

The World Bank's Harmonized List of Fragile Situations

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is lending a requirement for the FCS list?** No. For example, Zimbabwe is on the list, while the World Bank has no current lending program with this country.
2. **How are political, peace-building and peace-keeping missions verified?** Through checking the UN DPKO, UN DPA, AU, EU, NATO and OSCE websites where the most updated information is posted.¹
3. **Why is the FCS list only published annually, what if a country changes status during the year?** The list is published once a year for practicality. The CPIA process is conducted annually, and while a political, peace-building or peace-keeping mission may begin part way through a fiscal year, this will only be reflected in the following fiscal year's list, since the criteria for inclusion on the list is only reviewed annually.
4. **Are there two lists, one internal and one external?** There is only one list. However, the series of LICUS lists (until 2009) were traditionally not public, and were made available only for research purposes.
5. **Are there other lists published by different organizations?** Yes: The OECD uses the World Bank's List along with the Failed States Index published by the Fund for Peace.² The UN does not have a fragile states list. Bilateral donors often use the World Bank list or have their own list of priority or special focus countries.
6. **Why are some countries that are perceived as fragile not on the list?** Several countries that suffer from sub-national conflict, or other factors which affect fragility, are not on the harmonized list because they neither have a CPIA score below the cutoff (3.2) nor a peacekeeping or political/peacebuilding mission.
7. **What is the exact CPIA score cutoff for IDA-eligible countries?** Since the harmonized score averages over both the World Bank's CPIA and the respective regional development bank's CPIA score, it is recorded to up to 3 decimal places. Thus, the threshold has in effect been 3.200 since FY11 when harmonization of CPIA scores began. Only states with scores of 3.200 or less have been included on the harmonized list.

¹ For example, for UNDPKO: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>; for UNDPA: http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/undpa/main/about/field_operations

² <http://ffp.statesindex.org/>

8. **Why was South Sudan not on the list in FY12?** The FCS list is released end-June for the upcoming FY. As South Sudan gained independence on July 9th 2011, it was not included in the list for FY12, which was released end June 2011. However, the WBG was fully involved in the transition and planning for South Sudan's development needs.
9. **Can the list include non-IDA countries?** Yes, the list can include IBRD countries when they have the presence of a peace-keeping and or political/peace-building mission.
10. **Why was Myanmar included on the list in FY14?** IDA-eligible countries with which the World Bank is re-engaging may be put on the list without a CPIA score, regardless of mission status. For example, Myanmar was included on the FY14 list prior to the presence of any peacekeeping or political/peacebuilding missions and before the World Bank had a CPIA score for this country.
11. **What happens when another organization's CPIA falls under 3.2 for a specific country, but the World Bank does not have this country on their list of countries eligible to borrow from IDA?** When this happens, it is not included on the World Bank's harmonized list. For example Nauru is not included, even though the Asian Development Bank's CPIA score for it is under 3.2 (as of 2014) and it borrows from the ADF, the equivalent concessional resource to IDA offered by the Asian Development Bank.
12. **What happens when another organization does not offer concessional lending to a country, while the World Bank considers it eligible to borrow from IDA and the World Bank CPIA is below 3.2?** When this happens, it is not included on the World Bank's harmonized list. For example, Angola is not included, even though it is eligible to borrow from IDA and the World Bank's CPIA score for it is under 3.2 (as of 2014), as the African Development Bank considers it only eligible for non-concessional lending and does not disclose their CPIA score.

List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CCSD	Center on Conflict, Security and Development
CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
DPA	UN Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	UN Department for Peace-keeping Operations
EU	European Union
FCS	Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations
IDA	International Development Association
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
LICUS	Low Income Countries Under Stress
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-ordination and Development
OPCFC	Operational Policy and Country Services Fragile and Conflict Situations
OPSFC	Operational Policy and Services Fragile and Conflict Situations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
WDR	World Development Report

Please reach out to our team with any other queries you may have

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