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USAID's Approach to Fragile States Programming in Africa

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New Thinking on Foreign Assistance

- National Security Strategy
 - Along with Diplomacy and Defense, Development Assistance is one of the three core components of foreign policy

- Joint USAID/State Strategic Plan
 - Achieve Peace and Security
 - Advance Sustainable Development and Global Interests

- Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid (White Paper) (January 2006)
 - Improve policy coherence and address issues of aid effectiveness
 - Identify, clarify, and distinguish among USAID's core strategic goals
 - Call for a clearer alignment of resources with each goal
 - Establish principles for strategic management to achieve results in terms of each goal

- USAID Fragile States Strategy
 - Reverse decline in fragile states and advance recovery to a stage where transformational development is possible



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The Policy Framework's 5 Core Goals

- Promote transformational development
- Strengthen fragile states
- Support strategic states
- Provide humanitarian relief
- Address global issues and other special, self-standing concerns



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Defining Fragile States

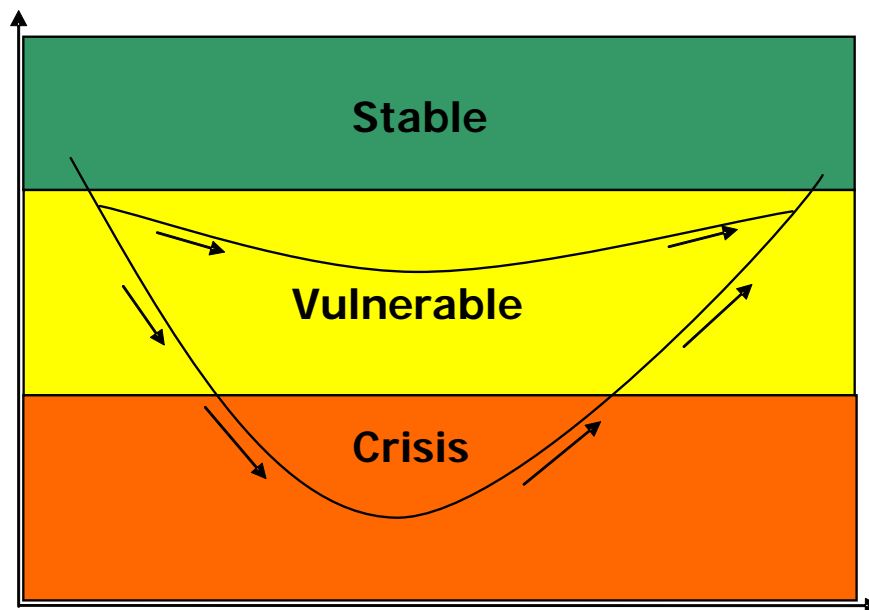
- Vulnerable states are those unable or unwilling to adequately assure the provision of security and basic services to significant portions of their populations and where the legitimacy of the government is in question. This includes states that are failing or recovering from crisis.
- Crisis states are those where the central government does not exert effective control over its own territory or is unable or unwilling to assure the provision of vital services to significant parts of its territory, where legitimacy of the government is weak or nonexistent, and where violent conflict is a reality or a great risk.



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Defining Fragile States - Continued

- Fragile states can be vulnerable to crisis, in crisis, or emerging from crisis
- Crisis can take different forms, such as violent conflict, food insecurity, political or economic crises, epidemics, or natural disasters





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Common Characteristics of Fragile States

- Bad governance and corruption that make development difficult
- Lack of government ability or willingness to establish pre-conditions for long-term development
- Prevailing conditions that are too fluid and too risky to make savings and long-term investments attractive
- A society focused on the near term and securing its most basic needs



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USAID's Approaches in Fragile States

- Enhance stability, addressing the sources of stress and conflict in the political, economic, and social spheres; Focus on the sources of crisis, the drivers of fragility
- Improve security, providing an environment that enhances personal safety, but also establishing the conditions under which serious outbreaks of generalized violence are averted
- Develop the capacity of institutions that are fundamental to lasting recovery and transformational development
- Develop rapid, flexible responses to changing conditions
- USG interagency and donor coordination



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Fragile States Approach in Draft Agency Strategic Framework for Africa Built on:

- US foreign policy goals, Agency's Policy Framework (White Paper), and the Agency's Fragile States Strategy
- Best practices developed through our partnerships in linking relief and development, doing no harm, building capacities for peace, and working in difficult environments
- Goals and objectives of African institutions like the AU, NEPAD, IGAD, SADC, ECOWAS, and COMESA

Strategic Framework for Africa has Vision, Medium-Term Goal, Operational Goals, Strategic Objectives



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Fragile States in Draft Agency Strategic Framework for Africa

- Vision: “Africa reduces the number of Fragile States”
- Medium-Term Goal: “Democratic practice, non-violent resolution of conflict, and equitable economic recovery increase security, political, economic, and social stability in sub-Saharan African countries vulnerable to, in, and emerging from crisis.”

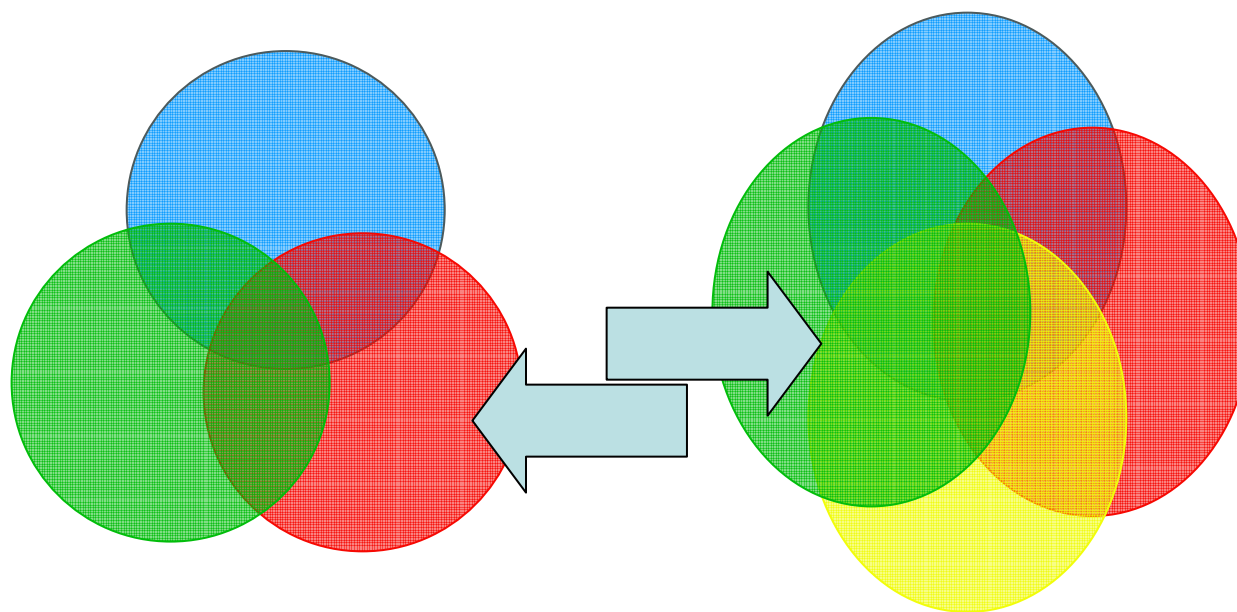


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Two Interrelated Operational Goals

Avert and Resolve Conflict

Promote Stabilization





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Strategic Objectives Supporting the Goal to Avert and Resolve Conflict

- Advance Peace Processes
- Reinforce African conflict mitigation and management capacity
- Enhance protection of individuals from physical violence



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Strategic Objectives Supporting the Goal to Manage Crisis and Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform

- Reintegrate persons affected by conflict
- Increase access to essential services provided by local and national institutions
- Advance democratic governance
- Restore/maintain basic economic activity and livelihoods



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What This Means at the Mission Level

- New strategies are focused on the key patterns of fragility where USAID can have an impact
- Cross-sectoral teams and implementation modalities employed
- Stabilization results are pursued as well as sectoral ones
- Can mean a change in geographic focus
- More agile mechanisms to allow for flexibility



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Democratic Republic of Congo Sources of Fragility

Field-based workshop with partners developed consensus on the key patterns of fragility, namely:

- The transition process itself relies on a tenuous power-sharing arrangement
- Competition for resources in the absence of a unified, legitimate state
- Legacy of self-serving elites who appropriate state resources for their own benefit



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Democratic Republic of Congo Proposed New Strategic Objectives

- Advance the peace and transition process
- Enhance protection of individuals from physical violence
- Reintegrate persons affected by conflict
- Increase access to essential services provided by local and national institutions
- Advance democratic governance (post transition)



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Democratic Republic of Congo New Focus Areas

In order to secure a legitimate and unified state through a successful transition process, USAID will continue to:

- Advance democratic governance
- Increase state legitimacy through the provision of essential services and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

While increasing its focus on:

- The East
- Protection issues
- Natural resource competition, especially extractive industries



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Liberia

Sources of Fragility

Field-based workshop with partners developed consensus on the key patterns of fragility/root sources on conflict, which could jeopardize progress, namely:

- Deliberate exclusion of the majority of Liberians from political life and economic opportunities.
- Competition for natural resources.



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Liberia

Proposed New Strategic Objectives

- Promote local capacity to mitigate conflict
- Increase access to social services provided by local and national institutions
- Advance democratic governance
- Restore livelihoods



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Liberia

New Focus Areas

- Building the capacity of the Liberian government and civil society to address sources of conflict
- Restoring the social fabric of and services to Liberian communities
- Expanding reintegration activities to ensure the benefits reach the broader community, and support longer term rehabilitation efforts
- Strengthening governance structures at the national level with multi-sectoral approaches to addressing corruption, increasing participation in the political process, expanding access to the justice sector, and supporting GEMAP (Governance and Economic Management Assistance Program)
- Empowering youth, women and other previously marginalized groups