

UN-WBG PARTNERSHIP MONITORING REPORT

# United Nations – World Bank Group Partnership in Crisis-Affected Situations

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United Nations



*Cover image:*

*"In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace", Olla al Sakkaf, Yemen (2021)*

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**2022 UN-WBG PARTNERSHIP MONITORING REPORT**

**United Nations – World Bank Group  
Partnership in Crisis-Affected Situations**





*Women vendors in Ed-Daein market, East Darfur, Sudan.  
© Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat Sudan/2022.*

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# Abbreviations ▶▶▶

ACG	Afghanistan Coordination Group
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AfDB	African Development Bank
ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
AVAT	African Vaccine Acquisition Trust
CAR	Central African Republic
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CONPES	Colombia's National Council for Economic and Social Policy
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
CSO	Civil society organization
DLRP	Desert Locust Response Project
DPO	Development Policy Operation
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EFCRP	Central African Republic Emergency Food Crisis Response Project
ESPECRP	Emergency Social Protection Enhancement and COVID-19 Response

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EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FGOS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member States
FSCPP	Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan
FSRRP	Food Security Response and Resilience Project
GAFS	Global Alliance for Food Security
GCFE	Global Concessional Financing Facility
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNAFC	Global Network Against Food Crises
GRiF	Global Risk Financing Facility
G7	Group of Seven
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
ICP	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IDDRS	Integrated DDR Standards
IDP	Internally displaced person
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Nongovernmental Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JDC	Joint Data Center



JHRO	Joint Human Rights Office
JRNA	Joint Recovery and Needs Assessment
LACS	Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
LGSDP	Local Governance and Services Delivery Project
MFI	Micro-Finance Institution
MICT	<i>Ministère de l'intérieur et des Collectivités Territoriales</i>
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium enterprise
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NCCSPL	NGO and CSO Capacity Building Support Project
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OROLSI	Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions
OSESGY	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen
OSRSG CAAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
PA	Palestinian Authority
P-DDRCS	<i>Programme de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Relèvement Communautaire et Stabilisation</i>
PFM	Public Financial Mechanism
PRA	Prevention and Resilience Allocation
PREDIN	<i>Programa de Resiliencia e Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte de Mocambique</i>
PWP	Public Works Project
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
RDNA	Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment

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RECA	Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation
RPBA	Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment
RRA	Risk and Resilience Assessments
SAPREP	Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Restoration and Enhancement Project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFA	Standard Form of Agreement
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SFISH	Project Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
SMEPS	Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Services
SONAGESS	<i>Société Nationale de Gestion du Stock de Sécurité Alimentaire</i>
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TAA	Turn Around Allocation
3RF	Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework
3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
TPS	Temporary Protection Status
TSPV	Temporary Statute for the Protection of Venezuelan Migrants
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCT	United Nations Country Teams
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

UNKT	United Nations Kosovo <sup>1</sup> Team
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo <sup>1</sup>
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSCO	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
UNSCOL	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSMIL	UN Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Office in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WHR	Window for Host Communities and Refugees
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WTO	World Trade Organization
YECRP	Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project

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<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



*Rural women diversify incomes and build resilience (Guatemala).*



# Executive Summary

**Since the 2020 UN-World Bank Partnership Monitoring Report was published (UN and World Bank 2020), the global landscape has become more uncertain and complex** due to increased geopolitical polarization, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the accelerating effects of climate change. By 2030, 59 percent of people living in extreme poverty will be concentrated in countries affected by conflict and violence. Nearly 2 billion people – one fourth of the world's population – live in conflict-affected countries.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks for the meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission, March 30, 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21216.doc.htm>.

The number of forcibly displaced people has reached 108.4 million in 2022, up 19.1 million on a year earlier, which was the biggest increase ever.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, armed conflict pushed 139 million people into acute food insecurity in 2021 – an increase of almost 40 million people compared to the year before.<sup>4</sup> Conflict drives 80% of all humanitarian needs, highlighting the urgency of addressing the root causes of conflict and sustaining peace to enable the redirecting of scarce resources towards promoting sustainable development.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> UNHCR, Global Trends in Forced Displacement 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Food Security Information Network, Global Report on Food Crises, 2023, <https://www.fsinplatform.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/GRFC2023-compressed.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.undp.org/speeches/rightsizing-peace-triple-nexus>.

**This increasingly challenging landscape requires a strong UN-World Bank Group (WBG) strategic partnership.** April 2022 marked five years since the adoption of the United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations, which laid the foundation for a strengthened strategic partnership between the two institutions to address the drivers, causes, and impact of conflict in support of national priorities.

**The report demonstrates how UN-WBG partnerships in crisis-affected settings have helped both organizations to respond to these challenges** and highlights good partnership practices from among the 58 countries reporting collaboration. It sheds light on **the wide and complex extent of UN-WBG partnerships on conflict spillover such as forced displacement and food security, while also showing growing collaboration to address drivers of conflict and fragility, including between development and peace and security actors.**

**The report provides an overview of joint work on four priority themes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus over a period covering July 2020 to June 2022 (FY20–22).** These include addressing drivers of fragility and conflict, forced

displacement, food security, and partnerships between the development and peace and security actors.<sup>6</sup>

The objective is to highlight examples of strategic and operational collaboration<sup>7</sup> between the UN and WBG in specific crisis-affected contexts. It does not intend to provide a comprehensive overview or evaluation of UN-WBG thematic and operational engagements and initiatives, but rather share indicative examples that illustrate the diversity of the ways the UN and WBG work together in particularly challenging environments, across different regions, diverse settings, and themes. On the UN side, partnerships with the WBG span across UN System entities such as FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women, WFP, in addition to the UN Secretariat and UN Security Council mandated peace operations.

**Each thematic chapter includes details of progress and collective UN-WBG engagements, featuring examples of concrete collaboration where partnerships make a difference on the ground.**

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<sup>6</sup> The four priority themes are aligned with the strategic focus and intent established in the 2017 UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. The thematic area on partnerships between the development and peace and security actors is being covered in this report's edition for the first time.

<sup>7</sup> The UN-WBG operational partnership is multifaceted (see page 28).

Each chapter also highlights UN-WBG collaborative efforts in supporting IDA19,<sup>8</sup> which covered July 2020 to June 2022, as well as plans for IDA20 operationalization, following the historic US\$93 billion financing package agreed upon by international development partners in December 2021 to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build a greener, more resilient, and more inclusive future. The share of IDA commitments going to countries affected by fragility and conflict has increased threefold from 14 percent to 42 percent from IDA16 to IDA19, enabling broader and deeper engagement in crisis settings, including crisis response (World Bank 2023c).<sup>9</sup> Under IDA20, a 17 percent increase in financing secured a well-capitalized Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Envelope (World Bank, n.d.).

<sup>8</sup> Established in 1960, the International Development Association (IDA) provides zero to low-interest loans to reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries. As one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 75 poorest countries, IDA supports a range of development activities that pave the way towards equality, economic growth, job creation, higher incomes, and better living conditions. The most recent replenishment of IDA's resources, the 20th (IDA20), was finalized in December 2021, resulting in a historic US\$93 billion financing package for IDA countries for fiscal years 2022–25. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, IDA commitments totaled US\$37.7 billion, including US\$13.2 billion in grants.

<sup>9</sup> Numbers may not be directly comparable across years due to change in FCS classification methodology starting in FY20 and the fact that the FCS list is updated annually.

## ***Addressing Drivers of Conflict and Fragility***

**Recognizing that prevention and peacebuilding begin with an accurate understanding of local dynamics, the UN and WBG stepped up their partnership through joint analyses and assessments of multidimensional risks and fragilities.** Examples of such work include UN-WBG-European Union (EU) Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments in **Mozambique** and **Libya**; WBG-led Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and UN-led Common Country Analyses (CCAs) such as the joint RRA for **Central Asia and Afghanistan Border Areas** and knowledge-sharing between the CCAs and RRAs in **Chad** and **Somalia**; and ad hoc joint assessments such as in **South Sudan**. In addition, the Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA) and Turn Around Allocation (TAA) under IDA19 and IDA20 include the requirement to consult with partners at the country level before finalizing the government's strategy, and all IDA PRA/TAA eligibility processes to date have included input from the UN to various degrees. The WBG has sought input on areas where the UN has a comparative advantage, such as political processes, governance, justice, the security sector, and engagement with civil society and nongovernmental

actors. One example is **The Gambia** where the UN is formally included in the TAA Steering Committee and contributes to the review of key milestones. In the **Gambia, Chad** and other settings, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund contributed to supporting progress against PRA/TAA milestones. The IDA Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation (RECA) has allowed the WBG to maintain an impactful presence in both **Yemen** and **South Sudan**. Given ongoing conflict situations and related challenges, innovative partnerships with the UN agencies, funds, and programmes, such as UNDP and UNICEF, and other entities have enabled IDA to remain operationally engaged in those contexts.

### ***Forced Displacement***

**The world is facing an unprecedented displacement crisis with 76 percent of the forcibly displaced hosted in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>10</sup>**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the WBG have continued to work in close partnership with each other and the rest of the UN system to respond. Work has centered on the IDA

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/figures-glance>.

Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR), the WBG's dedicated financing window for low-income countries that host refugees; the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), a WBG-administered trust fund dedicated to supporting middle-income countries that host large numbers of refugees; as well as the WBG-UNHCR Joint Data Center (JDC) on Forced Displacement. In the context of the WHR and GCFF, the UNHCR has collaborated with the WBG by systematically providing assessments of refugee protection and refugee policy frameworks. UNHCR developed Refugee Policy Reviews for the 14 countries eligible for IDA's WHR, highlighting policy risks and opportunities.

### ***Food Security***

**Across the world, rising food prices and overall inflation have exacerbated food security conditions, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries.** Crisis-affected countries are particularly vulnerable as fragility, violence, and conflict are considered key drivers of acute food insecurity. Sixteen of the 24 WFP-FAO hotspot countries with the most people experiencing acute food insecurity are on the WBG FY23 Fragile and Conflict-affected States (FCS) list. Throughout the reporting period,



UN-WBG collaboration on food security was reported in more than 20 countries, ranging from **Afghanistan** to **Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen**, with work centering around food assistance and nutrition support, increased local food production, improved storage capacity and livestock, data collection, early warning, locust response, provision of integrated safety nets, and cash programming. In some of the most food insecure countries, the WBG and WFP are amongst the largest sources of financing, providing a combination of humanitarian assistance and a complementary blend of short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. In addition, FAO's response to the food insecurity crisis focuses on enhancing local food production and supporting livelihoods by providing emergency agricultural assistance from the onset of a crisis to enable people to produce food and earn an income.

**WBG's collaboration with the United Nations on food and nutrition security has led to the establishment of the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS).** This initiative was launched in May 2022, during the Group of Seven (G7) Development Ministers Meeting as a way to address the emerging global food security and nutrition crisis. GAFS is jointly

convened by the WBG and the German G7 Presidency with active engagement and support from humanitarian and development partners, regional organizations, and governments. The objective of GAFS is to catalyze an agile, immediate, and coordinated response to the unfolding global food and nutrition security crisis as an act of solidarity in support of those most affected.

### ***Partnership between Development and Peace and Security Actors***

**The UN Security Council has encouraged closer cooperation between UN peace and security actors and development partners just as the WBG has pointed to the deep interdependence of peace, security, and development.** The 2018 UN-WBG joint report *Pathways for Peace* set out a shared understanding of prevention and peacebuilding that further demonstrated the need for alignment of peace and security, development, and diplomatic action over the long term. For the first time, the present report includes a chapter on the cooperation between the WBG and the UN Security Council-mandated Special Political Missions and UN Peacekeeping Operations. During the reporting period, institutional collaboration between the WBG and UN Special Political Missions has taken

place in **Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the West Bank and Gaza, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen** through different modalities. Collaboration in peacekeeping contexts includes Central African Republic, **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali, and South Sudan.**

**This report highlights the value of strategic partnerships between the UN and the World Bank in crisis-affected and at-risk settings.** It shows how collaboration, based on shared analysis, comparative advantage and respect for national ownership, allows the two organizations, within their respective mandates, to better support countries in tackling the risks and

effects of violent conflict, creating a stronger foundation for sustainable development. Numerous examples of good collaboration show that investment in aligning UN and World Bank efforts through joint data, diagnostics and analysis, a shared understanding of priorities and complementary action can help to drive innovation and agility on the ground, allowing us to deliver better for some of the world's most vulnerable people. Effective, collective efforts to address global challenges in crisis-affected settings have never been more critical. It is our hope that this report and the examples herein will enrich the toolbox at the disposal of UN and World Bank staff and inspire continued cooperation on the global challenges before us.



# Introduction

**Since the 2020 UN-World Bank Partnership Monitoring Report was published (UN and World Bank 2020), the global landscape has become more uncertain and complex** due to increased geopolitical polarization, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its ramifications, the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, global food insecurity, and the accelerating effects of climate change. Addressing more complex environments, especially in crisis-affected or at-risk countries, requires a strong UN-WBG strategic partnership.

**Nearly 2 billion people—one-fourth of the world's population—live in conflict-affected countries (UN 2022a).** And by 2030, 59 percent of people living in extreme poverty will be concentrated in countries

affected by conflict and violence. The number of forcibly displaced people has reached 108.4 million, up 19.1 million on a year earlier, which was the biggest increase ever.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, armed conflict pushed 139 million people into acute food insecurity in 2021—an increase of almost 40 million people compared to the year before (FSIN and GNAFC 2022a). Conflict drives 80 percent of all humanitarian needs, highlighting the urgent need to address the root causes of conflict and sustain peace so as to enable scarce resources to be redirected toward sustainable development (World Bank 2023a).

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<sup>11</sup> Global Trends Report 2022 (database), UNHCR, Geneva, <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>.

**The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to reverberate across the world, widening inequalities and perceived patterns of exclusion that can drive grievances and a sense of injustice, exacerbating structural vulnerabilities, and affecting conflict trends** (Day 2023). At the same time, increased climate change-induced heat waves, droughts, and floods are affecting billions of people around the world. These multiple, intersecting, and interlinked crises have a devastating impact on efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are reversing decades of development gains in many developing countries, particularly those in crisis-affected settings. A preliminary assessment of the SDG targets shows that only about 12 percent are on track; close to half, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track, and some 30 percent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline (UN 2023).

**Global inequality rose for the first time in decades (UN 2023).** By 2022, GDP in countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence was expected to drop to 8.3 percent below pre-pandemic projections (World Bank 2023b). Many developing countries are facing mounting macroeconomic risks, such as record inflation, high

interest rates, increasing debt burdens, and limited fiscal space (UN 2022a). Women have been disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic as they have had to struggle with lost jobs, increased burdens of unpaid care work, and domestic violence. This multidimensional risk environment could fuel further tensions and conflicts.

**In these particularly challenging times, continued strategic, mission-driven engagement between the UN<sup>12</sup> and the WBG as two critical multilateral partners** will help ensure that available resources are aligned with the national priorities of fragile and crisis-affected countries, maximizing contributions to prevent conflict and its escalation, resolve conflict, sustain peace, and enable sustainable development.

**April 2022 marked five years since the adoption of the UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations, which laid the foundations for a stronger strategic collaboration between the two institutions to address the drivers,**

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<sup>12</sup> For the purpose of the report, UN refers to entities of the United Nations System (Secretariat, Funds, Programs, and specialized agencies).

**causes, and impact of conflict in support of national priorities.** The adoption of this framework was followed by the 2018 launch of the joint UN-WBG report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, which urged a pivot to prevention, strengthened the business case for prevention initiatives, and highlighted new research on the importance of inclusion in efforts to prevent conflict and build peace. The report was a critical step in underscoring the UN-WBG joint commitment to prevention, and on its fifth anniversary continues to inform and strengthen our work toward sustaining peace and promoting development.

**This UN-WBG partnership monitoring report provides an overview of joint work on four priority themes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus over a period covering July 2020 to June 2022 (FY20–22).** These include addressing drivers of fragility and conflict, forced displacement, food security, and partnerships between the development and peace and security actors.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The four priority themes are aligned with the strategic focus and intent established in the 2017 UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. The thematic area on partnerships between the development and peace and security actors is being covered in this report's edition for the first time.

The objective is to highlight examples of strategic and operational collaboration<sup>14</sup> between the UN and WBG in specific crisis-affected contexts. It does not intend to provide a comprehensive overview or evaluation of UN-WBG thematic and operational engagements and initiatives, but rather share indicative examples that illustrate the diversity of the ways the UN and WBG work together in particularly challenging environments, across different regions, diverse settings, and themes.

**Overall, the examples reflect the wide and complex extent of UN-WBG partnerships on conflict spillover such as forced displacement and food security, while collaboration is still growing to address drivers of conflict and fragility, including between development and peace and security actors.** The report underscores that, throughout the reporting period, UN-WBG partnerships in crisis-affected settings have continued to develop despite the challenges of operating in such contexts. It also highlights good partnership practices to further advance and deepen collaboration at the

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<sup>14</sup> The UN-WBG operational partnership is multifaceted (see page 28).

country level. Fifty-eight countries<sup>15</sup> have self-reported collaboration<sup>16</sup> around addressing drivers of conflict and fragility; between development and peace and security actors; on food security; and on forced displacement, as well as many other areas including the response to Covid-19.

### **Each thematic chapter includes details of progress and collective UN-WBG engagements,**

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<sup>15</sup> Afghanistan; Albania; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Belarus; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Colombia; Comoros; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Djibouti; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ecuador; Eritrea; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Guatemala; Guinea; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Iraq; Jordan; Kenya; Kosovo; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Libya; Madagascar; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Moldova; Mozambique; Myanmar; Niger; Nigeria; the Palestinian territories; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Tajikistan; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Yemen.

<sup>16</sup> For the purposes of the report, select UN and WBG country representatives reported on partnership initiatives. The included countries fulfil one of the following criteria: inclusion on the WBG's FY21–22 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations; eligible for the IDA19 FCV Envelopes including the IDA19 WHR; eligible for the GCFF, on an agenda item of which the Security Council is currently seized and which has been considered by the Security Council at a formal meeting during 2020–22; had a field-based or country-specific Peacekeeping or Special Political Mission in 2020–22 comprising 10 or more staff members; had received programmatic funds from the Peacebuilding Fund in 2019 or the Partnership Facility in 2020–22; had a Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020–22; went through a Regional Monthly Review in 2020–2022.

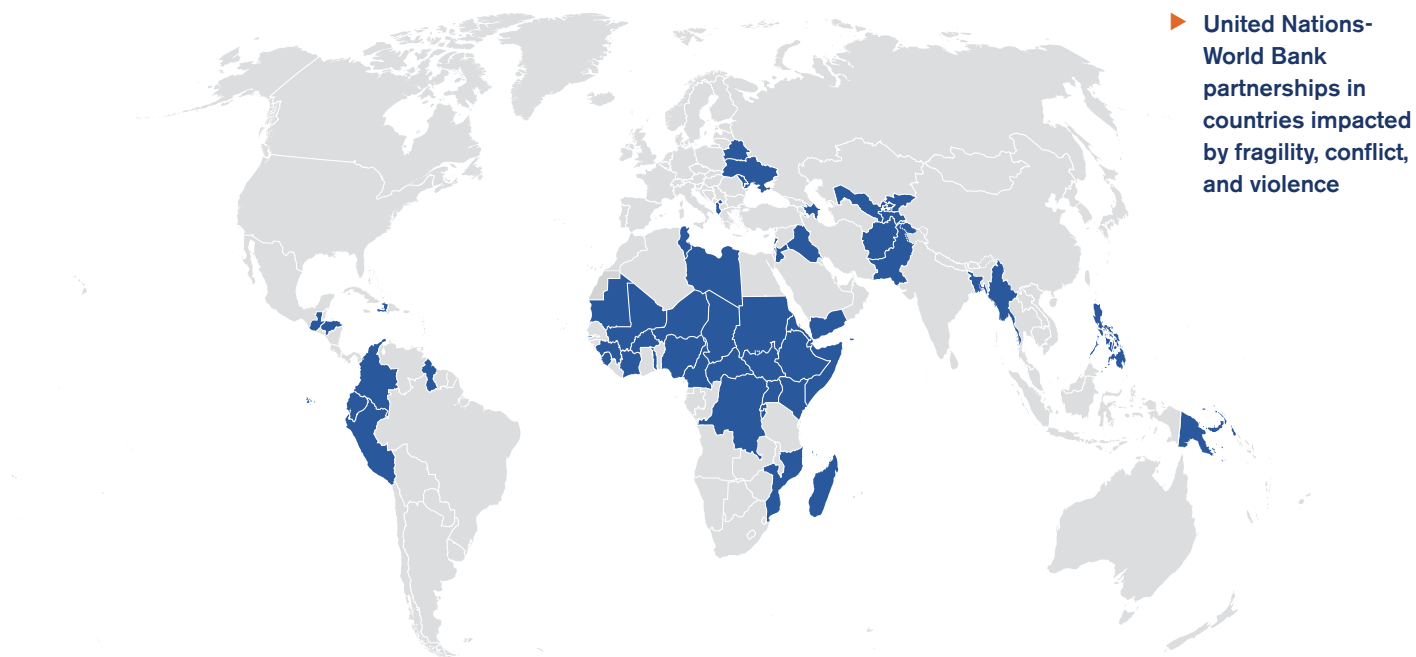
**featuring examples of concrete collaboration where the partnership makes a difference on the ground.** Each chapter also highlights UN-WBG collaborative efforts in supporting IDA19,<sup>17</sup> which covered July 2020 to June 2022, as well as plans for IDA20 operationalization, following the historic US\$93 billion financing package agreed upon by international development partners in December 2021 to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build a greener, more resilient, and more inclusive future. Over a decade, the share of IDA commitments going to countries affected by fragility and conflict has increased threefold from 14 percent to 42 percent from IDA16<sup>18</sup> to IDA19<sup>19</sup>, enabling broader

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<sup>17</sup> Established in 1960, the International Development Association (IDA) provides zero to low-interest loans to reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries. As one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 75 poorest countries, IDA supports a range of development activities that pave the way towards equality, economic growth, job creation, higher incomes, and better living conditions. The most recent replenishment of IDA's resources, the 20th (IDA20), was finalized in December 2021, resulting in a historic US\$93 billion financing package for IDA countries for fiscal years 2022–25. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, IDA commitments totaled US\$37.7 billion, including US\$13.2 billion in grants.

<sup>18</sup> IDA 16th replenishment was finalized in December 2010.

<sup>19</sup> IDA 19th replenishment, finalized in December 2019, covers the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023.



and deeper engagement in crisis settings, including crisis response (World Bank 2023c).<sup>20</sup> Under IDA20, a 17 percent increase in financing secured a well-capitalized Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Envelope (World Bank, n.d.).

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<sup>20</sup> Numbers may not be directly comparable across years due to change in FCS classification methodology starting in FY20 and the fact that the FCS list is updated annually.



## MODALITIES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UN AND WBG

The UN and WBG foster different modalities of collaboration that rely on sustained dialogue:

1. **Strategic modalities of engagement often include collaboration around analysis and assessment; cross-fertilization of strategic frameworks; collaboration around programming and planning under the IDA FCV Envelope;** third-party implementation and third-party monitoring; and joint efforts in which the two organizations work in a parallel but coordinated fashion, allocating financing from separate sources. As a result, the UN and WBG may benefit from sharing a common understanding of a situation as the basis for addressing the root causes of fragility based on each institution's mandate and comparative advantage; increasing coherence and synergies on the ground and maximizing results; reinforcing each other's work; and enhancing effective support to national priorities.
2. **Operational modalities of engagement include mutual collaboration around institution-specific programming or financing,** as well as instances where UN partners, based on their comparative advantage, are engaged by WBG clients (indirect financing) or by the WBG itself (direct financing) as implementing partners (see page 28).

*“Workers clip plants in the greenhouse of Sidibe Agro-Techniques in Katibougou (Mali).”*





*Enhancing community resilience and local governance in Mali.  
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## **THE PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (UN)**

The Partnership Facility (formerly the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility) is a dedicated instrument under the UN Peacebuilding Fund that advances the strategic partnership between the UN and the WBG in crisis-affected situations, under the 2017 Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. The Partnership Facility supports enhanced coherence in prevention and transition settings through small grants to UN entities consolidating analytical and operational capacities as well as shared UN-WBG liaison capacity at field level. The Facility has been operational since 2019 and provided 39 grants to 27 countries. It has supported UN engagement in the WBG's Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs), Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), Turn Around Allocation (TAA) and a joint UN-WBG liaison officer co-funded with the WBG. The Partnership Facility provides critical support to enhance UN-WBG strategic collaboration, as highlighted by several examples through the report. Since 2019, the Facility has received \$11.1 million in funding from Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

## STATE AND PEACEBUILDING FUND (SPF)

The SPF plays a critical role in addressing the challenges arising from FCV. As the World Bank's leading global Umbrella Trust Fund for implementing the Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Strategy, the SPF enables conflict prevention programs, helps the World Bank remain engaged during conflict and crisis situations while mitigating the spillovers of FCV, and supports countries in their efforts towards transitioning out of fragility. The SPF is a fund of "first response and last resort" for supporting flexible, rapid, and catalytic engagement in all countries and regions affected by FCV. The SPF has been a valuable resource for innovation in the World Bank's FCV response and is an important part of the World Bank's broader efforts to address the drivers and impact of FCV, and ultimately to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity. At the country level, the SPF prioritizes financing of activities conducted in collaboration with the UN, reinforcing partnerships with relevant UN entities and pursuing collective outcomes in FCV countries. SPF focuses

on piloting catalytic and innovative activities that complement World Bank programs that can be scaled up and mainstreamed. SPF finances both Recipient-executed and Bank-executed activities and in certain circumstances provides seed financing through transfers to World Bank administered single-country, FCV multi-donor trust funds. SPF provides a forum for a broad range of partners to gain and disseminate results, knowledge and lessons learned from innovative approaches in order to help them develop future programs and strengthen their institutional capacities for working in FCV contexts.

*Women in Aderbissanat, Agadez region (Niger).*





# Addressing Drivers of Conflict and Fragility

**Addressing drivers of conflict and fragility is a key priority of both the UN and the WBG.** The prevention of violent conflict and promotion of peacebuilding and sustaining peace are central to the work of the UN as derived from its Charter. In the 2020 twin resolutions<sup>21</sup> it was recognized that progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires integrating peacebuilding and sustaining peace into efforts to build back better. In his 2022 report to the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Secretary-General emphasized that “Inclusive and sustainable development,

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<sup>21</sup> UN Security Council, Resolution 201, A/RES/75/201 (December 28, 2020); UN Security Council, Resolution 2558, S/RES/2558 (December 21, 2020).

anchored in human rights, gender equality, and leaving no one behind is the best defense against violent conflict. Structural prevention requires an acceleration towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and a coherent focus on addressing conflict risks and drivers and enhancing social cohesion.” In this regard, the Secretary-General has stressed the role of the UN Peacebuilding Fund in catalyzing investment, as well as the role of the UN Peacebuilding Commission as a forum for Member States to share national plans and good practices (A/78/668, S/2022/66). The 2020 report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/74/976-S/2020/773) emphasizes that “the prevention of crisis and human suffering must

be placed at the heart of the work of the United Nations in order to address the root causes of vulnerability and provide pathways to sustainable development and peace." The landmark 2022 General Assembly Resolution on Financing for Peacebuilding encourages continued efforts toward strengthened partnership and strategic cooperation between the UN and international financial institutions at headquarters and field levels, and consideration of joint initiative and analysis and shared priority-setting toward collective outcomes, complementarity and coordination in implementation, in line with national priorities.

**Under its first-ever Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Strategy 2020–25 and under IDA20**, the WBG aims to enhance its effectiveness in supporting countries to address the drivers and impacts of FCV and strengthen their resilience, especially for their most vulnerable and marginalized populations. The FCV Strategy recognizes the central role of partnerships with the UN as well as other actors from the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding security, and private sectors. The FCV Strategy articulates the WBG's comparative advantage in FCV settings as a development actor committed to sustained and long-term engagement to support national systems while strengthening core state

functions and institutional resilience and capacity. In August 2021, the WBG's Board approved the **Updated Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict and Violence**, bringing enhanced clarity to its engagements in diverse FCV situations and reflecting the evolution of its operational practice, risk identification and mitigation needs, the latest knowledge, and changing client needs in the FCV context.

**Recognizing that prevention and peacebuilding begin with an accurate understanding of local dynamics, the UN and WBG have stepped up their partnership through joint analyses and assessments of multidimensional risks and fragilities.** Over the period covered by this report, examples of partnership between the WBG and the UN around addressing drivers of conflict and fragility have included Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (Mozambique, Libya), joint analyses and assessments (Central Asia and Afghanistan Border Areas), collaboration on the development of strategic frameworks, on programming and planning, as well as co-funding shared UN–International Financial Institutions liaison capacity. These efforts, which vary in nature and degree of cooperation, help lay the foundation for a common understanding of the root causes and drivers of conflict.

***Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments, Post-Disaster Needs Assessments and Other Forms of Tripartite Collaboration***

**The Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBAs) methodology is a tool used jointly by the UN, the WBG, and the European Union (EU) to identify and address immediate and medium-term recovery and peacebuilding requirements** while laying the foundations for a longer-term recovery and peacebuilding strategy to be elaborated in a country facing conflict or transitioning out of a conflict-related crisis. Since 2014, the tripartite partners have conducted several RPBAs.

**In Mozambique, the African Development Bank (AfDB) joined the three organizations in 2021 to support an RPBA for northern Mozambique.** This fed into the Government of Mozambique's efforts to develop the country's *Programa de Resiliencia e Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte de Mocambique* (PREDIN), adopted in October 2022, which included the government's blueprint to support recovery, peacebuilding, and resilience-building in the provinces of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, and Nampula.

**In Libya, the UN, WBG, and EU launched an RPBA in 2021 to identify, cost, and validate short- and**

**long-term recovery and peacebuilding priorities and outline an implementation plan and financing strategy.** The RPBA will help inform efforts required to strengthen core governance and institutions, enable a strong social and economic recovery, promote national reconciliation, establish a national development plan, and coordinate international assistance for Libya in these efforts.

**In Azerbaijan, the three partners have undertaken a Joint Recovery and Needs Assessment (JRNA) in 2022 upon the government's request.** This process has created a platform for coordination between the UN, WBG, and EU with regard to identifying the priority recovery needs in regained territories where the partners can add most value, and can lead to synergies in response measures. It is expected that the JRNA would lead to a longer-term dialogue and constructive engagement between the government and international partners.

**In Lebanon, in the immediate aftermath of the Port of Beirut explosion on August 4, 2020, the WBG, in cooperation with the UN, EU, and in close partnership with Lebanese ministries, institutions, and civil society organizations (CSOs), conducted a Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA)** to inform an expedited economic and social recovery plan with the aim of addressing Lebanon's immediate and short-term

needs. In response, the UN, EU, and WBG championed the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) to provide a roadmap and operationalize the findings of the RDNA through an inclusive platform strengthening partnerships between government, CSOs, donors, and international organizations. Under the 3RF, the WBG manages the Lebanon Financing Facility, a multi-donor trust fund that supports socioeconomic recovery projects, two of which are implemented by UN agencies, funds and programmes through direct financing: the Beirut Housing Rehabilitation and Cultural and Creative Industries Recovery (implemented by UN-Habitat with the support of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO) and the Beirut Critical Environment Recovery, Restoration and Waste Management Program (United Nations Development Programme, or UNDP).

### ***Common Country Analysis and Risk and Resilience Assessments***

**The WBG and the UN consult each other as key stakeholders during analyses and assessments that inform strategic frameworks and programming, such as the WBG's Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) and the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA).** RRAs analyze FCV drivers and sources of resilience and develop operational

recommendations. They feed into the WBG's Country Partnership Frameworks, which define priority areas of WBG support to client countries for a period of three to five years. The CCA is an integrated, forward-looking, and evidence-based analysis of the country context for sustainable development, which serves as a basis for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

### **During the reporting period, collaboration around the WBG's RRAs has taken different forms:**

- ▶ The WBG, the UN, and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) conducted a joint Regional RRA in the **Central Asia** (Ferghana Valley) and **Afghanistan** border areas (northern **Afghanistan** and **Tajikistan/Uzbekistan**) in 2021. The Regional RRA promoted a shared understanding of risk and resilience factors between international partners as a foundation for better coordinated regional and cross-border strategies, policy dialogue with governments, financing, and programming, including a specific focus on COVID-19 impacts and recovery. The report informed conflict- and fragility-sensitive

design elements in multiple WBG operations and analyses in Central Asia. It also fed into the Afghan Refugee Response Needs Assessment note in Tajikistan and the associated operational response, as well as the Inclusion and Resilience Lens being piloted for new operations in Tajikistan. The Regional RRA findings informed the UNSDCFs for Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

- ▶ The United Nations Kosovo<sup>22</sup> Team (UNKT) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo<sup>23</sup> (UNMIK) contributed to the WBG's update of its RRA for **Kosovo**.<sup>24</sup> The UNKT was part of the RRA peer review group and supported the RRA process with expertise on the linkages between fragility risks and environmental aspects, climate change, youth and education, and social cohesion. The findings and recommendations of the RRA update have informed the new WBG Country Partnership Framework 2023–27.
- ▶ In **Yemen**, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator/ Resident Coordinator's Office peer-reviewed the

country's RRA, while representatives from UN entities, including the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESGY) provided inputs during its preparation.

- ▶ In **Chad**, the UN and the WBG collaborated to cross-fertilize the CCA and RRA and share drafts and assessments. The UN, through the Partnership Facility, conducted an analysis of drivers of conflict in 2021 that helped inform the RRA and the CCA.
- ▶ In **Somalia**, a UN-WBG Liaison Officer co-located in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the WBG Country Management Unit ensures closer partnership on analytical work, including through the UN contribution to the 2022 RRA for Somalia that informed the new WBG Country Partnership Framework and updates to the UN CCA.
- ▶ In **Honduras**, consultations on the RRA with UN agencies were coordinated with the UN Resident Coordinator.
- ▶ In **Afghanistan**, the 2021 WBG RRA presented an analysis of causes of FCV, sources of resilience, and implications for the WBG and the Afghanistan

<sup>22</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). The RRA benefited from the expertise of UN agencies, especially on political and security topics, thereby strengthening joint donor approaches to providing coordinated assistance, particularly on basic service delivery in Afghanistan.

### ***Other Joint Initiatives and Assessments***

**In several contexts, shared or joint assessments between the UN and the WBG inform priorities and the conception, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of projects.** Programming for prevention is most effective when it targets a specific context and considers local dynamics and changing circumstances.

**For example, in South Sudan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has conducted third-party monitoring of the WBG's *Local Governance and Services Delivery Project (LGSDP)* and the *Rapid Result Health Program*, aimed at supporting small-scale infrastructure and improving local governance and service delivery in the participating counties. Joint analyses with the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Local Government Board, including conflict and social assessments and COVID-19-related analyses, have informed key priorities and**

development and humanitarian interventions in South Sudan. Furthermore, the exchange of data and analysis between the UN and WBG helped inform identification of strategic priorities and alignment to key national priorities of the country.

**In northeastern Kenya, with funding from the Partnership Facility, the UN and WBG partnered on joint risk monitoring.** Together with the Kenyan government and the International Crisis Group, they developed risk analysis products used to inform their programming in the region.

**In Côte d'Ivoire, amidst deterioration of the situation in the North of the country, the UN and WBG organized a joint deep dive session to share strategic priorities, compare assessments, and identify areas where collaboration could be strengthened to address the drivers and root causes of fragility.** As a result of this exercise, the UN and WBG strengthened joint support to community-driven initiatives in the northern regions of the country and aligned advocacy to national authorities around key priorities. In March 2022, the WBG adopted a *Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion Project* to strengthen social cohesion and support local governance in Gulf of Guinea countries, including in Cote d'Ivoire.



The same year, the Partnership Facility provided support to national efforts for the development of a regional coordination mechanism to enhance complementarity and synergies among actors and interventions in the region.

**In Azerbaijan, the UN and WBG have shared their respective initial analyses of the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food prices and food price trends.** A coordinated presentation of the initial impact analyses was presented at the development partner coordination meeting. Similarly, in **Uzbekistan**, the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator and the WBG led a development partners' group to monitor and coordinate support to the government to respond to the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the country's economy and people.

**In the Philippines, the UN and WBG convened the key development partners with significant programs in the Bangsamoro.** The goal was to achieve more coherent coordination and alignment of their programs around key peace agreement<sup>25</sup> priorities by developing a Bangsamoro Stakeholders Roadmap.

<sup>25</sup> The WBG's engagement is guided by the Core Principles of Bank Involvement, set out in paragraph 3 (d) of the WBG's Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence.

**In Tunisia, the WBG and UN collaborated to better understand public perceptions of the energy sector related to fuel subsidies and identify related socioeconomic risks**, with a view to provide evidence-based recommendations to national authorities on how to communicate on these complex reforms. Relatedly, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office leveraged the Partnership Facility to conduct a household survey on the perception of energy subsidies.

The World Bank has been contributing to the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since its joining in April 2020, the World Bank shares over 4,600 datasets on the platform covering topics of interest to the humanitarian community such as socioeconomic, health, education, development, infrastructure, poverty, energy, environmental, and COVID-19 data.

### **From Analysis to Planning and Programming: Strategic Collaboration in the context of the IDA FCV Envelope**

- ▶ **Guided by the FCV Strategy, the WBG's implementation of IDA19 and IDA20 bears an increased focus on prevention**, and the FCV Envelope includes specific support to help

prevent the escalation of conflict, remain engaged during crisis and post-crisis situations to preserve human capital and key institutions, and create development opportunities for refugees and host communities. The IDA FCV Envelope includes:

- ▶ **The IDA Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA)**, which provides enhanced support for countries at risk of escalating into high-intensity conflict or large-scale violence.
- ▶ **The IDA Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation (RECA)**, which enables IDA to maintain a base level of engagement in a small number of countries that experience high-intensity conflict and have extremely limited government capacity.
- ▶ **The IDA Turn Around Allocation (TAA)**, which supports countries emerging from a period of conflict, social/political crisis, or disengagement, and where there is a window of opportunity for IDA to either reengage or intensify support to pursue reforms that can accelerate a transition out of fragility and build resilience.
- ▶ **In addition, the Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR)**

supports countries that host significant refugee populations to create medium- to long-term development opportunities for both the refugees and their host communities.

**Collaboration between the UN and the WBG around the RRAs, CCAs, and/or other analytical products can provide a shared or joint analytical foundation to inform the IDA PRA/TAA.** The process for demonstrating IDA PRA and TAA eligibility includes the requirement to consult with partners at the country level before the government's strategy and milestones are finalized. All IDA PRA/TAA eligibility processes have included input from the UN to various degrees.

**The WBG also seeks input on areas in the IDA FCV Envelope where the UN has a comparative advantage, such as political processes, governance, justice, security sector, and engagement with civil society and nongovernmental actors.** Yearly reviews of the allocation instruments promote dialogue between the government, the WBG, and the UN on progress toward relevant milestones.

**Mozambique's eligibility to the Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA) was approved in April 2021, which unlocked US\$700 million in funding to prevent further escalation of conflict while**

**building resilience.** The UN was consulted throughout the eligibility process, especially to help assess and identify potential commitments from the government that support the strategy for conflict risk mitigation. The WBG and the Government of Mozambique have recalibrated the existing and pipeline operations to better mitigate conflict risk and boost resilience. As a result, the WBG approved a parallel US\$100 million IDA grant in support of the *Government of Mozambique's Northern Crisis Recovery Project*, which focuses on immediate early recovery activities, including restoring livelihoods and economic opportunities, building social cohesion, and improving access to basic services, as well as rehabilitating public infrastructure intended to benefit internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in selected areas of northern Mozambique. For this project, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been engaged by the government as an implementing partner through borrower contracting.

**In Chad, the fruitful collaboration between the UN and WBG around RRAs provided a basis for further engagement between the two institutions in the development of the IDA PRA.** The IDA PRA milestones include the organization of an inclusive national dialogue and the preparation and implementation of a National Peacebuilding Strategy by the government. As part of this process, UN Agencies with support from

the Peacebuilding Fund are directly supporting the Government of Chad in achieving its IDA PRA milestones, such as through technical assistance in the inclusive national dialogue process, thereby translating strategic and technical collaboration into operational terms.

**In the Democratic Republic of Congo,** the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including **the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO), was consulted in the preparation of the IDA PRA monitoring and evaluation framework for specific milestones,** including on the progress of human rights and access to justice indicators (including transitional justice and the fight against impunity for sexual violence) related to the National Strategy of Conflict Prevention, Stabilization and Resilience, as well as the *Programme de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Relèvement Communautaire et Stabilisation* (P-DDRCS) and security sector reform initiatives.<sup>26</sup> The UN supported the WBG, including in 2022, in its effort to align the indicators in these areas with those of MONUSCO Transition Strategy and Plan.

<sup>26</sup> WBG engagement in these areas is guided by paragraph 15 of the WBG's Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence, which bars the Bank from financing arms, weapons, military equipment, infrastructure, and disarming combatants.

## TURNAROUND ALLOCATION IN THE GAMBIA

In The Gambia, the WBG approved a TAA in 2021, in a context characterized by the end of a 22-year authoritarian rule marked by low economic growth, limited access and confidence in the justice system, poor delivery of public services, and a high unemployment rate. Under the IDA TAA, the government has identified five strategic objectives: (i) security and political stability; (ii) governance and transitional justice; (iii) land management, environment, and climate change; (iv) human capital development; and (v) inclusive growth and economic stability. The UN and WBG have drawn on each other's comparative advantage, through the Partnership Facility, to support the implementation and monitoring of the government's TAA Strategy, notably on Strategic Goals 1, 2, and 3. The UN is formally included in

the TAA Joint Steering Committee, which allows for enhanced UN-WBG strategic support to national conflict prevention efforts. This joint mechanism also facilitates sharing information and data between the UN and WBG on the government's annual performance on key milestones, as well as alignment with engagements by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. As part of the Partnership Facility, four joint UN-WBG studies are being conducted, including on issues related to climate and fragility risks in the Gambia River Basin, a political economy analysis with a focus on SSR, as well as a study on parameters for an enhanced UN-WBG strategic collaboration in support of the country's peacebuilding efforts.



Fishing village in The Gambia. ©Ijubar.

**In Somalia, the milestones highlighted in the TAA built on commitments defined in a Mutual Accountability Framework jointly with the UN and development partners.** The TAA supported a scale-up of development resources for Somalia to address compounding climatic, pandemic, and locust infestation shocks as well as further incentivize reform on key issues across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, such as intergovernmental resource sharing, security sector reform (SSR), and the fostering of a more inclusive and stable socioeconomic environment.

UN and World Bank partnerships does not stop when countries slip from fragility into conflict. The UN's local networks and commitment to 'stay and deliver' in challenging circumstances makes it an important partner for the WBG, which recognizes that sustaining local capacity in the most challenging times can be an investment in future recovery. On the WBG side, innovative partnerships with the UN and other institutions have enabled IDA to remain operationally engaged in those contexts.

**The IDA Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation (RECA) has allowed the WBG to maintain an impactful presence in both Yemen and South Sudan.** Given ongoing conflict situations

and related challenges, innovative partnerships with the UN and other agencies have enabled IDA to remain operationally engaged in those contexts.

**In South Sudan, UNDP and the WBG supported the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in implementing the Public Financial Mechanism (PFM) reform agenda** as required by Chapter IV of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Moreover, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the WBG led the reestablishment of the PFM Donor Working Group, which is currently cochaired by the AfDB and UNICEF. This group continues to operate with renewed interest from International Finance Institutions and is regularly attended by Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 2022, UNICEF used this platform to explore opportunities to support and strengthen PFM systems at both national and subnational levels. The WBG's support of the PFM mechanism reform agenda complements the UNDP's *Governance and Economic Management Support Project*, and both the WBG and the UNDP have deployed technical staff to the Ministry of Finance and Planning to support the reform process. UNDP also participated in provision of technical inputs into the preparation of the WBG's Country Engagement Note. Examples of WBG-financed operations

enabled by the IDA FCV Envelope<sup>27</sup> and implemented with UN agencies in **South Sudan** include the following:

- ▶ The *COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project* has drawn on implementation arrangements with UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to increase access to an additional package of integrated health, nutrition, child protection, and social behavior change services in the Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei states, Greater Pibor and Ruweng Administrative Areas, as well as strengthen the capacity of decentralized public institutions for service delivery in conflict-affected areas.
- ▶ The *Provision of Essential Health Services Project* has drawn on implementation arrangements with UNICEF and ICRC to increase access to an essential package of health services in the Upper Nile and Jonglei states, as well as strengthen the capacity of decentralized public institutions for service delivery in conflict-affected areas.
- ▶ The *Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance (ECRP-Phase II)* is implemented with

IOM under the direction of the Government of South Sudan. The project aims to build inclusive and participatory community-led development and enhance institutional capacity for local service delivery and integrated disaster risk management at the national and subnational levels. Based on an inclusive community-based planning process, the project supports community-level infrastructure in the most conflict- and flood-affected parts of the country. By ensuring that these institutions are inclusive and transparent, the project contributes to strengthening the social contract between civilians and the state, which in turn is key to building durable peace in South Sudan. The project is expected to benefit over 920,000 people in about 12 vulnerable counties in South Sudan, including the most vulnerable such as IDPs and refugees.

**In Yemen, with funding from IDA RECA grants, the WBG has engaged in operational collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, World Food Program (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO), and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to strengthen institutional**

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<sup>27</sup> These are also examples of operational partnerships (see next section).

resilience and support families and communities across the country through various interventions with large-scale cash assistance and income support, health and nutrition, cholera response, urban service delivery, agriculture production restoration, and institutional strengthening and sustainability. Examples of WBG-financed operations enabled by the IDA FCV Envelope<sup>28</sup> and implemented by UN agencies in Yemen illustrate the importance of this collaboration:

- ▶ The *Emergency Human Capital Project* implemented by UNICEF, UNOPS, and WHO is providing essential health, nutrition, and water and sanitation services to Yemenis by improving access to health care, nutrition, and public health services; and improving access to water supply and sanitation (WSS) while strengthening local systems. Over 8 million beneficiaries have received health and nutrition services at more than 2,000 supported health facilities and through outreach and mobile teams.
- ▶ The *Integrated Urban Services Emergency Project* // implemented by UNOPS to restore access to critical urban services and strengthen resilience to shocks in selected cities within the country.

<sup>28</sup> These are also examples of operational partnerships (see next section).

- ▶ The *Food Security Resilience and Response Project*, implemented by FAO, UNDP, WFP, and ICRC to improve the availability of and access to food and nutritious diets, both in the short and medium term, for targeted households in the project area, and to enhance Yemen's capacity to respond to food insecurity. Around 1.84 million beneficiaries are targeted to benefit from resilience and livelihood restoration activities.

### **Operational Partnerships**

**Under the Country-driven Borrower/Recipient (Indirect Financing) modality of collaboration between the UN and the WBG, prenegotiated Standard Forms of Agreement (SFAs) are used to facilitate the borrower's contracting process**

(see page 28). These publicly available contractual tools, whose terms are governed by the WBG 2016 Procurement Framework, allow Bank borrowers/recipients to contract UN agencies without competition where they are uniquely qualified in their area of expertise and/or in situations of urgent need or capacity constraint, while ensuring UN due diligence with WBG operations policy requirements through use of alternate assurance

## MODES OF OPERATIONAL COOPERATION: UN ENGAGEMENT IN WBG-FINANCED OPERATIONS

Over the years, WBG clients have taken advantage of specialized technical and procurement expertise of UN agencies to implement WBG-financed operations across a range of sectors, including health, education, agriculture, and social development. In recent years, UN engagement in WBG-financed operations has grown to include the support of projects in high-risk environments, in crisis or emergency situations, and in circumstances where the WBG does not have a presence on the ground.

UN engagement in WBG-financed projects, including in fragile and crisis-affected settings, occurs through two approaches:

- ▶ Country-driven Borrower/Recipient Contracting (Indirect Financing): WBG borrower countries contract UN agencies under a WBG-financed operation for technical assistance, the procurement of supplies, or the delivery of outputs. Such an engagement is based on pre-negotiated standard forms of agreement, which facilitate the borrower's contracting process.
- ▶ Direct Financing: The WBG provides financing directly to UN agencies to implement specific activities or projects on behalf of member countries through grants financed out of trust-funds, and in certain circumstances, IDA grants. For example, in specific circumstances, countries designated under the IDA Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation (RECA), IDA guidelines facilitate direct financing to UN agencies by not requiring policy waivers in that respect.



*Solar panels on a farm (Mali). © Curt Carnemark / World Bank*



## TRIPLE CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, the multiple crises of conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, and drought have been exacerbated by the suspension of all development assistance in a highly aid-dependent country after the fall of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in August 2021. The aid architecture was reconfigured to ensure strategic policy and thematic coordination in the absence of an internationally recognized government. The WBG is also a member of the UN Country Team and the Afghanistan Coordination Group (ACG)—a platform for key international partners, international and regional financial institutions, and the UN—to improve coordination and coherence and identify synergies amongst key international partners supporting basic human needs to enhance efficiency and aid effectiveness. The UN and WBG have collaborated closely on the banking and liquidity crisis through the Financial Sector Working Group led by UNDP and the WBG, including on production of economic projections and surveys with economic data. The UN and ACG have jointly developed a strategic framework for basic human needs interventions over the next three years.

Under the WBG-administered ARTF, UNDP is currently implementing the *NGO and CSO Capacity Building Support Project (NCCSPL)* for Afghan NGOs and CSOs to continue providing critical services and aid in the areas of education, health, livelihoods and agriculture, for women and by women. UNDP and WBG are cochairing the Economic Stabilization Working Group under the ACG together with the EU to continue the work under the Financial Sector Working Group on economic projections and analysis, and to enhance the wider collaboration of key partners on private sector recovery and access to finance, with focus on women economic empowerment in Afghanistan.

After the August 2021 collapse of Afghanistan's government, in consultation with ARTF partners and UN agencies, the WBG used the remaining ARTF resources (US\$280 million) to fill the financing gap to address immediate humanitarian support needs in the areas of health and food security. The WBG, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, and WFP worked together to address health emergencies and food insecurity. These efforts helped maintain basic and secondary health services in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan to serve the poorest. Currently, under Approach 2.0,<sup>29</sup> there are five ARTF-funded projects totaling US\$893 million that provide urgent and essential food, livelihood, health, and education services to the people of Afghanistan, and support NGO capacity, implemented by UNICEF, WHO, UNOPS, FAO, and UNDP. In addition, the innovative Approach 2.0 crucially promotes monitoring of entry points for equity and access.

<sup>29</sup> Approach 2.0 was approved by the WBG's Board of Executive Directors on March 1, 2022, based on the decision of the ARTF donors and the international community to support the people of Afghanistan. The approach guides the provision of funds from the ARTF in the form of recipient-executed grants to select United Nations agencies and international NGOs. It aims to support the delivery of essential basic services, protect vulnerable Afghans, support human capital and key economic and social services, and help reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in the future.



*Afghanistan: Nafasgul, 9, holds a book during a reading activity in a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Gayan District, Paktika Province.*

## JOINT SUPPORT TO YEMEN ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS

In Yemen, the UN and WBG developed joint response strategies across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus to address the protracted crisis during the ongoing conflict between the authorities in the North and South. In line with the evolution of the WBG's ambition and operational approach in countries affected by FCV, IDA is "remaining engaged" in Yemen during the conflict, providing sustained support to help deliver critical services, protect human capital, and preserve Yemeni institutions. As the UN has a large footprint and important implementation capacity, the WBG has entered into operational partnership with various specialized UN agencies to support IDA-financed operations. These UN-WBG operational partnerships represent one of the first large-scale attempts to operationalize a development approach within the context of the HDP nexus, demonstrating the feasibility of development financing in Yemen. The collaboration exemplifies how development resources can complement humanitarian efforts by helping households, communities, and the private sector cope with the adverse effects of conflict while preserving the capacities of large parastatal institutions, established with WBG support and through promotion of greater coherence with humanitarian and peace mediation initiatives in previous decades. Based on institutional assessments and joint capacity building initiatives, the WBG-UN partnership has increasingly focused on sustaining and enhancing the role that relevant national institutions with a demonstrated delivery record, impartiality, operational ability, and mandate to work across the country can play in providing critical social services.

The partnership also highlights the importance of investing in local institutions, particularly those with a demonstrated track record and capacity for delivery in challenging environments. One example is the collaboration between UNDP and the WBG since 2016 around different projects such as the *Yemen Emergency Crisis Response Project (YECRP)*, *Emergency Social Protection Enhancement and COVID-19 Response (ESPECRP)*, the *Food Security Response and Resilience Project (FSRRP)* and the *SFISH Project* (Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden). This partnership aims to serve as a scalable platform that offers a combination of complementary short and medium-term instruments to build the resilience of Yemeni households to cope with the different crises including the conflict, food insecurity and COVID-19 pandemic.

UNDP implements WBG-financed projects funds with the operational support of three prominent national institutions: Social Fund for Development (SFD), Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Services (SMEPS) and Public Works Project (PWP). Additional deliverables include supporting micro-finance institutions (MFIs) and micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSMEs) to sustain their operations and continue providing services to revive local economies and contribute to food security. The achievements



*Young girls in Yemen (UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund).*

thus far have been substantial including providing access to key social services to over 5 million people in 321 out of 333 districts across all the governorates of Yemen. Furthermore, FAO and the WBG are also collaborating in the humanitarian agricultural sector. FAO has been leading the activities aimed at increasing production of crop, livestock and fish products, strengthening local-level agrifood systems, and establishing national-level agricultural value chains to boost local food production and prevent high acute food insecurity from spreading. The YECRP, FSRRTTP, and ESPECRP partnerships are complemented by a UNICEF-WBG large-scale emergency cash transfer program that provides lifesaving assistance to 1.5 million vulnerable households, or more than 9 million people based on the existing national social protection system. To date, UNICEF has delivered US\$810 million under the ESPECRP, provided support to enhance the national system, and is in the process of progressively enhancing the capacity of national entities.

## UN-WBG SUPPORT TO A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE COVID-19 RECOVERY

The COVID-19 pandemic and its secondary impacts have intensified existing risks and produced the largest development setback in decades. Preexisting vulnerabilities can limit countries' capacity to manage the health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19. Against this backdrop, the UN-WBG strategic cooperation has been critical to support governments in responding to COVID-19 and build strong and resilient health systems as the foundation of long-term resilient recovery.

Global and country-level partnerships involving the WBG, COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) have focused on vaccine-readiness assessments as well as vaccine access and deployment. Multi-donor trust funds such as the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Global Financing Facility, the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF), and the Japan-WBG Program for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management are additional examples of productive financing partnerships supporting COVID-19 recovery. With its simultaneous focus on addressing drivers of FCV and COVID-19 crisis response and recovery priorities, IDA20 is expected to strengthen partnerships to enhance effectiveness and coordination around crisis preparedness and response, with a deliberate focus on rebuilding human capital, including education, support for vaccine deployment, and investment in shock-responsive social services, as well as on strengthening core governance functions and institutions for service delivery and enhanced capacity to prepare for and respond to crises.

The UN-WBG coordinated action to promote pandemic resilience and protect poor and vulnerable people is helping communities and local governments cope with crisis impacts, improve and expand services, and build resilience for future shocks. Strengthening social safety nets helped prevent vulnerable groups from falling deeper into poverty while also supporting governments in crisis preparedness as key aspects of a resilient and inclusive recovery. In addition, ensuring sustainable business growth and job creation represents a critical area of engagement to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and build the foundation for long-term inclusive and resilient recovery. UN-WBG partnerships are instrumental in providing coordinated policy advice and financial assistance to businesses and financial institutions, to help preserve jobs and ensure that companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, can weather the crisis and return to growth.

In **Somalia**, the Ministry of Commerce, UNIDO, and the WBG have conducted surveys to monitor the impact of the pandemic on businesses. The surveys have contributed to a refined understanding of impediments to domestic investments. They informed the government's small business financing facilities approach to financing micro, small, and medium enterprises. In **Tajikistan**, the UN and WBG coordinated macroeconomic policy response to ensure stability and funding for social sectors. They also

collaborated to expand social assistance to families with special needs and procurement of vaccines through the COVAX facility. The UN and WBG also supported government capacities in responding to the health crisis. In **Papua New Guinea**, UNOPS and UNICEF were engaged by the government to implement a WBG-financed COVID-19 response project aimed at strengthening surveillance and rapid response capacity at the national and local levels, training health care workers on prevention and control, and procuring health care equipment. This strengthened the government's preparedness response capacity, established 10 Provincial Contact Tracing Teams, improved capacity of 1,294 frontline health workers, and reached 5 million people with lifesaving messages and delivery of critical equipment and supplies. UNICEF and the WBG also collaborated on a household survey, the findings of which informed policymakers' response to protect children from the virus, promote safe and continued access to services, and reduce economic hardships faced by children and their families. In **Sierra Leone**, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN and the WBG collaborated on data collection and sharing, and on the development of indicators. Furthermore, UNFPA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the WBG technical teams provided Statistics Sierra Leone with technical assistance to prepare and pilot a mid-term population census. UNOPS, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP have collaborated closely with implementation support of ongoing WBG projects through technical assistance and direct contracting to deliver critical basic services in health and food security. In **Guatemala**, UNICEF and the WBG have provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Development to implement and strengthen the Bono Familia Management Information System in the context of COVID-19. The Bono Familia Management is a cash transfer program targeted to poor households and aimed at addressing food insecurity and poverty. As of December 2021, this program registered 2.6 million beneficiaries who received three payments of US\$290.



*Health care coping with the impact of COVID-19 (Burkina Faso)*

arrangements. Service-specific SFAs are currently available for 13 UN agencies (FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, UN WTO, WFP, WHO, and WMO).

**In Somalia the government subcontracts UN agencies for service delivery to circumvent capacity constraints in delivery functions.** This provides a clearer leadership role by government for social service delivery, while at the same time strengthening systems and capacities in government to manage large-scale human and social development investments.

**Under the Direct Financing modality, in limited and specific circumstances, UN agencies may directly receive Bank-financing on behalf of a Bank client country,** a financing modality which the Bank has authority, under its IDA Articles of Agreement, to initiate in support of its client countries. Such engagement has been initiated in circumstances that include absence of an internationally recognized government; inability of a government to provide basic services to its population due to active conflicts, high security risks, and/or violence; and legal restrictions on financing public assets and providing financing to government accounts due to the non-accrual status.



*Women beneficiaries of IDA funded Human Development Programs (nutrition, social protection, and education) in the village of Soavina in Madagascar. Photo: World Bank / Sarah Farhat.*



# Forced Displacement

**The world is facing an unprecedented displacement crisis, with 108.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide by the end of 2022.** In 2021, 40 new displacement emergencies were recorded around the world, notably in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. By early 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which displaced millions of Ukrainians, added to this long list of crises across the globe. Climate change triggered extreme weather events and exacerbated shortages, adding to subsequent risks of displacement, especially internal.

**Furthermore, 76 percent of the forcibly displaced are hosted in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>30</sup>**

It is many of these same countries that, in addition to the remaining impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, are facing dire consequences on global economies and food systems from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In this context, forced displacement remains more than ever a humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding challenge.

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<sup>30</sup> Population Statistics Database, UNHCR, Geneva, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>.

**Against this backdrop, UNHCR and the WBG have continued to build stronger synergies with each other and the rest of the UN system,**

as well as other development actors and Member States in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)<sup>31</sup> and the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (UN 2022c), both of which call for further responsibility sharing. These efforts aim to find solutions to protracted displacement situations and work toward socioeconomic inclusion to ultimately reduce poverty and achieve the SDGs.

**During the reporting period, the partnership between UNHCR and the WBG has centered around the following areas:**

- ▶ IDA WHR, the WBG's dedicated financing window for low-income countries hosting refugees, and the GCFF, a WBG-administered trust fund dedicated to middle-income countries hosting large numbers of refugees;
- ▶ Socioeconomic data of the WBG-UNHCR JDC to better inform programming; and

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<sup>31</sup> The Global Compact on Refugees was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016. It emphasizes the need to ensure responsibility sharing in tackling forced displacement and related issues and calls for a whole of society approach including development actors.

- ▶ Country-level and technical collaboration in key sectors, including agriculture, education, and social protection.

**In the context of the WBG's IDA WHR and the GCFF, UNHCR has collaborated with the WBG through the systematic provision of assessments regarding refugee protection and refugee policy frameworks.**

These assessments identify key policy risks and opportunities related to refugees and host communities. They also feed into the consideration of IDA member countries' eligibility for this dedicated financing, and inform the WBG's policy dialogue with governments as well as project design and implementation. During the reporting period, the collaboration between UNHCR and the WBG brought development financing to five additional<sup>32</sup> refugee-hosting countries, namely **Ecuador, Colombia, and Moldova** for the GCFF, as well as **Kenya and South Sudan** for IDA's WHR.

Finally, the PROSPECTS partnership, a collaboration between ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IFC and the World

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<sup>32</sup> In addition to 14 eligible countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad (eligible in September 2017), Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda.



Bank, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, continues to complement humanitarian assistance with a development approach focusing on the nexuses between education (including skills development and training), protection and employment.

### ***IDA19 and IDA20***

**With IDA19 and IDA20, the WBG has significantly increased resources dedicated to refugees and host communities, allocating in total US\$3.6 billion since July 2020.** In IDA19, the WBG made a policy commitment to conduct systematic reviews of refugee environments in countries eligible for the WHR in order to (i) measure the progress since IDA18; (ii) inform areas for potential future funding based on identified gaps; and (iii) use the reviews as the basis for policy discussions with governments and other development partners to advance refugee policies in a coordinated and targeted manner. In response, UNHCR developed Refugee Policy Reviews for the 14 countries eligible for IDA's WHR, highlighting policy risks and opportunities. In September 2021, the WBG published the 14 reviews through the IDA19 Mid-Term Refugee Policy Review Report, with an analysis of policy

reform opportunities that could be explored under the IDA20 WHR.

**The results framework of projects funded through the IDA WHR has been improved to require disaggregation of refugee beneficiary indicators to better assess the financing's impact on refugees.**

While the pandemic challenged the implementation of several projects, it provided opportunities to further include refugees in national COVID-19 prevention and response strategies through dedicated emergency operations, with more than 100 countries benefitting.

**IDA20's WHR offers an additional opportunity for the UNHCR to engage with the WBG on policy and programming based on the Refugee Policy Reviews.** One of the ways to foster policy discussions is to organize regional deep dives with the WBG with a two-phased approach consisting of (i) joint country-level discussions on forced displacement and identification of opportunities across policy, data, and projects; and (ii) a meeting at the regional level to agree on ways to move forward on identified regional and country opportunities with concerned governments. Deep dives took place in the Latin America and Caribbean region in March 2022 and in the West and Central Africa region in July 2022.

### ***Global Concessional Financing Facility***

**The GCFF, the global “financial intermediary fund” trust fund initiated in 2016 by the WBG, the UN, and the Islamic Development Bank, and financed by 10 donor governments** (Canada, European Commission, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States) continued to support middle-income countries hosting refugees throughout the reporting period (2021–22).

**The GCFF supports middle-income countries hosting refugees by making financing accessible at rates usually reserved for low-income countries.**

Middle-income countries usually do not have access to the level of concessional financing reserved for the world’s poorest countries, even though some host the largest numbers of refugees in relation to the size of their populations (**Lebanon** with 19 percent, **Jordan** with 7 percent, and recently **Moldova**, with 12 percent, host the greatest proportion of refugees in relation to their populations).

**As of December 2022, the GCFF has provided some US\$755.43 million in grants**, which enabled the provision of over US\$6.1 billion in loans at concessional terms to the five GCFF-eligible countries, **Ecuador, Jordan,**

**Colombia, Lebanon, and Moldova.** This amounted to 27 projects reaching 7.5 million people.

**In response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the support of the GCFF was evaluated to respond to the urgent needs of refugee-hosting countries.** Following an expedited refugee protection assessment by UNHCR, the **Republic of Moldova** was added as a benefiting country to the Facility in May 2022.

**Overall, the majority of GCFF financing has gone to responding to the Syrian refugee crisis, through both the Jordan/Lebanon window (US\$286.15 million) and the individual Jordan (US\$271.35 million) and Lebanon (US\$36.96 million) windows.**

Both countries are strong examples of having established effective coordination mechanisms (thematic and geographical), especially through the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)<sup>33</sup> in support of the GCFF’s projects, which have allowed for knowledge-sharing and coordination with UNHCR and other UN agencies.

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<sup>33</sup> The 3RP is co-led by UNDP and UNHCR and includes 270 partners under one response to address the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on countries of the region, including Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, and Türkiye.



*A Syrian refugee has her child vaccinated at a center in Lebanon.*

## **EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL CONCESSIONAL FINANCING FACILITY**

**B**etween August 2020 and April 2021, an independent evaluation of the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) concluded that it remains highly relevant to the needs of benefitting countries and to those of refugees. Amongst other outcomes of the evaluation, the report recommended a strengthened role of UNHCR both through in-country collaboration and by benefitting from UNHCR's refugee protection expertise. In December 2021, the GCFF Steering Committee endorsed the decision to adopt Refugee Policy and Protection Reviews, which are forward-leaning analyses developed by UNHCR to inform decisions on the eligibility of new benefitting countries joining the GCFF and provide periodic reviews for existing benefitting countries.



*A Venezuelan family granted regular status in Ecuador.  
Photo: IOM/Gema Cortés*

### **THIRD INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY FINANCING IN ECUADOR**

The Third Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing supported the creation of a humanitarian visa to regularize the status of Venezuelans in Ecuador. This visa granted multiple entries in and from the country and the right to work during a two-year period. The development policy financing supported Ecuador in proactively managing the integration of large inflows of Venezuelan migrants, providing a legal and strategic framework that clarified roles and responsibilities across the government for refugee and migrant integration. The final number of visas issued was 37 percent higher than the original target. The process was aided by partnerships with UNHCR and IOM.

**In these countries, members of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT), principally Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and IOM,** have been collaborating with the WBG and donors from the GCFF, mainly focusing on analyzing normative questions related to the regularization of refugees and migrants, which is one of the basic conditions for obtaining financing via the GCFF. There have also been consultations related to the conditionalities and goals of the funding operations.

### ***WB-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement***

**The JDC, a UNHCR-WBG initiative that seeks to improve the availability and accessibility of high-quality socioeconomic data and evidence on affected populations,** currently supports around 55 activities through global initiatives in 30 countries hosting the majority of the world's displaced. The JDC continues to strengthen systems and standards of forced displacement data by substantively and financially contributing to the development of statistical standards on refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people, including through the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced, and Statelessness Statistics. At country level, it provides technical and financial support to produce data and

analysis, in collaboration with national statistical offices, WBG and UNHCR teams, and other key stakeholders.

**As the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on the global economy, the forcibly displaced were among the most vulnerable to its effects.** The JDC sought socioeconomic data on how these populations—and their host communities—were impacted directly, and to assess COVID-19 mitigation measures. This work was done by extending high frequency phone surveys carried out by the WBG in several countries (including **Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Yemen**) to also include those forcibly displaced. More than 100,000 interviews conducted with displaced households revealed that the socioeconomic well-being of forcibly displaced and host populations deteriorated in most countries during COVID-19, and that those displaced were in many instances faring worse than their hosts. Based on this data, the JDC report *Answering the Call: Forcibly Displaced During the Pandemic*, describes the situation that forcibly displaced people experienced in terms of health access, education, wages and employment, non-labor income, and food security. This data is supporting the response to these populations' needs and plans for pandemic recovery.

**In Chad, following the government's request for WBG and UNHCR support on transitioning from**

**humanitarian relief to a longer-term development and integration plan of refugees,** the JDC collaborated on a study with the WBG on the socioeconomic situation of refugee and host communities, *Refugees in Chad: The Road Forward*. It is based on the national statistical office including refugees in their 2018–19 household survey and offers tangible recommendations for integrating development and humanitarian interventions to better address the situation of the 500,000 refugees and the Chadian population, which faces similar challenges. These results are used for targeting the WBG's social protection program, which is also aimed at helping refugees.

**In Colombia, the JDC supported the WBG's collaboration with the government to establish the *Pulso de la Migración*,** a survey that gathers precise information on the Venezuelan population in Colombia and the ways they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Complementing the country's national flagship surveys, findings from the first and second rounds of the *Pulso* were presented at a high-level meeting in 2021 that was headlined by the Colombian Vice President, the Foreign Affairs Minister, and the Director General of the Colombian Department of Statistics.

**In Pakistan, the JDC is supporting the implementation of pilot surveys which will form**

**the basis of the Forced Displacement Survey.** This will be a statistically representative survey of refugees residing in the country and the results will be made immediately usable for programming, policy, and advocacy.

**The JDC has also enhanced responsible data access by supporting the creation of the *UNHCR Microdata Library* making more than 500 datasets publicly available to date.** In January 2022, the Center held its *Second Research Conference on Forced Displacement*. Over three days, some 500 researchers and practitioners discussed the latest findings in the field, building evidence and sharing knowledge about forced displacement. The event drew attention to important findings that have direct relevance to policymakers, WBG and UNHCR operations, and beyond. Discussions also helped identify areas and topics of persistent evidence gaps such as on internal displacement, the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa (the Sahel, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan) as well as children in forced displacement.

**In addition to helping mobilize urgently needed resources to assist affected displaced and host communities,** analytical work supported under the JDC has helped to target existing resources *where* they are needed most and with a deeper understanding of *how* they can be employed to greatest effect.

## ***Country-Level and Technical Collaboration Examples***

### **Uganda**

**With over 1.6 million refugees in the country, Uganda is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa and the third largest in the world.** The country has one of the most progressive refugee management policies in Africa and the refugee response and protection are integrated into its National Development Plans (NDPs) and local District Development Plans. Uganda developed a National Action Plan to strengthen the application of the Global Compact on Refugees. The NAP's key objectives are to bridge humanitarian and development approaches in a coordinated, harmonized, and cohesive manner to address the longer-term needs of both refugees and host communities; promote the resilience and self-reliance of the entire population of Uganda's refugee hosting areas; and expand durable solutions.

**The majority of refugees in the country (94 percent) live in settlements alongside the local community and the pressures on water resources and infrastructure from the large inflow of refugees over the years has been high.** The longstanding model of water and sanitation service provision in refugee settlements

in Uganda follows a largely humanitarian approach. It has been fragmented, siloed, and unstable due to institutional and financing gaps and dependent on ongoing external support. These siloed water systems resulted in substandard work with functionality issues stemming from noncompliance with sector standards for infrastructure development, with flaws fixed later in the response. Additionally, these systems were implemented separately from national water services, with no coordination or oversight from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and District Water Offices.

**To address the service provision gaps in the refugee settlements, the government, with the support of UNHCR and the WBG,** began a groundbreaking reform process to improve the quality and sustainability of water service provision in refugee-hosting areas through a paradigm shift that integrates humanitarian and development approaches to strengthen the long-term sustainability of water services. To implement the new policies and operationalize the government-led sector response plans, the government reviewed the institutional landscape across agencies and realigned the organizational structures to effectively support the integration efforts. The reform process greatly strengthened the role of the MWE in policy formulation and provision of water and sanitation services. UNHCR

and the WBG supported the government to carry out these water reforms through harmonized development and humanitarian interventions. The technical and financial engagements from the WBG and UNHCR over the last three years have supported the government to transfer water service provision for refugees into national systems. The engagements facilitated effective platforms for dialogue, aid coordination, and outreach, bringing together local and national government counterparts and international partners to discuss and share knowledge on WSS sector development, water service provision reform strategies, transition programming, and financing. The knowledge generated from these engagements informed the analysis and recommendations that have been adapted by partners to advance the system transfer.

### Colombia

**According to the Colombian government, Colombia hosted almost 2.5 million Venezuelans in July 2022.** Recognizing that properly managed migration is a development opportunity, since 2015 Colombia has maintained open policies for the social and economic integration of Venezuelan migrants. These efforts include: (i) issuing work, transit, and stay permits; (ii) extending access to health, education, and social programs and housing subsidies; (iii) investing to benefit

both host and migrant communities; and (iv) protecting vulnerable populations through programs to reunify families, protect children, and prevent human trafficking.

**Working in partnership across UN and other multilateral development banks (including the Inter-American Development Bank),** the WBG has supported the Colombian government through a combination of financing, analysis, and partnership. The WBG has allocated US\$1.6 billion to support Colombia's response to the Venezuelan migration crisis and developed lending operations which supported regularization and integration as well as sectoral investments in health and housing.

**In preparing those transactions, UNHCR and the WBG worked jointly to promote the extension of the GCFF to Colombia (UNHCR provided information and logistical support during the 2018 WBG impact study that finally led to the Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social (CONPES) document Strategy for the Attention of Migration from Venezuela and Colombia's acceptance into the GCFF),** making it the first country outside the Middle East to access this fund. The GCFF provides concessional financing for projects to support migrant and host communities. UNHCR provided a country analysis and spoke at various



gatherings in support of membership. In the lead-up to the Temporary Statute for the Protection of Venezuelan Migrants (TSPV), UNHCR provided support and relevant information on the refugee context in Colombia to the GCFF steering committee, as requested by its members. Within Colombia, UNHR supported logistics (including for Temporary Protection Status (TPS) online and in-person registration), enhanced protection monitoring (including identifying and removing barriers to access the TPS) and promoted community engagement and communication with Venezuelan and host communities.

**For broader WBG-UN engagement in this area, the *Analysis of Impacts of Venezuelan Migration in Colombia* was produced in close partnership with UNHCR and the IOM.** Responding to the Venezuelan migration crisis in Colombia has included activities on antidiscrimination and xenophobia coordinated with several UN agencies, humanitarian partners, and civil society groups. Finally, the project *SPF Colombia: COVID-19 Response for Migrants from Venezuela and Host Communities* is being implemented by the World Food Program (WFP). This effectively supported targeted cash transfers to vulnerable migrants, allowing them to access food or other essential needs they identified as a priority, while promoting interventions that reduce tensions and increase social cohesion with host communities.

## Republic of Moldova

**The inclusion of the Republic of Moldova in the GCFF in June 2022, and the WBG's subsequent support to a Development Policy Operation (DPO), set an important precedent in GCFF operations by supporting frontline countries from the onset of a refugee crisis.** Prior to the significant influx of Ukrainian refugees, Moldova faced pressure on its health services due to the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to the energy crisis. As a consequence, national services have been severely impacted and require support now and over the longer term. The added value of GCFF support to Moldova demonstrates the opportunity for development financing to reach the government early on. As requested, and to support Moldova's eligibility for the program, UNHCR provided regular updates on the evolving refugee context as well as an expedited analysis on Moldova's refugee policy environment. UNHCR and UNDP, especially in the framework of the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group (Refugee Coordination Forum), are also analyzing medium- to longer-term opportunities and challenges for host communities and refugees, in coordination with the Government of Moldova, which will be considered as advisory inputs to the financing decisions taken by the members.



*A group of Somali women stand near a water point in Dayniile.*



# Food Security

**Even before the onset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, global food commodity prices were at a 10-year high due to the lingering socioeconomic effects of COVID-19.** The impact of the war further worsened an already deteriorating situation. Across the world, rising food prices and overall inflation have exacerbated food security conditions, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries, while elevated prices of agricultural inputs could limit their use and lead to lower yields in 2023.

**Food insecurity has therefore further intensified in already fragile contexts, compounded by protracted conflicts and weather extremes.**

A record 345 million people across 82 countries are

facing acute food insecurity—up from 282 million at the end of 2021, according to the WFP (Anthem 2022). The multi partners' Global Report on Food Crises Mid-Year Update and the FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report project acute food insecurity will affect 222 million people in 53 countries, and around 45 million people are projected to have so little to eat that they will be severely malnourished, at risk of death or already facing starvation and death. This includes nearly one million people projected to face catastrophic conditions, if no action is taken (FAO and WFP 2022; FSIN and GNAFC 2022b). Globally, at least 13.6 million children under the age of 5 suffer from severe wasting, which is responsible for 1 in 5 deaths among children under age 5, making it

one of the top threats to child survival (UNICEF 2022). Some countries introduced a growing number of food trade restrictions to respond to potential food shortages domestically, yet such controls complicate global efforts to address food insecurity. By October 2022, 20 countries had implemented 25 food export bans, and eight had implemented 12 export-limiting measures.<sup>34</sup> The food crisis has worsened because of high fertilizer costs driven by a spike in natural gas prices and indirect impacts of financial sanctions, as the UN Secretary-General said in remarks to the G20 (UN 2022b). Moreover, climate change is structurally affecting agriculture productivity in many countries.

**Crisis-affected countries are particularly vulnerable as fragility, violence, and conflict are considered key drivers of acute food insecurity.** Sixteen of the 24 WFP-FAO hotspot countries with the most people experiencing acute food insecurity are on the WBG FY23 Fragile and Conflict-affected States (FCS) list. Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen are in the highest alert category because they all have populations facing critical food insecurity and/or starvation.

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<sup>34</sup> As of June 30, 2022, and based on the WTO, Global Trade Alert and WBG monitoring of trade policy changes since February 2022. Also see Glauber et al. (2022).

**Throughout the reporting period, collaboration on food security between the UN and WBG was reported in more than 20 countries, ranging from Afghanistan to Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Haiti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen,** with work centering around food assistance and nutrition support, increased local food production, improved storage capacity and livestock, data collection, early warning, locust response, provision of integrated safety nets, and cash programming.

**The WBG and UN are collaborating to respond to the crisis by addressing the compounding risks that threaten food security, livelihoods, and long-term development prospects.** In some of the most food insecure countries, the WBG and WFP are amongst the largest sources of financing, providing a combination of humanitarian assistance and a complementary blend of short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. In addition, FAO's response to the food insecurity crisis focuses on enhancing local food production and supporting livelihoods by providing emergency agricultural assistance from the onset of a crisis to enable people to produce food and earn an income. In March 2022, the WBG announced actions as part of a comprehensive global response to the ongoing food security crisis,

earmarking up to US\$30 billion for existing and new projects in areas such as agriculture, nutrition, social protection, water, and irrigation. This financing includes efforts to encourage food and fertilizer production, enhance food systems, facilitate greater trade, and support vulnerable households and producers. In 2022, the heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), FAO, WBG, WFP, and World Trade Organization (WTO) issued several joint statements on the global food security crisis, calling for urgent action and highlighting how these institutions are working together to support governments as they navigate difficult policy choices and trade-offs (IMF 2022).

**The WBG’s collaboration with the United Nations on food and nutrition security has led to the establishment of the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS).** This initiative was launched in Berlin, Germany, on May 19, 2022, during the Group of Seven (G7) Development Ministers Meeting as a way to address the emerging global food security and nutrition crisis exacerbated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. GAFS is jointly convened by the WBG and the German G7 Presidency with active engagement and support from humanitarian and development partners, regional organizations, and governments. The objective of GAFS is to catalyze an agile, immediate, and coordinated response

to the unfolding global food and nutrition security crisis as an act of solidarity in support of those most affected.

**As part of the GAFS, the WBG is supporting countries as they develop and operationalize Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plans (FSCPPs).**

These national operational plans will define what constitutes a major food and nutrition security crisis for a country, explain how crisis risks are actively monitored and identified, and detail step-by-step protocols, roles, and timelines for mobilizing additional funding and scaled up early action. GAFS—in close collaboration with the Global Network Against Food Crises, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator—will support the rollout of the FSCPPs in 26 countries. Additionally, GAFS will provide an efficient way to bring FSCPPs into a centralized platform to “live track” FSCPP activation status as part of its dashboard. The Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard was launched by GAFS in November 2022 to fast track a rapid response to the unfolding global food security crisis. It is designed to consolidate and present up-to-date data on food crisis severity, track global food security financing, and make global and country-level research and analysis available to improve policy coordination and financial response to the crisis.



*Farmers work on their farm outside Baidoa (Somalia).*

## **AN EARLY GLIMPSE OF FSCPP COLLABORATIONS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL: SOMALIA**

**A**cute food insecurity in Somalia has been dire and protected. As of December 2022, 5.6 million people were estimated to be in crisis, and an additional 3 million people were estimated to be in stressed conditions. In response to worsening circumstances, the Government of Somalia—in collaboration with the WBG as part of the GAFS and in close collaboration with the GNAFC, FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator—is developing its national FSCPP.

In January 2023, following several months of bilateral consultations, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGOS) held a technical consultation workshop to review the working draft of the plan, help refine its proposed arrangements, and build consensus on next steps and the timeline for its operationalization.

Stakeholder consultations would follow to further refine and detail the plan's operational arrangements. The plan is expected to be completed in September 2023, following formal endorsement by the FGOS and other food and nutrition security partners leading programmatic responses in the country.

**In Afghanistan, following the August 2021 collapse of its internationally recognized government, the WBG and UN agencies partnered to address rising food insecurity.**

The ARTF provided US\$180 million in grants to WFP to distribute food to the most vulnerable populations (World Bank 2021). Such efforts resulted in a scale-up of food assistance to 7.3 million food-insecure people, including people in areas affected by the drought. Moreover, WFP sought to provide food and nutrition support to more than 23 million people in 2022. During the reporting period, the WBG and FAO also worked together during the technical design phase of the WBG-financed project *Emergency Agriculture and Food Supply Project*. In addition, the WBG and FAO worked together to ensure synergies in programs, particularly in seed distribution to farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**In Burkina Faso, the government led the implementation of a US\$100 million WBG-financed Burkina Faso Emergency Recurrent Cost Financing**

**Project through the WFP** to replenish the national food security stock, improve storage capacity, and set up a digitalized stock management system for the national food security agency (SONAGESS). A WBG-funded US\$78.90 million *Burkina Faso Livestock Support Project* is also implemented through FAO, providing recovery support to 3,500 livestock keepers affected by COVID-19.

**In Somalia and Sudan, UN-WBG collaboration focused on shock-responsive interventions to support food security during the 2022 drought, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a desert locust infestation.**

In the case of Somalia, WBG funding enabled the government to use the WFP to provide regular cash transfers to vulnerable households in 21 districts as well as the rapid enrollment of shock-affected households across the country. To strengthen the development of a national shock-responsive safety net system, the WBG has also partnered with UNICEF. Within the WBG's drought response program, FAO is implementing cash-for-work activities by providing cash to meet immediate food and other basic needs while supporting livelihoods to reduce high levels of food insecurity in severely drought-affected rural areas. In addition, FAO is engaging households in rehabilitating communally owned infrastructure in rural areas to improve water management along rivers.

**As part of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, the UN-WBG joint efforts continued to focus on supporting affected populations in several countries, such as Chad and Haiti.** In **Chad**, two WBG-funded projects are benefitting from FAO support: the *Climate Resilience Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project* and the *Chad Rural Mobility and*

*Connectivity Project.* Through US\$30 million in financing, WFP enrolled 430,000 people for food distribution and FAO supported 20,000 smallholder farmers with seeds and equipment. The WBG is currently supporting the Government of Chad to prepare a response to the ongoing food security crisis through the IDA19 Crisis Response Window. In **Haiti**, the WBG, WFP, and the *Ministère de l'intérieur et des Collectivités Territoriales* (MICT) worked together to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable households affected by the pandemic crisis, reaching more than 220,000 people in 11 communities.

**The WBG and the UN (UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, UNHCR) are also conducting joint analyses and missions to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian and development responses.**

For example, in **South Sudan**, under the WBG-financed US\$62.5 million *South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project*, FAO serves as an implementing partner for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to improve food availability through increased investment in seed production, farmer capacity building, and the promotion of mechanization in agriculture, directly benefitting an estimated 140,000 farmers. Separately, WFP also provided an integrated package of health and nutrition services to refugees and host communities.

In addition, FAO and UNOPS serve as implementing partners for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security under the WBG-financed US\$53.7 million *South Sudan Emergency Locust Response Project*, addressing the impact of the desert locust invasion. The WBG and FAO also jointly undertook a study titled "Transforming Agriculture: From Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path" to identify priority investments that would enable the transformation of the agri-food sector from humanitarian dependence toward a long-term development path.

**In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the WBG, WFP, FAO, and UNICEF have partnered to implement a US\$50 million IDA CRW-ERF health and nutrition program to address food insecurity in the Kasais.** In addition, under the US\$502 million *Multisectoral Health and Nutrition Project*, the WBG, FAO, and UNICEF support nutrition outcomes in four provinces: Kwilu, Kasai Central, Kasai, and Sud Kivu.

### ***Country-Level Collaboration Examples***

#### **Support for Smallholder Farmers in Afghanistan**

**Some 19.7 million people—almost half of Afghanistan's population—are facing acute**



**hunger, meaning they are unable to feed themselves on a daily basis, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis released in May 2022 by Food Security and Agriculture Cluster partners, including FAO, WFP, and many NGOs.** High levels of acute food insecurity persist across Afghanistan due to a combination of a collapsing economy and continuing drought. The ripple effects from Russia's invasion of Ukraine are exacerbating the food security situation, pushing food prices to new highs, increasing the costs of vital agricultural inputs, especially fertilizer, and placing pressure on countries in the region supplying wheat to Afghanistan to restrict food exports, giving priority to their respective domestic markets.

**Under approach paper 2.0, the WBG has financed projects under the ARTF which are being implemented by UNOPS, UNICEF, and FAO.**

This includes the *Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project*, which is aimed at providing short-term livelihood opportunities and delivering urgent essential services in rural and urban areas. It also includes the *Health Emergency Response Project*, and the US\$195 million *Emergency Food Security Project* approved by the WBG to provide urgent and essential

livelihood and health services as well as food assistance to the people of Afghanistan. This project will boost the production of food crops for smallholder Afghan farmers and prevent further deterioration of food security through FAO support throughout 2023.

### **Enhancing Yemen's Capacity to Respond to Food Insecurity**

**In Yemen, FAO, UNDP, and WFP are implementing a US\$127 million WBG-financed project to fight the spread of extreme hunger.** The project focuses on delivering immediate support to households through cash-for-work opportunities and the provision of nutritious food products to vulnerable households. It also builds the longer-term resilience of Yemeni households by supporting the restoration of agricultural production and value chain-building activities to increase the sales of nutritious crops, livestock, and fish products.

### **Humanitarian needs in Yemen continue to rise.**

The country is reeling from the impacts of more than eight years of incessant conflict and economic disruptions that have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, severe rain and floods, drought, and desert locusts. Yemen's protracted conflict and deteriorating economic conditions have driven high levels of food

insecurity, with an estimated 19 million people in need of assistance at the end of the reporting period in June 2022, representing about 60 percent of the population. Moreover, the economic impacts from Russia's invasion of Ukraine have exacerbated food security concerns in the country. Currently, around 17 million Yemenis are estimated to face crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) according to the latest IPC analysis. Between August 2021 and August 2022, the price of the minimum food basket increased by 65 percent in the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG)-controlled areas and 31 percent in the Houthis-controlled areas, according to the WFP Monthly Food Security Update released in September 2022.

**Agriculture remains Yemen's most important economic sector but has been severely damaged by the effects of ongoing conflicts and disease, which have limited livelihood opportunities.**

The country is heavily dependent on commercial imports to satisfy its domestic consumption requirements for wheat, the main staple, while food assistance remains a main food source for more than one-third of families. Currently, the country's agricultural sector only supplies approximately 15–20 percent of its food needs due to limited agricultural land and water resources,

contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and poor agricultural practices compounded by years of war, high fuel prices, and water scarcity.

**Other WBG-financed operations in the country implemented through FAO include the *Desert Locust Response Project (DLRP)***, focused on desert locust survey and control operations, livelihood protection and rehabilitation activities, and establishment of an early response system, as well as the *Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP)*, with a wide range of activities that have improved agriculture production among the crisis-affected population.

**Stepping Up the Fight against Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Central African Republic**

**In June 2021, the WBG approved a US\$50 million grant from the IDA Crisis Response Window to boost food production and enhance the resilience of food-insecure smallholders and households through the *Central African Republic Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (EFCRP)***. The project aims to stabilize and improve resilience while addressing the underlying drivers of fragility in CAR. It is expected to benefit over 60,000 households, representing

approximately 420,000 beneficiaries, in Bangui and six districts (Nana-Gribizi, Ouham, Ouaka, Basse Kotto, Haute Kotto, and Mambéré-Kadeï).

**Under this initiative, FAO closely collaborated with local communities to enhance agricultural productivity, household nutrition, and small-scale agriculture infrastructure.** Concurrently, the WFP played a crucial role by providing essential food baskets, educating farmers on post-harvest management, and facilitating market connectivity for vulnerable households. The emergency support aims to increase food production, break the cycle of food aid dependence, and prioritize nutrition and access to healthy foods, especially for vulnerable farmers, including women. By 2022, the project had already provided support to 329,000 farmers, 51 percent of whom were women, with agricultural inputs, equipment, and training to boost agricultural production and food availability.

**As of 2023, the country's food insecurity situation had worsened, with over 52 percent of the population undernourished, and global food shortages and rising fuel and import costs exacerbating the crisis.**

The influx of Sudanese refugees to CAR further increased humanitarian needs and aggravated the already alarming food security situation.

**In response to this critical context, additional financing for the PRUCAC project was approved on June 20, 2023, by the WBG, amounting to US\$50 million.** This funding aims to extend the project's activities, involve more producers in agricultural activities, and strengthen the resilience of affected populations.<sup>35</sup>

**The WBG, UN, and other international partners must strengthen efforts to anticipate and act to address the key drivers of acute food insecurity and mitigate the severe consequences for the affected populations, including those in food stress.** Although the WBG, the UN, and other international partners have stepped up to calls for urgent famine mitigation action during the reporting period, global humanitarian and development funding for food crises is failing to match growing needs. More than ever, the situation calls for at-scale action, particularly in fragile and crisis contexts where development solutions can

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<sup>35</sup> The additional financing will extend the project's duration until September 30, 2026, instead of September 30, 2024, and expand its reach to three new prefectures: Lobaye, Sangha Mberé, and Mboumou. It will support the agricultural sector in CAR by promoting agricultural product distribution, improving household nutrition, enhancing agricultural market connectivity, and rehabilitating small-scale agriculture infrastructure. Approximately 700,000 small farmers and food-insecure individuals will benefit from these interventions.

positively impact the long-term consequences of food insecurity. The heads of the FAO, IMF, WBG, WFP, and WTO called for urgent action in four key areas: (i) providing immediate support to the vulnerable; (ii) facilitating trade and international supply of food; (iii) boosting production; and (iv) investing in climate-resilient agriculture.

**Demand for well-targeted safety nets, delivered effectively and in a timely manner, will continue to increase.** Cash transfers have proven extremely helpful, but some countries could leverage them more expansively and efficiently. The WBG and UN are well placed to address these requests, codevelop solutions, and jointly support governments through short- and medium-term investments to build national systems to allow for ownership and sustainability.

**Strengthening the resilience of food systems through risk-driven whole-of-system approaches that take into account conflict, extreme weather**

**events, economic shocks, and diseases is key for the longer-term response.** Promoting the production of nutritious foods and repurposing the US\$639 billion support per year provided to agriculture by governments can transform food systems and improve food security and nutrition. Preserving open trade in food, agriculture, and energy can reduce price distortions that dilute incentives for efficient production. Interventions in food systems can help by strengthening governance and institutional capacity; preventing and responding to food crises; creating jobs through agribusiness development; and reducing conflict risk and environmental fragility. Addressing both infrastructure bottlenecks and input supply bottlenecks (e.g., fertilizers and seeds) are critical to an efficient food supply system. Effective and sustainable support to smallholder farmers will also be vital to ensure they are part of the solution and to localize supply chains. Deeper integration of markets can also help avoid price spikes of essential goods and drive economic diversification and job creation to build overall resilience.



# Partnership between Development and Peace and Security Actors

**The UN Security Council has encouraged closer cooperation between UN peace and security actors and development partners<sup>36</sup> just as the WBG has pointed to the deep interdependence of peace, security, and development (World Bank 2011).** The flagship report *Pathways for Peace* set out a shared understanding of prevention and peacebuilding that further demonstrated the need for alignment of peace and security, development, and diplomatic action over the long term. The report identified four factors that drive violent conflicts, including unaddressed grievances,

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<sup>36</sup> For example, SCR 2282 (20016) on sustaining peace and SCR 2594 (2021) on UN transitions, and several missions' mandate resolutions.

inequalities, exclusion, and lack of participation in decision-making. It also highlighted how complex and interwoven patterns of political, social, justice, and economic exclusion can undermine prevention and deepen dynamics of conflict. This chapter considers practical examples of such cooperation between the UN and WBG, looking particularly at cooperation between the WBG and the UN Security Council-mandated Special Political Missions and UN Peacekeeping Operations.

**It is worth noting that as a financial institution with a reconstruction and development mandate, any WBG involvement in humanitarian crises and emergencies is based on its comparative**

## WBG UPDATED POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND FRAGILITY, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE

In August 2021, the WBG's Executive Directors approved an updated Operational Policy on *Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence* (the "Updated FCV Policy"). The Updated FCV Policy replaces the previous Operational Policy 2.30 on *Development, Cooperation, and Conflict*, which over the past two decades has served the institution well in guiding post-conflict engagements along with all the applicable operational policies.

This policy update is an important milestone in operationalizing the WBG's *Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (2020–25)*. The Updated FCV Policy retains and elaborates on OP 2.30's key principles for Bank engagement in FCV situations and reflects the evolution of the Bank's operational practice, the evolving practice of risk identification and mitigation, the latest knowledge, and changing client needs. It clarifies the parameters for how the Bank operates in humanitarian crises, in refugee and forced displacement situations, and when dealing with security and military actors in insecure environments and situations that most frequently take place in FCV settings. It therefore completes the framework for the Bank's operations across a range of FCV situations. The updated policy acknowledges the importance of cooperation and partnerships "particularly with international and regional institutions, notably the United Nations, that have distinct, but complementary, responsibilities for peacemaking, peacekeeping and security, humanitarian assistance, and reconstruction and development."

The Updated FCV Policy is accompanied by a nonbinding Vision Statement that sets out the Bank's aspirations in addressing FCV challenges through understanding the drivers of fragility and sources of resilience.



Students in a classroom in Timor-Leste

**advantage, motivated by a robust development rationale**, and focuses on sustained and long-term engagement in support of national systems, strengthening core state functions, and building institutional resilience and capacity.<sup>37</sup> In responding to crises and emergencies, the WBG acts consistently with its Articles, including the political prohibition, and applicable principles and standards. While acting consistently with its legal and policy framework, the WBG may support certain activities where there is a demonstrated linkage between relief, recovery, and development efforts and in complementarity and partnership with the UN, other donors, or international or national humanitarian agencies as the case may be. In such situations, the WBG's focus is on helping affected countries preserve human capital and key economic and social institutions and on mitigating medium-term development impacts.

**During the reporting period, institutional collaboration between the WBG and UN Special Political Missions has taken place in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian territories, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen through different modalities** (see page 58).

<sup>37</sup> Paragraph 8 of the WBG's Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence.

**In Yemen and Libya, the WBG has contributed to UN efforts to achieve a settlement by focusing on economic issues. In Yemen, where the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESFY)** initiated a round of structured in-depth consultations with stakeholders to launch an inclusive multitrack peace process, the WBG's Country Office provides technical advisory support on the economic track. The WBG chairs the Economic Working Group that facilitates sharing and coordination of economic analysis on pressing economic issues to support the Office of the Special Envoy. OSESFY also takes part in other similar WBG-led fora, including regular Development Partners Meetings, that aim to inform and coordinate economic policy actions. In addition, joint monitoring and mitigation of risks occur through dedicated regular joint technical meetings. In this regard, the WBG and UNICEF follow a joint risk matrix to monitor and report on potential risks of ongoing projects in Yemen.

**Another example of collaboration around the economic track of a peace process is Libya, facilitated by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).** The WBG and UNSMIL have conducted joint work on energy security, water sustainability, subsidy reform and decentralization in support of the intra-Libyan

## SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

Special Political Missions are conducted to promote conflict prevention, peacemaking, and post-conflict peacebuilding around the world. These field operations include country-specific missions and regional offices. They are headed by senior representatives of the UN Secretary-General and provide a forward platform for preventive diplomacy and other activities across a range of disciplines, helping prevent and resolve conflict and supporting complex political transitions, in coordination with national actors and UN development and humanitarian entities on the ground. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) also provides guidance and support to traveling envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General who bring his good offices to bear in the service of conflict resolution or the implementation of other UN mandates.

*Source:* DPPA Around the World (database), United Nations, New York, <https://dppa.un.org/en/dppa-around-world>.

## UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

There are currently 12 UN peacekeeping operations deployed on three continents to provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections; protect and promote human rights; and assist in restoring the rule of law.

*Source:* UN, n.d.

*Beni, North Kivu region, DRC*





economic dialogue track. A review of lessons learned about the economic track has fed into the WBG's RRA for Libya. The WBG has also provided advice on economic reforms and the reunification of Libya's Central Bank in the context of the economic working group of the International Follow-up Committee on Libya, cochaired by Egypt, the United States, EU, and UN. Finally, the WBG provided advice to UNSMIL during preparations for the UN-facilitated audit of the two branches of the Central Bank of Libya, which was launched in July 2020, with final reports transmitted to Libyan authorities in July 2021.

**In Lebanon, in response to compounded crises, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) and the WBG's Country Office in Lebanon were able to benefit from each other's comparative advantage and harmonize policy recommendations on Lebanon's economic trajectory, political risks, and challenges.** As warning signs of an impending economic and financial crisis in Lebanon grew stronger, UNSCOL intensified its engagement with the WBG (as well as the IMF), both at the principal and working level. The Special Coordinator developed close relations with the resident WBG Regional Director to exchange information, share political and economic analysis, and align diplomatic

messaging to encourage the country's authorities to act decisively and in the best interest of the country to stave off a collapse. Given the intersection between politics and the economy, UNSCOL's focus on political stability (e.g., timely elections, government formations) and strengthening of state institutions was complemented with the promotion of economic, financial, and good governance/anti-corruption and sectoral reforms, particularly in the electricity sector. The UN benefitted from the WBG's regular, in-depth macro-economic analyses and briefings to strengthen its understanding of Lebanon's economic trajectory risk, challenges, and formulate policy recommendations, which was especially fruitful as the crisis deepened in 2021–22. UNSCOL leveraged the International Support Group for Lebanon to highlight the economic and financial deterioration, build international consensus, and align messaging to urge action by the Lebanese authorities.

The Special Coordinator regularly engages with the Director of the World Bank office in Jerusalem. Additionally, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) collaborates with the World Bank's Country Office in the West Bank and Gaza. These regular meetings aim to foster a shared understanding of challenges faced by the Palestinian Authority, including fiscal

and institutional capacities. The discussions also address broader issues concerning the Palestinian economy and development trajectory. This coordinated effort ensures alignment and complementarity in various aspects, such as UNSCO's reports to the Security Council and the joint semi-annual reports to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. This committee serves as the primary international donor and partner forum, involving collaboration with the International Monetary Fund and the Office of the Quartet. The unified approach informs advocacy, technical assistance, and program design by both the UNCT and World Bank. Examples of collaborative initiatives include the World Bank's Public Financial Management Improvement Project, critical health and social protection sector reforms to address the impacts of the Palestinian Authority's fiscal crises, and joint support to the Local Aid Coordination Secretariat. UNSCO is also involved in supporting the Gaza fishing sector and improving access to Gaza, including assistance for World Bank projects in the health sector.

**In Somalia, the two Security Council mandated missions—the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and the United Nations Assistance Office in Somalia (UNSOM)—and the WBG work closely with the government** on intergovernmental exchange between Federal Member

States (FMS) and the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The partnership has been particularly effective in continuing joint advocacy to sustain the reform momentum, including in the context of the political transition.

**In Afghanistan, critical assistance on basic services and basic needs resumed in 2022 after having been suspended, and this support is provided through third parties (UN agencies, funds and programmes and INGOs) and outside the control of the Interim Taliban Administration.**

The aid coordination system was reconfigured and no longer includes government representatives. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the WBG have collaborated closely on the banking and liquidity crisis through the Financial Sector Working Group led by the WBG. OCHA played a key role in unfreezing hard currency assets and in jointly with the World Bank developed the idea of a Humanitarian Exchange Facility to allow for international financial transactions and to provide liquidity to the domestic banking sector.

**Collaboration in peacekeeping contexts includes Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali, and South Sudan.** In CAR, the *Accord Politique pour la Paix et la Réconciliation en RCA* signed in February 2019 between the CAR government

and 14 armed groups provides the framework for UN-WBG partnership as the parties agreed to undertake the necessary advocacy for its implementation with international partners to mobilize political, security, financial, and technical support. The Security Council welcomed collaboration between MINUSCA and the WBG in several Resolutions.<sup>38</sup> MINUSCA, in collaboration with partners, supports the extension of state authority, the deployment of security forces, and the preservation of territorial integrity. The WBG is the main partner of MINUSCA to support the reintegration phase of the national DDR program through the IDA-funded *Programme de réintégration socio-économique des ex-combattants (PREC)*. MINUSCA facilitates monthly meetings of the coordination mechanism on the socioeconomic reintegration of ex-combatants with participation from the WBG and the PREC implementing partners, IOM and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). To date, 2,819 ex-combatants have benefited from the PREC in different parts of the country.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>37</sup> UN Security Council, Resolution 2552, S/RES/2552 (November 12, 2020); UN Security Council, Resolution 2566, S/RES/2566 (March 12, 2021); UN Security Council, Resolution 2605, S/RES/2605 (November 12, 2021).

<sup>38</sup> The WBG engagement in these areas is guided by paragraph 15 of the Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence, which bars the WBG from financing arms, weapons, military equipment, infrastructure, and disarming combatants.

**In DRC, MONUSCO has begun the process of withdrawing from two provinces, the Kasais in July 2021 and Tanganyika in July 2022.** MONUSCO maintains physical presences in Kinshasa and North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces. ).In parallel to the withdrawal, the United Nations, with the support of the WBG, has begun to strengthen the presence and role of its agencies, funds, and programs, with the objective to carry out both humanitarian and development actions to support recovery efforts. MONUSCO's transition is taking place in a context characterized by complex political dynamics and protracted human rights, humanitarian, development, and peace and security challenges, which are likely to persist beyond the departure of the Mission. MONUSCO's mandate renewal in December 2022 (UNSC Resolution 2666) placed importance on a conditions-based approach to transition (end state as opposed to an end date). A coordinated approach between the Mission, UN agencies, and development actors (bilateral, regional, and multilateral) is critical to sustain peace. MONUSCO and the WBG are working together to ensure that the Transition Plan, which was agreed between the UN and the government and published in the Secretary-General's Report to the Security Council in September 2021 (UN Security Council 2021), is aligned with the appropriate milestones

in the government's National Conflict Prevention Strategy and the WBG's PRA, including on governance, access to justice, stabilization, security, and socioeconomic issues.

**MONUSCO and the WBG, in close coordination with the UN Country Team and other bilateral and multilateral partners, provided advice and technical support to the *Programme de Démobilisation, Désarmement, Relèvement communautaire et Stabilisation*** established in July 2021 to develop a new national and provincial strategy inspired by the lessons learned from past DDR programs which are nested in an overall national vision of stabilization and sustainable development. Delivering on its DDR mandate, MONUSCO, including the **Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO)**, more precisely the, continued supporting the vetting and training of members of the security forces who provide security for WBG projects in the DRC on international humanitarian law. In 2022, the JHRO supported the WBG, in its effort to align the indicators with those of the MONUSCO Transition Strategy and Plan. The WBG regularly consults the JHRO in the process of determination baseline sexual violence and data analysis to guide their engagement with the government. In February 2023, a joint UN-WBG Senior Leadership visit to the DRC was conducted with

the aim of ensuring integrated support to DDR and stabilization initiatives and greater alignment with the government's peacebuilding and development priorities.

**The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the WBG collaborate on data exchange and analysis in the context of mapping risks and conflict drivers.** In February 2022, UNMISS field staff provided a series of briefings to WBG staff on conflict dynamics across a host of key FCV-affected localities, while UNHCR, IOM, and WFP facilitated WBG visits to and consultations with key local stakeholders in Yei, Pibor, and Greater Tonj. These collaborations not only enriched the WBG's analysis for its subnational RRA completed in May 2022, but also helped deepen its shared understanding with the UN of FCV drivers at the subnational level. At a broader level, engagement with UNMISS and the UN country team is contributing to implementation of the WBG's current Country Engagement Note strategy, which seeks to support the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement and facilitate a transition from emergency, humanitarian support to a more sustainable, government-led development approach. Engagement with the UN will play a key role in informing the Bank's next South Sudan country strategy, set to be established during FY24.

**The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the WBG maintained strategic coordination in the context of political uncertainty, growing security challenges, and rising humanitarian and development needs.**

There have been regular exchanges between the UN and WBG leadership at the country level, including on the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, and efforts to address conflict risk and build resilience. Through the *Programme de Réinsertion socio-économique des Ex-Combattants*, including through Community Violence Reduction programmes that also aim to promote reconciliation, the WBG supports the implementation of the reintegration element of the DDR process in the context of the agreement.

**Community-based reintegration support to ex-combatants, as part of DDR processes, is strongly advocated in the revised IDDRS and at the center of the development-security-peace nexus.** Employment and access to basic services can contribute to peace by addressing the grievances that often arise from precarious work in exploitative conditions and that arise from inequities and unequal access to

development opportunities. Ex-combatants in many contexts have also consistently identified an alternative, sustainable livelihood and the ability to generate income as key factors in their successful reintegration.

**This new policy framework has allowed the UN and the WBG to further strengthen their long-standing engagement on issues related to DDR across Africa, including beyond countries hosting a UN mission.**

Using a tripartite approach, where the UN, WBG, and African Union bring their comparative advantages to bear, the African Union DDR Capacity Program includes capacity building, policy development, and training, as well as operational support to the African Union. Within this framework, initiated in 2012, the Department of Peace Operations, the WBG, and the Office of the UN at the African Union provide technical assistance to the African Union which in turn supports Member States, UN Regional Economic Communities, and Peace Support Operations in designing and implementing DDR initiatives. The current focus of the framework is to streamline DDR in the political processes and conflict resolution efforts across the continent, reinforce operational responses through technical and capacity support and to foster institutional capacity



The African Union, the United Nations, and the World Bank launched the 4th Phase of the Joint Collaborative Framework on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

## DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION, AND REINTEGRATION

The UN system and the WBG have been longstanding partners in DDR at the policy level through the WBG's inclusion in the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR established in 2005 with a mandate to develop a coherent UN approach to DDR<sup>1</sup>. The Working Group developed the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) which have been subject to updating and revision since were revised in 2019, reflecting a new UN approach to DDR, which comprises a blend of DDR-related prevention, peacebuilding, conflict-resolution, and development activities to create conducive conditions for DDR at national and community level. The new approach to DDR moves away from the linear, template approach to DDR programming as previously applied to a menu of options relevant for mission and non-mission settings (with or without formal peace accords).

## SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

In 2021, the United Nations and the WBG, under the guidance of the Department of Peace Operations' Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) with funding support from the UN Partnership Facility, initiated a program called "Advancing Policy Tools for Sustainable SSR" that aims to enhance the collective outcomes of partnerships in sustaining peace through building a common understanding of security sector-related risks, fragility, and conflict drivers. The program outputs include a set of policy and guidance notes to address these risks and foster resilience in FCV settings. The program complements the WBG project *Advancing the World Bank's Approach to the Security-Development*, which is funded by a grant of the State and Peacebuilding Fund. Together, these two initiatives aim to strengthen the collective outcomes of UN and WBG analyses, advisory services, and operational and programmatic assistance to UN Member States and IDA WBG countries for building strong, accountable, and effective security institutions—a key prerequisite for preventing violent conflict and fostering economic development.

building, currently focused on the prevention and response capabilities and early warning systems, knowledge management and cross-institutional learning. In the context of the UN-WBG-African Union tripartite approach, the UN undertakes disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration

efforts (including community violence reduction), while the WBG engages with national authorities on generating the conditions necessary for long-term and sustainable reintegration—with both entities providing strategic and technical assistance to national stakeholders.



*Women beneficiaries of the Community violence reduction project in Briä at the end of a training in food preparation organized by MINUSCA (Central African Republic, June 2022).*



*Girls attend a rehabilitated school in East Darfur, Sudan.  
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## **SUPPORT FOR CHILD REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS**

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC) launched the Global Coalition for Reintegration in 2018; an alliance of Member States, UN agencies, the WBG, civil society organizations, and academia, which is cochaired by OSRSG CAAC and UNICEF, and aims to introduce new ideas to sustainably address support for child reintegration programs. Additionally, OSRSG CAAC has been collaborating with the WBG in launching a child reintegration research initiative called the Financing Innovation Forum. This is part of ongoing efforts to help ensure that children, who leave armed groups and forces are provided with adequate, long-term, and sustainable care as they are reintegrated into their communities.





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*Women refugees from the Central African Republic  
break ground on a plot in Cameroon*







*Back cover image:*

*Children in the Village of Ambohimahatsinjo in Rural Madagascar.*

*Photo: Mohammad Al-Arief/World Bank*

