Leaving no one behind: Principles for research in the contexts of Fragility, Conflict & Violence

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Content of lecture

- 1. What Is Scientific Research and why?
- 2. What are the main characteristics of Fragility, Conflict & Violence (FCV)?
- 3. What are the challenges of a fragile state?
- 4. Why should we do research in the context of FCV?
- 5. What are the Principles for research in fragile contexts: Fragility, Conflict & Violence?
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What Is Scientific Research?

"...original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding various aspects of the world. "

Science is a way of knowing about the world

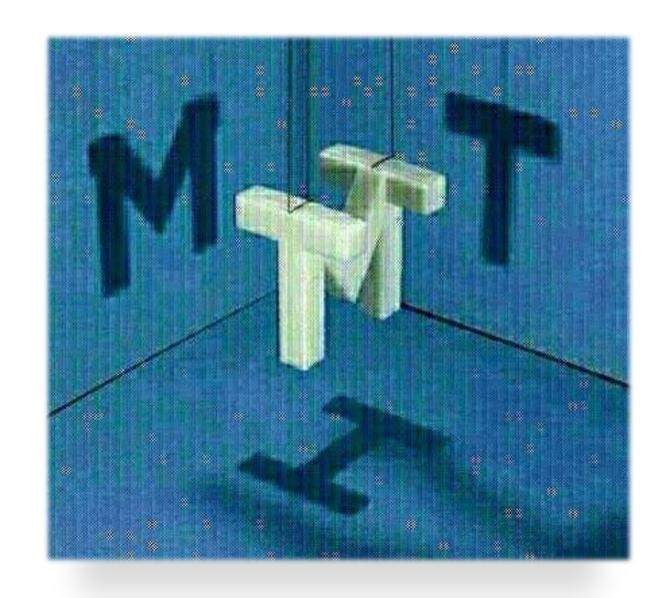
Science can be thought of as both a body of knowledge (the things we have already discovered), and the process of acquiring new knowledge

"Science knows no country because it is the light that iluminates the world."

Louis Pasteur

What do you see?

Reality is realities



Fragility, Conflict & Violence (FCV)

- The context of FCV affected by various forms of instability.
- This context encompasses social, political, economic, and security dimensions that interact and exacerbate each other, leading to complex and interconnected challenges.
- FCV presents a critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty in low- and middle-income countries.
- By 2024, projections are that the total number of extremely poor in FCV-affected settings may exceed that in non-FCV settings.
- And by 2030, an estimated 59% of the global extreme poor will be in countries affected by FCV.



Common Characteristics Of The Context Of Fragility, Conflict, And Violence

- Political Instability
- Armed Conflict and Violence
- Social Fragmentation
- Humanitarian Crises
- Weak Institutions and Rule of Law
- Socioeconomic Challenges
- Disrupted Infrastructure and Essential Services
- Displacement and Migration
- Security Risks and Humanitarian Access

Unable and/or unwilling to respond to the demands of citizens and meet their basic needs.







What are the challenges of a fragile state? health-related problems

- Numerous studies reveal that people in the context of FCV, experience some health-related problems such as decreased;
- Life expectancy,
- Maternal survival,
- Vaccination status and
- Survival outcomes
- Pose security risks both for their populations and to regional and global security

The role of violence, conflict and fragility in the construction of disaster risk



Disaster risk

The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard. exposure, vulnerability and capacity.



Hazard

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.





Exposure

The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazardprone areas.



Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

Counteracted by coping capacity which is the ability of people, organizations and systems, using available skills and resources, to manage adverse conditions, risk or disasters.



Violence, conflict and **fragility** can form part of the wider conditions of vulnerability in which people live. Conditions of violence, conflict and fragility are part of the disaster risk equation, affecting how, where and when disasters happen – and need to be factored into how disaster impacts can be reduced.

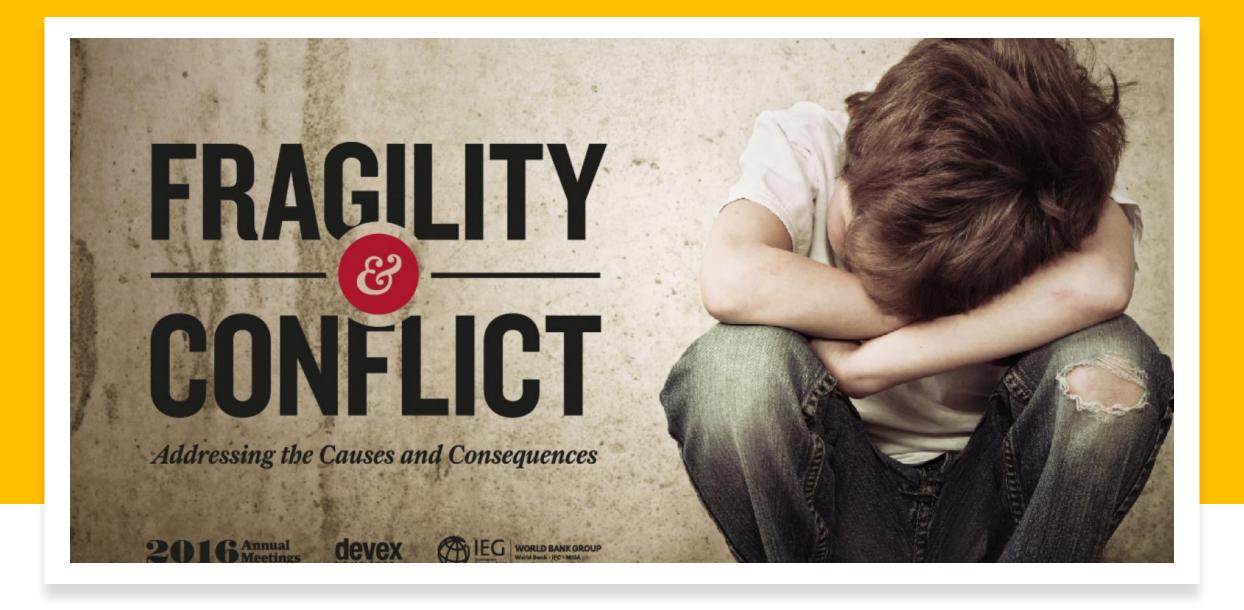


Why should we do research in the context of FCV?

- 1. A dearth of knowledge on research approaches and methodologies that are well-suited for contexts of FCV.
- 2. For understanding, preventing, and addressing these complex issues.
- 3. To understand the causes, dynamics, and consequences of these complex and interconnected issues.
- 4. To develop effective strategies and interventions to address them.

Why should we do research in the context of FCV?

- 5. To provide evidence-based insights that inform policy decisions and aid in designing targeted programs.
- 6. To identify the most vulnerable populations, assess the impact of interventions, and guide resource allocation for maximum effectiveness.
- 7. To promote learning and knowledge-sharing and sharing best practices and lessons learned, among different stakeholders.
- 8. To building a solid evidence base for advocacy and awareness-raising, which can help mobilize support and resources for addressing FCV.
- 9. To shaping public discourse, influencing public opinion, and fostering a better understanding of these complex issues.



Some areas of research within this context include:

- 1. **Conflict Analysis**: To examine the root causes, dynamics, and drivers of conflict, understanding the actors involved, and analyzing the impact on societies and individuals.
- 2. **Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution**: To explores strategies and approaches to promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and building sustainable development.
- 3. **Humanitarian Interventions**: To examines the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian assistance.
- 4. **Transitional Justice**: Focuse on mechanisms for addressing human rights violations and promoting accountability.

Some areas of research within this context include:

- 5. **Gender and Conflict**: To explore the gender dimensions of conflict, including the differential impact on women, men, girls, and boys, as well as the roles and experiences of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.
- 6. **Security Sector Reform**: To investigate ways to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness of security institutions.
- 7. **Socioeconomic Development and Peace**: To examines the relationship between economic development, poverty reduction, and peacebuilding efforts, focusing on the interplay between economic factors and conflict dynamics.





Research within this context of FCV

- These areas of research contribute to:
- A deeper understanding of fragility, conflict, and violence,
- Providing insights and evidence to inform policies and interventions aimed at promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development in affected regions.

What are the Principles for research in fragile contexts: Fragility, Conflict & Violence?

Key principles for research in FCV contexts:

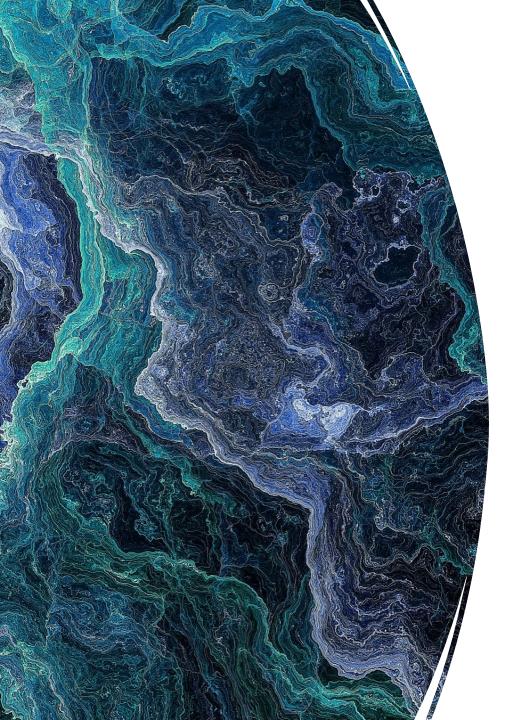
- 1. **Do No Harm and Ethical Considerations :** This includes protecting the privacy and confidentiality of participants and ensuring their informed consent.
- 2. Contextual Sensitivity
- 3. Participatory Approach
- **4. Safety and Security:** Given the volatile nature of FCV contexts, ensuring the safety and security of researchers and participants is paramount.
- 5. Long-term Engagement and Capacity Building
- **6. Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing:** Findings from research should be shared widely, within the academic community and with policymakers, practitioners, and affected communities.

Challenges to doing research in contexts of (FCV)

- A number of challenges are faced when trying to carry out research in such contexts, notably:
- 1. Lack of data;
- 2. Poor quality of data;
- 3. Insecurity, making it difficult to access regions/local populations and conduct on-ground research;
- 4. Lack of research capacity among local partners;
- 5. Lack of trust on the part of research ...

Challenges and recommendations for conducting research in this field:

- 1. Access and Security: Researchers should prioritize their safety and establish networks with local partners who can provide support and guidance.
- 2. Data Collection: Gathering reliable data in conflict zones can be challenging. Researchers should employ rigorous methodologies, adapt to local contexts, and leverage a mix of quantitative and qualitative data sources. Engaging with local communities and building trust is crucial for obtaining accurate information.
- 3. Ethical Considerations:
- 4. **Contextual Understanding**: Researchers should invest time in understanding the local context, dynamics, and perspectives of different stakeholders. Collaborating with local researchers and scholars can enhance contextual knowledge.
- 5. Interdisciplinary Approach
- 6. Policy Relevance and Engagement



Conclusion:

Overall, research in the context of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence is essential for: informed decision-making, effective interventions, and long-term sustainable solutions to promote peace, stability, and development in affected regions.

Thanks

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