

Round Table 7: Effectiveness of Aid in Fragility Situations

Main messages for Accra

Definition of Fragility

1. The definition of a fragile/vulnerable state should be widened to include not only situations of political fragility but some others that affect effectiveness, such as: economic, administrative, political, social, gender, environmental, and natural disaster situations, among others.
2. A wide-ranging definition of fragility may lead to think that one solution equally applies for all countries identified as fragile. It is recommended that AAA emphasizes that donors, under the partners leadership, identify specific fragility aspects in order to agree on a process for capacity development to address that situation.

Aspects that Create Fragility Situations

3. Social exclusion creates fragility situations. The inclusion of social sectors that are marginalized is fundamental to strengthen democratic governance in fragile states. The mechanisms that we propose to support fragility aspects in partner countries ought to support not only the efficiency and effectiveness of aid, but also foster the inclusion.
4. Fragile states from an economic point of view that are highly sensitive to external shocks, can face such fragility through trade, diversifying their own economy,
5. Fragility also appears among regions of a same country, where development asymmetries create fragility situations at local levels that are not perceived at central government level and require support that takes care of their particular features.

Facing Fragility Situations

6. In dealing with these fragility situations becomes essential the development of capacities at an institutional and governance level in order to implement processes for their strengthening, with a long-termed sustainability.
7. South-South cooperation becomes a support vector within a capacity building process in fragile states. South-South cooperation provides relevant experiences within the development process of states immersed in fragility situations. This can be experienced in the Region in the cooperation provided to Haiti by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. In this sense, harmonization including emerging donors becomes essential to assure effectiveness in those interventions.

8. Reducing fragility requires a long-term approach for emergency-attending policies that consequently become state policies. In this context, the partners and donors focus should be on the attendance of emergencies, but simultaneously supporting a process to define actions leading to reduce their impact on citizens and with a longer-termed horizon regarding their effectiveness in meeting basic needs of the people. In the Region we have examples of fragility situations that generated state programs that still exist although the emergency was taken care of, such as in Argentina with health, education, housing and conditional transfer programs after the 2001 crisis.

What is asked from donors?

9. Donors should commit to adjust themselves to the realities of those countries in situation of fragility, and not the other way around. These countries lack the capacity to manage multiple demands, so in this context the appropriation, alignment and harmonization principles are indeed significant.
10. All donors should adopt anticiclical policies in situations of fragility or vulnerability of countries, increasing and facilitating their aid in moments of crisis and contributing to medium and long-term policies that support governance during the post crisis period.
11. Donors should show some flexibility in their processes for disbursement of resources in cases where fragility is generated in emergency situations. It is important to adjust all processes to this type of situations in order to assure the allotment of resources to take care of the emergency timely so its impact can be reduced.