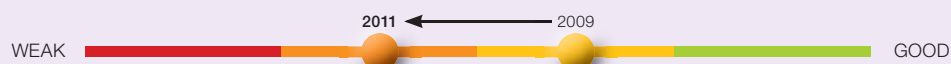


5. RECOGNISE THE LINKS BETWEEN POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

PRINCIPLE 5: LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION



THIS PRINCIPLE RECOGNISES THAT INCREASING RESILIENCE IN FRAGILE STATES requires political, security and development objectives to be addressed in an integrated manner. Development partners need to adopt a whole-of-government approach. They also need to be able to grasp what trade-offs exist between political, security and development objectives, as well as what the consequences of such trade-offs might be.

The 2009 Survey found broad recognition of the need for integrated approaches, but much less consensus on how to put them into practice. The 2009 evidence showed that integrated whole-of-government strategies from development partner countries remained the exception in the field. The 2011 Survey finds that development partners continue to recognise the links between the security, political and development dimensions. In most of the countries surveyed they are now reflected in development partner country strategies. However, this recognition frequently exists on paper only. In Burundi, for instance, security is felt to be an area of high demand and little supply because the sector has not been considered strategically relevant to development partners.

In the weakest cases, there is limited evidence of development partner efforts to implement whole-of-government approaches in any form (CAR, Chad, Comoros, Haiti and Togo). In such cases, links between humanitarian, development and security engagement, for instance, are weak or wholly absent.

In cases where whole-of-government approaches exist, the processes for managing the resulting trade-offs often lack transparency. This feeds a sense that certain objectives are implicitly prioritised over others

(see Box 3). In Somalia, for instance, the neutrality of humanitarian aid is felt to be compromised by political objectives (anti-terrorism and anti-piracy laws have prevented humanitarian aid from being delivered to certain areas). In Guinea-Bissau it is felt that international security concerns (particularly related to drug trafficking) are given precedence as well.

Development partner implementation of whole-of-government approaches appears to be most effective when it is explicitly aligned to national frameworks that link political, security and development objectives, for example the Agenda for Change in Sierra Leone, the Poverty Reduction Strategies in the DRC and Liberia, and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in South Sudan. In other words, where national governments are able to articulate what they consider key connections and objectives in these areas, development partners are in turn able to optimise their whole-of-government approaches. In contrast, limited capacity within government (as is the case in Haiti) can be a constraint to effective and integrated implementation but should nevertheless not be seen as an insurmountable obstacle. A whole-of-government approach hence also requires a comprehensive effort to strengthen the capacity of relevant national institutions. ■

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explicitly adopt and formalise whole-of-government approaches for all fragile states, accompanied by clear processes to identify and manage trade-offs between political, security and development priorities.
- Support partner government institutions to strengthen the implementation of political, security and development objectives at national level through national planning frameworks.



From:
International Engagement in Fragile States
Can't We Do Better?

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264086128-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2011), "Recognise the links between political, security and development objectives", in *International Engagement in Fragile States: Can't We Do Better?*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264086128-9-en>

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