Effectiveness Spotlight: Poverty Eradication and Resilience Building in Fragile Contexts

Scaled-up efforts to eradicate poverty and deliver long-lasting development results in fragile and conflict-affected situations require matched efforts to uphold international commitments for effective development co-operation in these contexts.

- More than half of the total volume of bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent at the country level targets fragile contexts, which are also characterized by particularly high and increasing poverty rates. In these contexts, ODA often remains a critical source of development finance. As a result, ending poverty, and ensuring that no one is left behind, will largely depend on progress made in fragile and conflict-affected situations.
- To maximize the impact of ODA in those contexts, strengthening the effectiveness of development co-operation will be critical.

The development effectiveness principles represent a particularly useful common standard that serves as a long-standing framework throughout fragile countries’ development pathways toward resilience and stability. Guided by the principles, renewed attention to strengthening trust through inclusive processes, building national capacities and improving coordination and complementarity across humanitarian, peace, and development activities is key.

- **Country ownership**: Tensions and challenges around state authority and legitimacy, continuing conflict and limited capacity for development planning at the national level often persist in fragile contexts. Despite these challenges, it is imperative to take steps toward inclusive country ownership.
- **Focus on results**: Long-term development co-operation should complement humanitarian aid focusing on short-term results. Coordination among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding engagement is important for maximizing the collective impact on countries’ resilience.
- **Inclusive partnerships**: While often more challenging in fragile and conflict-affected situations, inclusive participation and ownership of development processes and activities by all state and non-state stakeholders is essential to sustainable development. Ownership by all local actors is particularly important in contexts where there are frequent shifts in power so that government changes do not necessarily equate to changes or the resetting of development planning and processes.
Transparency and mutual accountability: In contexts with weak institutional capacity, transparency and accountability are essential to maintaining inclusive participation and securing development gains in times of political transitions.

As reflected in the Geneva Summit Declaration, the Global Partnership is well positioned to address the multiple and interconnected development challenges in fragile contexts and strengthen trust among stakeholders.

Building on the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and an open working group comprising partner countries from the g7+ and beyond, development partners and civil society, the new Global Partnership monitoring exercise provides an adaptation for fragile contexts that takes into account the different challenges faced in these situations.

The exercise provides evidence on how development co-operation stakeholders are addressing the complexities of fragile contexts in coordination with humanitarian and peace actors.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue informed by the evidence contributes to the strengthening of trust, more effective development co-operation and better development outcomes while leaving no one behind.