

A Refreshed WBG Strategy for Engaging in FCV Settings

Summary | Meeting with Save the Children

August, 2025

A session between the World Bank and Save the Children took place to exchange operational lessons from Save the Children's frontline work and discuss how the World Bank can strengthen its approach in fragile, conflict- and violence-affected (FCV) contexts—informing the early formulation and implementation of the WBG FCV Strategy.

Participants:

Save the Children Leadership, Regional Directors and Country Directors from:

- Afghanistan
- DRC
- Iraq
- Myanmar
- Somalia
- Yemen

Participants: Leadership, regional directors, and country directors from

Key Takeaways:

- **Strategy and operations:** Discussion focused on keeping a sustained presence in FCV contexts, balancing urgent service delivery with longer-term governance reforms, and working with adaptive, “living” strategies.
- **Roles and nexus:** The group discussed clarifying the humanitarian–development split, anchoring systems-building alongside relief, and using the Bank’s convening influence even when financing is limited.
- **Partnerships:** There was broad agreement on deepening collaboration with CSOs/INGOs and local actors, adopting hybrid NGO–government delivery where trust in state institutions is low, and sharing data and analysis to align efforts.
- **Private sector:** Discussion centered on creating jobs and enabling markets even under contested authorities, while tackling concentration risks (for example, oil dependence).
- **Governance and political economy:** The team emphasized tailoring engagement to legitimacy and reform appetite and promoting transparency and accountability with credible partners.
- **Measurement:** The group highlighted leveraging the Bank’s data capacity and neutrality to guide decisions and build stakeholder confidence.
- **Thematic priorities:** Participants underscored prevention, justice-related outcomes, stronger social protection systems, and the inclusion of marginalized groups.