

A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

Summary | Meeting with INGOs and other CSOs in London

May 7, 2025

This joint meeting was held to exchange with a group of civil society organizations based in the United Kingdom on the World Bank's forthcoming refreshed FCV Strategy.

Participants:

- Bretton Woods Project
- Chatham House's Africa
- Christian Aid
- Concern
- ICRC
- International Alert
- IRC UK
- Mercy Corps
- Oxfam
- Peace Direct
- Save the Children
- Shabaka
- Start Network
- War Child
- World Vision

Key Takeaways:

- **Operational collaboration in FCV settings:** Participants highlighted ongoing collaboration with the World Bank in fragile, conflict- and violence-affected settings and expressed interest in deepening operational partnerships. There was strong support for discussions on how the Bank implements projects in areas outside government control, with NGOs offering operational expertise and service-delivery capacity.
- **Partner with NGOs:** Participants emphasized the importance of staying engaged in FCV contexts, expanding third-party implementation to include international NGOs, and aligning short-term humanitarian efforts with long-term development goals through stronger partnerships with governments.
- **Strategic approaches, HDP, and risk monitoring:** Participants recommended making the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) nexus a core element of the FCV Strategy. They also stressed the need for Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) to evolve from conceptual tools into actionable interventions, noting that NGOs are developing global risk-monitoring tools to support real-time analysis and responsive programming.
- **Civil society role:** NGOs called for formal consultation mechanisms and clearer roles for civil society organizations, especially women-led groups.
- **Analytical tools and public perception:** The Bank's analytical capacity was seen as vital in FCV contexts. Participants recommended assessing partner effectiveness and inclusivity in RRAs and encouraged the Bank to strengthen its approach to managing reputational risks and countering misinformation.
- **Government engagement and local initiatives:** Participants urged the Bank to reflect on its role in politically sensitive contexts and to support locally led peacebuilding efforts that address the root causes of fragility.
- **Institutional capacity and private-sector development:** Discussions emphasized the need to build institutional capacity and support local private-sector actors, including through public investments and risk-mitigation tools.
- **Anticipatory action and accountability:** Participants called for stronger collaboration with CSOs on anticipatory action and highlighted the importance of social accountability and community-level service delivery.
- **Consultation models and regional engagement:** Participants encouraged the FCV Group to adopt a participatory consultation model, involving civil society organizations in shaping the strategy.