



# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

## WHO WE ARE

The international community is increasingly concerned about slow progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) resulting from state fragility and violent conflict. A third of the world's poor live in countries where the state lacks either the will or the capacity to engage productively with its citizens to ensure security, prevent conflict, safeguard human rights and provide the basic functions for development.

The International Network on Fragility and Conflict (INCAF) was founded in 2009 in order to help improve international responses to the most challenging development settings and to chart results. It brings together experts from governments and international organisations on issues of peace, security, governance and development effectiveness. INCAF is a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The Network works in close partnership with the UN, NATO, the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral agencies dealing with conflict and fragility; it facilitates co-ordination between them and provides a platform for sharing experiences. It also associates providers of South-South co-operation through consultation and regular dialogue. The Network is pursuing a whole-of-government/system approach to work so as to ensure more effective policy coherence, coordination and complementarity (3C).

The network's three main functions are to:

- Promote lessons learned and good practice in headquarters and field levels in partner countries;
- Set international norms and track results globally and in the field;
- Provide practical guidance to help improve donor responses to conflict and fragility.

Based on a whole-of-government approach, INCAF moves beyond classic aid management concerns to examine substantive policy issues such as security and conflict prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding. In the spirit of the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Accra, 2008), INCAF is taking an inclusive approach to its work by engaging with partner countries, notably through country-level consultations.

### The OECD Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations

1. Take context as the starting point
2. Ensure all activities do no harm
3. Focus on state building as the central objective
4. Prioritise prevention
5. Recognise the links between political, security and development objectives
6. Promote non discrimination as a basis for inclusive and stable societies
7. Align with local priorities in different ways and in different contexts
8. Agree on practical co-ordination mechanisms between international actors
9. Act fast... but stay engaged long enough to give success a chance
10. Avoid pockets of exclusion ("aid orphans")

### 1 Improving donor engagement in fragile states through the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations

About 35 countries considered fragile in 1979 are still fragile in 2009 and the gap between these and other developing countries has been widening since the 1970s. Without a strengthened model of international engagement, these countries will continue to fall behind. This reality led to the drafting, piloting and adoption of a set of ten Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations (2007) by OECD member countries' development and foreign affairs ministers.

In 2009, six developing countries – Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste – took part in multi-stakeholder consultations (decided at Accra) to benchmark the quality of international assistance, as well as their own responsibilities, through the lens of these Principles ([www.oecd.org/fsprinciples](http://www.oecd.org/fsprinciples)).

#### Key outputs include:

- The 2009 Fragile States Principles Survey: Country Reports and Global Report. These reports establish the baseline for Round II in 2011.

### 2 Peacebuilding, statebuilding and security

This area of work seeks to ensure coherent responses by policy makers, operational staff and developing countries to address the challenges of insecurity, state fragility and conflict. It recognises the overlap between development needs and security concerns for the effective prevention of violent conflict and the long-term reduction of poverty. This work stream builds on work that has been carried out over previous years, notably the DAC guidance on *Helping Prevent Violent Conflict* (2001), the *DAC Handbook on Security System Reform* (2007) and *Concepts and Dilemmas of State Building in Fragile Situations: From Fragility to Resilience* (2008). Building on these efforts, this work stream aims to improve the understanding of peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, and to produce practical guidance on how international actors can best support these efforts. It also focuses on the dynamics of armed violence and questions of security governance and security system reform (SSR).

#### Key outputs include:

- OECD DAC policy guidance on statebuilding in situations of fragility (2010)
- Security System Reform Handbook: Supporting security and justice (2007; second edition 2010)
- Armed Violence Reduction: Enabling Development (2009)

### 3 Financing and Aid Architecture

The INCAF Task Team on Financing and Aid Architecture provides policy makers, operational staff and developing countries with information about the resource flows going into fragile and conflict-affected states. It works to provide greater clarity on how to ensure flexible, rapid and long-term financing that can bridge humanitarian, recovery and longer-term development phases and more effectively support peacebuilding, statebuilding and security activities.

#### Key outputs include:

- An annual report on monitoring of resource flows to fragile and conflict-affected states (since 2005).
- Policy and operational recommendations for improving the availability of rapid and flexible financing to countries emerging from conflict.
- Reports on good practice for pooling ODA and non-ODA contributions to conflict, peace and security activities.

### 4 International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Subsequent to the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra 2008, an international dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding was initiated in 2008 by donors and partner countries. The process, which is not hosted by the OECD but supported by the INCAF Secretariat, will facilitate an open and constructive exchange on critical topics related to peacebuilding and statebuilding. The dialogue aims to enable partner governments, development partners and civil society to increase the coherence, focus and impact of their development assistance. It is co-led by a senior representative from a partner<sup>1</sup> and OECD country.

#### Contacts:

For information on the OECD DAC International Network on Fragility and Conflict (INCAF) see further: [www.oecd.org/dac/incaf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/incaf)

Please address any comments or queries about this Factsheet to: [dac.contact@oecd.org](mailto:dac.contact@oecd.org)

For INCAF members, please also see the Intranet <https://community.oecd.org/community/incaf>

<sup>1</sup> The term "partner country" refers to countries that receive development assistance provided by other countries to support their own development.