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

Online responses

Feedback Summary

Date: May 30, 2019

Overview: To date, more than 950 people from 47 different countries and territories have contributed feedback to the Concept Note outlining the World Bank Group's initial thinking on the approach to the future strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV). The following summary builds on that for April by highlighting additional comments and recommendations received during May 2019 by email, through an online questionnaire, social media and via the FCV Strategy Consultation website.

Feedback from Stakeholders
Defining Fragility, Conflict and Violence
A number of comments related to the definition of those situations of fragility to be addressed by the Strategy. Respondents suggested that the three categories identified in the Concept Note – fragility, conflict, and violence – will need to be more clearly elaborated. Respondents felt it is important to recognize that many situations do not easily fit into one or another category: indeed fragility, conflict and violence may all be present at the same time. The Strategy could articulate a broad definition of FCV that gives space to the incorporation of a description of different FCV situations and a common framework which could be used to tailor and prioritize the WBG's approaches and responses. It is not easy to formulate a single clear-cut definition of FCV that can capture all the diverse settings. *Some respondents suggested that the Strategy place a greater emphasis on human rights and, in turn, on human rights-based approaches to exiting fragility. Respondents felt all situations of fragility, conflict and violence tend to have in common a lack of respect for human rights. Stakeholders asked that the WBG be more explicit on the relationship between respect for human rights in FCV settings.*
Engagement Framework
Another group of comments concerned the importance of multi-layered engagement by the WBG: at the national level, with the central government, but also at the sub-national and local levels, as well as with different groups of stakeholders, including civil society. This 'differential approach' was considered of fundamental importance, e.g., to help "domesticate" solutions, or to address grievances and issues in areas where the State is not present or is part of the problem. At the same time, stakeholders ask that the Strategy consider how to foster greater cooperation between governments and other groups. *Some comments drew attention to issues such as the arms trade, and weaknesses in international governance. They suggested that these are examples of issues which can act as drivers of FCV within a State, but which need to be addressed internationally.*
Strategic Areas of Engagement

Feedback from Stakeholders
Comments were supportive of the strategic areas of engagement laid out in the Concept Note (prevention, remaining engaged, escaping fragility and addressing the impacts of FCV on vulnerable groups). They underlined the importance that issues such as poor governance, corruption, injustice, exclusion and inequality play in driving conflict and fragility, and, in consequence, of addressing them as part of a strategy to exit FCV. Initiatives to strengthen institutions, across all sectors, and build capacities, particularly of youth, were flagged as important. Key, according to respondents, will be initiatives to develop and strengthen the rule of law and to promote inclusive and accountable security and governance institutions.

Enhancing Operational Effectiveness
Comments continued to emphasize the importance of effective partnerships, and agile and responsive programming for the WBG to more effectively work in FCV contexts. They encouraged the Strategy to elaborate on how the WBG will approach these aspects of its operations. Some suggested that this may simply mean identifying existing actors and networks with which to partner and collaborate, in order to leverage each other's comparative advantageThe WBG was also urged to give serious consideration to how it can forge more effective partnerships with stakeholder groups within the FCV setting, in particular community groups and organizations.