Introduction

The DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) is a unique decision-making forum that brings together diverse stakeholders to support development in the world's most challenging situations — such as Afghanistan, Haiti and South Sudan. INCAF was established in 2009 as a subsidiary body of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Following its establishment, the DAC and the Secretary-General of the United Nations asked INCAF to provide guidance on how to make international financial support to countries emerging from conflict (*i.e.* in transition) more rapid, flexible and risk-tolerant. To accomplish this, INCAF has explored the opportunities and challenges in current international responses during transition to develop guidance on making aid more effective in these situations. This guidance is for policymakers, diplomats and staff of agencies in OECD and non-OECD countries, multilateral organisations, and civil society organisations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts that are working to achieve coherence across humanitarian, mediation, security, human rights, justice and development operations.

This work finds that urgent and significant changes are needed to systems, behaviours and approaches in order to respond more effectively to the challenges posed by conflict and fragility. Transitional responses require more coherence between different domestic and international resources, including development, humanitarian and security-related expenditures. This represents a changing aid paradigm based on the recognition of peacebuilding and statebuilding objectives and widely shared goals of increased national ownership, and more co-ordinated and flexible international support.

The guidance builds on and complements other analysis and recommendations, including those made in the *Report of the UN Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* (UN, 2009), the *2011 World Development Report: Conflict, Security and Development* (World Bank, 2011), the OECD/DAC Guidance on *Supporting Statebuilding in Situations of Conflict and Fragility* (OECD, 2011b) and by the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) in its *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (Box 2.1).

How is this guidance structured?

The guidance is divided into four chapters: Chapter 1 reviews the transition challenges faced in fragile and conflict-affected states and shows why current donor approaches are not properly designed to manage and tolerate the substantially higher level and diversity of risk that characterise these situations. Chapter 2 discusses why better prioritisation and planning is needed and how this can be achieved, and Chapter 3 looks at the choice of funding instruments to deliver on transition priorities. Chapter 4 brings the discussions together to propose a way forward for mutual accountability, organising and focussing international support in the form of "transition compacts". Each chapter contains its own set of recommendations, which are also summarised in a reform agenda in Annex A.

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