus on issues related to the arms trade, in particular the proliferation in the illicit trade in small and light weight weapons.
- The focus on refugees is important but the Strategy should not overlook the needs of internally displaced populations or of the host communities.

4. *Partnerships*

- Respondents appreciated the fact that Partnerships are highlighted as key to enhancing operational effectiveness. They also help to maximize joint impacts, reduce the potential for duplication, make it possible to share information, such as conflict-sensitive analysis, and collaborate on challenging areas in FCV contexts, such as M&E, and the collection of data more generally.
- The Concept Note, however, focuses on partnership with the UN and other international/governmental development organizations. The Note is significantly less clear on partnership with organizations from the non-governmental sector. Under the Strategy the WBG should:
 - Comprehensively describe this sector and recognize the role that NGOs and CSOs play in meeting the needs of vulnerable people in fragile States;
 - Consider developing widening its strategy on partnership to include NGOs and CSOs (including faith-based organizations) across the humanitarian and development spheres;
- Many respondents urged the WBG to adopt a more participatory approach under the Strategy, that sees local actors as partners, not just beneficiaries. Not only would this allow for more impactful and sustainable projects and programs, e.g. by fostering local ownership, but it would help to build capacities within the community.

5. *Other issues*

- Some respondents characterized conflict as “development in reverse”, making the commitment to remain engaged throughout all stages of a conflict welcome. The WBG as a whole can fulfill an important role due to the breadth of its engagement across all sectors, placing in an important position to help coordinate and cohere a wide variety of actors working on different aspects of FCV and to help ensure an even transition from crisis to development
- Some respondents, however, urged the WBG to weigh the contextual risk of engagement. It was suggested that only by doing so could due consideration be exercised when attempting to intervene in some contexts, including whether to engage at all.