

2020 UN-WB PARTNERSHIP MONITORING REPORT

United Nations – World Bank Partnership in Crisis-Affected Situations



Cover image:

Children attending class, in Fada, in the east of Burkina Faso.

To protect themselves against COVID-19 they wear a mask.

For every child, education.

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

JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020



Aminata Traore works in the greenhouse of Sidibe Argo-Techniques in Katibougou Village, outside Bamako, Mali. Sidibe Argo-Techniques is growing watermelons, sweet peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables. Photo © Dominic Chavez/World Bank

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Executive Summary

Over the last two decades, conflicts and crises have increasingly threatened global peace and stability, as well as sustainable development.

Violent conflict has become more transnational and protracted, impacting both low- and middle-income countries. The world continues to face the largest forced displacement crisis ever recorded, with 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Furthermore, climate change is a threat multiplier that can intensify fragility and conflict. Additional risks, such as those posed by technological change and demographic pressures, can pose challenges to even the most resilient societies as well.

In 2020, fragility, conflict, and violence globally further intensified as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, posing a major obstacle to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the World Bank Group's twin goals to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. The devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic pushed an estimated 19 to 30 million additional people in fragile and conflict-affected settings into extreme poverty, while threatening to double the number of food insecure people to 270 million globally.¹

¹ World Bank (2020), Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

In the face of these global challenges, countries already threatened by conflict and crisis are among the most vulnerable. In 2020, many lacked the tools needed to respond to the pandemic's far-reaching impact because of pre-existing vulnerabilities and gaps in social safety nets, health systems, deep regional disparities, and low levels of public trust. In several countries, the crisis has therefore exacerbated risks and grievances, leading to greater deprivation and social unrest.

In this context, collaboration between the World Bank and United Nations (UN) provides an important platform for supporting countries. Over the past year, the UN and the World Bank have intensified mission-driven partnerships across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus in countries impacted by fragility, conflict, and violence, leveraging their respective mandates, capacity, and expertise to maximize their collective impact at the country level. Since 2017, the *United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations* has provided an important platform to facilitate the engagement of UN agencies in Bank-financed operations while also strengthening joint efforts, engagement, and cooperation. Both the World Bank and the United Nations recognize the importance of partnering with a diverse set of actors to support governments, including civil society organizations, the

private sector, other multilateral development banks, regional organizations, and bilateral partners.

The period covered by the report (July 2019–June 2020) saw major developments, including the launch of the World Bank Group's Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) in February 2020, allocation of an estimated \$25 billion for FCV in the 19th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA19), the World Bank's fund to help the world's poorest countries, as well as advancement of the UN Secretary-General's reform agenda with a focus on prevention. The FCV Strategy was a key milestone that built on the progress made by the World Bank Group, including through its cooperation with the UN, in fragile settings. Importantly, the Strategy stressed the need to further systematize partnerships and mobilize expertise and resources from across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors. As part of the Secretary-General's reform agenda, the UN also invested in enhanced capacity for prevention, strengthening the link between peace and development actors and strengthening its Peacebuilding Support Office, including dedicated capacity supporting UN partnership with the World Bank. This included the launch of the "Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility" (HDPP Facility) within the

Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), to support UN Resident Coordinators and country teams in partnering with the World Bank. The State and Peacebuilding Fund, the World Bank's largest global multi-donor trust fund for FCV, is a strategic partner to the PBF in working to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. 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.

The 2020 UN-World Bank Partnership Report highlights joint work on four priority themes for country-level work across the HDP nexus: prevention and resilience; COVID-19; forced displacement; and food security. In addition, the full inclusion and participation of women and girls is a cross-cutting theme, reflected both in joint analysis and in dedicated operations like the World Bank's Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project (SWEDD), which is implemented with several UN Agencies. Both the UN and World Bank have recognized climate change as a significant medium- to long-term conflict driver and are investing in adaptation and resilience in many countries facing both climate risks and FCV challenges. The FCV Strategy also highlights the importance of the

World Bank Group engaging with peace and security actors while remaining consistent with its mandate, comparative advantage, and technical competence, for example cooperation with UN Peacekeeping Missions.

The World Bank and the UN are cooperating in over 40 crisis-affected situations around the globe. The report, jointly developed by the two institutions, draws on concrete examples of collaboration between July 2019 and June 2020 (FY20) to illustrate the breadth of work together

at country level. Countries covered are experiencing different aspects of fragility, conflict, and violence, as well as spillovers and conflict externalities, such as forced displacement.² Although not exhaustive, given the many areas of collaboration, each theme demonstrates how

² For the purpose of the report, select UN and World Bank country representatives reported on partnership initiatives. The countries included fulfill one of the following criteria: inclusion on the World Bank Group FY21 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations; countries eligible for the IDA18 and IDA19 FCV envelopes including the IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees; countries eligible for the Global Concessional Financing Facility, on an agenda item of which the Security Council is currently seized and which has been considered by the Council at a formal meeting during 2019; countries with a field-based or country-specific Peacekeeping or Special Political Mission in 2019 comprising 10 or more staff members; countries that received programmatic funds from the Peacebuilding Fund in 2019 or the HDPP Facility in 2020; or countries that had a Humanitarian Response Plan in 2019.

the UN and World Bank leverage their comparative advantages and deploy complementary technical expertise in these most challenging contexts to advance the cause of sustainable peace and development. The examples included in the report are intended to be indicative and not exhaustive, and were chosen to illustrate the breadth of regions, contexts, themes, and ways of working.

Prevention and Resilience

The 2018 joint UN-World Bank Group report *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* made the case that prevention saves lives, is cost-effective, and safeguards development gains. The report highlighted that for every \$1 invested in prevention, about \$16 can be saved down the road. Therefore, by focusing on prevention the international community can direct more resources to sustainable development outcomes. The report put development solutions at the heart of prevention, recommending that states reduce inequality and regional economic disparities, tackle socioeconomic exclusion, and invest in inclusive, accountable, and transparent institutions to improve their resilience to shocks and address the root causes of fragility that

undermine long-term development prospects. By working together across their respective mandates, the UN and World Bank can more effectively support national strategies that mitigate drivers of fragility.

Prevention has therefore been a core area of focus for the UN and World Bank cooperation over the past year, most notably through the FCV Strategy and IDA19. One of the key pillars of

engagement of the FCV Strategy focused on prevention to proactively address risks and grievances before they turn into full blown crises. IDA19 has scaled-up support for FCV with an estimated \$25 billion in financing, which includes support to help prevent the escalation of conflicts, remain engaged in conflict settings by strengthening resilience, support countries to escape fragility over the long-term, and to help create development opportunities for refugees and host communities.

Cooperation across the HDP nexus are critical to the implementation of IDA19, and particularly the new Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA). The PRA is an important innovation under

IDA19 that applies the insights from *Pathways for Peace* to scale up inclusive and preventive approaches in countries at risk of falling into high-intensity conflict

or large-scale violence. The PRA provides additional financing and helps incentivize governments to proactively address the risks and grievances that can lead to violent conflict and unrest, based on government commitment and agreed milestones. Countries receiving the PRA are expected to recalibrate their IDA portfolio to focus on de-escalating conflict and violence through development interventions, increasing a country's IDA allocation by 75 percent or a maximum of \$700 million during IDA19. Recognizing the UN's comparative advantages, the World Bank has engaged in consultations with the UN on the comprehensive prevention strategies required for eligibility.

Currently, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Niger are at various stages of their eligibility process to the PRA, with Burkina Faso becoming the first country to gain eligibility in December 2020. The UN has contributed throughout the eligibility process, especially to assess and identify potential commitments from the government that support the strategy for conflict risk mitigation. This includes ensuring the educational continuity of the 350,000 students whose school has been affected by insecurity, and the provision of health services in regions affected by conflict and internal

displacement. The World Bank and the Government of **Burkina Faso** have recalibrated the existing and pipeline operations to better mitigate conflict risk and boost resilience, including through increased focus on conflict-affected and at-risk provinces.

Beyond IDA, the UN and World Bank have cooperated on conflict-sensitive programming and prevention, supporting development initiatives that mitigate grievances around access to social services or patterns of economic and sociopolitical exclusion. For example, in **Colombia**, World Bank-UN cooperation under the *Fondo Colombia de Paz* (FCP) focused on the development and implementation of an innovative framework for collective reparations for over 500,000 conflict victims.

The prevention agenda is underpinned by the UN and World Bank's strong cooperation in knowledge and analytics. In **Burkina Faso**, the World Bank, UN, the European Union (EU), and African Development Bank collaborated on the first-ever Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment (PPBA), building on the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) tool that has been used jointly by the UN, the World Bank, and the EU over the past 12 years.

The regional Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) in the Sahel was a major collaboration between the World Bank and the UN, under the Sahel Alliance.

It focused on the regional and cross border dimensions of FCV and informs \$8.5 billion of IDA19 financing in the Sahel. It has resulted in operations that directly mitigate some of the conflict risks identified in the report, with a focus on both conflict-affected and at-risk areas, and a scale up of targeted financing in cross-border settings, among other outcomes. For example, in **Burkina Faso**, the \$350 million Emergency Local Development and Resilience Project targets both conflict-affected and at-risk areas identified in the RRA. The assessment also informed UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) investments, including five new cross-border projects in 2020 in the Sahel to invest in preventing violent extremism (PVE), youth engagement, land rights and management of transhumance linked with the growing risks brought about by climate change. The World Bank, UN, and UK are conducting a joint Regional RRA in the **Central Asia** (Ferghana Valley) and **Afghanistan** border areas (northern Afghanistan and Tajikistan/Uzbekistan) to inform international dialogue with country authorities and identify entry points for regional and cross-border development programming, as well as including a specific focus on COVID-19 impacts recovery strategies.

Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and its secondary impacts exacerbated risks and threatened to reverse hard-won development gains, intensifying existing drivers of fragility and conflict, worsening social tensions, widening inequalities, and heightening levels of gender-based violence

in many crisis-affected countries. The strategic cooperation between the World Bank and the UN played an important role in supporting governments to save lives through joint health interventions, protecting the most vulnerable communities, supporting social safety nets, and making the investments that help “build back better.”

The World Bank-UN partnership has been a key part of the World Bank's COVID-19 response,

which has to date supported 31 fragile and conflict-affected countries with \$2.5 billion in new financing to respond to the health emergency and help countries on the path towards inclusive and resilient recovery, focusing on poverty and inequality, the loss of human capital, and the debt burden. In October the World Bank approved an envelope of \$12 billion for developing countries to finance the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments for their citizens. In implementing the program, the World Bank will support

multilateral efforts currently led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and COVAX.

During the emergency phase of pandemic response, agreements between the World Bank and UN facilitated swift procurement of medical equipment and supplies by partner governments.

The COVID-19 Supply Chain Taskforce, coordinated by WHO and the World Food Programme (WFP) and comprising the World Bank and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, leverages the expertise of each partner to identify procurement needs and better negotiate with suppliers. UN entities, including the UN Fund for Children (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the WHO, were engaged in Bank-financed operations to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), scale up testing capacity, and strengthen public education in countries facing serious challenges including **Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, and Sudan**. The World Bank and WFP also have streamlined arrangements for WFP to be engaged by client countries to provide air freight services to help deliver medical supplies when commercial options are unavailable or impractical. To date, 10 countries have benefited, including **Burundi, Chad, and Haiti**.

The World Bank and the UN particularly focused their support to forcibly displaced populations, those suffering from acute food insecurity and malnutrition, and women and girls, recognizing that COVID-19 did not hit all communities equally.

In the **Sahel**, for example, the World Bank and UNFPA have jointly supported the SWEDD Project in a regional campaign #StrongerTogether, which shares information about COVID-19, and highlights distance learning for girls and the importance of having them return to school. In **Afghanistan**, the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, the WFP, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are partnering on food security and the COVID-19 response. And there is extensive collaboration between the World Bank, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other UN entities to ensure that the needs of migrant, refugee, and internationally displaced populations are met, alongside host communities. Building on their existing data partnership, UNHCR and the World Bank Group collaborated with host governments to ensure the needs of forcibly displaced persons and host communities, including both men and women, were accounted for in emergency response, for example in low-income countries such as **Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger, and South Sudan**. The Global Concessional Financing Facility

(GCFF)—a platform that includes the World Bank and the UN, as well as Multilateral Development Banks, and benefitting and supporting countries—provided COVID-19-related support for middle-income countries hosting large inflows of forcibly displaced populations, including **Colombia, Ecuador, Jordan, and Lebanon.**

The COVID-19 response also recognized the critical role of social safety nets in preventing vulnerable groups from falling deeper into poverty. To this end, UNOPS and WFP support delivery of cash transfers to low-income households in Bank-financed operations—including in the **Central African Republic, Haiti, Niger, Somalia, and South Sudan**—while UNICEF was engaged in Bank-financed operations to help local institutions address gaps in social safety nets and better manage intercommunal tensions over access to services, including in the **Central African Republic and Somalia** (with WFP). By the end of the reporting period, the focus was beginning to shift towards planning to “build back better.” The UN and World Bank supported national authorities to undertake gender and FCV-sensitive impact analysis and recovery planning, for example through HDPP Facility support for the launch of a new nationally owned data capacity in **Afghanistan**, under the auspices of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and with UNFPA

and the National Statistics and Information Authority of Afghanistan as key implementing partners.

Forced Displacement

In response to the largest forced displacement crisis ever recorded, with 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2019, cooperation between the World Bank and UNHCR represents a critical strategic and operational partnership, rooted in the principle of complementarity. Key areas of cooperation in the reporting period included UN support for policy and programmatic aspects of the World Bank’s dedicated financing instruments for refugee-hosting countries; data collection and analysis; joint learning and capacity building initiatives, and technical collaboration in sectors, such as social protection and education.

Under IDA18 and IDA19, the World Bank allocated more than \$4.2 billion in financing to countries hosting refugees. Under IDA18, the World Bank and UNHCR collaborated with governments on the design of \$1.85 billion investments supporting 35 World Bank operations in 14 low-income countries³ that host refugees.

³ Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Pakistan, and Uganda.

UNHCR worked with host governments and the World Bank to advance refugee inclusion and protection through systematic assessments of the refugee protection framework, identifying key protection priorities, and support for the design and development of IDA18 Refugee Sub Window (RSW) financed projects. For example, in **Uganda**, the RSW financed \$150 million to improve access to basic social services, expand economic opportunities, and enhance environmental management targeting both refugees and communities that host them. During the reporting period, the Government of Uganda worked with the World Bank and UNHCR to explore alternative water delivery models to improve the sustainability of service provisions to refugees and hosting areas. Building on the progress made in IDA18, \$2.2 billion have been allocated to the Window for Host Communities and Refugees in IDA19.

The UN and World Bank continued to collaborate on the GCFF to provide development support to middle-income countries impacted by refugee crises across the world. Since its inception in 2016, the GCFF has leveraged almost \$5 billion in concessional financing to support refugees and their host communities.⁴

⁴ GCFF Supporting Countries include the following: Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States

In 2019, **Colombia** and **Ecuador**, major host countries for Venezuelan migrants, were welcomed as beneficiary countries to the GCFF (in addition to **Jordan** and **Lebanon**), and UNHCR and the World Bank worked closely with both governments on modalities and policies for refugee inclusion.

Recognizing the importance of developing evidence-informed interventions for forcibly displaced people and host communities, the World Bank and UNHCR established the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) in October 2019. For example, this year the World Bank and UNHCR launched a report surveying the socioeconomic conditions in the Kalobeyei refugee settlement in **Kenya**, which has provided concrete recommendations to inform policies and programs. In **Ethiopia**, the JDC is piloting collection of data on refugees and host communities as part of the national household survey, expected to inform the Government of Ethiopia's programs.

Food Security

The WFP estimates that due to COVID-19 an additional 96 million people became acutely food insecure in IDA countries by the end of 2020.

Added to the 137 million people (including refugees)

that were already acutely food insecure in IDA countries pre-COVID-19, this brings the total to 233 million by the end of 2020. The World Bank, UN, and other international partners coordinate closely to address severe food insecurity, as well as its underlying drivers, including climate, conflict, and other shocks.

In some of the most food insecure countries, the World Bank, through IDA, and the WFP are amongst the largest sources of financing, with WFP providing humanitarian assistance and IDA focusing on a complementary blend of short-term and medium-to longer-term solutions. The World Bank and WFP collaborate on food insecurity in countries ranging from **Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, and Yemen**, with work centering on data collection, early warning, provision of integrated safety nets, beneficiary targeting, the response to COVID-19, and cash programming, with work addressing climate as well. For example, in **Mali**, WFP implements the \$12.5 million IDA-financed Drylands Project, which provides emergency food assistance to 650,000 people. In **Chad**, the IDA-financed Climate Resilient Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project is complementing WFP and FAO efforts to distribute food kits and agriculture inputs (seeds and small agriculture equipment).

In several countries, the UN and the World Bank are collaborating to address compounding risks that further threaten livelihoods and long-term development prospects. The World Bank is working closely with FAO to support countries on the response to the infestation of desert locusts in **Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen**, which is compounding the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and food production and food policy reform, as well as exacerbating the risks and impact of FCV in several contexts. The World Bank was well placed to mobilize a cross-country response on locust control, while the FAO provided technical expertise and data. UNICEF and the World Bank also collaborate on child nutrition in a number of countries, such as the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Yemen**, and WHO and the World Bank collaborate on child nutrition and stunting in **Yemen**, as well. In **Somalia**, the \$137.5 million Crisis Recovery project was approved in April 2020 with the aim of addressing the triple shocks of locusts, flooding and COVID-19. It will be implemented with key partners including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), FAO, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WHO, WFP, and UNICEF.

Under IDA19, the World Bank provides countries with a dedicated source of additional resources

to respond to shocks through the Crisis Response

Window (CRW). The World Bank and UNHCR have collaborated closely in preparing the eligibility note for Burkina Faso under the IDA18 (\$10 million) to support the country needs in the aftermath of the Malian crisis. The joint mission carried out in the Sahel region by the UNHCR and the World Bank team has been key in providing the right picture of the refugees and the host communities with reliable data. For IDA19, the Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing (CRW ERF) aims at helping to mobilize support during the early stages of an emerging food security crisis. By making use of food security data and forecasts to identify eligible events, the CRW ERF can provide up to \$500 million of the \$2.5 billion IDA19 CRW envelope. To help develop and inform these efforts, the World Bank and UN also work together as part of the Famine Action Mechanism (FAM), a global partnership dedicated to scaling up Anticipatory and Early Action (AEA) to protect lives and livelihoods from emerging food security crises.⁵ This work

⁵ FAM partners include the World Bank, donors (Canada, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, US), UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO), ICRC and IFRC, (I)NGOs (Action Against Hunger, Concern, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, START), and data institutions (CILSS, FEWSNET, IPC, UN Centre for Humanitarian Data).

has also helped inform anticipatory action pilots led by OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).⁶ Project-level collaborations between the World Bank and its partners include **Somalia's** \$65 million Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital project and **Afghanistan's** proposed \$226.5 million Early Warning, Early Finance, and Early Action project.

Conclusion

Between July 2019 and June 2020 (FY20), the United Nations and World Bank Group worked together as partners as well as through direct and indirect engagement of UN agencies in World Bank-financed operations to support governments to tackle huge challenges and risks—the unprecedented forced displacement crisis, growing food insecurity, and providing development support in the most unstable areas—compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. At the same time, the UN and World Bank Group continued to pivot towards prevention, helping governments invest in analytics and target support on the

⁶ See OCHA. 2020. UN Humanitarian Chief to Release Up to \$140million in CERF Funds for Anticipatory-Action Projects. <https://www.unocha.org/story/un-humanitarian-chief-release-140m-cerf-funds-anticipatory-action-projects>

root causes of FCV to strengthen resilience and address risks before they turn into full-fledged crises.

The global measures during the reporting period, including the World Bank Group's FCV Strategy, the allocation of an estimated \$25 billion for FCV in IDA19, UN reform, and intensive global cooperation on the COVID-19 response, has significantly deepened work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and scaled-up the focus on prevention and building resilience. The FCV Strategy

articulated the Bank Group's comparative advantage in FCV settings, centering on the Bank Group's role as a development actor committed to sustained and long-term engagement that can support national systems, strengthen core state functions, and build institution resilience and capacity. The United Nations

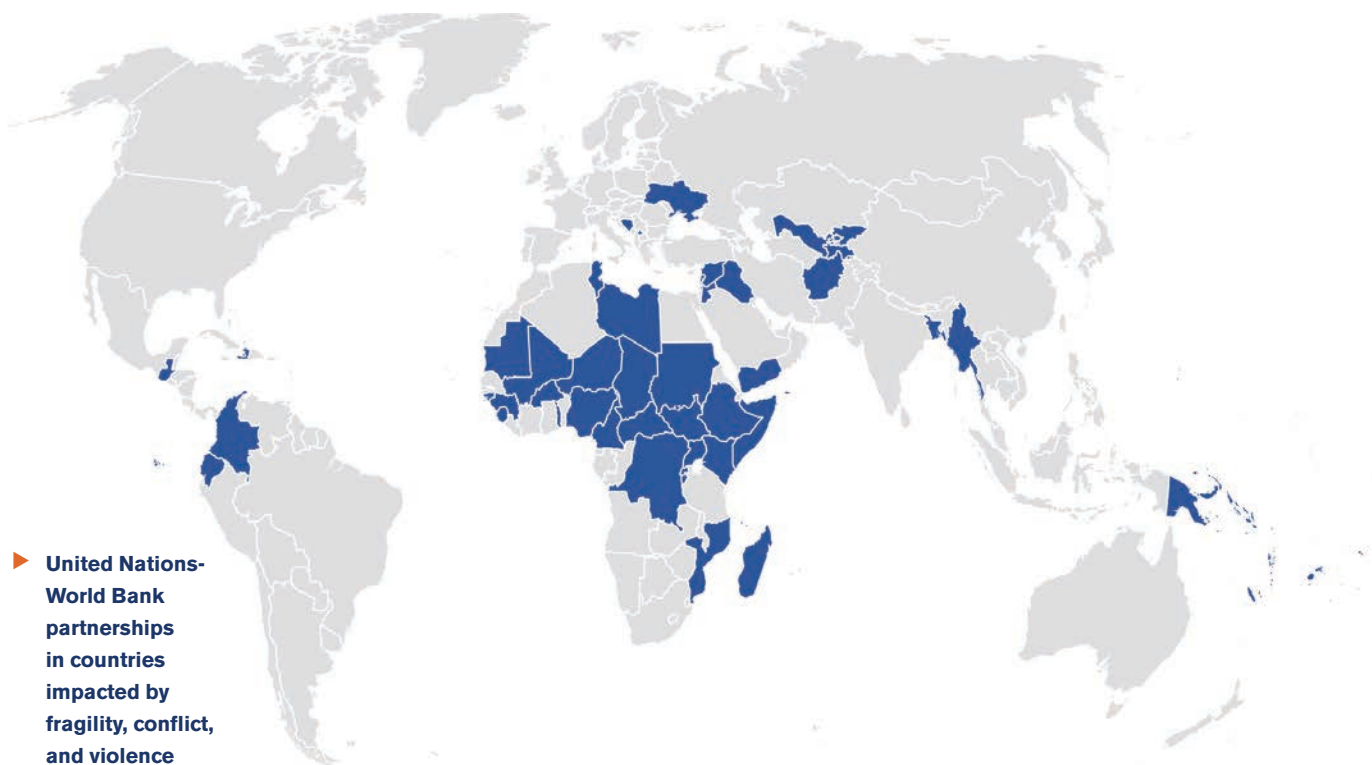
system brings its experience working across the HDP nexus, and its large footprint—for example, deep field presence in some of the most challenging settings. This collaboration is already bearing fruit at country level as this report goes to publication, with notable early progress, for example on supporting eligible governments access the Prevention and Resilience Allocation, ensuring the Window for Host Communities and Refugees complements the humanitarian response efforts of UNHCR, and jointly supporting governments recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Looking ahead, this partnership will therefore continue to provide the platform for effective collaboration between the UN and World Bank which is essential in providing humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding support to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in crisis-affected settings.



Introduction

Over the last two decades, global FCV dynamics have become more complex. Growth and poverty alleviation are crucial but alone will not suffice to sustain peace and deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as people in FCV-affected countries continue to be left behind. Moreover, the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis has pushed an estimated 19 to 30 million additional people into extreme poverty in FCV settings in 2020 alone, while threatening to increase the number of food insecure people to 270 million. With preexisting vulnerabilities, crisis and conflict affected countries have less capacity to manage the health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19.

The UN and the World Bank Group continue to more effectively combine their comparative advantages, capacity, and expertise, working together across siloes and changing the way both institutions do business. This core shift aims to mobilize expertise and resources from humanitarian, development, peace and security actors, as well as from civil society and the private sector, to build resilience of the most vulnerable people, reduce poverty, enhance food security, promote shared prosperity, and sustain peace. In April 2017, the two institutions launched the *United Nations-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations*, a joint platform to enable



the two organizations to work better together and to expand strategic collaboration. This was followed by the 2018 launch of the joint UN-World Bank Group report *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, which was an important step in underscoring UN-World Bank joint commitment to prevention.

This 2020 UN-World Bank Partnership Report was jointly developed by the UN and World Bank and aims to provide a snapshot of our joint work on priority themes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus over the period July 2019 to June 2020 (FY20): prevention and resilience; COVID-19 response;



Herat, Afghanistan: Sughira, sixteen years old, works at weaving silk on a loom at carpet and silk weaving centre located in the historic Herat Citadel that is funded under the auspices of the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Project (AREDP). She earns around 50 Afghanis (\$US1) per meter and can make around 4 meters per day. AREDP enhances participation of the rural poor in economic activities by providing business development services, improving their access to finance and strengthening market linkages and value chains. The project is running with around 750 Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) which are likely to be the key rivers of rural employment. Photo: © Graham Crouch/World Bank

forced displacement; and food security. These themes demonstrate how the UN and World Bank leverage their comparative advantages and deploy complementary technical expertise in situations at risk of violent conflict; during ongoing violent conflict; where there is forced displacement due to crises; and in protracted and post-crisis contexts. Each thematic chapter includes details of progress, joint actions and collective UN-World Bank engagements and features examples of concrete collaboration where partnerships make a difference on the ground. Each chapter also highlights plans for UN-World Bank collaboration in implementing IDA19, which started in July 2020.

Rather than a comprehensive list of projects and initiatives, the objective of the report is to highlight strategic examples of collaboration across the spectrum of FCV and crisis situations.

The World Bank and the UN have various modalities of collaboration including joint efforts where the agencies work in a parallel but coordinated fashion allocating financing from separate sources. In other cases, the World Bank provides the financing with the

explicit agreement to engage the UN to leverage their comparative advantage. Examples of collaboration were reported from some 47 countries, including those dealing with different aspects of fragility, conflict, and violence, as well as countries experiencing spillovers and conflict externalities, such as forced displacement.⁷ The examples included in the report are intended to be indicative, and were chosen to illustrate the breadth of regions, contexts, themes, and ways of working. Maps provide an overview over the inputs provided by World Bank and UN country teams.

⁷ For the purpose of the report, select UN and World Bank country representatives reported on partnership initiatives. The countries included fulfill one of the following criteria: inclusion on the World Bank Group FY21 List of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations; countries eligible for the IDA18 and IDA19 FCV envelopes including the IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees; countries eligible for the Global Concessional Financing Facility, on an agenda item of which the Security Council is currently seized and which has been considered by the Council at a formal meeting during 2019; countries with a field-based or country-specific Peacekeeping or Special Political Mission in 2019 comprising 10 or more staff members; countries that received programmatic funds from the Peacebuilding Fund in 2019 or the HDPP Facility in 2020; or countries that had a Humanitarian Response Plan in 2019.



UNOPS and the World Bank work together to restore access to critical urban services in selected cities across Yemen. Photo: © UN Photo

MODES OF COOPERATION: UN ENGAGEMENT IN WORLD BANK-FINANCED OPERATIONS

Over the years, Borrowers have worked with and engaged UN agencies through World Bank-financed projects to provide specialized technical and procurement expertise across a range of development issues including health, education, agriculture, and social development. In recent years, UN engagement in World Bank-financed operations has grown to include support projects in environments of high risk, in situations of crisis or emergency, as well as where the World Bank does not have a presence on the ground.

UN engagement in World Bank-financed projects, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings occurs through:

- 1) Country-driven Borrower Contracting: World Bank client countries contract UN agencies under a World Bank-financed investment lending operation for technical assistance, procurement of supplies or delivery of outputs. Such engagement is governed by negotiated standard forms of agreement, which facilitate the work of Borrowers.
- 2) Direct Financing: The World Bank engages UN agencies to implement specific activities or projects on behalf of client countries, through Trust Fund grants and, in exceptional circumstances, IDA grants.



In Niger, on average, plots managed by women produce 19% less per hectare than plots managed by men. Policies focusing on increasing women's use of hired farm labor, enhancing their use of fertilizer and improving their access to and control over land should be put in place to address the gender gap.

Photo: © Stephan Gladieu/World Bank



Prevention and Resilience

The 2018 joint UN-World Bank Group report *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* laid much of the groundwork for the two organizations' current approaches to prevention. The report made the case that prevention saves lives, is cost-effective, and safeguards development gains. Its core message was that the best way to prevent societies from descending into crisis is to ensure that they are resilient through investment in inclusive and sustainable development. It recognized that by working together across their respective mandates and leveraging their comparative advantages, the UN and the World Bank Group can more effectively support national strategies that

mitigate drivers of fragility. Tackling diverse and context-specific drivers of fragility is a long-term process that requires partnerships between humanitarian, development and peace actors.

The importance of prevention has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. In countries facing FCV challenges, the pandemic puts additional pressures on societies and economics that often experience compounding shocks of violence, climate change, forced displacement, and food insecurity. At the same time, features like weak governance and state institutions, unequal access to services for vulnerable and marginalized populations, and community mistrust

of government can complicate an efficient response and recovery. Investments in economic growth, stronger institutions, and social cohesion will support recovery from COVID-19 as well as build resilience for future crises.

Both the UN and the World Bank have scaled up support to the prevention agenda. Prevention is a central goal of the Secretary-General's UN reforms and a key priority in the World Bank Group's first ever FCV Strategy and in IDA19. In the past year, the UN continued to expand its capacities for integrated support to nationally led prevention efforts, in the context of the Secretary-General's Development and Peace and Security reforms. These reforms put the Resident Coordinators (RCs) at the center of the UN's integrated and coordinated preventive action in diverse settings of development, conflict and fragility, as they coordinate UN system-wide support to governments. Among the functions of the global Development Coordination Office (DCO) created in 2019 is to support RCs in ensuring support for prevention. One powerful resource in this endeavor are the Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) deployed through the joint UNDP-UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict

Prevention. As of June 2020, PDAs were deployed in over 50 countries, with almost 60 percent of them reporting engagement with the World Bank as part of their duties. The World Bank meanwhile increased its on-the-ground presence by deploying more professional staff to fragile and conflict-affected situations, in line with FCV Strategy commitments.

In February 2020, the World Bank Group launched its first Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025. It recognizes the central role of partnerships with humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, security, and private sector actors, and in particular with the UN, building on both on *Pathways for Peace* as well as on the UN-World Bank Partnership Framework for Crisis-Affected Situations. It aims to enhance the Bank Group's effectiveness in supporting countries to address the drivers and impacts of FCV and to strengthen their resilience, especially of their most vulnerable and marginalized populations. It articulates the World Bank Group's comparative advantage in FCV settings, centring on its role as a development actor committed to sustained and long-term engagement that can support national systems, strengthen core state functions, and build institutional resilience and capacity. The strategy sets out a new framework for understanding FCV and a robust set of measures to strengthen the World Bank

Group's effectiveness in FCV settings, including in both low- and middle-income countries that face fragility, conflict on national or sub-national level and forced displacement shocks, among other FCV challenges. Recognizing there can be no 'one-size-fits-all' approach, the Strategy articulates a differentiated approach to FCV structured around four pillars of engagement designed to tailor the Bank Group' approach across the full spectrum of FCV including engagement on prevention of conflict (building on *Pathways for Peace*), remaining engaged during conflict and crisis situations, helping countries to transition out of fragility, and mitigating the effects of spillovers of FCV including cross-border crises such as refugee shocks.

Under IDA18 (2017-2020), the World Bank recognized the value of partnerships across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, deepened partnerships with the UN, and tested new approaches to prevention. One of the lessons learned during IDA18 was the need to further prioritize prevention in development efforts, focusing on building human capital, supporting the socioeconomic inclusion of women and youth, promoting equitable access to services in lagging regions, promoting peaceful management of natural resources and addressing the grievances that can lead to an escalation of conflict and violence. The IDA18

Risk Mitigation Regime (RMR) was introduced to pilot approaches to prevention and risk mitigation, becoming a useful vehicle to implement and operationalize the findings of the UN-World Bank *Pathways for Peace* report at scale. In addition to providing important lessons for the development of the IDA19 FCV envelope, it also demonstrated the scope for operational collaboration with the UN on nationally led prevention efforts. For example, in **Niger**, it supported an initiative with WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR to scale-up national systems of adaptive, solidarity-based social protection mechanisms, as part of the \$80 million Niger Adaptive Safety Net project, while in **Guinea**, UNICEF was engaged in a Bank-financed operation to support decentralized delivery of basic services under the \$55 million Health Service and Capacity Strengthening project.

Guided by the FCV Strategy, IDA19 (2020-2023) is being implemented with 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 to help create development opportunities for refugees and host communities. The FCV envelope includes the Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), which builds on the

RMR and offers an opportunity to continue to apply insights from *Pathways for Peace* to scale up inclusive and preventive approaches in countries at risk of falling into high-intensity conflict or large-scale violence. Countries receiving the PRA are expected to recalibrate their IDA portfolio to focus on de-escalating the conflict and violence through development interventions, increasing a country's IDA allocation by 75 percent or a maximum of \$700 million in a given replenishment period. Recognizing the UN's comparative advantages, the World Bank has engaged in consultations with the UN on the comprehensive prevention strategies required for eligibility. Currently, **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Madagascar** are at various stages of their eligibility process. **Burkina Faso** became the first country to gain eligibility to the PRA on December 15, 2020. The UN have been consulted throughout the eligibility process, especially to assess and identify potential commitments from the government that support the strategy for conflict risk mitigation. The World Bank and the Government have recalibrated the existing and pipeline operations to better mitigate conflict risk and boost resilience. Key features of the recalibration include: non-extension of ten projects that will reach their closing date in FY21-22; increased focus in active projects on

conflict-affected and at-risk provinces; and focusing the IDA19 pipeline on PRA commitments.

Joint analysis, assessments, and data

Recognizing that prevention begins with an accurate understanding of local dynamics, the UN and the World Bank continue to partner on joint analyses and assessments of multi-dimensional risks and fragilities. The RPBA methodology is a tool used jointly by the UN, the World Bank Group, and the European Union (EU). Since the 2008 Joint Declaration on Post Crisis Assessment and Recovery Planning, over 70 post-crisis assessments have been undertaken within the partnership between the three institutions. In 2019, the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment in **Burkina Faso** represented the first time the RPBA methodology had been applied to a prevention context. In March 2020, the Government briefed the UN Peacebuilding Commission on the priorities identified through this exercise. The UN, the World Bank, and the EU have also developed joint guidance to conduct COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessments (CRNAs), that can serve to assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, identify the recovery needs and develop a comprehensive and costed recovery strategy that

FROM JOINT ANALYSIS TO ACTION IN THE SAHEL

The UN-World Bank partnership in the **Sahel** crosses the entire region and different thematic areas. The different initiatives are united by the common understanding that sustainable development can only be based on addressing structural drivers of fragility and conflict through a long-term approach to inclusive and targeted prevention. The World Bank has conducted a regional RRA, under the aegis of the Sahel Alliance and with contributions from UNDP, *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD), *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (KfW), and DFID. The RRA has strengthened the common understanding of tensions and conflict risks, including the socio-political dynamics at play at cross-border and local levels, and recommends approaches, coordinated actions, and development interventions to mitigate these risks, thereby supporting a scale up of targeted financing in cross-border settings.

In **Burkina Faso**, where instability and risks related to FCV have increased in the past year, the World Bank and the UN partnered to conduct a Prevention and Peace Building Assessment (PPBA) in collaboration with the EU and the African Development Bank. This was the first application of the tripartite EU-UN-World Bank joint assessment approach to a prevention (rather than post-conflict) setting. The UN's HDPP Facility supported UN capacity to lead the first phase of the assessment, and further consolidated central and subnational capacities to articulate and effectively implement the Government's Priority Actions Matrix under the PPBA approach in areas most impacted by instability. The Priority Action Matrix was officially adopted by the Government on 7 February 2020 and presented at the Peacebuilding Commission meeting on 5 March 2020. Prevention and peacebuilding will now underpin the formulation of the country's next development plan 2021–2025 with support from IDA19 including through the \$350 million Emergency Local Development and Resilience Project designed using the RRA findings and the PPBA priority action matrix in support of the government's Sahel Emergency Plan.

One important area of collaboration is women empowerment and participation, as different UN entities partnered under the umbrella of World Bank's **Sahel** SWEDD project, including activities addressing the risk of child marriage in Burkina Faso, addressing the importance of girls returning to school, and – maternal and reproductive health outcomes in **Chad** and **Mali**, and has been adapted to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mali. Photo: © Curt Carnemark/World Bank

the international community can align behind, under government leadership. As of June 2020, first CRNAs were conducted or were underway, for example in Haiti. The joint toolbox for RPBA was also further expanded through the finalization of guidance notes on respectively Conflict Sensitivity for RPBAs and Implementation and Financing of RPBAs⁸.

The World Bank and UN regularly consult each other as key stakeholders during analysis and assessments that inform programming, such as the World Bank's RRAs and the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) being rolled out as part of the UN development system reform. RRAs

analyze FCV drivers and sources of resilience and develop operational recommendations. The regional RRA in the **Sahel** was a major collaboration with the UN under the Sahel Alliance. It focused on the regional and cross border dimensions of FCV, and on the regional drivers of fragility and conflict, and informs \$8.5 billion of IDA19 financing in the Sahel. It has resulted in operations that directly mitigate the conflict risks identified in the report, with a focus on both conflict-affected and at-risk/prevention areas, and a scale up of targeted financing in cross-border

settings, among other outcomes. For example, in **Burkina Faso**, the \$350 million Emergency Local Development and Resilience Project targets both conflict-affected and at-risk areas identified in the RRA. The World Bank, UN, and UK are conducting a joint Regional RRA in the **Central Asia** (Ferghana Valley) and **Afghanistan** border areas (northern Afghanistan and Tajikistan/Uzbekistan). It will assess the key drivers of fragility as well as sources of resilience. The Regional RRA will inform international dialogue with relevant country authorities and identify entry points for regional and cross-border development programming, as well as including a specific focus on COVID-19 impacts recovery strategies. This regional work complements a parallel RRA focused on the causes of conflict in Afghanistan as a precursor to the Systematic Country Diagnostic that is planned for late 2021. Finally, the UN and World Bank cooperate on numerous thematic and country-specific analytical products, for example in **Ethiopia** during the preparation of a Multi-year Resilience Strategy, in **Guinea-Bissau** in support of national planning and aid coordination systems based on an assessment by UNDP and the World Bank, and in **Kyrgyzstan** on development approaches to prevent violent extremism, to name just a few.

In many contexts, joint assessments inform monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment of

⁸ Available on the joint website: www.recoveryandpeacebuilding.org

projects in volatile contexts. Programming for prevention is most effective when it is targeted to 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 World Bank's Local Governance & Services Delivery Project (LGSDP) and the Rapid Result Health Program, aimed at supporting small-scale infrastructure and improving local governance and services delivery in the participating counties. Joint analysis with the Ministry of Finance and Planning and Local Government Board, including conflict and social assessments and COVID-19 related analysis, informed development and humanitarian interventions in South Sudan and specifically key priorities during the transitional period. In Northeast **Kenya**, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office's HDPP Facility supports joint data collection and risk monitoring in a marginalized region that experiences compounding drivers of fragility.

Joint programming and planning

The UN and World Bank cooperate on conflict-sensitive programming and delivery for prevention in crisis-affected settings, supporting development initiatives that mitigate grievances around access to social services or patterns of economic and sociopolitical

exclusion. In doing so, they take into account the needs of particularly vulnerable population groups, and can leverage UN field networks to help governments reach these: as for example in **Colombia**, where World Bank-UN cooperation under the *Fondo Colombia de Paz* (FCP) focused on the development and implementation of an innovative framework for collective reparations for over 500,000 conflict victims, in close coordination with UNDP-led livelihoods projects in the same areas, recognizing that transitional justice is a key aspect of long-term prevention. In **Iraq**, the World Bank supports an Emergency Operation for Development Project (EODP) of \$750 million to support the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and the restoration of public services delivery in the areas liberated from ISIS. The project includes several sectors including health, through which UNOPS and IOM implement the project's main components.

Economic development and the creation of employment opportunities are an important part of this work.

For example, in the Central African Republic, in support of the peace agreement, the World Bank approved in May 2019 a \$100 million IDA grant as additional financing for the LONDO ("Stand up") project to provide temporary employment to vulnerable persons and facilitate access to basic services nationwide. So far, the LONDO project has targeted

JOINT SUPPORT TO POLITICAL TRANSITION IN SUDAN

As Sudan has undergone an important political transition, the UN and World Bank share a commitment to support the country's reform efforts through a prevention lens. Social protection through an expansive cash transfer program is increasingly seen by society, the Government, and among the Development Partners as an essential part of the Government's strategy to (i) support an overarching macroeconomic and fiscal stabilization effort, and (ii) contribute to the renewal of social contract and build confidence in country systems to deliver to its citizens. The UN, primarily through the WFP and UNICEF, has provided in-kind and limited cash support to approximately 5.2 million people. In parallel, the World Bank and WFP have collaborated in the preparation and implementation of Sudan Family Support Program (SFSP) that aims to provide \$5 per person per month cash transfers to 80 percent of the population, i.e., to about 32 million individuals, with an annual cost of \$1.9 billion.



*Scenes from Al Nnuhoud Livestock Market, North Kordofan where livestock is brought and traded from places nearby.
Photo: Salahaldeen Nadir/World Bank*

In October 2020, the World Bank endorsed a new Country Engagement Note (CEN) outlining its approach to Sudan with a focus areas on re-engagement and contributing to a renewal of the country's social contract. The CEN emphasizes the role of social inclusion, citizen engagement, and strengthened governance as a cross cutting theme contributing to delivery of its objectives. Together with the CEN, the World Bank approved a \$400 million operation to support the SFSP of which \$200 million is financed through an IDA Pre-Arrears Clearance Grant and \$200 million is financed through the Sudan Transition and Recovery Trust Fund (STARS).

Finally, the World Bank works with UNOPS and IOM on the \$45 million Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project (ECRP), which benefits as many as 630,000 citizens in 21 of the country's 79 counties and provides investments for community infrastructure and services prioritized by the communities. Building inclusive and participatory community-led development, the ECRP will help train designated community institutions on how to manage local development and social tensions over service delivery to enable them to form the foundations of local governance structures that can be sustained in the longer-term.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND AND STATE AND PEACEBUILDING FUND (SPF) COLLABORATION

The SPF plays a critical role in addressing the challenges arising from FCV. As the World Bank's largest global multi-donor trust fund for FCV, the SPF enables conflict prevention programs and supports countries in their efforts towards achieving lasting peace and sustainable development outcomes. 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. The UN Secretary-General's PBF is the UN financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. The PBF invests with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations, in a timely, risk tolerant and catalytic manner focusing on transitions, youth and women empowerment, cross-border and regional initiatives. Under the PBF and established in 2019, the HDPP Facility seeks to advance the strategic partnership between the UN and the WB in high-priority settings through a small grants scheme to UN entities.

The SPF and PBF are strategic partners in working to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Within their respective mandates and comparative advantages, the SPF and the PBF support joint activities that contribute to collective outcomes and deliver comprehensive and integrated responses in fragile and conflict-affected situations. At the program level, the SPF and the PBF regularly engage on relevant project proposals received for financing, share results achieved, and exchange on results and performance frameworks. PBF representatives participate in informal and formal SPF Council meetings, and the SPF is represented in PBF stakeholder meetings.

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. In 2020, almost three-quarters of grants approved by the SPF are undertaken in coordination or jointly with UN entities. On the UN side, the HDPP Facility builds a shared evidence base for UN and World Bank programming to capacitate UN teams to engage more strategically with the World Bank, typically through joint data, assessments or operational collaboration.

The SPF and the HDPP Facility co-finance activities in a number of settings. For example, a RRA in **Central Asia** and **Afghanistan** that will identify entry points for FCV programming is supported by a SPF grant and complementary funding from the HDPP Facility. This joint assessment will identify entry points for prevention and inform programming for the two institutions.



Community Development Council Meeting. Zaragaran Village. Mazare-e-Sharif. Citizen's Charter Afghanistan Project. Photo: Rumi Consultancy/World Bank

On the security-development nexus, an earlier policy exchange under the SPF grant “Advancing the World Bank Approach to the Security-Development Nexus” was further consolidated with dedicated sessions during the Fragility Forum and complementary financing provided by the HDPP Facility. This mutually reinforcing approach also enables the SPF and the PBF to design and readjust programs based on the findings of joint data and assessments. For instance, the SPF grant, “Operationalizing Conflict Prevention in Tunisia”, complements a PBF-funded UN activity in southern **Tunisia** to improve the inclusion of youth at the local level and prevent violence. The geographic focus of the Bank’s SPF grant was influenced by the pre-existing PBF engagement in the fragile regions of southern Tunisia. In February 2020, the World Bank also concluded an RRA for the south, which recommended to complement and expand the existing dialogue platform (“Peace Hubs”) established as part of the PBF project. In the Central African Republic, PBF funding has supported its implementation 2016 Plan for Recovery and Consolidation of Peace in Central Africa, together with the quick support to the 2019 Peace Agreement—all in close consultation with the World Bank to ensure complementary of efforts at each design phase.

April 3, 2020 – MADAGASCAR. With Madagascar's health system under strain from the COVID-19 pandemic and schools shuttered for the foreseeable future, the health, education, and overall wellbeing of the Malagasy people are increasingly at risk. As the pandemic hits more and more countries, the World Bank Group and other organizations are stepping up to provide immediate support in order to quickly get resources to the front lines of fighting this disease.
Photo: World Bank/Henitsoa Rafalia





Response to COVID-19

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, fragility, conflict, and violence were rising globally, with projections indicating that, by 2030, fragile and conflict-affected countries could account for up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor.⁹ The

pandemic and its secondary impacts intensify existing FCV risks and threaten to reverse hard-won development gains. The COVID-19 crisis could push an estimated 19 to 30 million additional people in fragile settings into extreme poverty in 2020 alone¹⁰, while potentially

increasing the number of food insecure people to 270 million globally.

FCV-affected countries have pre-existing vulnerabilities, and a limited capacity to manage the health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19.

The intersection of the pandemic, its resulting economic shock, and potentially inconsistent or repressive government responses exacerbate existing drivers of fragility and conflict, worsening social tensions, widening horizontal inequalities, putting further stress on weakened health systems and heightening levels of gender-based violence. Globally, increasing socio-political and economic grievances and an erosion of trust in public institutions are leading to growing social unrest and a higher risk of violence and conflict.

⁹ World Bank Group. February 2020. Fragility and Conflict: On the Frontlines of the Fight Against Poverty.

¹⁰ World Bank (2020), Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>

Against this background, UN-World Bank strategic cooperation is important to support governments in responding to COVID-19. The UN's response is guided by a "health first" approach, and the UN and World Bank have worked closely together to support governments in building strong and resilient health systems as the foundation of recovery. At the global level, the World Bank has participated in the Crisis Management Team, chaired by WHO, which the UN Secretary-General activated in March 2020 to coordinate the UN system's response activities. In addition, the World Bank Group was invited, alongside the UN, to jointly discuss these aspects with Member States in the framework of the UN Peacebuilding Commission meetings on COVID-19 response, including those focusing on **Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Great Lakes, Liberia, and West Africa and the Sahel**, as well as during thematic discussions. At the country level, the UN is engaged in World Bank-financed operations in three main areas. First, through support for health interventions that save lives threatened by the virus, including by mobilizing medical supplies and equipment, ensuring health systems are strong enough to respond, and strengthening communication to build trust and enhance the effectiveness of public health responses.

Second, to ensure the most vulnerable communities are protected from the health, economic, and social impacts of the crisis. And third, to support social safety nets and investments in an inclusive and resilient recovery focused on "building back better."

1) Saving Lives

The pandemic puts increased pressure on weak health systems. Health systems in fragile settings are severely under-resourced, with domestic government health expenditures amounting to 1.2 percent of GDP across fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCS),¹¹ compared to 5.9 percent globally.¹² Testing and contact tracing are particularly challenging, as are the enforcement of social distancing measures (in crowded slums, refugee camps, situations of active conflict) and handwashing in settings without access to clean water and sanitation. Limited availability of medical equipment and supplies such as personnel protective equipment, and ventilators, was further compounded by high levels of international demand and weak procurement capacity of FCS countries. There is also strain on health workers, as

¹¹ List of fragile and conflict-affected situations <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations>

¹² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.GHED.GD.ZS>

COVID-19 has exposed health workers and their families to unprecedented levels of risk.

In early March, the UN and partners launched the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 (GHRP), which was updated twice to reflect the evolving situation on the ground. The Plan aims to

address the most immediate health and humanitarian impacts, targeting almost 260 million people in 63 countries. According to the Financial Tracking Service, the World Bank is the eighth largest donor to the GHRP, having contributed \$160 million so far. Through the GHRP, humanitarian organizations reached 3 billion people with messaging on COVID-19 prevention and access to services, provided essential healthcare services to almost 75 million women and children, assisted over 33 million refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons, and transported more than 26,000 humanitarian and health workers to 68 destinations.

Strategic cooperation between the World Bank and UN have facilitated swift procurement of medical equipment and supplies by partner governments. In April 2020, the UN launched the

COVID-19 Supply Chain Taskforce to massively scale up the procurement and delivery of personal protective equipment, testing and diagnostics supplies,

and biomedical equipment like ventilators and oxygen concentrators. Coordinated by WHO and the WFP and comprising the World Bank and the Global Fund, the COVID-19 Supply Chain Taskforce leverages the expertise of each partner to identify procurement needs and better negotiate with suppliers. Such global structured relationships facilitate effective exchange of information on the pandemic, market and logistics conditions, with the shared objective to maximize countries' access to critically needed medical equipment and supplies. In addition, the World Bank and WFP have streamlined arrangements for WFP to be engaged by client countries to provide air freight services to help deliver medical supplies when commercial options are unavailable or impractical. Thus far, 10 borrower countries have benefited from these services, including **Burundi, Chad, and Haiti**. The Bank utilized the COVID-19 Partners Platform, which was rolled out by WHO and United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) in March, to align country support with the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and Operational Guidelines, coordinate with stakeholders and request additional resources when needed.

World Bank client countries have engaged UN entities including UNICEF, UNOPS, UNDP and WHO, to deliver personal protective equipment (PPE), laboratory testing equipment and other



Health worker training session as part of the UN-World Bank COVID-19 response in Papua New Guinea. Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority/Jeremy Manga

SAVING LIVES

In **Lebanon**, UNOPS, and WHO have been contracted by the Government in a Bank-financed project for the procurement of COVID-19 equipment under the \$120 million Lebanon Health Resilience Project (HRP) funded by the World Bank and co-financed by GCFF, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines and testing kits, COVID-19-nasopharyngeal swabs, infusion pumps, syringe pumps, suction pumps, defibrillators, vital signs monitor, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

In **Papua New Guinea**, the World Bank's \$20 million Papua New Guinea COVID-19 Emergency Response Project — developed in close coordination with WHO, UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) — funds rapid support to protect health workers and others in the COVID-19 response effort, to assist national health authorities in scaling up testing capacity quickly, and to strengthen public education to combat the spread of the virus.

In **Sudan**, WHO and UNICEF are implementing a World Bank-financed project, leveraging the UN procurement capacity and experience to support the Government of Sudan with its procurement of medical supplies and equipment for the World Bank-financed Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (\$21.92 million).

medical supplies in countries facing serious challenges including **Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, The Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and South Sudan.** Across **West Africa**, UN agencies including UNICEF, UNOPS, and WHO are engaged by client countries in Bank-financed operations under the World Bank's Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE) Program, launched in 2016 to respond to the Ebola epidemic, supports countries to respond to COVID-19 by mobilizing expertise, medical supplies, and equipment. In **Iraq**, with the support of UNOPS, the World Bank supports the Ministry of Health in the immediate response to COVID-19 through restructuring over \$32 million from the Emergency Operation for Development Project (EODP) to provide essential medical equipment. As of the end of 2020, medical equipment of \$7.8 million was purchased through UNOPS to support the immediate needs of the public health institutions in Iraq. In addition, through the World Bank's \$14 billion Fast Track COVID-19 Facility (FTCF) for containment and immediate shock mitigation, as well as through existing projects, the UN is engaged in Bank-financed operations, along with other humanitarian, development, and security partners, to support more than 30 countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

2) Protecting vulnerable people

In FCV settings, forcibly displaced populations, those suffering from acute food insecurity, and women and girls are particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore critical to tailor response and recovery programs to address the distinct needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. In particular, the devastating consequences of displacement have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. According to UNHCR, 134 refugee-hosting countries are reporting local transmission, and 85 percent of forcibly displaced people live in low- and middle-income countries that experienced a sudden and deep recession in 2020 as a result of the crisis. It is therefore critical to tailor response and recovery programs to address the distinct needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. In particular, the devastating consequences of displacement have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. The UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center has facilitated the inclusion of refugee samples into national rapid response COVID socioeconomic impacts phone surveys in nearly a dozen countries. Early results from **Kenya** show that refugees faced significant early challenges, with higher rates of food shortages than national populations and lower levels of access to education and health services. While there has been convergence over time, the high level of

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

In **Afghanistan**, OCHA, WHO, and UNICEF are engaged by the Government in World Bank-financed operations on emergency COVID-19 response, including in the implementation of the World Bank-funded Afghanistan COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Project (\$100.4 million), provides an immediate response to the health crisis and strengthens national health systems. Through the HDPP initiative, the UN and World Bank are supporting the National Statistics and Information Authority to improve coordination of COVID-related data activities and gaps, and create a new COVID-19-specific platform for the socio-economic and sectoral impact assessments necessary to ensure relevant and targeted interventions to the most vulnerable in Afghanistan. In addition, World Bank, OCHA, the International Labor Organization (ILO), ADB, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) worked jointly to update the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to respond to COVID-19 impacts. Finally, World Bank, WFP, FAO, and UNICEF partner on food security and the COVID-19 response. All these initiatives aim at supporting the most vulnerable parts of the population.

In **Bangladesh**, UN agencies are engaged by the Government in Bank-financed operations on surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control as well as community engagement and communication efforts around COVID 19, focusing on refugees and host communities in Cox's Bazar.

In **Colombia**, World Bank-WFP are collaborating on the implementation of a SPF grant to provide emergency economic support to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and host communities in selected Colombian municipalities. The grant serves to provide emergency cash transfers to vulnerable migrants and refugees in Colombia affected by containment measures and not covered by social protection emergency programs; and to contribute to strengthening the institutional framework for the COVID-19 emergency response in Colombia, mitigating exclusion and xenophobia. A similar SPF grant has been approved for Peru, for which the WB has partnered with IOM for its implementation.

In the **Sahel**, the World Bank and UNFPA have jointly supported the SWEDD project in a regional campaign #StrongerTogether, which shares information about COVID-19, and highlights distance learning for girls and the importance of having them return to school. In May 2020, the World Bank approved \$376 million in additional funds to support the implementation of the SWEDD project's phase 2, which is implemented in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger**, with upcoming roll out in **Cameroon** and **Guinea**, bringing the World Bank's overall support to \$680 million.



Quito, April 25, 2020. Customers of a popular chain of pharmacies in the historic center of Quito observe the proper distancing measures as they await their turn to enter.

informality in the refugees communities — surveys from 8 large hosting countries show that 60 percent of refugees work in informal occupations — leaves them exposed to the effects of the crisis.

The World Bank and UNHCR have closely collaborated to ensure their efforts meet the needs of forcibly displaced persons and host communities equitably and sustainably. Beyond the health impacts, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are uniquely vulnerable due to their limited inclusion in economic networks, dependency on humanitarian assistance, and protection risks. The \$2.2 billion Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) under IDA19 has set aside up to \$1 billion in grants for COVID-19 related operations in FY21. Support from the WHR will be delivered in full partnership with UNHCR and aims to provide development support to both refugees and impacted host communities. Moreover, under the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) that provides concessional support to Middle-Income Countries offering a global public good by hosting large inflows of the forcibly displaced (**Jordan, Lebanon, Colombia, and Ecuador**), a number of operations are now including COVID-19 related support, in close cooperation with UN agencies. Already, the World Bank's emergency COVID-19 support in several

countries — including **Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, and South Sudan** — is available to support migrant, refugee, and internally displaced populations within these countries, along with assistance to the respective host communities.

3) Supporting social safety nets and investing in “building back better”

Another key area of partnership is strengthening social safety nets to help prevent vulnerable groups from falling deeper into poverty, as well as supporting governments in building resilience to future crises. The pre-existing risks of FCV-affected countries make them even more vulnerable to the shocks posed by the COVID-19 crisis, which in turn further undermines political stability. Fragile and conflict-affected countries will experience their worst recession in five decades, with the global economy having contracted by 4.3 percent in 2020.¹³ Poor and vulnerable households rarely have a buffer to help them cope with shocks, given little savings, low food stocks, and a heavy dependence

¹³ World Bank. 2021. *Global Economic Prospects*, January 2021. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi: 10.1596/978-1-4648-1612-3. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/01/05/global-economy-to-expand-by-4-percent-in-2021-vaccine-deployment-and-investment-key-to-sustaining-the-recovery>

SUPPORTING SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

In **Haiti**, WFP and UNOPS have been engaged by the Government of Haiti to implement a Bank-financed COVID-19 crisis response supporting 34,000 households living in urban and peri-urban areas with cash-transfers (\$17.9 million) and coordinate with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which also provides additional financing. In addition, the World Bank and UNICEF jointly strengthen resilience of national systems and support the Ministry of Education manage services continuity, including a distance education program.

In **Jordan**, the World Bank approved a \$374.17 million International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan and includes \$24.17 million grant from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to provide cash support to poor and vulnerable households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the National Aid Fund (NAF). The project is being restructured to support a new scheme managed by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) that will finance wage subsidies for workers in firms most affected by COVID-19. The implementation of the cash transfer project is supported by WFP and UNICEF, while the wage subsidies is implemented in close coordination with ILO.

In **Lebanon**, the World Bank-supported Emergency Social Safety Net project (\$246 million) seeks to expand targeted social safety nets coverage by 20 percentage points from its current coverage of 1.5 percent, with additional support from donors to take coverage up to around 30 percent. The proposed scale-up of social safety nets through targeted cash transfers will be implemented in partnership with the WFP and will provide monthly unconditional cash transfers to 147,000 extreme poor Lebanese households for supporting food and basic needs, as well as cash top-ups for children from recipient families between the ages of 13 and 18 to support school attendance and grade completion during a time of economic crisis and exposure to multiple shocks.

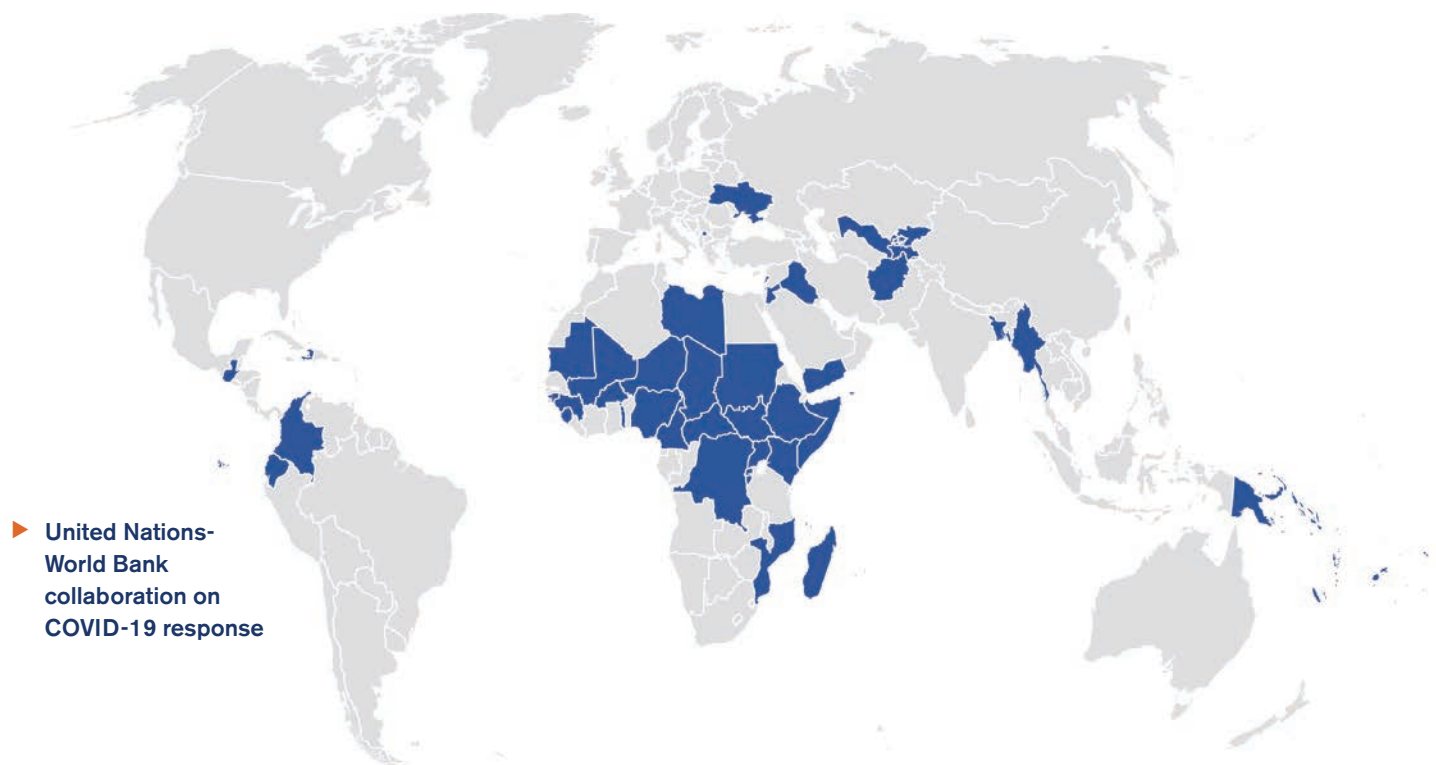
In **Niger**, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR work with the World Bank on an initiative to scale-up national systems of adaptive, solidarity-based social protection mechanisms, not only to respond to the immediate needs of vulnerable populations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to strengthen the social protection systems in the country, building upon ongoing cooperation to implement the \$13.95 million World Bank-financed COVID-19 Emergency Response Project.

In **South Sudan**, UNOPS, on behalf of the Government of South Sudan, is implementing the Bank-financed \$40 million South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP), which provides income support to nearly 430,000 people in some of South Sudan's most vulnerable communities and was adapted to respond to the economic impact of COVID-19. The project aims to ensure low-income and vulnerable people are provided with reliable access to income opportunities and temporary employment. The project focuses primarily on the most vulnerable households such as people living with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women and those living with HIV/AIDS.

on daily labor (with the majority of employment in the informal sector). Market-dependent urban populations are particularly affected by the socio-economic impact of the crisis, while reaching the most remote and rural areas remains critical to leave no one behind and make national investments more inclusive.

To address pandemic-related emerging needs and increasing vulnerabilities, UNOPS, and WFP

support delivery of cash transfers to low-income households in Bank-financed operations—including in the **Central African Republic, Haiti, Niger, and South Sudan**—while UNICEF has been engaged in World Bank-financed operations to strengthen social safety nets affected by the impact of COVID-19, supporting local institutions' capacity to better manage intercommunal tensions over services. The technical expertise of UN agencies in quickly mobilizing



and implementing cash programming has clearly demonstrated their comparative advantage. Working closely with governments wherever possible to ensure national ownership, the resilience of national systems, and their financial sustainability, is also a critical element of this strategy.

The UN and the World Bank jointly support governments to collect data, conduct impact assessments, and implement rapid solutions, allowing for more effective joint resource mobilization, effective program design and delivery, and building back better for longer-term sustainable development. Understanding the poverty impact of COVID-19, and of other compounding factors, is a crucial step in informing the policies that need to be adopted as the pandemic unfolds and during the recovery period. In the **Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia**, the UN Country Team and World Bank jointly developed phone surveys to monitor the impact of the pandemic, while coordinating their survey instruments in many more settings. UNCHR and the World Bank collaborated on a study in **Lebanon**, as well as three governorates in **Jordan** and the **Kurdistan Region of**

Iraq to understand the poverty impact of COVID-19, estimating that 4.4 million people in host communities and 1.1 million refugees or IDPs were driven into poverty in the immediate aftermath of the crisis. In countries like **Iraq, Libya, and Yemen**, the World Bank and WFP have coordinated remote monitoring capacities to increase the timeliness and frequency of joint poverty, food security and market analyses. In FCV settings, it is crucial that impact assessments are conflict-sensitive, taking into account root causes, risks, and sources of resilience. The UN HDPP Facility established a fast-track modality to support joint UN-World Bank data and risk analysis efforts to inform a conflict-sensitive COVID-19 recovery in various FCV settings. For example, in **Niger's Diffa and Tillabery regions, Sierra Leone, and Togo**, with UN HDPP Facility funding, the UN and World Bank collaborated to review the impact of the pandemic on drivers of fragility and social cohesion and to assist the formulation of conflict-sensitive recovery plans to build back better. Building on shared analysis, the UN and World Bank Group cooperate in the development and implementation of the UN socio-economic response plans in some conflict-affected settings.



Displaced children residing at a United Nations transit site take time to play, as the world marks the International Youth Day. South Sudan's conflict has affected the lives of many of these children. The children have been able to attend makeshift classes, with their adult classmate, 49 year-old Tereza Aduok Deng who has also taken to skipping rope. Tereza's four children also attend the same school. Photo: UN Photo/ Isaac Billy, Juba, South Sudan



Forced Displacement

Joint global initiatives and emerging trends on country collaboration

The world is facing the largest forced displacement crisis ever recorded, with 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide by the end of 2019. The majority of forcibly displaced are settling in lagging and often fragile regions, amongst the poorest populations of the world — 85 percent of the forcibly displaced are hosted in developing countries. Displacement patterns become increasingly complex and protracted—eight out of ten forcibly displaced people live in countries or territories that are affected by acute food insecurity and malnutrition, 77 percent of the world's

refugees have been displaced for more than 5 years. This makes forced displacement, resulting from fragility, conflict and violence a major humanitarian, development and peacebuilding challenge.

Against this backdrop and building on the UN's and World Bank Group's shared vision to support countries affected by forced displacement and host communities more effectively, the cooperation between the World Bank Group and UNHCR has grown into a solid strategic partnership rooted in the principle of complementarity. During the reporting period, it has evolved around concrete areas in line

with the two organization's respective comparative advantages, including: i) cooperation around policy and programmatic aspects of the World Bank's dedicated financing instruments for refugee-hosting countries (the IDA18 Refugee Sub-Window, the IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees, and the Global Concessional Financing Facility); ii) data collection and analysis, including the launch of the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement in October 2019; iii) joint learning and capacity building initiatives; and iv) increasing technical collaboration in specific sectors, such as social protection and education. In **Cameroon**, building on its IDA18 RSW allocation and a solid WB-UNHCR collaboration, cross-sectoral engagement with the World Bank to mitigate the impact of the Lake Chad Basin crisis in the North and Far North was further deepened. The UN established a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Task Force, which the WB is a member of, to define, coordinate and align priority actions in convergence zones under the agreed collective outcomes. The HDPP Facility supported additional UN capacity to lead this effort at increasing impact and addressing drivers of instability, with the view to adapt the approach to other crisis-hit regions of Cameroon affected by forced displacement.

The partnership has thus actively contributed to the operationalization of the United Nations' Global Compact on Refugees, which aims to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations and to create development opportunities for refugees and host communities in protracted situations.

IDA18 and IDA19

Under the 18th and 19th IDA replenishments, the World Bank has allocated more than \$4.2 billion in financing to refugees and host communities.

This has been and will continue to be crucial in supporting more inclusive and sustainable policies and programs benefitting the socio-economic development of host and refugee communities. These investments have been a game changer in bringing a development focus to the refugee agenda.

By 30 June 2020, the \$1.85 billion under the World Bank's IDA18 RSW was allocated to 14 eligible countries in Africa and Asia. 35

projects were approved and are currently being implemented. All projects in different sectors such

as education, health, social protection or local development, explicitly target and benefit refugee hosting areas, and enable the inclusion of refugees in local public service delivery and socio-economic life. UNHCR has closely collaborated with host governments and the World Bank in the context of the IDA18 RSW to advance refugee inclusion and protection through (i) systematic assessments and advice on the adequacy of the refugee protection framework based on analysis and evidence (legal framework, administrative instruments and practice, institutional arrangements), (ii) identification of key protection priorities to be advanced with the support of the World Bank through policy dialogue and programmatic interventions, and (iii) advising on the design and development of RSW-financed projects.

As part of the IDA19 FCV envelope, \$2.2 billion have been allocated to the World Bank's WHR.

UNHCR is working closely with the World Bank on the roll-out of a Refugee Policy Review Framework to systematically review refugee policy and institutional environments in countries eligible for the new IDA19 WHR, that will shed light on the extent to which the World Bank engagement has helped shift policies and

their implementation in WHR countries to promote inclusive development for both refugees and hosts; for example, in areas such as freedom of movement, access to education, health, identity, justice and finance, employment and entrepreneurship, and environmental management.

Global Concessional Financing Facility

The GCFF, initiated in 2016 by the UN, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank, provides development support on concessional terms to middle-income countries impacted

by refugee crises across the world. Since 2016, the GCFF has supported operations in Lebanon and Jordan as both countries continue to host the highest number of refugees relative to population size. As of June 30, 2020, **Lebanon** received \$139.4 million in concessional financing from the GCFF, for three projects worth \$615 million, while **Jordan** has received \$367.6 million in concessional financing to five projects worth \$1.7 billion.

In 2019, based on the assessments of the Venezuelan displacement crisis by UNHCR, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank

PROMOTING RESILIENCE IN CHAD

In Chad, to ensure complementarity between humanitarian and development response to refugees and host communities, UNHCR and the World Bank Group conducted missions and preparations, including by sharing information and data, for the World Bank's \$75 million grant under IDA for the Refugees and Host Communities Support Project Additional Financing (PARCA AF). The project aims to improve access to basic services; improve resilience of the poorest/most vulnerable households through cash assistance and productive measures; strengthen country systems to support refugees and host communities by enhancing the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees (CNARR)'s capacity; and improve the national social protection systems. WFP and

IOM also supported joint efforts on refugee food assistance and social protection targeting. The World Bank's Emergency Food and Livestock Crisis Response Project (PURCAE) addresses the urgent needs of returnees/refugees and host populations, to alleviate the increased food insecurity. With \$16 million in financing from the IDA and technical assistance from FAO, UNICEF, and the IOM, the project benefits a total of 78,221 local households, refugees, and returnees (approximately 469,326 persons), including by providing sustainable access to safe water to 46,000 people and safe cooking systems to 9,204 households. Within the \$41 million Climate Resilient Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project (ProPAD), promoting the adoption of improved technologies for increased productivity and climate resilient agricultural production systems, IOM has intervened in the area of conditional food assistance through cash-transfer based programming (Cash for Work) to reinforce resilience of vulnerable returnees, refugees and host community members in southern Chad to withstand cyclical shocks and food insecurity. Among its achievements, 11,500 individuals have received cash assistance from participation in Cash for Work activities (over \$575,000 distributed to beneficiaries) throughout the four target regions.



*Sudanese refugees at Iridimi Camp in Chad, which was visited by Secretary-General Kofi Annan today. Iridimi Camp, Chad.
Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.*

and others, Colombia and Ecuador, major host countries for migrants from Venezuela, were welcomed as benefitting countries to the GCFF.

Since joining the GCFF, **Colombia** has received \$190.8 million in concessional financing for three projects worth \$1 billion. **Ecuador** has received \$20.1 million in concessional financing for the Second and Third Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Development Financing (DPF) worth U\$1 billion. UNHCR has worked closely with the two host Governments and the World Bank advising on modalities and policies on refugee inclusion during the project/program design phase that ensure that these investments result in tangible benefits for refugees and migrants.

To date, **Jordan** has been the largest recipient of GCFF funding. The Government of Jordan, with support of GCFF-funded budget support operations, has introduced a number of policy changes that have helped to improve the economic opportunities of Syrian refugees. These changes include granting Syrians access to the Jordanian labor market, helping to reduce the unemployment rate from 61 percent to 25 percent and increasing labor force participation from 28 percent to 32 percent. GCFF-funded operations have helped to facilitate the emergence of Syrian home-based businesses, the

granting of more than 100,000 work permits to Syrians, ensured access to free health care, and boosted primary and secondary school participation among Syrian children. The work on these reforms has greatly benefitted from strong coordination with other development partners, in particular UNHCR in Jordan.

In **Lebanon**, the GCFF Lebanon Group has been established to ensure a predictable and upstream coordination and dialogue with GCFF Lebanon donors and partners to discuss issues related to the development response to forced displacement and the vulnerable host communities in Lebanon. These meetings also often include presentations by and knowledge-sharing with UNHCR and other UN agencies.

Since its inception, the GCFF has received more than \$773 million in pledges and contributions from Supporting Countries and leveraged over \$4.8 billion in much-needed concessional financing to support refugees and their host communities. The current independent evaluation of the GCFF commissioned by the World Bank offers an opportunity to collectively learn from the collaboration to date and seek to further enhance it.



*Some of the beneficiaries who will be regular users of the daycare funded under Productive Safety Nets Program (PSNP) in Sire District, Arsi, Ethiopia.
Photo: Binyam Teshome / World Bank*

JOINT DATA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA

The UN and the World Bank provided significant support to the Government of **Ethiopia** to advance the implementation of Ethiopia's refugee policies in support of self-reliance for refugees and host communities. In this context, the World Bank and UNHCR collaboration focuses on the implementation of a strong strategic operational partnership to strengthen responses to the refugee situation, under IDA18 RSW and IDA19 WHR operations. In addition, the World Bank and UNHCR concluded a new Data Sharing Agreement in 2020, allowing access to UNHCR-administered data to inform World Bank operations. UNHCR and the World Bank joint analytical work on socioeconomic integration of refugees and host communities supports the Government of Ethiopia (particularly the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs) to implement the Refugee Proclamation. UNHCR and the World Bank have pursued a joint approach to supporting the implementation of Ethiopia's Global Compact on Refugees Pledges, focusing on Refugee Protection, including encouraging broader development with necessary protections, Refugee Data, and Coordination. In this context, the Alternative Employment Pathways under the World Bank's Employment Promotion Package Refugee Pilot Program (a component of the World Bank-financed \$333.6 million Economic Opportunities Program), targeting 10,000 refugees, supports development of enterprises jointly owned by refugee and host populations. Finally, under the JDC agreement, the UNHCR and the World Bank are pursuing ways of enhancing socio-economic data to facilitate development of projects aimed at advancing economic development of refugee hosting areas and inclusion of refugees. Jointly, the UNHCR and the World Bank are supporting the Government to build technical capacity and mechanisms to advance implementation of refugee inclusion initiatives designed in line with the Refugee Proclamation.

Data and Research

Since 2016, the World Bank has partnered with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and UNHCR on “Building the Evidence on Forced Displacement”. The research

partnership has the objective of contributing to expand high quality and policy relevant research on forced displacement. It does this by financing large multi-country and multi-partner research projects that address questions of global interest related to forced displacement in five strategic thematic areas: jobs, health, education, social protection and gender. It also supports World Bank, UNCHR, and FCDO operations that require research to answer specific questions that constrain operation delivery, conducting them in **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, and Uganda** to date. In addition, the initiative synthesizes lessons emerging from the entire research program and complements them with addition studies. For example, in the reporting period the report “Estimating Poverty among Refugee Populations: A Cross Survey Imputation Exercise for Chad”¹⁴, developed

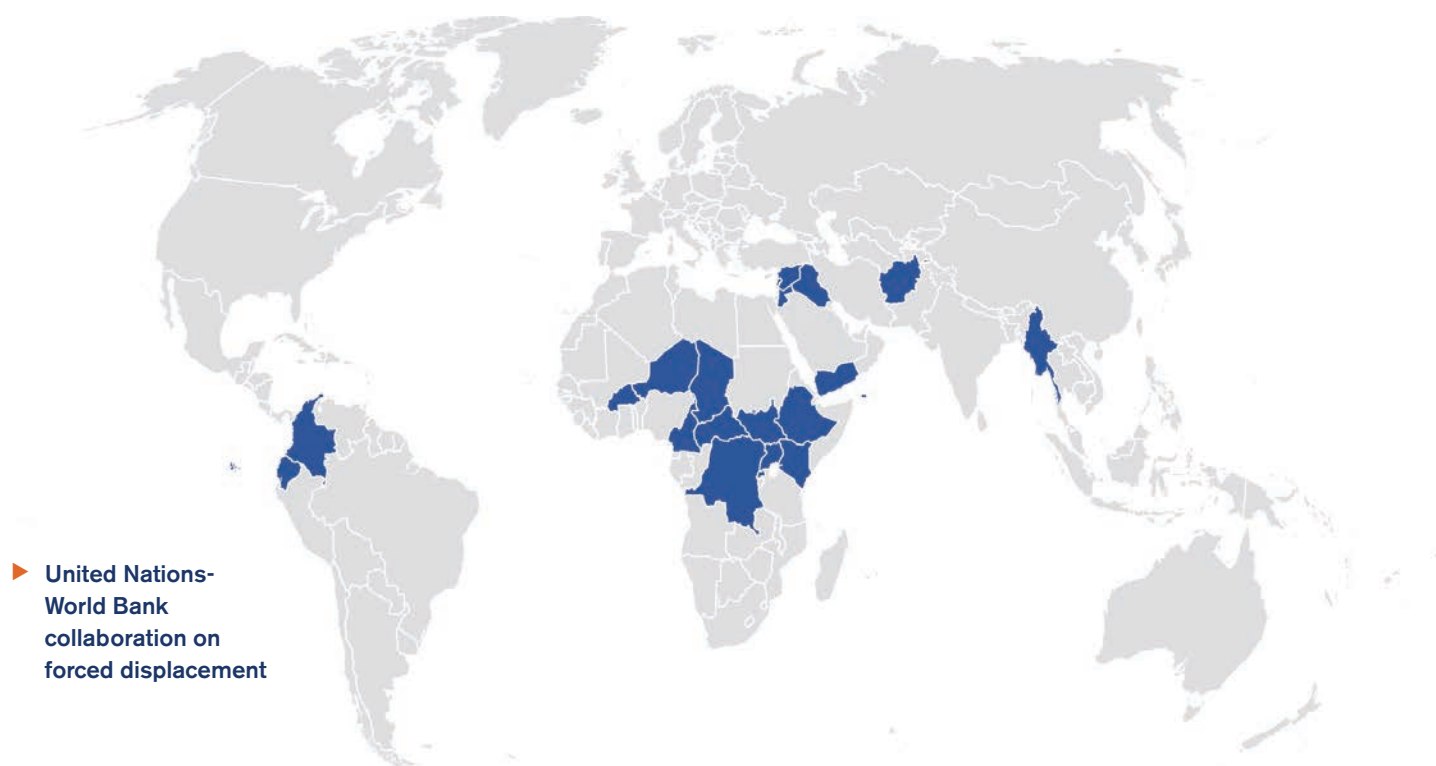
new approaches for measuring poverty of refugees in a context where comparable welfare data for refugees and nationals did not exist. The research has the potential to be scaled up and used to inform targeted development programs for other refugee populations.

In the second half of 2019, the World Bank Group and UNHCR built on this experience, opening the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC), which aims to enhance the ability of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people, returnees, asylum-seekers, and host populations. To this aim, the JDC focuses on the collection, analysis, and dissemination of relevant socio-economic microdata. The activities of the Center are grouped in five thematic areas of work: (1) Strengthening data systems; (2) Filling data gaps; (3) Filling data analysis and knowledge gaps; (4) Improving data access; and (5) Knowledge sharing. The JDC supports country-level engagement to increase the coverage of socioeconomic data on populations affected by forced displacement and host communities, as well as global systemic efforts to strengthen norms and standards on statistics that will

¹⁴ Beltram, Theresa; Dang, Hai-Anh H.; Sarr, Ibrahima; Verme, Paolo; (2020); *Estimating Poverty among Refugee Populations: A Cross-Survey Imputation Exercise for Chad (English)*; Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 9222. Paper is funded by the Knowledge for Change Program (KCP) Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/511711588016782589/Estimating-Poverty-among-Refugee-Populations-A-Cross-Survey-Imputation-Exercise-for-Chad>

improve the quality of data collected. For example, in 2020 the World Bank and UNHCR launched a report surveying the socioeconomic conditions in Kalobeyei in **Kenya**, a settlement established to accommodate the growing population of refugees mainly from **South Sudan**, as well as in **Burundi**, **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, and **Ethiopia**. The socioeconomic data collected

can inform policies and programs, and has provided several recommendations, including prioritizing building and maintaining human capital in the refugee population, especially among girls and women, and promoting self-reliant agricultural interventions to avoid food insecurity. In **Ethiopia**, which hosts almost 800,000 refugees, it is important to support collection of comparable data for





*Al Zaatari Refugee Camp
Photo: William Stebbins/World Bank*

MASHREQ DISPLACEMENT RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

In the **Mashreq** region, the strong collaboration between the World Bank and UNHCR, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and IOM Iraq continues to support the finalization of the World Bank's Mashreq Displacement Response Framework, ensuring strategic and analytical alignment. In addition, the World Bank is preparing a project to support protecting and promoting the human capital in Iraq with a focus on the host communities of internally displaced people under the Prospects Partnership, in close collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR.

refugees and host communities in order to design effective policies and support. The JDC is piloting collection of data on refugees and host communities as part of the national household survey, expected to inform the Government of Ethiopia's programs responding to the development needs of refugees and hosts, as well their roadmap to roll out freedom of movement and socioeconomic integration.

For 2020, the work program included some 40 activities with a budget of \$13.2 million, and carefully selected for their contribution toward achieving its mission. A Management Committee with representatives from the World Bank Group, UNHCR,

countries affected by forced displacement and host communities and donor countries oversees the work of the Center, and a network of around 100 experts from government, development, humanitarian and civil society organizations forms a Strategic Advisory Council. The JDC team currently comprises approximately 15 staff employed by UNHCR and World Bank. The main office is located in the UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark, with additional support from colleagues in Washington DC, Geneva and Melbourne. The Center is co-funded by the Governments of Denmark and the United States and the European Union. Donors to the JDC made a total pledge of \$25.7 million.

SUPPORTING A “WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH” IN UGANDA

In **Uganda**, the World Bank and UN partner to support the Government's progressive “whole of society approach,” as enshrined in a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), enhancing self-reliance and transition from humanitarian to development response and addressing long-term needs of refugee hosting communities. Among many other initiatives, UNHCR provided comprehensive datasets on educational and health facilities currently operated by humanitarian partners to inform the dialogue between the Government, the World Bank, and UNHCR on the inclusion of refugee populations in the national resource allocation formula for health and education service delivery by local governments. In the context of the planning and implementation of several projects supported by the IDA18 RSW, the World Bank, UNHCR, and UNICEF focused on the development of a roadmap to standardize the water system designs in refugee settlements and host communities and to transition toward a utility-based model. Uganda's sustainable water management in refugee settlements was showcased during a knowledge sharing event co-organized by the World Bank and UNHCR at the Africa Water Congress in February 2020. Finally, UN Women, UNICEF, and UNHCR have worked closely with the World Bank on its assessment of Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children Prevention and Response Services in Uganda's Refugee-Hosting Districts. Preliminary outcomes of this multi-layered collaboration are showing positive gains increasing the integration of refugees in national planning, data systems and social services and strengthening employment opportunities across refugees and host communities.



Workers in Kampala, Uganda. Photo: Arne Hoel/World Bank



*Members of the Cooperative Agriculture Maraicher for Boulbi, nurture their fields of vegetables, as they water and hoe the fields in Kieryaghin village, Burkina Faso.
Photo © Dominic Chavez/World Bank*



Food Security

COVID-19 is projected to dramatically increase the number of people in food crisis in 2020, compounding multiple existing crises, with protracted impacts lasting into 2022. WFP estimates that, by the end of 2020, due to COVID-19 an additional 96 million people will be acutely food insecure in IDA countries. This exceeds the worldwide number of COVID-19 cases. Added to the 137 million people (including refugees) that were already acutely food insecure in IDA countries pre-COVID-19, this brings the total to 233 million by the end of 2020. Projections suggest this will increase to about 330 million in 2021 and further still in 2022. These impacts come on top of a rising trend

in hunger in many countries driven by climate change, conflict, and other economic shocks. The compounding effect of COVID-19 is also likely to roll back much of the progress over the last few decades on women and children's nutrition. Increased numbers of children will face stunting, compromising their future human capital and economic productivity.

IDA FCS countries are particularly at risk of food security crises, with the majority in Sub-Saharan Africa. Food insecurity "hotspots", geographical areas at greatest risk of food insecurity crises, over the coming 12 months are concentrated in 12 countries: **Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic**



*Beneficiaries of the Cash Transfer Pilot Program
in the district of Tahoua in Niger.*

FOOD SECURITY EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN NIGER

In **Niger** (with a similar arrangement in **Burkina Faso**), under a Memorandum of Understanding defining a common vision and objectives for 2021, WFP and the World Bank work together to implement joint action plan on capacity building and tools to strengthen social safety nets reactive to food security shocks, including an early warning system, contingency and response plans, a framework for financing shocks, and targeting. In this context, the World Bank-funded \$80 million Adaptive Safety Nets Project supports an effective and adaptive safety net system that will increase access of poor and vulnerable people to cash transfer and cash for work programs. FAO provided technical assistance for select activities of a World Bank-funded project to support climate sensitive agriculture. Targeting 500,000 direct beneficiaries, the \$100 million IDA-funded Climate-Smart Agriculture Support Project (PASEC) supports adaptation to climate risks, improvement of agricultural productivity, and promotion of sustainable landscape management depending on natural resource.

of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.¹⁵

Such conditions force people to adopt coping mechanisms — like abandoning livelihoods, selling animals and livestock, eating seeds, abandoning fisheries, and/or migrating — that can extend the depth and duration of development losses. Furthermore, humanitarian aid could be impacted by border closures and lead to further displacement and heightened social tensions as populations leave their homes in search of assistance.

The World Bank, UN, and other international partners coordinate closely to address severe food insecurity, as well as its underlying drivers, including climate, conflict, and other shocks. In

some of the most food insecure countries (e.g. **Yemen**), IDA and the WFP are amongst the largest sources of financing, with WFP providing humanitarian assistance and IDA focusing on a complementary blend of short-term and medium-to longer-term solutions. IDA has provided \$5.3 billion in new commitments for food security from April to the end of September 2020. This support has come in the form of both short-term

COVID-19 responses and investments to address the longer-term drivers of food insecurity. Throughout the reporting period, the World Bank and WFP collaborated on food insecurity in countries ranging from **Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Guatemala, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, and Yemen**, with work centering on data collection, early warning, provision of integrated safety nets, beneficiary targeting, the response to COVID-19, and cash programming, with work addressing climate as well. For example, in **Mali**, WFP implements the \$12.5 million IDA-financed emergency component of the Drylands Project, which provides emergency food assistance to 650,000 people. In **Chad**, the IDA-financed Climate Resilient Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project is complementing WFP and FAO efforts to distribute food kits and agriculture inputs (seeds and small agriculture equipment). In Burkina Faso, collaboration with the WFP under the Emergency Recurrent Cost Financing Project has resulted in sound achievement in replenishing the food stock. The World Bank Group is also working closely with FAO on the response to the infestation of desert locusts in **Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen, and Uganda**, which is compounding the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and food production and food policy

¹⁵ In June 2020, there was strong consensus among the Famine Action Mechanism (FAM) partners that these 12 countries were at greatest risk of experiencing food security crises over the next 12 months.

The agriculture sector in Niger is characterized by very low levels of farm input use and low productivity. Women account for approximately 24% of Niger's agricultural farm labour, but have sole ownership of only 9% of the total land area controlled by Niger's households. Increasing women's contributions to Niger's agricultural sector could help rural households lift themselves out of poverty. Photo: © Stephan Gladieu/World Bank



SUPPORTING SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SAFETY NETS IN SOMALIA

In **Somalia**, a \$65 million World Bank-financed Somalia Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project (SNHCP), provides cash transfers to targeted poor and vulnerable households, establishing the key building blocks of a national shock-responsive safety net system. The project has three components: nutrition-linked unconditional cash transfers; strengthening institutional capacity of relevant government ministries to manage and implement a social protection delivery system; and strengthening the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' coordination arrangement. Under this project, a cash transfer program launched in April 2020 known as "Baxnaano", or uplifting in Somali, is being executed in partnership with WFP and UNICEF to support implementation of the cash transfer system. Activities are closely coordinated with the Somalia Technical Assistance Facility and a social protection program funded by the Sustainable Development Goals Fund and implemented by ILO, UNICEF, and WFP, as well as with UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Somali Cash Consortium, and the Somalia Donor Group.

To operationalize the shock responsive aspect of the project, the \$40 million Somalia Shock Responsive Safety Net for Locust Response Project (SNLRP) is addressing the impacts of the recent locust outbreak. It provides time-bound emergency cash transfers to locust-affected poor and vulnerable households to meet their short-term needs. Through a service contract with the Government, WFP is delivering the cash transfers as well as complements the recently approved Somalia Crisis Recovery Project (SCRCP), focused on restoration of livelihoods of smallholder households and provision of re-engagement farming packages. WFP has completed the manual registration of 125,189 households and a total of 16,391 households have received their first quarterly payment. The full caseload of 200,000 households is planned to receive the third quarter payment in December 2020. In addition to the reliable and predictable nutrition-linked cash transfers provided under the SNHCP, the SNLRP will provide emergency cash transfers to approximately 100,000 poor and vulnerable households whose livelihoods depend on agriculture or livestock, either as subsistence farmers or as farm laborers that have been impacted by the locust outbreak over a six-month period.



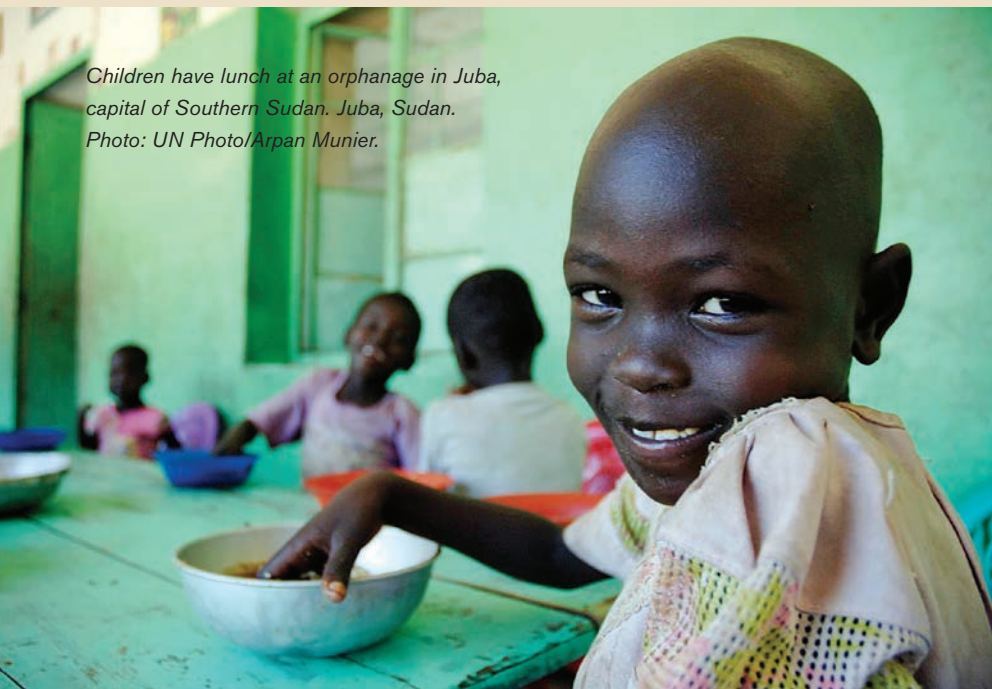
Internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing drought seek assistance at Al Adala temporary camp, Mogadishu. Photo: UN Photo/Omar Abdisalan

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN

In **South Sudan**, the World Bank and FAO are collaborating on the preparation and development of two projects: the World Bank-financed \$62.5 million South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project to improve food availability through increased investment in seed production, farmer capacity building, and mechanization in agriculture; as well as the forthcoming South Sudan Emergency Locust Response Project, to provide immediate response to the crisis and strengthen preparedness systems. The South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project, against the backdrop of longstanding conflict, desert

locusts, and COVID-19, is envisioned as a first step towards breaking out of the cycle of humanitarian assistance and progressing to self-reliance. The focus is on agricultural recovery, resilience building and productivity enhancement. This project will focus on helping farm households to produce not only for self-consumption but also to scale up production for supplying local markets. The aim will be to enhance production and gradually shift farmer thinking from “grow and sell” to “grow to sell”. The World Bank and WFP, together with UNICEF, also work together to share lessons learned and develop coordinated approaches to support the most vulnerable through integrated social safety nets.

*Children have lunch at an orphanage in Juba, capital of Southern Sudan. Juba, Sudan.
Photo: UN Photo/Arpan Munier.*



reform, as well as exacerbating the risks and impact of FCV in several contexts. The World Bank was well placed to mobilize a cross-country response on locust control, while the FAO provided technical expertise and data. UNICEF and the World Bank Group collaborate on child nutrition in a number of countries, such as the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Yemen**, while WHO and the World Bank Group collaborate on child nutrition and stunting in **Yemen**, as well.

As part of the FAM, the World Bank has been working closely with humanitarian and development partners to bolster anticipatory and early action to help mitigate emerging food security crises. The FAM is a global partnership dedicated to scaling up AEA to protect lives and livelihoods from emerging food security crises.¹⁶ The FAM has focused on three areas of collaboration across humanitarian and development partners—food security crisis risk analytics, AEA financing, and programming. This work was instrumental to the development of the World Bank's CRW

¹⁶ FAM partners include the World Bank, donors (Canada, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, US), UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO), ICRC and IFRC, (I)NGOs (Action Against Hunger, Concern, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, START), and data institutions (CILSS, FEWSNET, IPC, UN Centre for Humanitarian Data).

ERF and closely connected to anticipatory action pilots led by OCHA's CERF.¹⁷ To date, the FAM has conducted country-level consultations in **Afghanistan, Chad, Somalia, South Sudan**, and **Yemen** to identify specific challenges and ways to support AEA programming. These engagements kickstarted project-level collaborations between the World Bank and its partners, e.g., **Somalia's** \$65 million Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital project and **Afghanistan's** proposed \$226.5 million Early Warning, Early Finance, and Early Action project. The FAM is an important platform for raising awareness and gathering consensus around food security crisis trends, including more recent impacts caused by COVID-19.¹⁸

In addition to IDA allocations and the FCV envelope, the World Bank provides countries with a dedicated source of additional resources to respond to shocks through the CRW. For IDA19, the CRW's mandate was extended to support early responses to slow onset crises, specifically disease

¹⁷ See OCHA. 2020. UN Humanitarian Chief to Release Up to \$140M in CERF Funds for Anticipatory-Action Projects. <https://www.unocha.org/story/un-humanitarian-chief-release-140m-cerf-funds-anticipatory-action-projects>

¹⁸ On June 4, 2020, the FAM's Global Technical Working Group—comprised of director-level representatives from respective partners—met to discuss the imminent impacts of COVID-19 on food security crises.



Plowing the fields in Yemen. Photo: Tomas Sennett/World Bank

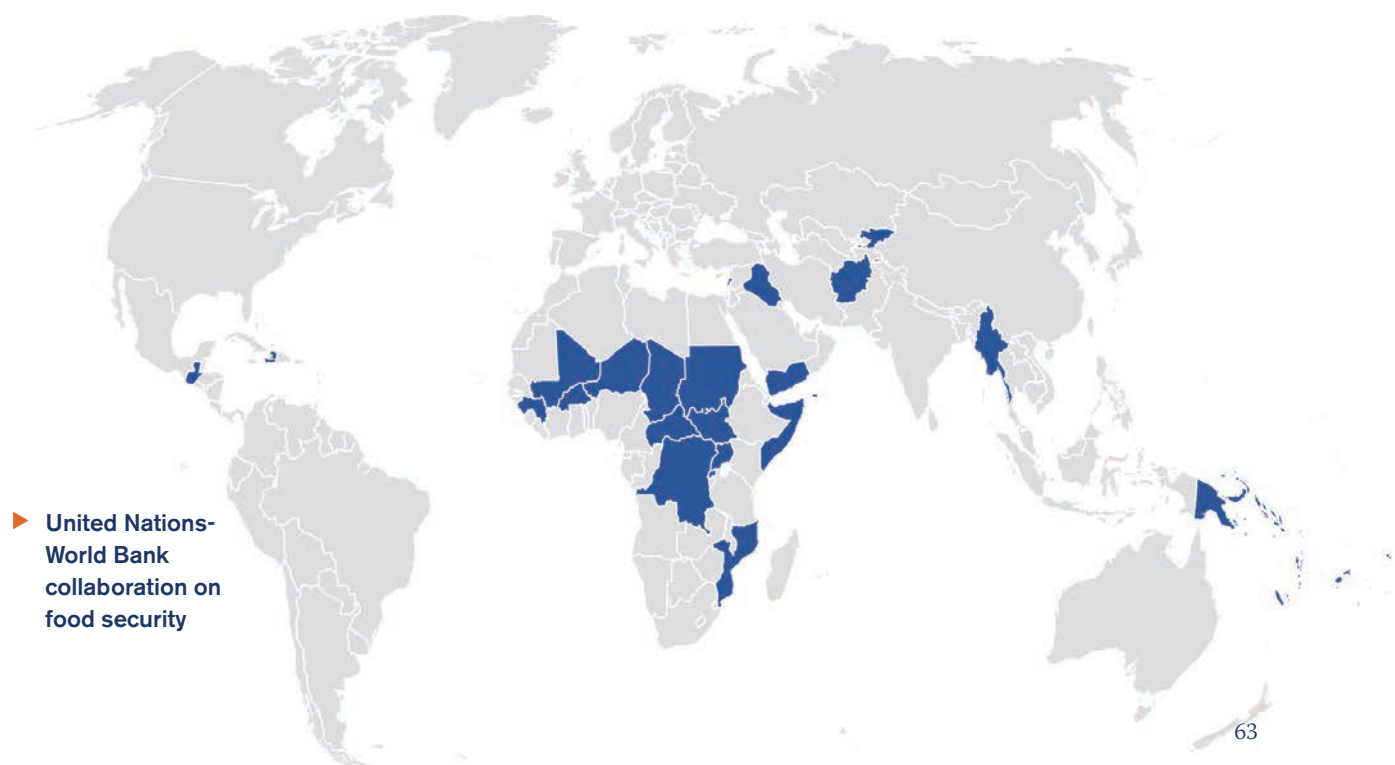
ENHANCING PREPAREDNESS TO FUTURE SHOCKS IN YEMEN

In Yemen, the World Bank has been able to provide large-scale assistance to Yemen during the conflict through an innovative partnership with the UN. IDA has financed nearly \$2 billion in emergency interventions, investing in people and the institutions they rely on for critical services. In the area of food security, the World Bank and FAO partner in the implementation of the \$36 million Smallholder Agricultural Production Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP), funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to increase use of productivity and nutrition-enhancing agricultural practices by smallholders in targeted areas. More than 95,000 rural households have been reached with the project's support packages and close to 60,000 farmers have been supported to re-engage in crop and livestock production. In addition, the World Bank and FAO are collaborating to strengthen Yemen's preparedness for future locust infestations, control the current outbreak, and support livelihoods in locust-affected areas, with the \$25 million Desert Locust Response Project approved in June 2020. The project will work to limit the growth and spread of current desert locust population, as well as provide immediate relief to affected farmers and livestock owners and build their resilience to climate-induced locust infestation. Finally, the World Bank and WFP partner to monitor Yemenis' welfare through a monthly mobile phone survey on food security and access to basic services. The collected information is analyzed and published in a monthly WFP-World Bank bulletin and further disseminated through reports and technical working papers.

outbreaks and food insecurity events which are at early stages of progression and have the potential to escalate into major crises. The CRW ERF modality helps to mobilize support during the early stages of an emerging crisis, making use of food security data and forecasts to identify eligible events. The ERF comprises up to \$500 million of the \$2.5 billion IDA19 CRW envelope.¹⁹

¹⁹ The ERF offers up to \$50 million per country per IDA cycle on IDA country terms. To access the ERF, IDA countries must meet specific requirements. All ERF requests must undergo a technical assessment by cross-sectoral World Bank teams prior to consultation with and approval by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors.

Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 as well as recent shocks from natural disasters and economic crises, support from the new \$500 million CRW ERF is already being considered for several countries to help address emerging and potential food security crises, including for the **Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen**. Such support will be important for complementing other World Bank Group efforts and strategic efforts led by government in collaboration with UN and other partners.



*A farm worker cleans lettuce crops, in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.
Photo: Maria Fleischmann/World Bank*



Back cover image:

*Education Quality Improvement Project (EQRA), Qala-e-Ahmad
Khan Girls Hight School. Bagrami District. Kabul Afghanistan.*

Photo: Rumi Consultancy/World Bank.

