

WHAT IS THE UN-WORLD BANK FRAGILITY AND CONFLICT PARTNERSHIP TRUST FUND?

The UN-World Bank Fragility and Conflict [Partnership Trust Fund](#) is a multi-country, multi-donor trust fund that supports partnership activities, fostering a closer relationship between the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank (WB) to promote a more effective and sustainable international response in fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS)¹. The Trust Fund helps fulfill a commitment by United Nations Secretary-General and World Bank Group President to break down institutional barriers and strengthen the links between political, security, development, and humanitarian efforts in FCS countries. The Trust Fund has three key objectives:

- To support joint initiatives or approaches in fragile and conflict-affected situations;
- To strengthen capacity in both institutions to work effectively in partnership; and
- To collect good cooperation practices and support knowledge sharing.

In its fourth year of operation, the Trust Fund has seen a significant surge in grant making, and has made significant progress in facilitating stronger strategic and operational collaboration between the UN and the WB at the HQ, regional and country level, through a number of new initiatives. These included support for UN and WB teams to work closely together to facilitate follow-up action from high-level joint visits to the Horn of Africa, Sahel and Great Lakes regions, new partnership work in the Ukraine, Gaza, Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea and Jordan, and strengthening our collective response to key thematic issues in FCS.

Applications are received on a rolling basis for proposals that have been developed jointly by UN and WB teams, show alignment with the [Strategic Results Framework \(SRF\) for the UN-World Bank partnership in FCS](#)² and towards the broader strategic objectives of the two organizations, as well as in support of country priorities. The Trust Fund provides resources for a range of initiatives aimed at promoting strategic dialogue, operational and programmatic collaboration, in line with the principles outlined in the [2008 UN-World Bank Partnership Framework Agreement for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations](#). It welcomes proposals that advance the partnership in FCS in priority areas, including:

- Upstream collaboration on analysis and strategy, including through studies, workshops and joint retreats.
- Advancing key themes from the 2011 World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development: security, justice and job creation.
- Support for the development, implementation and monitoring of national development and peacebuilding strategies. This includes initiatives related to the implementation of the New Deal.
- Strategic staffing and consultancy assignments, including secondments, to drive forward partnership initiatives in the field.

To date, grants have averaged between \$100,000 and \$200,000, with proposals of up to \$500,000 considered on an exceptional basis. The Trust Fund has supported country level collaboration³ in FCS contexts, as well as global initiatives to improve our collective response supporting core government functions, justice, security sector reform, extractive industries, post-conflict needs assessments, the role of youth as peace builders and civilian capacities in FCS settings. All applications are reviewed and approved jointly by the UN and WB⁴.

¹ Funding is currently provided by the Governments of Switzerland and Norway.

² The SRF outlines a number of goals and activities that aim to strengthen the collaboration between the UN and the World Bank in FCS, around three core objectives: i) improved regional and country-specific collaboration at strategic and operational levels; ii) strengthened institutional co-operation and communications on policy and thematic issues; and iii) increased operational policies, frameworks and tools to facilitate co-operation and cross financing.

³ Including projects in the Ukraine, Gaza, Somalia, Mali, South Sudan, CAR, DRC, Liberia, Yemen, Jordan, Papua New Guinea and Honduras.

⁴ For further information contact the Trust Fund secretariat: Reidun Otteroy (rotteroy@worldbank.org), World Bank, Center on Conflict, Security and Development (CCSD), World Bank; and Anja Bille Bahncke (anja.bahncke@undg.org), UN, Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO), or visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/un-world-bank-fragility-and-conflict-partnership-trust-fund>

SNAPSHOT OF THE UN-WB PARTNERSHIP TRUST FUND – FEBRUARY 2015

AFRICA

Somalia: The UN and WBG are providing joint support to peacebuilding and state building in Somalia, through the implementation of the New Deal Compact, including specific cooperation on capacity development, aid coordination, security sector reform, forced displacement and SGBV. In 2014, the Trust Fund supported two flagship areas of UN-WB collaboration in Somalia in support of New Deal Priorities. The first project aimed to operationalize a New Deal Aid and Financing Architecture in Somalia through the development of the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) secretariat, TORs and operational procedures, including managing risks and ensuring adequate M&E against the Somali Compact's Peacebuilding and State building Goals. The second project funded a joint study on gender-based violence (GBV) in Somalia to strengthen the collective understanding (of the Government, UN, WB and partners) of the typology, scope and perceptions of GBV experienced in all three regions of Somalia, and improve future planning and programming.

Mali: There are a number of key areas where the UN and the WB are collaborating in support of stabilization and post-crisis reconstruction in Mali, building on our comparative advantages. The Trust Fund supported one example of that collaboration in 2014 through a joint project to assess the economic impact of MINUSMA's deployment⁵, with a view to maximizing the peacebuilding benefits of the Peacekeeping Mission to the communities and the local economy. By building joint understanding of the situation in the north and the operating rules and regulations of the two organizations, the study is supporting increased collaboration as development aid moves north in support of stabilization and post-crisis reconstruction.

South Sudan: The latest outbreaks of widespread violence in South Sudan have highlighted the fragility of peace, and the need for concerted international support to national efforts towards peacebuilding and longer-term development. The Trust Fund provided a grant to reinvigorate partnership efforts in support of peacebuilding and aid effectiveness in South Sudan. The grant covers the cost of a Partnership Advisor in Juba, who began work in early 2014 to lead development of an action plan for closer joint UN–World Bank cooperation in support of national efforts toward peacebuilding and longer-term development, as well as the future implementation of a New Deal Compact. The Advisor has been working with the two institutions and other partners to map where donors are engaged in food security, basic services, and core functions and to assess current programs relative to need, and inform future program planning and design. The Advisor has produced a draft analysis of the causes of the recent crisis; the role of the international community and how it could have better supported national peacebuilding efforts; and the risks, opportunities, impacts, and lessons learned for the UN–WB partnership in South Sudan. This analysis will inform the joint action plan to be discussed with relevant counterparts.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): In 2013, the Trust Fund financed a Program Specialist in Eastern DRC to strengthen coordination and stabilization programs with partners, including in the planning and design of the Eastern Recovery program, the Agricultural Growth Poles program, the Women's Health and Empowerment program, and regional programs on cross-border trade and displacement, by bringing teams together and ensuring that programs address the socio-economic causes of conflict, align with other ongoing interventions across the east and accelerate recovery and growth in this war-torn region. The World Bank-seconded specialist was based within MONUSCO's Stabilization Support Unit⁶ in Goma to support the implementation of the revised Stabilization Strategy for the East (the ISSSS), which brings together all international partners in support of the government's stabilization plan and provides a framework for coordinating international assistance to consolidate peace, restore state authority, and promote socioeconomic recovery and development.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

SYRIA/JORDAN: Four years of conflict in Syria have resulted in millions of refugees in neighboring countries, with up to 70 percent staying outside of camps in urban centers, where they share space, resources and services with host communities. In northern Jordan, this influx had rapidly expanded the population of many towns and undermined the coping mechanisms of public institutions, communities and households. In response to a request from the Government of Jordan in late 2013, the Trust Fund helped to address the impact of the Syrian refugees on host communities, through a grant that kick-started the Emergency Services and Social Resilience Program (ESSRP), utilizing UNDP's expertise and presence on the ground to enhance community engagement with municipalities on service delivery, leveraging UN and WB comparative advantages in strengthening local institutional capacity. The project, which complements the State and Peacebuilding Fund's support for Jordanian host communities dealing with the influx of Syrian refugees, also assisted municipalities in engaging with communities in the development of employment generation plans, to help to ease the rising social tensions between

⁵ MINUSMA is the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

⁶ MONUSCO is the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Jordanian and Syrian communities and contribute to enhancing the resilience of both communities. The joint project provided nine municipalities with much-needed support on solid waste management, wastewater management, construction of community centers, rehabilitating roads, and street lighting. The grant has enabled staff from participating municipalities to take training on community mapping and outreach. Following the training, all the municipalities prepared outreach plans and implemented outreach campaigns that involved community groups—including children, youth, and women—in projects aimed at improving the cleanliness of their municipalities. Municipal staff were also trained on monitoring and evaluation tools and guidelines are being finalized to facilitate future outreach initiatives by municipal staff. The engagement supported by the Trust Fund focused on institutionalizing capacity at the local level to enhance interaction between municipalities and their communities, which is critical to the success of the ESSRP. The project also supported the broader efforts of the Government and donor community to develop new approaches to addressing the issue of displacement beyond humanitarian response, by considering and addressing longer-term development impacts on host communities.

Yemen: To help consolidate peace and stability, and pave the way for longer-term development during a critical political transition in Yemen, the Trust Fund approved a grant in 2014 to provide essential guidance to national and international partners, leverage the comparative advantage of each partner, and help to develop the framework and resources required for a joint UN–WB approach to support implementation of the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference. The grant included secondment of a Senior Governance Specialist from the WB to the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General. The Specialist is based in Sana’a and works closely with the UN Country Team and WB team in Yemen. The project builds on earlier work of the Trust Fund in Yemen and will include technical advice on economic and governance issues (aligned with the emerging new governance structure of the country) and the coordination of activities and programs that both institutions are developing in support of the transition process and to help prevent a relapse into conflict or reversal of recent political and development gains.

Gaza: In 2015, the Trust Fund approved a proposal to support a Detailed Needs Assessment (DNA) and medium to long-term recovery planning in Gaza following the conflict in July and August 2014. The DNA will encompass three dimensions, to be carried out jointly: a damage assessment, a loss and needs assessment and a strategic recovery planning exercise. The Trust Fund grant covers initial training activities and consultations of the broader DNA process, which will be an important opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the UN and WB on the ground, leveraging each institutions comparative advantages, expertise and resources during their joint support of both the assessment and analysis. As a part of the recovery planning portion of this exercise, the UN and WB, together with the government and donors will outline the schedule, financing, and types of post-crisis interventions each respective institution plans to implement in Gaza in the medium to long-term, allowing parties to identify areas of complementarity, partnership and avoid overlap/duplication.

OTHER REGIONS

Papua New Guinea (PNG): Ahead of a planned referendum on independence for the PNG province of Bougainville, in 2014 the Trust Fund supported a joint UN-World Bank effort to establish a common knowledge base on key conflict drivers and opportunities for peacebuilding and development interventions, strategy development, and stakeholder engagement, to provide the foundational knowledge for stakeholders to develop, implement, and monitor national development and peacebuilding strategies and structures for Bougainville. The grant supports the establishment of the local knowledge base on peace and development, lessons learnt from past support for new states and dissemination events towards future strategy and program design, and will feed in to analytical work and potential future projects supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Although the proposed activities are focused on PNG, the results will have a much broader reach by making available to the international community systematic and actionable lessons from interventions in support of new states or newly autonomous regions, and on UN-WB partnership in these contexts.

The Ukraine: In support of recovery planning for the conflict-affected Donbas region, the Trust Fund supported the critical inception phase activities of the joint Eastern Ukraine Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA) in late 2014. The first phase of the RPA, focused on immediate short-term recovery needs in the conflict-affected regions of eastern Ukraine currently under government control, was undertaken in November 2014, by a team of over 90 UN/WB/EU staff working under the leadership and in close collaboration with the government. The first phase focused on recovery needs in three main areas: infrastructure and social services, economic recovery and social cohesion and peacebuilding, and included gender, local governance and human rights as cross-cutting issues, while also looking at the needs of IDPs. The outputs of the RPA will guide the UN and WB’s recovery programs, including technical and capacity development assistance to the Donbas Recovery Agency and relevant line ministries and national services.

GLOBAL

Governance in FCS: State-building and in particular (re)building of core government functions – including policy planning, public financial management, civil service management and local governance – are a critical priority for stabilization and reconstruction efforts in FCS. In late 2013, the Trust Fund provided a grant to develop and pilot a joint UN-WB diagnostic framework for (re)establishing core-government functions in post-conflict situations. The joint diagnostic framework was developed in 2014, and joint efforts on Core Functions are already underway to pilot the tools in several countries. The tools will be refined in 2015 based on the findings of the pilot countries, followed by a communication/outreach strategy to align future UN-WB programming efforts in support of state building in FCS.

Justice in FCS: Building on the principles of the World Development Report 2011 and the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, which underscored the importance of justice institutions for broader economic and social development, in 2013, the Trust Fund supported a project to strengthen context-specific and problem-driven approaches to justice in FCS and expand cooperation between the UN and WB on justice issues. The project is developing and testing a joint framework and toolkit for analyzing the political economy of justice service delivery and designing best-fit policies and programs. The framework uses empirical research to examine how the delivery of justice services reflects formal and informal political, economic and social conditions, and provide concrete recommendations for approaches that garner sustained commitment by elites and citizens. The analysis focuses on specific problems to identify feasible and sustainable approaches to delivering justice services. In addition to supporting the development of the framework, this project will fund pilot assessments in two countries. The resulting toolkit and assessment framework will facilitate enhanced UN-WB cooperation, and result in context-specific, problem-driven programming to improve the delivery of justice services in fragile, conflict-affected and politically challenging environments.

Youth as Peace Builders: The Trust Fund is helping to explore the role of Youth as Peace Builders in conflict and post-conflict countries through the funding of a joint global review, workshops, knowledge exchange and published recommendations that examine interventions by the UN, WB and other developmental actors that address the role of youth as peace builders. The project began in 2014 with a literature review and the development of case studies. The joint recommendations will aim to improve program design and develop policy options for youth-related interventions in FCS countries for the UN, WB, development partners and governments.

Natural Resource Management & Conflict: In 2013, the Trust Fund supported joint analytical work to examine potential opportunities for conflict prevention along the extractive industries value chain. The project developed a comprehensive comparative review of the experiences of four countries (Peru, Chile, Liberia and DRC) and organized a series of workshops to review research findings and recommendations, including ways to operationalize them across both institutions going forward. An initial review meeting on the paper “Extractive Industries Value Chain as a Framework for Conflict Prevention” was recently held and discussions are underway on next steps.

Security Sector: Security sector reform (SSR) is a key component of stabilization and peacebuilding across Africa. In 2014, the Trust Fund supported the collaboration of the WBG, together with the UN, EU, the African Union and others on a set of activities to support nationally led security and justice SSR efforts in peacekeeping contexts through the provision of justice and security expenditure reviews (PERs). A joint *UN-WB Security Sector Expenditure Review Sourcebook* is being rolled out to help inform this dialogue by providing practitioners with (a) framework for analysis of financial management, financial transparency and oversight and expenditure policy issues and linking these to how to most appropriately manage corruption risks; and (b) advice on entry points for integrating expenditure analysis into the security sector reform and broader governance reform processes. The grant will also support joint PERS in two to three peacekeeping contexts (such as Mali or CAR), piloting the Sourcebook.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): To strengthen the capacity of the African Union (AU) to assist its constituencies in the field of DDR, the Trust Fund supported a joint project in 2014 to improve the UN and WB’s institutional capacities to support to the AU in responding to emerging DDR challenges in fragile and conflict-affected contexts across Africa’s five regions, through the development of operational guidance, case studies and lessons learned, joint workshops and training manuals. The increased engagement between the UN, WB and AU as a result of this project has helped the organizations to identify additional areas of collaboration, improving UN-WB coordination on several country projects both currently operating and in development.