

# A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

## Summary | Meeting with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London

May 7, 2025

A session to gather insights for the World Bank's FCV Strategy refresh was held with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London.

### Participants:

- The Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

### Key Takeaways:

- **Collaboration and capacity building:** Participants valued the World Bank's involvement in the FCV agenda, bringing essential financial resources, technical expertise, and strong partnerships.
- **Subnational areas remain a challenge:** Participants noted that expanding operational reach into subnational areas of FCV countries remains difficult, especially where service delivery and institutional capacity are weak or absent.
- **Staffing and ownership:** Participants discussed the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff in FCV contexts. They emphasized that the effectiveness of the new FCV Strategy depends on active ownership across the entire World Bank Group.
- **Political economy and engagement:** Participants noted that engagement in FCV settings is inherently political, requiring a nuanced understanding of the local political economy. They called for balancing the Bank's non-political mandate with the realities of complex environments and suggested expanding third-party implementation partnerships to include international NGOs and local organizations.
- **Private sector and financing:** Private-sector financing was highlighted as a key component of the new strategy. Participants called for more direct engagement with the private sector and noted that risk assessments must evolve to reflect FCV realities. Shareholders should also be prepared for higher risk tolerance.
- **Donor coordination:** Participants discussed how country platforms can enhance coordination and visibility, citing examples from Somalia and Sudan.
- **Service delivery and transitions:** Participants encouraged the Bank to increase its support during transitional phases and emphasized strengthened partnerships with local civil society organizations and the private sector.
- **Flexibility and standards:** Participants noted that limited government capacity in some FCV contexts poses operational challenges and called for the FCV Strategy to allow for greater flexibility.