

A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

Summary | Meeting with Nordic and Baltic Countries

May 22, 2025

As part of the Nordic–Baltic Constituency’s (NBC) engagement on the new World Bank’s FCV strategy, this meeting informed the constituency and invited input during the strategy’s early formulation.

Participants:

Nordic and Baltic constituency shareholders of the World Bank, Governments of:

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|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| ▪ Sweden | ▪ Finland | ▪ Latvia |
| ▪ Denmark | ▪ Iceland | ▪ Lithuania |
| ▪ Norway | ▪ Estonia | |

Key Takeaways:

- **Impact on FCV countries:** Participants emphasized that FCV countries are disproportionately affected by poverty, conflict, and instability, which significantly hinder development. They noted that FCV contexts are diverse and constantly evolving, and that effective approaches must be tailored to specific settings and remain adaptable over time.
- **Strengthening engagement:** It was recommended that the World Bank deepen its engagement in FCV countries, even in the absence of a recognized government. Staying present with the right expertise and a strong country footprint was seen as essential to fulfilling the Bank’s core mandate of poverty reduction.
- **Partnerships for implementation:** Despite the challenges of operating in FCV settings, participants stressed the importance of exploring direct implementation through non-governmental entities where feasible. A well-established presence was viewed as critical for positioning the Bank to respond effectively when transitional opportunities arise.
- **Private sector engagement:** Participants expressed strong support for expanding the Bank’s engagement with the private sector in FCV countries. Mobilizing financial resources and supporting enterprises were seen as key to job creation, livelihood support, and economic resilience in fragile environments.
- **Leveraging the full World Bank toolbox:** There was consensus on the need to make fuller use of the Bank’s tools, including technical assistance, analytical work, and knowledge sharing. A strong country presence and close consultation with local stakeholders were highlighted as vital to ensure that analysis remains grounded.
- **Targeted support:** Participants underscored the importance of ensuring that support reaches those most in need, particularly people living in poverty in hard-to-reach areas.
- **Stakeholder consultation:** The discussion reaffirmed the importance of close and continuous consultation between the World Bank and relevant stakeholders in FCV contexts to ensure responsive and context-specific interventions.