

Introduction

Statebuilding and the specific challenges facing fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) are moving up the international agenda with the signing of the New Deal on International Engagement in Fragile States in Busan in December 2011 and publication of the World Bank's 2011 World Development Report, *Conflict, Security and Development*. The OECD-DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (OECD-INCAF) has produced extensive policy guidance, the 2011 *Supporting Statebuilding in Situations of Conflict and Fragility*, that has been adopted by most donors and reflects the current international thinking on statebuilding. This guidance recognises the political nature of statebuilding, and in particular the importance of paying greater attention to the complex power dynamics in these settings. However, the guidance did not address how to integrate a gender perspective across these issues and the role that gender inequalities and identities play in shaping the statebuilding process.

This policy paper aims to fill this gap by providing an overview of the key issues, challenges and opportunities for integrating a gender perspective into donor support to statebuilding. This means basing all interventions on an understanding of the distinct experiences of men and women and acting on opportunities to promote gender equality in the context of statebuilding. Doing so is important for several reasons: gender equality is an important goal in its own right; pursuing gender equality objectives can also improve development outcomes and make institutions more representative; and gender-sensitive approaches to statebuilding can support the achievement of broader peacebuilding and statebuilding goals.

The policy paper targets the donor community. But it is also relevant to a wider audience of stakeholders across government and civil society in donor countries and FCAS. The main audience is those actors who design and implement support to statebuilding policies and programmes. The conclusions and recommendations will also be of interest to advocates of gender equality who are seeking to engage more explicitly in statebuilding. The Annex of this paper is of particular relevance to donors that seek to strengthen their programming on gender equality and statebuilding, as it

provides concrete examples of what has been done in the areas of political reform, security, justice, jobs and livelihoods, and revenues and services.

This publication is also intended to feed into several current opportunities at the global level that offer entry points for increasing the gender sensitivity of donor operations in FCAS. First, fragility and gender equality are both emerging as priority issues in the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) discussions currently underway. Good examples of donors integrating gender into their work on statebuilding should inform post-MDG framework negotiations in the run up to 2015. Second, the New Deal on Engagement in Fragile States adopted in Busan presents an opportunity to put into practice some of the recommendations in the policy paper, in particular by integrating gender-sensitive approaches into support of the New Deal's five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs). There is also significant scope for integrating gender issues into the fragility assessment and fragility spectrum tools under development and which are intended to enable dialogue, facilitate national planning and help set realistic priorities in FCAS. Finally, the findings of this paper should reinforce and accelerate the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and supporting resolutions on Women, Peace and Security that affirm the importance of women's full participation in peace and security, recognise the disproportionate impact of conflict on women, and call for measures to protect women from sexual violence in conflict.

With these objectives in mind, this policy paper draws on existing research and experience to explore how a gender perspective can strengthen statebuilding processes, as well as how a statebuilding perspective can contribute to the achievement of gender equality objectives. The first chapter explains key concepts and sets out in more detail the case for integrating a gender perspective and gender equality objectives into statebuilding programmes. Chapter 2 outlines contextual and operational challenges encountered in doing so, and Chapter 3 highlights successful approaches to gender-sensitive statebuilding support. Chapter 4 identifies key ingredients for success. Chapter 5 concludes with a series of recommendations specifically targeting donor agencies. The Annex of this report provides additional detail on the types of programming that can support gender-sensitive statebuilding by highlighting specific examples of what donors have done to integrate gender issues across the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals.



From:

Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264202061-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2013), "Introduction", in *Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264202061-3-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.