

A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

Summary | Meeting in Brussels with European Union Institutions

March 3, 2025

A brainstorming meeting was held between EU institutions and the World Bank to exchange perspectives and lessons learned for engaging in FCV Settings.

Participants:

- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- Directorate-General – International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

Key Takeaways:

- **Recognition of challenging context:** Participants welcomed the exchange and acknowledged an increasingly complex landscape, marked by a growing number of protracted crises, spillover effects, and the need for deeper engagement with national and government actors in fragile settings.
- **International financial institutions (IFIs):** The importance of IFIs in addressing fragility was emphasized, with participants recognizing potential synergies and the value of drawing on concrete lessons learned from past experiences.
- **Country-level action:** There was broad agreement that strategic alignment must translate into tangible action at the country level. Tailored approaches—driven by field offices and responsive to partner government demands—were seen as essential.
- **From fragility to resilience:** Participants stressed the need to shift the focus from fragility to resilience, highlighting the relevance of the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) nexus, despite ongoing coordination challenges.
- **Deeper engagement with national actors:** It was suggested that the strategy should include provisions for deeper engagement with national actors in fragile contexts, particularly in response to the rise in protracted crises and regional spillovers.
- **Institutionalized collaboration:** The need for stronger collaboration between the EU, the World Bank Group, and other international financial institutions was highlighted.
- **Trilateral cooperation:** There was a recommendation to deepen trilateral cooperation between the EU, UN, and WBG, with a focus on enhancing synergies in areas such as justice, rule of law, and security.