



The EU approach to fragility

Dr Denisa-Elena IONETE
Head of Unit, Fragility and Crisis Management
Directorate General Development and Cooperation –
EuropeAid
European Commission

Fragility and resilience

Fragile states (OECD, 2012)

- weak capacity to carry out basic governance functions, lack ability to develop mutually constructive relations with society;

More resilient states:

- capacity and legitimacy of governing a population and its territory.
- can manage / adapt to changing social needs and expectations , shifts in elite and other political changes

Fragility and resilience should be seen as shifting points along a spectrum

EC communication on resilience

Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, to adapt, and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks.

Two dimensions:

- the inherent strength of an entity – an individual, a household, a community or a larger structure – to better resist stress and shock and
- the capacity of this entity to bounce back rapidly from the impact.

Requires a multifaceted strategy and a broad systems perspective . [...]

Strengthening resilience lies at the interface of humanitarian and development assistance.

Enhancing resilience calls for a long-term approach, based on alleviating the underlying causes conducive to crises, and enhancing capacities to better manage future uncertainty and change.

Fragility and resilience – g7+ concepts

Definition of fragility - g7+, 2013

A state of fragility can be understood as a period of time during nationhood when sustainable socio-economic development requires greater emphasis on complementary peacebuilding and statebuilding activities such as building inclusive political settlements, security, justice, jobs, good management of resources, and accountable and fair service delivery.

Definition of resilience – g7+, 2013

Resilience refers to the ability of social institutions to absorb and adapt to the internal and external shocks and setbacks they are likely to face. Fragility thus implies that the consolidation of nationhood, and the safety, security and well being of the citizens are at risk of a relapse into crisis or violent conflict. This risk is gradually reduced as the institutions develop the necessary ability to cope with the type of threats they are exposed to.

Indicators (example): PSG1, sub-goal Societal relationship

Societal relationship s	<p>State authority extends across the most of the territory. (target)</p> <p>Public complaints mechanism established easy to use and access (target)</p> <p>Number of complaints received by public Institutions</p> <p>The existence of judicial institution in all districts</p> <p>Number of NGO registered in country</p> <p>Number of joint initiative (conference, program and training) from State and CSO</p> <p>Number of intergroup disputes resolved peacefully</p> <p>Number of violent conflicts involving group of civilian (ex: Martial Art Groups and/or conflict of community)</p> <p>Decrease in the number of armed groups.</p> <p>Improved movement of people across the national territory. (target)</p>
-----------------------------------	---

Possible implications:

- *Build better understanding of the relationships fragility / resilience*
- *Policy and political dialogue with the Governments – using the appropriate wording*
- *Definition of own country indicators*
- *Alignment of programmes on peacebuilding and statebuilding goals of the partner countries*
- *Use of indicators – results approach*
- *Monitoring and evaluation*