

CONFLICT, FRAGILITY AND ARMED VIOLENCE ARE MAJOR FACTORS PREVENTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

THE CHALLENGE

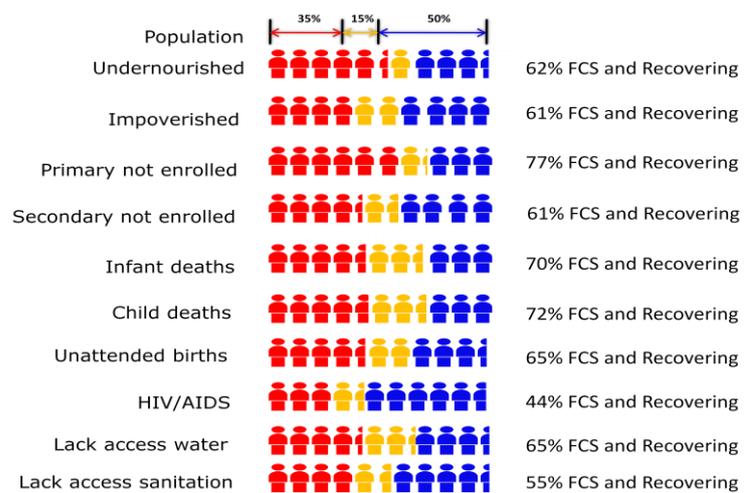
Progress in MDG achievement has been slowest in fragile and conflict-affected states. Wracked by conflict and violence, and hampered by weak institutional capacity, these states face particular challenges in meeting the MDGs. Fragile states account for close to a fifth of the population of low-income countries but more than a third of their poor.

No fragile or conflict-affected country has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal. These countries account for the majority of the MDG deficit (see figure 1), and generally lag 40 to 60 percent behind other low and middle-income countries in MDG achievement.

Accelerating progress toward achieving the MDGs will require a fundamental and systemic shift in orientation.

Figure 1: Conflict, Fragility and MDG Achievement

The diagram shows the total global MDG deficit (excluding Brazil, Russia, India and China). Figures in red and yellow show the proportion of this deficit that relates to people living in countries affected by or recovering from violence



Sources: WDI Data, World Development Report 2011 analysis

ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS

I. CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MDG ACHIEVEMENT BY PRIORITIZING PEACEBUILDING, STATEBUILDING AND ARMED VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Prioritize and mainstream peacebuilding and statebuilding strategies in national development plans.

Beyond short-term responses to quell violence and address humanitarian needs, greater attention needs to be given to the foundations upon which sustainable peace and capable, accountable and responsive states are built. Specific peacebuilding, statebuilding and armed violence prevention priorities should be spelled out and integrated in national development plans and frameworks and prioritized in international assistance.

Invest in under-resourced areas, including security and justice and employment creation.

International assistance needs to bridge institutional and financing deficits in the area of security and justice and for support for employment generation.

Invest in prevention and local conflict management and resolution mechanisms.

International assistance is disproportionately focused on post-conflict countries, with little support for countries struggling to prevent violence from escalating.

II. ACT ON THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING

Develop regional approaches to conflict and violence that spills across borders.

International support is still provided primarily to nation states, but conflict and violence spills across borders. Efforts should support development programming on both sides of insecure border areas.

Act to reduce global stresses that precipitate violence, such as trafficking in drugs, small arms and natural commodities.

New approaches must address regional and global stresses that precipitate violence. These challenges, such as trafficking, organized crime, and economic shocks, are directly related to conflict and therefore to the MDGs.

III. MORE CONSISTENT AND QUALITATIVE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY ARMED VIOLENCE, CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

End the 'stop-go' pattern to providing aid to fragile countries, with a smarter approach to dealing with governance setbacks when they occur.

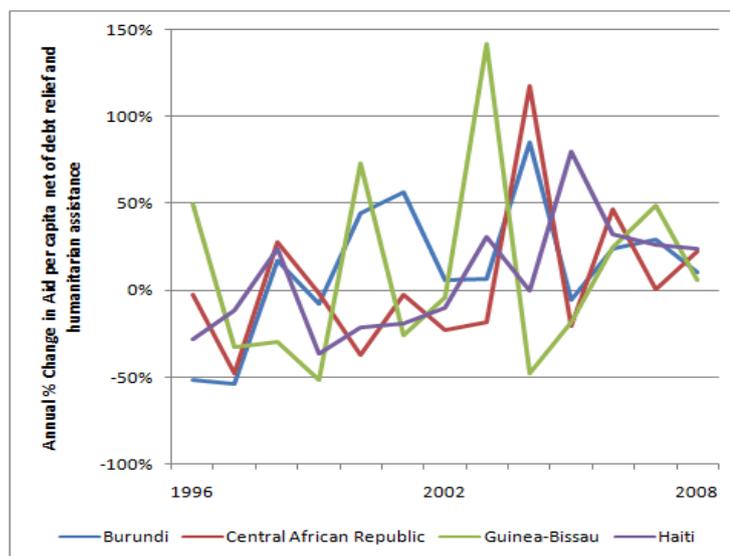
Aid to fragile and conflict-affected states is more than twice as volatile as that to other developing countries, which damages prospects of meeting the MDGs. Consistency of aid is needed to support institutional transformations to prevent, manage and recover from conflict.

Development partners need to strengthen their own capacity to work in countries affected by conflict, fragility and armed violence.

This will require strengthening field presence and attracting qualified and trained staff. Development partners will also need to put in place incentives within their organization to foster collaboration with other partners, risk-sharing and an integrated approach (bringing together political, development and security capabilities.)

Figure 2: Volatility of aid to FCS

The figure below shows the percentage change in aid per capita per annum for four fragile and conflict-affected countries. It was not uncommon for total aid to drop by 20 or 30 percent in one year and increase by up to 50 percent the following year (we exclude humanitarian and debt relief from these statistics, which further increase the volatility).



Source: OECD/DAC data set, World Development Report 2011 analysis

IV. MONITOR PROGRESS ON PEACEBUILDING, STATEBUILDING AND ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION, AND SUPPORT PROCESSES THAT DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL GOALS AND INDICATORS

Measure progress on peacebuilding and statebuilding, alongside the MDGs.

Current Millennium Development Goals do not measure progress based on the unique challenges faced by fragile and conflict-affected states. Global measures of actual levels of violence and popular perceptions of progress toward stability would allow the international community to track progress, alongside the MDGs.

Develop international goals and indicators through participatory processes.

Goals and indicators should be negotiated between countries affected by conflict and fragility, development partners and international organizations. This negotiation should build on the consensus established through the International Dialogue's *Dili Declaration – A New Vision for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding*, the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development*, the consultation process and analysis of the *World Development Report 2011*, and the *Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence*.

Seven peacebuilding and statebuilding goals agreed in the Dili Declaration

- Foster inclusive political settlements and processes, and inclusive political dialogue.
- Establish and strengthen basic safety and security.
- Achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts and access to justice.
- Develop effective and accountable government institutions to facilitate service delivery.
- Create the foundations for inclusive economic development, including sustainable livelihoods, employment and effective management of natural resources.
- Develop social capacities for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. Foster regional stability and co-operation.
- Foster regional stability and co-operation

Source: Dili Declaration. A new Vision for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, available at www.pbsdialogue.org