

# State & Peacebuilding Fund

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2023

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## CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS



Denmark



Germany



Netherlands



Norway



Sweden



Switzerland



IBRD

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

|             |                                                                  |                |                                                                     |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ATRC</b> | Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Kosovo                    | <b>NGO</b>     | Non-governmental organization                                       |
| <b>BMZ</b>  | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development | <b>PFM</b>     | Public Financial Management                                         |
| <b>CCDR</b> | Country Climate and Development Reports                          | <b>PMT</b>     | Program Management Team                                             |
| <b>CEN</b>  | Country Engagement Note                                          | <b>RAS</b>     | Reimbursable Advisory Services                                      |
| <b>CSO</b>  | Civil Society Organization                                       | <b>R-ARCSS</b> | Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan |
| <b>FCS</b>  | Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations                         | <b>RDNA</b>    | Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment                                   |
| <b>FCV</b>  | Fragility, Conflict and Violence                                 | <b>RRA</b>     | Risk and Resilience Assessment                                      |
| <b>FY</b>   | Fiscal year                                                      | <b>SDGs</b>    | Sustainable Development Goals                                       |
| <b>GBV</b>  | Gender-Based Violence                                            | <b>SPF</b>     | State and Peacebuilding Fund                                        |
| <b>GCP</b>  | Global Challenge Program                                         | <b>TAC</b>     | Technical Advisory Committee                                        |
| <b>IBRD</b> | International Bank for Reconstruction and Development            | <b>TNLA</b>    | Transitional National Legislative Assembly                          |
| <b>IDA</b>  | International Development Association                            | <b>UFD</b>     | Urban Forced Displacement                                           |
| <b>IDP</b>  | Internally Displaced Person                                      | <b>UN</b>      | United Nations                                                      |
| <b>IFC</b>  | International Finance Corporation                                | <b>WBL</b>     | Women, Business and the Law                                         |
| <b>JRoL</b> | Justice and Rule of Law                                          | <b>WGSS</b>    | Women and Girls' Safe Spaces                                        |
| <b>LIC</b>  | Low-income country                                               |                |                                                                     |
| <b>MDB</b>  | Multilateral Development Bank                                    |                |                                                                     |
| <b>MIC</b>  | Middle-income country                                            |                |                                                                     |
| <b>MIGA</b> | Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency                         |                |                                                                     |
| <b>MTR</b>  | Mid-Term Review                                                  |                |                                                                     |

# FOREWORD

The global challenges of fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) have become increasingly complex over the last few years. Chronic instability in some of the world's poorest countries, civil and interstate wars in several middle-income countries, irregular political transitions, knock-on effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis have created a difficult landscape of overlapping and compounding risks. Countries experiencing FCV demonstrate a different development trajectory than the rest of the world, with persistent poverty and declining human capital. By 2025, a majority of the world's extremely poor population is projected to live in fragile- and conflict-affected situations. As the World Bank evolves and grows to address today's global challenges, the flexible and catalytic State and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF) is well placed to continue to make important contributions towards the World Bank's goal of eradicating poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet.

Last year, the World Bank undertook a mid-term review of our FCV Strategy, finding that while overall it remains fit for purpose, there are several ways to be more effective in supporting development outcomes in FCV settings. For example, the review recognized the need to ensure more adaptable operations, anticipating FCV challenges earlier and better, advancing the World Bank's private sector engagement, strengthening engagement on prevention and resilience, closing critical knowledge gaps, and strengthening partnerships to address issues of violence and insecurity. The review also recognized the critical role that trust funds such as the SPF play as part of the wider FCV financing architecture, noting their complementarity with International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) financing, their flexibility and agility, and their strong focus on knowledge and partnerships and support to catalytic activities.

Recent global events have reminded us that we are living through a period of both crisis and opportunity—opportunity because challenging times require us to think hard, innovate, and come together. During my meetings with our clients, they have emphasized that the SPF has been instrumental in stepping up our work on conflict prevention, protection of human capital and institutions, and collaboration with our partners for greater impact. My engagements also highlighted SPF's increasing relevance in meeting the growing demand for rapid response in crisis situations—notably in its work on climate and FCV risks, private sector development in FCV, and mental health and psychosocial support. Clients also recognized SPF's importance as a funder of first response and last resort, its ability to support activities across diverse FCV contexts, and its ability to support clients who may not have access to other sources of funding (such as non-members or countries in arrears or with limited access to IDA funding). For example, SPF's ability to support emergency response was exhibited through funding a Rapid

Damage and Needs Assessment for Libya following catastrophic flooding in 2023. SPF also supported countries with limited access to other funding sources in 2023 through grants to countries including Myanmar and Zimbabwe.

SPF remains the leading World Bank global umbrella trust fund focused on FCV, and together with the World Bank's contributions and other funding sources, is a key part of the collective global effort to tackle FCV. I want to thank the commitment of our donors, including the governments of Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the IBRD, for their dedicated support to this crucial agenda. I look forward to continued opportunities under the SPF to support our clients during these critical times and to continue to innovate and push frontier areas toward greater resilience and stability.



## SOUKEYNA KANE

*Director, Fragility, Conflict,  
and Violence Group*

**The World Bank**

# SPF AT A GLANCE



Fund Value



Grants



Countries Supported



Grants on frontier topics in FCV



Grants addressing gender in FCV



Grants implemented with NGOs

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- ▶ 5 Grants
- ▶ \$6,100,000 Commitments
- ▶ 28% of Total Commitments

## CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

- ▶ 3 Grants
- ▶ \$1,040,000 Commitments
- ▶ 5% of Total Commitments

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- ▶ 7 Grants
- ▶ \$6,540,000 Commitments
- ▶ 30% of Total Commitments

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- ▶ 3 Grants
- ▶ \$1,192,345 Commitments
- ▶ 5% of Total Commitments

## EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

- ▶ 8 Grants
- ▶ \$2,196,977 Commitments
- ▶ 10% of Total Commitments

## EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

- ▶ 3 Grants
- ▶ \$800,000 Commitments
- ▶ 4% of Total Commitments

## SOUTH ASIA

- ▶ 1 Grant
- ▶ \$400,000 Commitments
- ▶ 2% of Total Commitments

## GLOBAL

- ▶ 12 Grants
- ▶ \$3,620,210 Commitments
- ▶ 17% of Total Commitments

## SECTION 1

# FRAGILITY, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE AND WORLD BANK RESPONSE

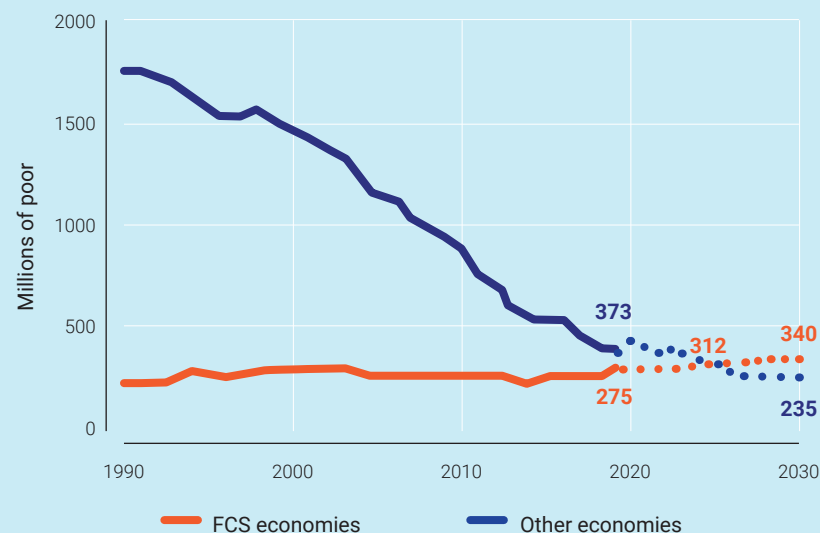


## GLOBAL FCV LANDSCAPE

An unprecedented confluence of global crises has upended development progress and threatens people and the planet. Fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) are key among these challenges.<sup>1</sup> Irregular political transitions, conflicts, and increased geopolitical tensions have taken an enormous toll regionally and globally in terms of economic growth, food security, and forced displacement. Combined with the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the worsening effects of climate change, and other natural hazards, the ability of the poorest countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is in peril.

Countries experiencing FCV demonstrate a different development trajectory than the rest of the world, with persistent poverty and declining human capital. By 2025, the total number of extremely poor people in the countries on the fiscal year (FY) 24 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS)<sup>2</sup> is projected to surpass that in all non-FCS countries worldwide (see figure 1.1). By 2030, about two-thirds of the extremely poor will live in FCS.<sup>3 4 5</sup>

**FIGURE 1.1. MILLIONS OF EXTREME POOR, IN FCS AND NON-FCS**



Sources: [Poverty and Inequality Platform \(PIP\)](#), v 20220909\_2017\_01\_02\_PROD; Mahler, Yonzan, and Lakner 2022; World Bank 2022h. Based on FY24 FCS list.

<sup>1</sup> Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries). 2023. Evolution of the World Bank Group—Report to Governors. Report DC2023-0002. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. [https://www.devcommittee.org/sites/dc/files/download/Documents/2023-03/Final\\_DC2023-0002%20evolution%20paper.pdf](https://www.devcommittee.org/sites/dc/files/download/Documents/2023-03/Final_DC2023-0002%20evolution%20paper.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> World Bank. 2023. Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations [Brief]. Washington, D.C.: World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/harmonized-list-of-fragile-situations>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview>

<sup>4</sup> The HCI measures the level of human capital that a child born today can expect to achieve by age 18. FCS countries are expected to have lower levels of productivity (42) than non-FCS countries (59), according to the HCI.

<sup>5</sup> Data are from the latest ND-GAIN Vulnerability Index, most recently updated until 2021 by the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (published 2023), <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/>; WBG FY23 FCS list; and food security per FAO/WFP food security warning: June–November 2023 outlook.

The number of conflict events around the world has risen, with a high death toll and a record number of 110 million forcibly displaced people as of June 2023,<sup>6</sup> with low-income and fragile countries being both the main places of origin and the hosts of forcibly displaced populations.<sup>7</sup> Violent conflict also increased considerably in 2022.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the number of people killed in one-sided violence (deliberate violence by a state or non-state actors against civilians) has also steadily increased, as have fatalities in interstate conflicts, which spiked in 2022. Civilians are increasingly bearing the brunt of violent conflict. Conflicts can exacerbate hunger and other causes of premature death and have important gender dynamics. Non-lethal forms of political violence disproportionately affect women.<sup>9</sup>

FCV is also a major development challenge facing middle-income countries (MICs). In fact, in the 2010s there were more deaths from political violence in MICs than in low-income countries (LICs).<sup>10</sup> While in 2021 most active conflict in the world took place in LICs, this was in part due to the downgrading of several MICs with ongoing active conflicts to LIC status as conflicts waged on,<sup>11</sup> underscoring the relationship between FCV and poverty.<sup>12</sup> More generally, the

number of conflicts in the world increased in 2022 and the negative trends seem to have continued in 2023. In 2022 alone, the number of deaths from active conflicts doubled from the previous year.<sup>13</sup>

## WORLD BANK EVOLUTION

The World Bank's renewed mission of creating a world free of poverty on a livable planet requires the institution to recalibrate to ensure it is effectively structured to deal with the challenges of a changing world. In January 2023, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors discussed an Evolution Roadmap for the institution to better address global public good challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and FCV, all of which affect the World Bank's ability to achieve its mission. The Board reaffirmed the World Bank's continued commitment to the twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable way, while serving all clients, including FCV countries, and considering global challenges that negatively affect client countries' opportunities to achieve the SDGs.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/mid-year-trends-report-2023>

<sup>7</sup> World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies. Washington, DC: World Bank. a <https://worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2023>

<sup>8</sup> FCV Strategy Mid Term Review, World Bank, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Kishi, R. 2021. Violence Targeting Women in Politics: Trends in Targets, Types, and Perpetrators of Political Violence. Grafton, WI: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. <https://acleddata.com/2021/12/08/violence-targeting-women-in-politics-trends-in-targets-typesand-perpetrators-of-political-violence/>

<sup>10</sup> Fragility, Conflict, and Violence in Middle-income Countries, World Bank, 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Examples include Syria, Yemen, and Sudan. The downgrading of income classification occurred for Syria and Yemen in 2017 (reflected in FY19), and Sudan in 2019 (reflected in FY21).

<sup>12</sup> Kishi, R. 2023. "A Quantitative Look at Global Conflict Trend: Using Conflict Data to Assess Changing Conflict Trends since Pathways for Peace." Prepared for the United Nations–World Bank joint initiative on "Pathways for Peace: 5 Years On," June 2023.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.uu.se/en/news/2023/2023-12-27-still-many-conflicts-in-the-world-in-2023>

At the World Bank-International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings in September 2023, an important milestone was reached in the evolution process through the outlining of the Global Challenge Programs (GCPs), which aim to showcase an effective One World Bank allowing for impact at scale to solve difficult development problems within countries and across borders, including water security and climate adaptation; energy transition, efficiency and access; enhanced health emergency prevention, preparedness and response; accelerating digitalization; and food nutrition and security. The GCPs are a significant response to the calls for faster and more effective crowding-in of public and private sector solutions and financing, more partnerships, and more knowledge to make progress on tackling global challenges. Working through the country-driven development model, including adapting to FCV contexts, the World Bank is working initially on six GCPs that will offer scalable and replicable interventions for impact and will ultimately contribute to meeting the SDGs. FCV will be a cross-cutting area across all GCPs. The Board also affirmed the need to engage more effectively with other multilateral development banks (MDBs), international financial institutions, and other international partners to maximize its impact.

The evolution process and the priorities therein point to the need to do things differently and continue to invest in greater effectiveness in FCV contexts through new and innovative approaches, robust analytics, management of risks, pilot initiatives, increased partnerships, and deeper understanding of FCV issues. As part of the evolution process, several important initiatives have been rolled out including a crisis preparedness and response toolkit, a revitalized knowledge compact, an operational efficiency and effectiveness agenda, and a revamped corporate scorecard. The

SPF, as the World Bank's leading global FCV-focused umbrella trust fund, is well placed to support these efforts. With its ability to finance country, regional, and global operations and analytics, catalyze new ideas through pilots, and fill financing gaps, SPF remains an essential part of the Bank's financing architecture for FCV. The SPF continues to make strides in meeting challenges across emerging frontier areas in FCV and is well positioned to advance the GCPs and evolution process.

## WORLD BANK FCV STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

The World Bank Group's FCV Strategy (2020-2025) aims to enhance the impact of World Bank support for countries facing FCV challenges and provides the framework for the World Bank's engagement and response in FCV. It lays out the need for a differentiated approach adapted to the distinct circumstances of different FCV situations, with programs and operations tailored to addressing the root causes of fragility. The Strategy is designed to support countries in addressing the drivers of FCV and in building resilience, especially among the most vulnerable groups. The Strategy also places emphasis on stronger collaboration with humanitarian-development-peace partners, to protect human capital, institutions, and development gains. Preventing and mitigating FCV challenges is key to making progress toward the SDGs—in particular Goal 16, for peace, justice, and strong institutions—and to the international community's broader efforts to promote peace and prosperity. The

Strategy's 2023 Mid-Term Review (MTR) proposed specific course corrections and strategic directions going forward to ensure closer alignment between the World Bank's engagement on FCV and the evolution process and the GCPs.

## MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE WORLD BANK FCV STRATEGY – KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2023, an MTR took stock of the FCV Strategy's implementation and highlighted progress in key areas: an increase in IDA funding for FCS countries, particularly in support of prevention and resilience; an expanding array of FCV diagnostics and FCV-sensitive country engagements; an increasingly forward-leaning stance on remaining engaged in conflict situations; and significant strides in gender-focused programming. The MTR found that the Strategy remains fit for purpose and that the ongoing World Bank evolution process further affirms the prioritization of FCV challenges. However, the past three years revealed a tension between the Strategy's aspirations and its implementation in a volatile and challenging environment. The MTR recognized that continued operational adaptations, efforts to close knowledge gaps, and innovative approaches for addressing violence and insecurity, will be key for the World Bank to navigate increasingly complex challenges posed by FCV. The SPF has already played a significant role in supporting catalytic grants in some of the key areas identified in the MTR (see Box 1.1).



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3



## PREVENTION AND TRANSITION

The World Bank leveraged financing instruments, including the IDA FCV Envelope, to enhance support for prevention and transition, but earlier response and greater adaptability to shocks are needed when engaging in increasingly volatile contexts. The successive political upheavals and deteriorating security conditions that have swept across countries in the Sahel, for example, highlight the importance of adapting to volatility and supporting countries' efforts to address FCV drivers before insecurity becomes entrenched. As a result, the World Bank is applying lessons learned to provide upstream support in response to early signs of conflict, such as in the Gulf of Guinea. In terms of financing, the introduction of a systematic eligibility process for resources from the Prevention and Resilience Allocation and the Turnaround Allocation of the FCV Envelope enabled the World Bank to enhance support to client countries striving to prevent conflict and transition out of FCV, in collaboration with partners. Efforts are currently underway to explore how the FCV Envelope can help countries address FCV drivers and risks earlier and more effectively.



## REMAINING ENGAGED

The World Bank has shown that it can remain engaged even in the most challenging FCV situations. By working closely with partners and rapidly adapting operations to cope with mounting risks, the World Bank can help protect human capital, safeguard institutions, preserve development gains, and mitigate the risks of inaction and disengagement. In some cases, continued engagement during irregular political transitions has helped preserve hard-won development gains. The Remaining Engaged during Conflict Allocation of the FCV Envelope has enabled IDA to sustain its engagement even in countries experiencing high-intensity conflict and with extremely limited government capacity. In South Sudan and Somalia, for example, the World Bank has gradually increased its reliance on country systems (see Spotlight Story on South Sudan on page 61). However, the World Bank must weigh reputational risks and other challenges in volatile and unpredictable contexts when considering whether or how to engage with de facto governments, particularly those that are also a party to conflict.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> 2021. World Bank Engagement in Situations of Conflict: An Evaluation of FY10–20 Experience. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/36493>



## ADDRESSING MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISKS, GLOBAL CHALLENGERS, AND MITIGATING SPILLOVERS

The World Bank has successfully supported clients affected by forced displacement and other regional FCV spillovers and is increasingly investing in support to FCV-affected clients on global challenges. The World Bank's evolution process, which highlights fragility as a global challenge, provides an opportunity to further strengthen World Bank engagement on multidimensional risks, including FCV, at the country, regional and global levels. The MTR also recognized that regional analytics and programs and cross-country monitoring are key to prioritizing investments in marginalized borderlands and minimizing conflict spillovers. These tools can be better used to inform country engagement. Going forward, efforts will be made to better align and articulate the interconnected and cross-border nature of FCV drivers and other global challenges. Monitoring and analytical tools must be strengthened in FCV contexts, and regional partnerships, where possible, are crucial to mitigate spillover risks.



## SUPPORTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The MTR recognized the role of the private sector in building resilience and supporting transitions out of FCV, while highlighting challenging investment conditions as a key limitation to the World Bank's capacity to support private investment and growth. In this regard, blended finance facilities such as the IDA Private Sector Window can help create new markets, de-risk projects, reduce first-mover costs, and incentivize investments in FCV contexts. In terms of analytics, second generation Country Private Sector Diagnostics are expected to further support private sector development and mobilization of private capital. Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRA) will also increasingly address private-sector considerations through engagement or co-delivery with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multi-Lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), as is already being done for some countries including Papua New Guinea. The World Bank has also supported entrepreneurship, business development, market access, institutional capacity, regulatory reform, financial inclusion, and the development of financial infrastructure in FCV contexts. The World Bank will continue to focus on strengthening the capacity and resilience of the domestic

private sector, including micro, small, and medium sized enterprises that are prevalent in many FCV-affected markets, through firm-level technical assistance that addresses investment readiness gaps by improving corporate governance, financial management, as well as environment and social practices.

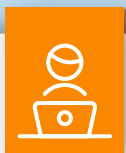


## ADDRESSING VIOLENCE

While addressing violence is a central part of the FCV Strategy, the MTR recognized that World Bank initiatives and progress on mainstreaming violence prevention into country engagement strategies remain limited and greater efforts are needed in this area, particularly in MICs. Recognizing that violence can act as a binding constraint on development, the World Bank will revisit and prioritize its commitment to address violence. Building on previous experience, further analysis will be carried out on the relevance of violence prevention to the World Bank's goals and mandate to inform a renewed approach to integrating this focus in country engagement, with linkages to issues of justice, rule of law and social inclusion, and with emphasis on leveraging partnerships with other institutions. Important progress over the years on gender-based violence (GBV), for example, inspires action in this matter. Whereas the World Bank previously regarded GBV as largely outside its institutional scope, today it considers addressing GBV a priority (see page 19 on 'Gender in FCV'). Finally, expanding analytical work on urban and criminal violence, particularly in situations where such violence has severe negative development effects similar to those of conflict, could help inform long-term strategies for violence prevention.

**BOX 1.1.****SPF GRANTS ADVANCING WORK ON KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED IN THE MTR****PREVENTION  
AND RESILIENCE****SPF GRANT ON RESILIENCE AND FCV**

This US\$400,000 grant, approved in June 2023, aims to fill critical knowledge gaps in FCV contexts and develop a more systematic approach for supporting resilience in World Bank diagnostics and operations. This will be achieved by exploring themes and key questions related to three aspects of resilience, ranging from (i) the more structural conceptualization of resilience to, more practically, (ii) what this means for the way that the World Bank approaches the identification of resilience in diagnostics such as RRAs but also Systematic Country Diagnostics and other analytics, and (iii) recommendations for informing its operationalization. The grant will finance background papers, case studies, a final synthesis study and guidance note, as well as convening and dissemination events.

**PRIVATE SECTOR  
DEVELOPMENT****SPF GRANT ON FINANCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN FCV COUNTRIES**

This US\$100,000 grant, approved in March 2023, aimed to advance the World Bank's knowledge on financial development in economies affected by FCV to inform policy advice and country engagements. Financial markets tend to be shallow and financial inclusion is low in FCV countries. Financial development in FCV also remains under-researched and poorly understood, constraining the effectiveness of World Bank engagement in this area. By combining stocktaking exercises with novel empirical work, the grant identified financial policy priorities and their sequence with a focus on immediate stabilization, recovery and peacebuilding, while helping better calibrate relevant work programs.

**ADDRESSING  
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE****SPF GRANT ON PROMOTING  
ETHNO-RACIAL INCLUSION FOR  
PEACEBUILDING IN BRAZIL**

This US\$400,000 grant, approved in July 2023, aims to strengthen the institutional efforts of the Ministry of Racial Equality to promote the inclusion of Afro-descendant youth, women, and Quilombola<sup>15</sup> communities and reduce the elevated levels of violence afflicting Afro-descendants. Despite considerable progress in several social indicators over past decades, Brazil remains one of the most violence-affected countries in the world; young Afro-Brazilians are disproportionately the victims, and Quilombola communities face additional challenges in this regard. The grant supports Afro-descendant youth inclusion and violence prevention; identification of land-related violence risks associated to Quilombola communities, which will allow prioritizing and identifying entry points for multisectoral interventions; and knowledge generation and dissemination.

<sup>15</sup> Quilombola, or residents of quilombos, are descendants of enslaved Africans who established their own communities after fleeing slavery as a form of resistance. They have characteristics that align their rights with those of the indigenous population, especially their historical connection to particular territories, their distinctive political and decision-making institutions, and their demands for protecting communal land tenure systems.



## GENDER IN FCV

The World Bank has increased its support to close gender gaps and address GBV, and the FCV Strategy highlights the importance of gender in both conflict prevention and response in alignment with the World Bank Gender Strategy. The intersections of gender and FCV will be examined further in a forthcoming World Bank Approach Paper on 'Advancing Gender Engagement and Closing Gender Gaps in FCV Situations.' The MTR noted that engagement on GBV in FCV began with small trust-funded operations primarily focused on service delivery for survivors. Relatedly, the SPF has played an instrumental role in promoting gender equality and inclusion in FCV since its inception. For example, the SPF supported the first World Bank project focused on GBV in FCV with a grant in Côte d'Ivoire, which inspired a series of related initiatives and findings to inform follow-up work on GBV globally. In 2017, a GBV initiative with a dedicated window under the SPF helped to mainstream work on GBV across the World Bank by incorporating GBV lenses in investment operations in diverse sectors. SPF support for addressing GBV was one of the catalysts in the inclusion of intimate partner violence and GBV among other forms of violence in discussions on FCV. These interventions have since evolved to GBV prevention and incorporate a focus on livelihoods and economic empowerment activities. As noted in the MTR, the Bank has now shifted from a position of considering GBV outside its institutional realm to now viewing it as a priority in FCV contexts. Significantly, the number of projects aiming to close gender gaps in FCV has doubled from 64 in FY20 to 130 in FY22, and the share of gender-tagged projects is greater in FCS countries than in non-FCS countries. The World Bank's engagements on gender in FCV are embedded in all sectors, with an emphasis on social inclusion and services, livelihoods and income, an equitable care economy, and financial inclusion and GBV.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past three years, the World Bank has significantly scaled up its partnerships with humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, and security actors, which are critical for operationalizing the FCV Strategy. These partnerships have supported a shared understanding of FCV dynamics and enabled coordination of efforts including

assessments, advocacy, programming and sharing data and analytical work. The United Nations (UN) has been a key partner with its humanitarian, development, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and political mandate, as well as its deep field presence. Partnerships with other multilaterals, bilaterals, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and private sector actors have also expanded. The World Bank has engaged with NGOs and CSOs in FCV settings, particularly in insecure areas and in crisis- and conflict-affected situations, with a focus on service provision to the most disadvantaged and marginalized populations. The World Bank will continue to pursue opportunities to work more with NGOs and CSOs, bearing in mind its comparative advantage is working with governments to influence critical policy reforms and programs.



## ROLE OF TRUST FUNDS

The MTR also recognized the importance of trust funds in the World Bank FCV financing architecture, and particularly the role of the SPF in supporting catalytic and innovative activities that can be mainstreamed and scaled over time (see Box 1.2). In MICs for example, trust funds continue to play a crucial role in enabling engagement on FCV issues, especially in contexts where other sources of funding are unavailable.

### BOX 1.2.

#### ROLE OF SPF IN SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF RISK AND RESILIENCE ASSESSMENTS

Several pilots and initiatives financed by the SPF have been mainstreamed as part of the World Bank's operational and analytical products. A prominent example of this incubating role are RRAs, which were financed by the SPF in recent years, including an SPF grant that financed a Center of Excellence for RRAs. Under IDA19, RRAs were further institutionalized into the World Bank's operational framework through a policy commitment that provided support for RRAs to be carried out in all IDA FCS countries and for the findings to be incorporated into country engagement documents and operations.

**BOX 1.3.****RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FCV STRATEGY MID-TERM REVIEW – THE ADAPT APPROACH****ANTICIPATE EARLIER AND BETTER**

Research and experience clearly indicate the benefits of conflict prevention and the positive role that development assistance can play in prevention. FCV diagnostics will be expanded to encompass a broader array of global and transnational challenges in line with the evolution process. Additionally, the World Bank will explore how to support countries in addressing FCV drivers earlier and strengthening resilience.

**RESPOND DYNAMICALLY**

The World Bank will increase its focus on operational efficiency for delivering development outcomes in evolving and volatile contexts. The World Bank will further develop and put in place a set of tools and decision points to enable crisis and risk monitoring, risk scanning, and creating opportunities to change course as necessary with a focus on adaptive management in the implementation of strategies and operations in FCV contexts.

**ADVANCE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The World Bank will further strengthen its efforts to enable private sector activity in FCV situations, reinforcing the One World Bank approach to private capital mobilization, while also increasing efforts to expand access to blended finance resources to deploy across all FCV markets. Placing a renewed focus on the resilience of the domestic private sector and its role in creating and sustaining jobs and service delivery in the most challenging contexts will require innovative approaches, including engagement with small local firms, as well as an ongoing learning process. Further emphasis will be placed on integrating FCV and private sector diagnostics.

**FOCUS ON CRITICAL PARTNERSHIPS**

The World Bank will maintain and deepen its mission-driven partnerships and forge new regional and context-specific partnerships, where possible. The World Bank will continue to use its comparative advantage as a development institution to leverage partnerships with multilateral, bilateral, and civil society actors, as well as the private sector. The World Bank will also seek opportunities to expand partnerships in line with its mandate, in particular with regional organizations. Priority will be given to cooperation on analytics, knowledge sharing, joint advocacy and financing, including the mobilization of grants, guarantees and concessional financing for LICs and MICs.

**BUILD STRONG TEAMS**

The World Bank will maintain a skilled, accountable, and well-supported workforce in difficult operational environments by continuing to implement the personnel measures outlined in the FCV Strategy—especially in the areas of strategic recruiting; FCV career paths and incentives; FCV-related staff roles, responsibilities, and accountability measures; and safeguards to ensure staff welfare.

## SPF SPOTLIGHT

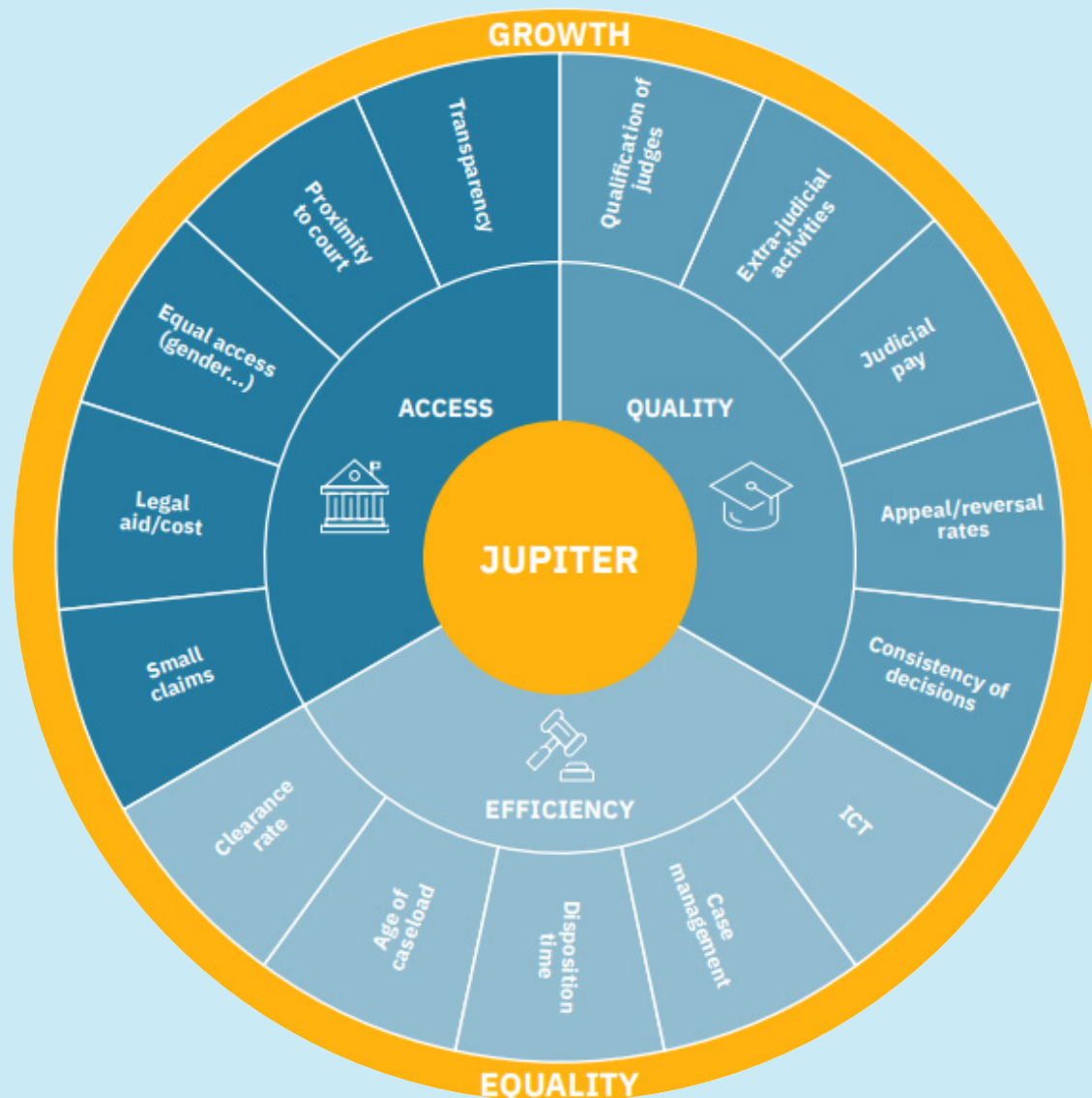
# STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN FCV SETTINGS

Equitable justice systems can curb corruption, encourage investment, and foster accountability in business practices as well as support inclusive growth. They can facilitate fair access to public services, protect individual and collective rights, and enhance public trust in the government by restraining abuse of power. An effective judiciary ensures the rule of law, serving as the cornerstone of good governance. Poor access to justice is a defining characteristic of many FCV-affected settings, as individuals face various obstacles when seeking remedies for their grievances. In turn, justice institutions encounter challenges that hinder their effectiveness and adequate service delivery. Research shows that the lack of functioning justice systems can perpetuate existing inequalities in other areas and disproportionately affect vulnerable groups and exacerbate grievances. Neglect of Justice and the Rule of Law (JRoL) mechanisms can also contribute to or overlap with root causes of fragility and conflict. The complex interplay between JRoL and other challenges prevalent in FCV contexts, including gender inequalities, remains to be fully explored, such as how legal frameworks concretely affect women's economic participation and entrepreneurship in FCV settings.

The World Bank Group FCV Strategy recognizes the importance of JRoL as an underpinning for transitions out of fragility, preventing conflict and fragility, and supporting sustainable peace and post-conflict reconstruction. For these reasons, the Strategy outlines JRoL as one of the six areas of special emphasis to innovate and push the frontiers of the Bank's approach. The SPF also places particular emphasis on supporting JRoL in FCV as an important 'frontier topic' where SPF can advance further progress. Over time, SPF grants can contribute to under-researched issues becoming mainstreamed and institutionalized in the World Bank's programs. The SPF's flexibility and focus on financing innovative and catalytic activities to push the boundaries of the World Bank's FCV engagement make it well placed to support grants on topics such as JRoL.

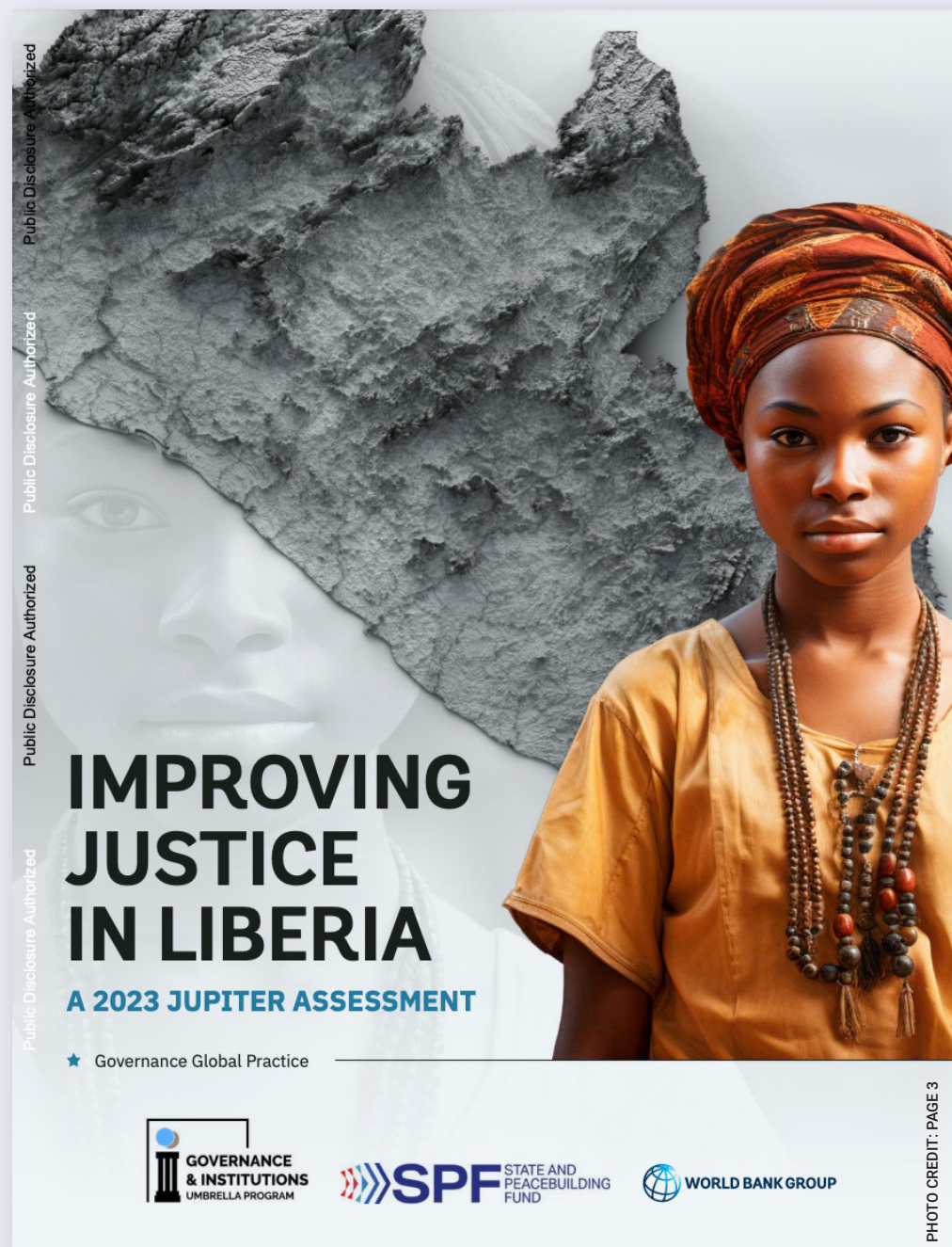
SPF is supporting innovative work on JRoL in FCV contexts. The Bank-executed 'Justice Pillars Towards Evidence-based Reform (JUPITER)' grant (US\$400,000, July 2022-February 2024) produced outcome-based measures and analysis on JRoL to facilitate the World Bank's policy dialogue and post-conflict

recovery efforts in FCV countries. The team of the [Global Program of Justice and the Rule of Law](#) used this grant to develop: (a) a curated set of indicators on the perceptions of the effectiveness of judicial service delivery across various countries, called the “[Justice Factsheets](#),” allowing the production of country-specific profiles and broad-based cross-country analytics; (b) a thematic brief titled “[Increasing Access to Justice in Fragile Settings](#)” that provided an analytic overview of the most common barriers to access to justice and seven options available for governments to improve access to justice in these contexts; (c) JUPITER, a universally applicable diagnostic framework comprising an assessment methodology and a data collection tool, to measure the state and performance of a country’s judiciary against specific measures of effectiveness related to access to justice, efficiency, and quality (see Figure 1.2); and (d) a first pilot of the JUPITER methodology in Liberia.

**FIGURE 1.2. JUPITER’S THREE PILLARS**


Source: World Bank JUPITER Methodology, 2023.

As a result of the pilot in Liberia, the Bank published the report “[Improving Justice in Liberia: A 2023 JUPITER Assessment](#)” in December 2023. Using a combination of survey information, court data, and insights from previous studies, the assessment highlights (i) the prevalent role that customary justice authorities play in dispute resolution, both geographically and in terms of the types of disputes that are brought to the customary system; (ii) the complexities in citizens’ navigation of available justice pathways due to unclear jurisdictional boundaries between the formal and customary systems; and (iii) the challenges hindering the formal system’s efficiency and accessibility, such as the high costs of dispute resolution, long disposition times, geographical barriers for rural populations, and lack of access to legal information. To enhance access to justice, the report offers several policy recommendations aimed at (i) building mutually beneficial linkages between the formal and customary systems to improve citizens’ navigation of justice pathways and guarantee procedural fairness and the protection of rights; (ii) improving access to legal information and the promotion of legal literacy; and (iii) increasing the formal system’s efficiency and affordability by addressing the sources of high costs and backlogs.



Most existing indicators and assessment frameworks focus on high-income and higher middle-income countries. JUPITER is considered innovative as it seeks to provide standardized measures and analytics of judicial effectiveness in FCS. Complementarily, the Justice Factsheets can generate governments' and country teams' interest in conducting a more in-depth assessment with JUPITER, offering potential and existing clients several justice-specific products designed to serve as entry points for future justice reform work and promoting policy dialogue amongst relevant stakeholders. The Justice Factsheets were incorporated into the World Bank's existing [Prosperity Data 360](#) dashboard to exploit synergies and ensure its sustainability.

During the execution of the grant, the team engaged with several partner organizations and launched the Global Partnership on Justice and the Rule of Law, which already counts more than 35 partners including the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, the International Development Law Organization, the Justice Action Coalition, the World Justice Project, and the United Nations Development Programme. The team leveraged this network to disseminate the JUPITER data collection tool and methodology including to the South Sudan Focal Point Network on Justice and the Rule of Law, Liberian-based stakeholders engaged during the JUPITER assessment, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Thematic Discussion on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. The work was also disseminated through two World Bank knowledge events.

Following the completion of the grant activities, the team concluded that collaborating with other agencies, many of

which conduct their own studies and analyses in the same client countries, is key to enhancing contextual understanding and building the body of data for evidence-based recommendations. The team further noted that incorporating local expertise facilitated the data collection exercise by enabling continued interaction with different stakeholders on the ground. Finally, the team highlighted that analysis and diagnostics that assess justice in FCS should identify and incorporate existing justice actors, including traditional and customary dispute resolution systems. For this, the team is considering incorporating a section on customary and informal justice in future iterations of the JUPITER survey questionnaire as appropriate.

This grant provided the data and analytics to underpin future World Bank operations on JRoL, especially in FCV contexts. The first JUPITER assessment in Liberia showcased the benefits of operationalizing this methodology, providing baseline data to measure and monitor results in future World Bank-supported JRoL operations in the country. Indeed, the data and recommendations issued in the report could potentially provide the basis for justice-related work under Liberia's Governance Reform and Accountability Transformation (GREAT) Project. In addition, the country snapshots made available through the "Justice Profile" in EFi360 can generate governments' and country teams' interest in conducting a more in-depth assessment with JUPITER. The project team has already received requests for this type of technical assistance in countries such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya, which will increase the reach and potential impact of JUPITER's initial pilot. Indeed, a related Bank-executed SPF grant, "Justice Pillars Towards Evidence-Based Reform - In-country Justice Sector Assessment" (US\$78,618.07,

approved in March 2024) aims to provide data and analytics on the state of the justice system in South Sudan, to provide the basis for evidence-based engagement and policy dialogue in judicial reform. This will be done by deploying the JUPITER methodology. The team has already carried out the initial desk research and planning, and is visiting Juba for the data collection exercise during May and June 2024.

Another follow-on Bank-executed grant, the 'RRA Guidance Note on JRoL' (US\$60,000, approved in October 2023) is supporting the operationalization of JRoL knowledge and tools into RRAs. RRAs are the World Bank's primary tool for analyzing multidimensional FCV drivers and sources of resilience, the findings of which feed into country-level planning and operations. The grant aims to contribute to a better understanding of justice-related drivers of fragility and conflict through the preparation of a Guidance Note that standardizes the way in which JRoL issues are addressed in future RRAs, ultimately contributing to a more systematized inclusion of justice issues into country-level planning and further operationalizing JUPITER assessment findings and the 'Justice Factsheets.'

Another catalytic initiative supported by the SPF was the Bank-executed grant 'Addressing gender inequalities in FCV by measuring the legal environment' (US\$350,000, June 2022-September

2023). This grant aimed to fill knowledge gaps on the role that implementation of laws protecting women's rights plays in ensuring women's economic empowerment, and identify de facto hurdles for women to participate in their countries' economies. The grant built on previous pilot data in 25 economies and scaled-up its database to cover 55 economies, including seventeen economies in FCS and ten economies with pockets of fragility,<sup>16</sup> to measure frameworks that create an enabling environment for women.

The World Bank's Women Business and the Law (WBL) team collected data for 38 binary questions accounting for the presence of supportive frameworks such as special procedures or courts, dedicated implementing agencies, policies or strategies, and incentives. These policy mechanisms are critical for the effective implementation of the rights measured by the 35 legal index questions benchmarked by WBL. The team complemented the approach by also collecting expert opinions on gender inequality on the ground and implementation gaps of laws. Subsequently, WBL identified the most noticeable gaps in the effective implementation of laws and frameworks, putting emphasis on practices to address the gaps. These findings fed into two policy notes, namely 'Laws and policies to address violence against women in countries affected by fragility and conflict' and 'Women's Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa: Where do we Stand in Practice?' The policy notes reveal wide implementation gaps and the need to strengthen policy

<sup>16</sup> The 17 FCS countries covered by the database are: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Congo, Dem. Rep.; Congo, Rep.; Ethiopia; Kosovo; Lebanon; Libya; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nigeria; Papua New Guinea; South Sudan; Timor-Leste; Venezuela, RB; Yemen, Rep.; Zimbabwe. Armenia and Azerbaijan were not in the 2023 WB list but were included in the IFC list of FCV. The 10 countries with pockets of fragility, were defined as: countries experiencing sub-national conflicts, frozen conflicts, or border crisis; countries that border FCV countries and that may be negatively affected by refugees' inflow or violence spillover; and countries with alternatively governed spaces.

mechanisms that support the realization of rights in practice. These include establishing comprehensive services for victims of GBV and strengthening the remedies for sexual harassment in employment. In the context of access to land tenure, the policy note advocates for reforms that strengthen the rights of women, such as joint titling, the enforcement of inheritance rights, and amending the requirement for spousal approval when transacting property.

Selection of and outreach to experts in FCS economies was identified as a key challenge of the work. The team further recognized that significant differences in legal frameworks exist between FCS and non-FCS countries as well as between conflict-affected and fragile countries, and recommended a more in-depth analysis of which types of interventions and approaches work in each context.

This initiative offered extensive data on an often-overlooked intersection of FCV, gender and JRoL. The knowledge generated by the grant can help inform future monitoring and evaluation frameworks for client governments and partners; support evidence-based service delivery and law reforms by client governments; and lay the groundwork for further identifying cross-cutting and gender-responsive entry points for the World Bank's operational work on

JRoL. Building on this work, WBL has completed data collection for 190 economies, which was published in the 2024 edition of the Women, Business and the Law report. The dataset can feed into gender-sensitive operations and play a role in helping to increase female labor force participation, improve development outcomes, and foster productivity and economic growth.

The dataset, indicators and analysis can also be a key resource for World Bank teams in their operational and analytical work supporting governments to achieve sustainable development and follow inclusive pathways to recover from FCV by addressing the specific impacts of FCV on women. The outputs can also feed into monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including from the perspective of beneficiaries (something that the FCV Strategy highlights as a pressing need) and be utilized to produce relevant analysis in Systematic Country Diagnostics and country and regional Gender Assessment Plans. Several World Bank operations in FCS are currently addressing gender inequality as a crucial component of the transition out of conflict and fragility, focusing on removing burdensome procedures, facilitating service delivery, and strengthening justice services and institutional support, and the data can help identify gaps and entry points for reform.

## SECTION 2

# SPF IN 2023



## OVERVIEW

The SPF is the World Bank's leading global trust fund supporting implementation of the FCV Strategy. It is a key part of the financing architecture laid out in the FCV Strategy, working in complementarity

with other funding mechanisms. Launched in January 2022, the SPF builds on the legacy of its predecessor, the first SPF Trust Fund ("SPF 1.0"), which was operational from 2008 to 2022.

### BOX 2.1. SPF PORTFOLIO SNAPSHOT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

**\$51.3**  
MILLION

**TOTAL FUND VALUE**  
(donor contributions and  
investment income)

**\$42.9**  
MILLION

**DISBURSEMENTS AND  
COMMITMENTS**

**\$8.4**  
MILLION

**AVAILABLE TO  
PROGRAM**

Note: Portfolio data as of December 31, 2023. As of the publication of this report in May 2024, an additional \$5,125,871 had been received from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and from IBRD, and an additional \$9,915,000 had been committed to new activities. The pipeline of proposals under review was approximately \$1.5 million.

SPF finances innovations at the frontiers of FCV that address FCV drivers and support sources of resilience. The SPF is aligned with the FCV Strategy and monitors results under Strategic Areas of Focus that reflect the Strategy's four pillars of engagement (see figure 2.1). The SPF also has two cross-cutting priorities mainstreamed across all areas of strategic focus: inclusion and ensuring that the needs of the most disadvantaged populations are prioritized, with specific

focus on forcibly displaced populations and host communities; and addressing the gender-specific drivers and impacts of FCV on women, men, boys and girls. The SPF supports catalytic, innovative, and targeted activities that provide clear additionality to existing World Bank instruments.<sup>17</sup> SPF's approach is guided by its theory of change (see box 2.2).

<sup>17</sup> Summaries of all [approved grants](#) and [closed grants](#) are available on the SPF website.

**FIGURE 2.1. SPF AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**BOX 2.2. SPF THEORY OF CHANGE****INSTITUTIONAL VISION AND GOALS**

Support progress toward the Twin Goals and SDG outcomes by addressing causes and drivers of FCV and promoting sustainable peace and recovery following crises.

**SPF DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE**

Enhance and expand the frontiers of World Bank engagement in addressing the drivers and impacts of FCV, and strengthen the resilience of countries and affected populations, communities, and institutions.

**FCV STRATEGY PILLARS AND  
CORRESPONDING SPF AREAS OF FOCUS****SPF FOCUS:****PREVENTING  
VIOLENT CONFLICT &  
INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

Support efforts to understand, prevent, and mitigate the causes and risks of violence and conflict.

**REMAINING ENGAGED  
DURING CONFLICT AND  
CRISIS SITUATIONS**

Support timely and effective response to crises and transitions, while strengthening resilience to FCV shocks.

**HELPING COUNTRIES  
TRANSITION OUT OF  
FRAGILITY**

Support sustainable recovery from crises and conflict, build resilience, strengthen institutions and governance, and address FCV drivers.

**MITIGATING THE  
SPILLOVER EFFECTS OF  
FCV**

Support the identification, prevention, and mitigation of cross-border and regional FCV drivers and consequences.

**SPF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES  
(TO BE TAILORED TO AREA OF FOCUS OUTCOMES)**

- P0 1** Develop new strategic and operational approaches and solutions to address FCV drivers and impacts.
- P0 2** Leverage IDA and other funding sources to address FCV priorities, through targeted and catalytic SPF financing and pilot interventions.
- P0 3** Facilitate and help deliver collective results across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding nexus, through effective partnerships and policy dialogue.
- P0 4** Strengthen institutional knowledge and capacities regarding FCV at global, regional, and country levels.

**CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES (MAINSTREAMED ACROSS STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS)**

Cross-cutting priorities crucial to address root causes and impacts of FCV:

Focus on inclusion and ensure that the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations are prioritized, paying especial attention to forcibly displaced populations and host communities.

Address the gender-specific drivers and impacts of FCV on women, men, boys, and girls, and ensure that interventions are appropriately tailored.

## COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE AND VALUE PROPOSITION OF SPF

The SPF's role as a rapid response vehicle for the quick mobilization of finance is in line with the World Bank's increased focus on greater flexibility and speed when responding to FCV situations. Stakeholders continue to recognize the SPF as a provider of crucial financing for countries that cannot access IDA (including countries in arrears, nonmembers, and IBRD countries). In addition, SPF's grant-making processes are adapted to support quick response to emerging crisis situations. The SPF also allows for the piloting and testing of innovative (and potentially higher risk) approaches, which provides opportunities for small-scale projects with the potential to be scaled up, mainstreamed, and institutionalized over time. Partnerships are another critical aspect of working on FCV and of SPF-financed work. SPF supports World Bank engagement in policy dialogue with national and international actors on addressing the impacts of crises and identifying recovery pathways.

**FIGURE 2.2. SPF VALUE PROPOSITION**



Leading global umbrella trust fund supporting implementation of World Bank' Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Strategy.



Mandate to innovate and push the frontiers of World Bank' engagement in FCV situations through catalytic and innovative activities with potential to be scaled up over time.



Agile, fast-acting, and demand: driven funding mechanism that supports the World Bank' focus on greater flexibility and speed when responding to FCV situations.



Platform for broad range of stakeholders to work effectively in partnership to get results and disseminate knowledge and lessons to inform future programs.

**BOX 2.3. INDEPENDENT COMPLETION EVALUATION OF 'SPF 1.0'**

An independent completion evaluation of SPF's predecessor, 'SPF 1.0,' was conducted in 2023-2024. The evaluation reviewed the objectives and results of SPF 1.0, the relevance of the fund within the World Bank and global context of FCV, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the fund's management. The evaluation spanned the lifetime of SPF 1.0 from 2008 to 2022, and entailed extensive document reviews, stakeholder interviews, a survey, portfolio analysis including in-depth portfolio review of 30 sampled projects, and field visits and case studies in Democratic Republic of Congo and the Philippines. The evaluation recognized the role of SPF 1.0 in advancing the FCV agenda within the World Bank, especially in the years prior to the launch of the World Bank FCV Strategy. The evaluation also recognized SPF 1.0's responsiveness to country priorities and local contexts, its contributions to state building and peacebuilding, its support for innovative and groundbreaking work, and its catalytic impact. While focused squarely on SPF 1.0, the evaluation included lessons learned and forward-looking orientations that could inform the current SPF. Many of the recommendations have been taken onboard already, and SPF will continue to build on the findings and insights from the evaluation to inform its work going forward.

## 2023 RESULTS

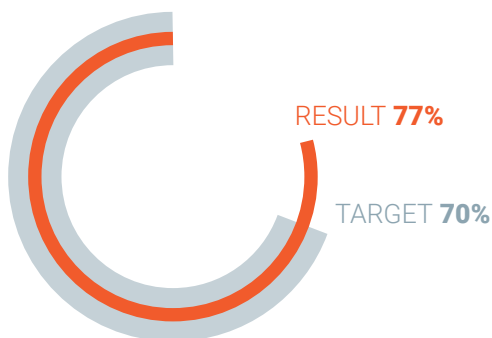
The SPF Results Framework reflects fund-level results (Table 1 in Appendix 2). Indicators align with the SPF's development objective, strategic areas of focus, program objectives, and cross-cutting priorities. Results are derived from project-level reporting, aggregated for the full portfolio of grants active during the reporting year, and reported annually against targets.

The 2023 results demonstrate steady progress on achievement of program objectives and cross-cutting priorities:



### SPF GRANTS THAT EXPLORE FRONTIER TOPICS OR PILOT INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

A large majority of the SPF portfolio is advancing the frontiers of the World Bank's engagement in FCV, such as piloting psychosocial services in conflict-affected areas in Southern Thailand; analytical work on access to justice and rule of law in FCV; supporting the new Ministry of Racial Equality in Brazil with racial inclusion for peacebuilding and violence prevention; and analytical work on environmental peacebuilding in FCV-affected contexts.



### SPF GRANTS TARGETING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

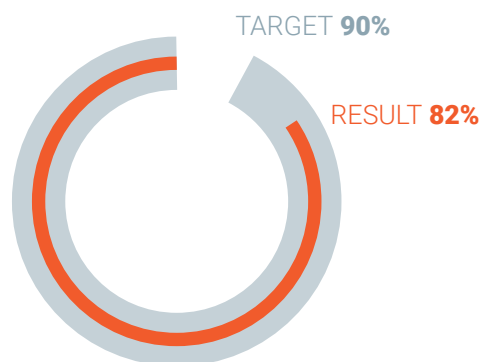
This includes grants targeting ethnic minorities in Kosovo; forcibly displaced people in Central America, the Dominican Republic and Romania; and survivors of GBV in Ethiopia and Haiti. Notably, 29 percent of the portfolio targeted youth and 25 percent targeted forcibly displaced populations including internally displaced persons.



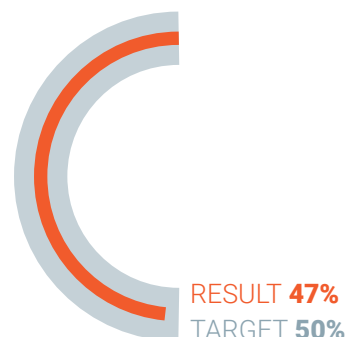
### SPF GRANTS ADDRESSING GENDER-SPECIFIC DRIVERS AND IMPACTS OF FCV

Grants that *primarily* addressed gender in FCV comprised 27 percent of the portfolio. The subset of grants primarily addressing gender include projects improving land tenure and registration in Kosovo and Sierra Leone; producing analytical work on gender and forced displacement; and implementing GBV prevention and response activities in Haiti, Ethiopia, and Nepal.

### SPF GRANTS ENGAGING WITH UN ENTITIES



### SPF GRANTS PARTNERING WITH NGOS, CSOS, MDBS, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



SPF grants are engaging with the World Food Programme as part of the Supporting Engagement in Myanmar project; with UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN Women, United Nations Development Programme, International Organization for Migration, and United Nations Environmental Programme as part of the Environmental Peacebuilding in FCS grant; and with the UN and EU to complete an SPF-funded Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment in Libya following the recent floods. The results for these two indicators fell slightly below the targets. Projects that are implemented with the UN or non-governmental partners can take longer to launch due to additional requirements and processes during the project preparation phase to align all partners. It is worth noting that including those grants pending activation (i.e. already-approved grants that were not yet active by December 2023) increases the result for UN engagement to 89 percent and the result for partnering with NGOs, MDBs, or local governments to 54 percent.

With less than two years since the Fund launched, there was limited achievement of SPF intermediate outcomes, which is expected for a young portfolio. These indicators reflect the medium-term results of SPF-supported activities and outputs and hence take more time to materialize. For this reason, the targets for the intermediate outcome indicators and other key indicators, such as scaled and mainstreamed activities and financing mobilized, are final portfolio targets to be achieved by the end of the fund (currently set for 2028). Results are reported annually to enable monitoring of progress towards the final fund targets over time.

The development objective-level indicators capture key results linked to the SPF's objectives. Some results are starting to be reported for these:

***Sixteen operations, strategies, and/or policies in FCV have been influenced by SPF-supported work on frontier topics.***

For example, the Central America SAFE Migrations grant produced a synthesis report on 'GBV Services for Women in Human Mobility in Central America,' which informed development of protocols by the Costa Rican government to address GBV at the Paso Canoas temporary migrant reception center, which receives more than 2,000 people every day. The Central Asia Addressing and Enhancing Resilience to FCV grant produced analysis on cross-border FCV dynamics that informed multiple World Bank strategies including the Uzbekistan Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) and forthcoming Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic CCDRs, the Uzbekistan Country Gender Assessment, and the Kyrgyz Republic Country Partnership Framework.

***Six grants have increased capacity of clients or partners to address drivers and impacts of FCV.***

One example is the Strengthening implementation of Women's Empowerment and GBV in Ethiopia grant, which supported institutional strengthening in the Ministry of Education to design, implement, monitor, and assess a school-based intervention on addressing gender norms and GBV.

***Total beneficiaries supported thus far are 231 (100% of them female).***

This result comes from one project, the Promoting community-based survivor centric GBV services for women and girls in Haiti grant. The result represents women and girls accessing Women and Girls Safe Spaces, which are centers providing GBV response services (see story on page 40). Targeted beneficiaries under the active portfolio are approximately 180,000 individuals.

## GRANT-LEVEL RESULTS

To complement the Fund results framework, grant-level indicators were piloted in the first two years of the SPF. All SPF grants have project-level results frameworks that include outputs and outcome indicators specific to the grant activities and objectives. The goal of the pilot was to explore if standardized indicators related to the SPF objectives and program areas could be identified and integrated into project results frameworks as relevant, to provide a more granular view of project-level outputs and outcomes than what is reflected through the Fund-level results framework, and to

facilitate aggregation of project-level results across the portfolio. Alongside the new Fund results framework introduced in 2022, a list of recommended grant-level indicators was developed and included in an annex to the SPF proposal template for task teams to reference when developing their proposals. Use of the indicators was optional and at task teams' discretion. Aggregated results for the grant-level indicators are presented in Table 2 in Appendix 2. Some notable results are presented in box 2.4.



**BOX 2.4. EXAMPLES OF GRANT-LEVEL RESULTS****10****ANALYTICAL PIECES PRODUCED ON FRONTIER TOPICS IN FCV**

including on climate adaptation finance in FCS; job and economic opportunities for forcibly displaced women; and social cohesion related to water scarcity in border areas in Central Asia.

**5****ANALYTICAL PIECES, ASSESSMENTS, OR FRAMEWORKS PRODUCED JOINTLY WITH UN ENTITIES**

including a regional dashboard with information on GBV services for migrants in Central America and a shock-responsive social protection roadmap in Zimbabwe.

**5****GRANTS SUPPORTING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN SITUATIONS OF ACTIVE CONFLICT**

for example in Myanmar and South Sudan.

**8**

**POLICY DIALOGUES SUPPORTED**, for example on financial assistance and other support services for Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

**3****GRANTS SUPPORTING POST-CONFLICT TRANSITION PROCESSES**

including in Ethiopia through a conflict assessment and the Resilient Recovery and Reconstruction Planning Framework.

**43**

**KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE EVENTS HELD**, including events at COP28 and the Fragility Forum 2024.

The high level of integration of the recommended indicators by SPF projects suggests the standardized indicators are relevant and appropriate to the specific activities implemented under those grants. Of the 35 projects<sup>18</sup> active by the end of 2023, 22 projects integrated at least one of the recommended indicators in their project results frameworks and fifteen projects applied more than one recommended indicator. In addition, another seven projects used results indicators very similar to the recommended indicators (meaning the definition and measurement were very similar and the indicators could be considered equivalent). Only six projects did not include any SPF indicators or other similar indicators in their results frameworks.<sup>19</sup>

In a few instances, the recommended indicators were applicable – as determined based on the final project results – but not included in the project results frameworks. For example, four grants that produced analytics on frontier topics did not include the related indicator in the project results framework. Similarly, none of the grants that have produced joint analytics with UN entities used the corresponding indicator in their results frameworks. This could indicate lack of understanding of the recommended indicators when developing the SPF proposal and project documentation; the indicators not fitting well within the overall project results framework; or developments over the course of the project implementation that were not originally expected when formulating the results indicators.

Not surprisingly, the most-frequently used indicators were outputs such as ‘Analytics produced on frontier topics,’ ‘Knowledge sharing events or exchanges held,’ and ‘Guidance notes, best practice notes, and lessons learned notes produced.’ These types of deliverables are common under Bank-executed projects and the indicators can be applied to a range of outputs across diverse projects and sectors. ‘Policy dialogue supported’ was another commonly applied indicator, used by ten out of 35 projects. Indicators that were least used were mostly related to specific approaches or sectors (‘GBV prevention and response approaches piloted,’ ‘Increased capacity to monitor and analyze crisis and conflict risks’). Others were perhaps less suited to project-level results frameworks and should be reconsidered for inclusion in the recommended list (‘Inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in project design or implementation,’ ‘Project implementation facilitated in situations of active conflict’).

Use of the standard indicators suggests their relevance to SPF-funded activities, common understanding by task teams of the appropriate indicators, and consistent application at the project level to facilitate aggregation. Differences in uptake across the various indicators point to some areas for improvement, which will be assessed further and could potentially lead to revisions to the list of recommended indicators. Consultations with the SPF Partnership Council will inform the value-add of utilizing recommended grant-level indicators as well as any changes to specific recommended indicators.

<sup>18</sup> These 35 projects correspond to 38 grants, as one project may receive more than one SPF grant. Only active grants with finalized project results frameworks were reviewed for this analysis.

<sup>19</sup> One of those projects is categorized as a Knowledge Product in the Bank system and not required to have a project results framework, while another was attached to a lending operation already under implementation and adhered to the results framework already in place.

## STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS



### PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT AND INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

SPF priorities under this strategic area of focus are to analyze and monitor risks related to the onset or escalation of violence and conflict; identify opportunities and innovative approaches to mitigate associated drivers and vulnerabilities; strengthen sources of resilience through analytical products and building institutional capacity; assess the gender-specific causes and manifestations of violence and the role of women in supporting risk prevention and mitigation efforts against conflict; and collaborate with international partners on analytical work and policy dialogue on prevention.

#### HAITI: PROMOTING COMMUNITY-BASED SURVIVOR CENTRIC GBV SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, BANK-EXECUTED, US\$300,000

##### GRANT OBJECTIVE:

To increase access to comprehensive services for GBV survivors and women and girls at risk. Haiti is characterized by a high level of GBV, and the prevalence rate of domestic violence is particularly worrying (34 percent). Access to prevention programs and basic response services for survivors remain limited and structurally under-funded throughout the country, as well as affected by cultural and social norms. Increased insecurity in the country and socio-political deterioration have had a devastating impact on the lives of women, girls, and other groups at risk, preventing them from having access to basic care and lifesaving services.

This grant, implemented from October 2022 to March 2024, aimed to increase access to holistic GBV response services in areas with the highest GBV prevalence as well as those affected by the 2021 earthquake. The first component of the grant focused on increasing the quality and reach of services for GBV survivors and promoting women's and girls' socio-economic empowerment, safety, and resilience by strengthening four community-based Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS), operated by women's rights organizations. The second component focused on building and sharing knowledge around the minimum standards to be applied by GBV organizations while running a WGSS.

##### RESULTS:

The grant successfully achieved its objective to increase the number of services provided to women and girls at risk of GBV

and GBV survivors in the southern peninsula of Haiti. Four WGSS were established with the support of locally recognized women's rights organizations. The WGSS offer a wide range of necessary services including GBV response services (comprehensive case management, direct psychosocial support, legal aid, referral to health clinics) as well as risk mitigation and prevention services, especially involving adolescent girls (such as life skills programs, awareness and information sessions on women's rights, sexual and reproductive health services, and financial literacy). Previously, these services were either non-existent or too scattered across the area to be safely accessed. The grant also enhanced coordination among service providers and state actors in target regions through

capacity development initiatives. Four comprehensive training sessions were organized by GBV experts who shared knowledge and experience on good practices and principles to provide timely response to GBV survivors. This led to the elaboration of a joint protocol for the provision of holistic care across the health sector, mental health and psychosocial support services providers, and the legal and judicial sector. Two documents were produced: a Women and Girls Safe Spaces Guidelines, and a multi-sector GBV Response Protocol and training material. The documents were launched at a national workshop held in Haiti in collaboration with the Ministry on the Status and Rights of Women in Haiti in December 2023.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3



## REMAINING ENGAGED DURING CONFLICT AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

Under this strategic area of focus, SPF supports the World Bank's commitment to remaining engaged in situations of active crisis and violent conflict. This engagement can take the form of support for preserving human and institutional capacities, strengthening resilience, and establishing foundations for recovery and reconstruction, as well as responding to unforeseen emergencies and urgent situations, in line with the World Bank's capacity to provide rapid and flexible support.

### **LIBYA: STORM AND FLOODING RAPID DAMAGE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT, BANK-EXECUTED, US\$400,000**

#### **GRANT OBJECTIVE:**

To inform, guide and catalyze the sustainable and resilient recovery of flood affected communities in twenty municipalities following large-scale floods in eastern Libya in September 2023. Two dam failures caused the complete destruction of entire neighborhoods and infrastructure, with the death toll reportedly exceeding 11,000, with more than 10,000 individuals still unaccounted for and at least 34,000 people displaced from their homes. This grant, approved in September 2023, was processed through the SPF's fast-track emergency approval process to enable a quick response.

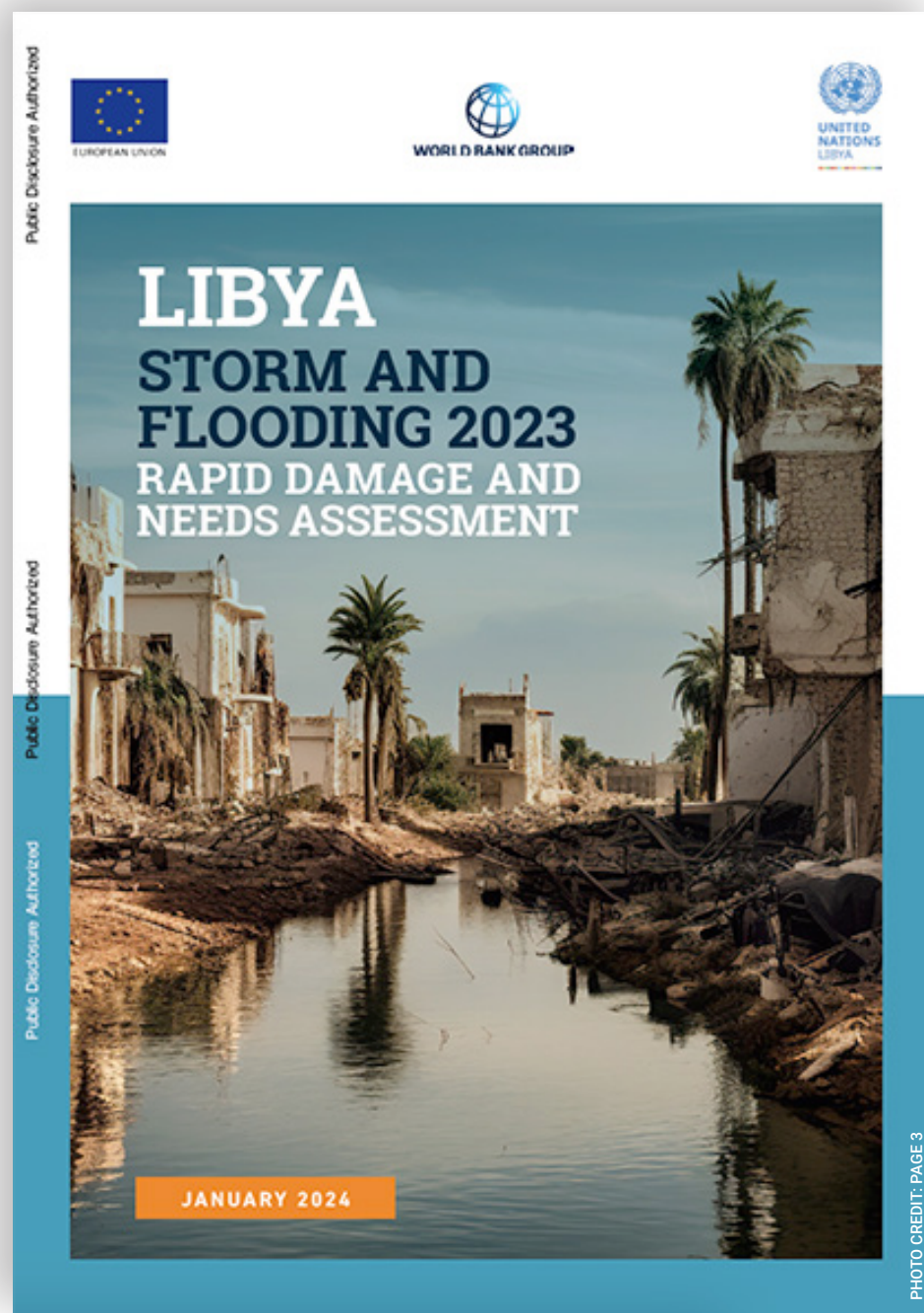
The Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) analyzed damages to physical assets and economic losses and outlined pressing recovery and reconstruction needs across twelve sectors, including education, health, and agriculture, and seven cross-cutting areas including governance, displacement, and environment and natural resources. The RDNA followed a globally developed methodology, drawing on remote data including satellite imagery, night lights data, and physical damage surveys.

#### **RESULTS:**

The RDNA enabled partners to estimate damages and losses at US\$1.03 and US\$0.62 billion, respectively, together counting for 3.6 percent of Libya's gross domestic product in 2022. The total reconstruction and recovery needs were assessed at US\$1.8 billion, with the highest needs in the 'housing' (US\$517 million or

30 percent), 'water' (US\$234 million or 13 percent) and 'transport' (US\$209 million or 12 percent) sectors. The disaster impacted approximately 1.5 million people – 22 per cent of Libya's population – living in the coastal and inland cities that were hardest hit. The RDNA established figures on the forcibly displaced population and quantified macroeconomic as well as social, human and poverty impacts. It identified sectoral needs to support the most vulnerable people affected, thereby contributing to developing timely responses and sequenced resource management plans for Libyan authorities that build upon the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Looking forward, the RDNA can serve as a best practice by providing a structured approach to identifying post-disaster needs. Its estimates can inform sectoral prioritization of recovery activities, financing strategies and the coordination of multiple stakeholders, leveraging their resources and expertise.

As highlighted by Ayaz Parvez and Dina Ranarifidy, the Task Team Leaders for the grant, the delivery of the RDNA was a testimony of successful collaboration across multiple World Bank Global Practices. Parvez and Ranarifidy also highlighted an additional factor to consider when working in a fragile context: the acceptability of the RDNA relied not only on its technical soundness, but also on its political awareness. The team devoted time to working closely with communications and legal teams to ensure potential sensitivities were considered.





## HELPING COUNTRIES TRANSITION OUT OF FRAGILITY

SPF supports World Bank engagement in sustainable recovery from crisis and conflict and promotes conflict-sensitive development solutions that help countries build the resilience and institutional capacity needed to foster longer-term stability and prosperity. SPF support emphasizes addressing immediate post-conflict transition priorities and identifying long-term transformational development pathways to address the root causes of FCV.

### KOSOVO: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES, RECIPIENT-EXECUTED, US\$3,200,000

#### GRANT OBJECTIVE:

To improve access to land and property registration information and counseling services for women, youth, and vulnerable persons in minority communities. In a post-conflict context like Kosovo, securing property rights remains not only critical for economic prosperity but also social sustainability, as access to land is often cited as a key means of addressing drivers of conflict. However, many of Kosovo's underserved communities have low rates of formal property registration or access to associated services. For example, according to official data, only 19 percent of all registered properties at the Kosovo Cadastral Agency are in the name of women (individually or jointly).<sup>20</sup>

This grant, active from September 2023 to December 2025, aims to provide CSO networks with funds to foster partnerships and promote benefits of land and property registration. It consists of (1) public outreach activities to vulnerable groups and capacity building for relevant CSO networks, (2) targeted analyses to identify gaps in and challenges to land and property registration services for vulnerable groups, (3) capacity building programs for government officials and community leaders in mediation services to resolve land-related disputes, and (4) the World Bank's implementation support to the Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC), a local umbrella CSO leading the grant's implementation. This grassroots-level partnership is considered innovative because government agencies lack the institutional responsibility and technical capacity to promote property rights effectively. As such, the partnership bridges an important gap and stands out as a bottom-up approach. Overall, these activities will directly contribute to SPF's objectives by engaging local authorities

<sup>20</sup> <http://akk-statistics.rks-gov.net/>

to work towards more inclusive service delivery in the land sector (state building), enhancing socio-economic conditions for peaceful, stable and sustainable development (peacebuilding), and fostering government and non-government stakeholder cohesion for scaling up targeted messaging and tailored service provision.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

The project was launched in December 2023. ATRC has fully staffed its grant implementation team and has begun its targeted analyses concerning challenges related to vulnerable groups' access to land and property registration services. ATRC is nearing the completion of the procurement process for leveraging local CSOs to conduct public outreach activities to vulnerable communities. Coordination discussions with the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and other donors supporting public outreach in Kosovo's land sector such as the United States Agency for International Development are ongoing. The first CSO outreach activities are expected to begin in May/June 2024.





## MITIGATING THE SPILLOVERS OF FRAGILITY, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE

In line with the World Bank's focus on addressing regional and subregional development challenges, SPF support is oriented toward addressing regional and transboundary FCV-related shocks and stresses (climate change, food insecurity, pandemics, other crises), to prevent and mitigate the spillovers of FCV and to support countries and the most vulnerable and marginalized communities that are impacted by cross-border crises. These crises include forced displacement or shocks resulting from famines, pandemics, and climate challenges, and destabilizing violence and conflict and their spillover effects.

### GENDER AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN CITIES, BANK-EXECUTED, US\$210,000

#### GRANT OBJECTIVE:

To develop an operationally relevant gender framework for forced displacement in cities, building on the Bank's ongoing work on Urban Forced Displacement (UFD) and gender and FCV. As of June 2023, 110 million people across the world were forcibly displaced from their homes, with most of them displaced within their own countries. At the same time, forced displacement is increasingly an urban phenomenon, with more than half of refugees<sup>21</sup> and more about 60% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in urban areas. Displacement is also becoming more protracted – with a shift away

from camps and towards more urban areas.<sup>22</sup> This phenomenon impacts host cities and communities as well as the displaced, and requires different policy interventions and development approaches than a typical camp setting or temporary humanitarian assistance.

Against this background, this grant, implemented from May 2022 to September 2023, aimed to understand how UFD affects women and men differently, quantify gender gaps as well as identify relevant policies, actions, and measurable indicators in response. It further generated comprehensive tools, including city deep dives and a guidance note, which can be used for policy dialogue on gender and forced displacement in cities and scaled in other contexts.

<sup>21</sup> UNHCR. Global Trends 2020. <https://www.unhcr.org/flagship-reports/globaltrends/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>

**RESULTS:**

A comprehensive Global Report was published in October 2023, comprising a framework along five dimensions of UFD – spatial, physical, social, economic, and institutional – to identify gender gaps as well as good practice examples for interventions. External stakeholder consultations and focus groups enriched the Global Report. In five cities where World Bank operations were being prepared (Bogotá and Cali in Colombia, Karachi in Pakistan,

Baidoa in Somalia, and Bangui in the Central African Republic); the grant funded ‘city deep dives’ – providing data and qualitative understanding of gender gaps. Furthermore, the grant developed a Global Guidance note for operational teams both inside and outside the World Bank, to consider including gender gap assessments in UFD-impacted cities to better mitigate transboundary risks of future institutional, social, and economic stresses associated with forced displacement.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE TO HUMAN MOBILITY, RECIPIENT-EXECUTED AND BANK-EXECUTED, US\$5,000,000

### GRANT OBJECTIVE:

To improve the statistical, institutional, and coordination capacities of the Dominican Republic to inform policy dialogue towards a multisectoral and inclusive response to migratory flows. The foreign-born population in the Dominican Republic exceeds 570,933 people (5.6% of the total population of the country), with the largest migrant groups coming from Haiti (87.2%) and Venezuela (5%).<sup>23</sup> Many immigrant populations are fleeing their home countries following outbreaks of conflict, violence, and political stability. Over the past decade, the speed and magnitude of human flows have stretched the social fabric, resulting in tensions between host communities and migrants. Against this background, the SPF grant aims to prevent risks of violent conflict and interpersonal violence by supporting the social and economic integration of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable migrants.

The grant is structured around four pillars. The first pillar focuses on strengthening the statistical capacity with the help of (1) methods to estimate the demand for foreign labor to inform migration policies; (2) enhanced administrative records to reduce gaps in data coverage; (3) building a data source via immigrant surveys to evaluate contributions made by migrant populations to the Dominican economy and society (including the transformations they have experienced and the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic);

and (4) an improved national registry of potential beneficiaries of social services. The second pillar bolsters multisectoral institutional planning and coordination through strategies for social cohesion between migrant and host communities and supports an enhanced legal framework for migration management. The third pillar prioritizes investments to: (1) improve income-generation mechanisms and living conditions of migrant and host communities; (2) enhance GBV response protocols and services; and (3) provide technical support to GBV survivors. The fourth pillar involves support for overall project implementation. These pillars collectively aim to foster a more inclusive and robust migration management framework in the Dominican Republic.

### PROGRESS TO DATE:

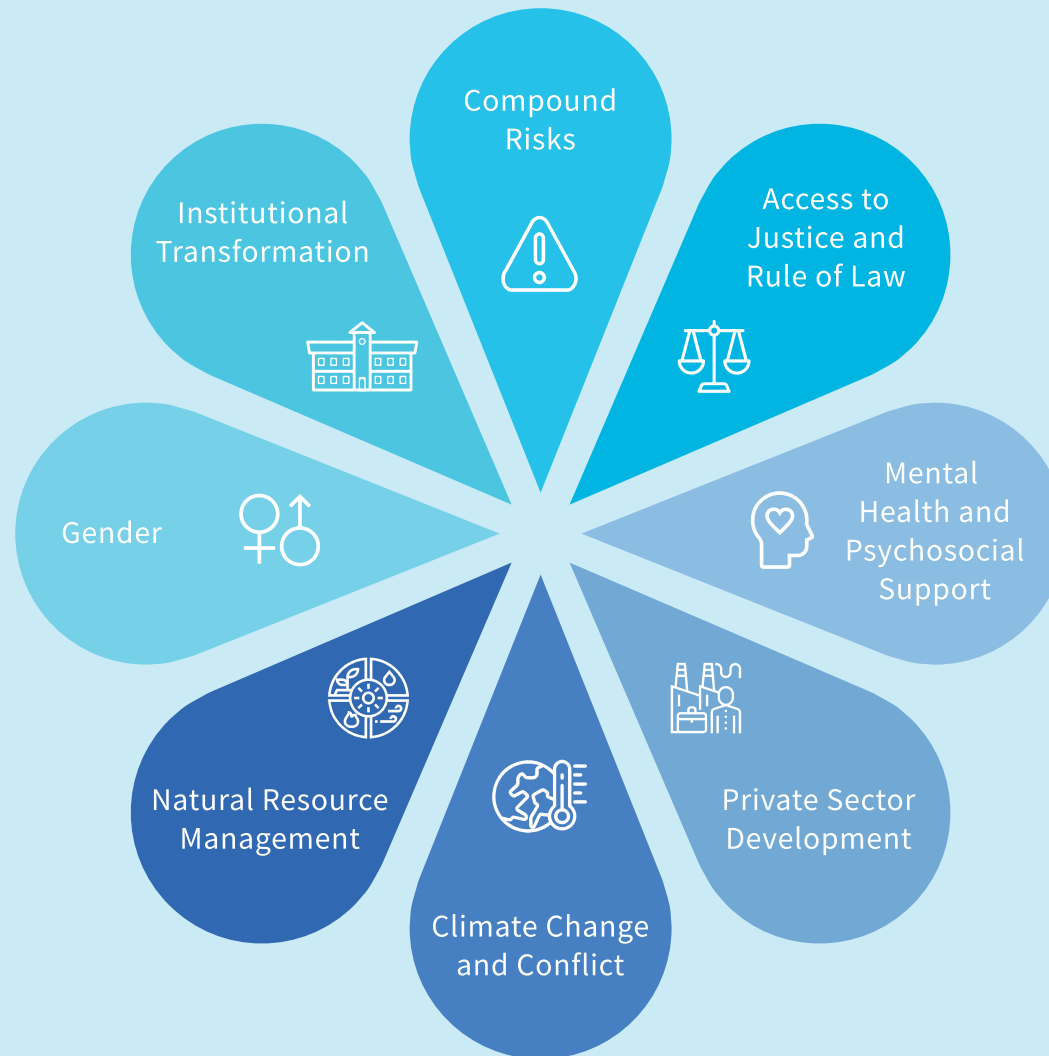
The project was declared effective as of June 2023. The project received an award from the World Bank and the Ministry of Public Administration for its excellence in implementation during its first year. The grant is supporting procurement of essential kits (e.g., beds, clothing, and sanitary goods) for displaced women survivors of gender-based violence and their children in specialized and protected shelter, as well as strengthening the national statistical system to account for migrant and displaced populations. It is also supporting the professionalization of the civil service through a master's program and strengthening more inclusive protocols among migration officials working on border-crossing points. The grant also supports pilots to include migrants and locals in the universal social registry, including in schools and communities with high prevalence of foreign-born populations.

<sup>23</sup> National Immigrant Survey (ENI) 2017.



## FRAGILITY, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE ‘FRONTIER’ AREAS

**FIGURE 2.3. EXAMPLES OF FRONTIER AND EMERGING AREAS**



SPF pushes the boundaries of the World Bank's FCV engagement by supporting work on the frontiers of FCV knowledge, approaches, and operations, in sectors that are challenging and under-explored in FCV settings. The SPF Umbrella Trust Fund board paper highlighted several frontier areas including the intersection of climate and fragility, mental health and psychosocial support, and

justice and rule of law in FCV settings (see figure 2.3 for examples of frontier topics). SPF is operationalizing progress on frontier topics through three main pillars based on the existing SPF proposal development process and governance and overall World Bank strategic directions (see box 2.5 for more details).

### BOX 2.5. OPERATIONALIZING PROGRESS ON FRONTIER FCV TOPICS

1

#### PILLAR 1

Focuses on generating demand, primarily before proposals are submitted, including through portfolio analysis to gain insights on important frontier topics, proactive outreach and engagement with teams to generate proposals and raise awareness on frontier topics.

2

#### PILLAR 2

Focuses on proactive dialogue during the proposal development process, including review of submitted proposals and dialogue with task teams on opportunities for frontier areas to be woven into proposals where relevant for the development objective and FCV context.

3

#### PILLAR 3

Focuses on measuring progress on frontier topics, including through the results framework and knowledge exchanges associated with SPF grants.

SPF takes a flexible approach to identifying frontier FCV topics linked to overall World Bank strategic directions. The topics are intended to provide guidance to teams; however, they are not definitive or exhaustive, and flexibility is maintained in case of new topics being identified. Frontier issues are linked to World Bank

priorities in FCV, for example based on the FCV Strategy and MTR, the Evolution process, and other relevant processes as well as SPF donor priorities. For example, the FCV Strategy identifies six areas of special emphasis in FCV settings, several of which are linked to SPF frontier areas (building community resilience and

preparedness, especially regarding the impact of climate change and environmental degradation; engaging on justice and the rule of law; and security sector engagement). Similarly, the Evolution process recognizes the importance of climate change, crisis preparedness, and strengthening regional approaches. SPF engages with donors, operational teams, and technical experts to proactively identify and update frontier areas based on evolving FCV dynamics. External partners are also periodically consulted as appropriate.

Progress has been made in advancing work on frontier topics and innovative approaches, with marked improvements in results: 74% of the SPF portfolio in 2023 supported frontier activities and innovative approaches compared to 48% in 2022, stemming from increased outreach and support to catalyze grant applications (see box 2.6 examples of SPF grants supporting frontier topics). To further catalyze engagement on select frontier topics, SPF may create a special funding allocation to finance proposals on particularly underexplored topics. Furthermore, SPF will continue to organize knowledge sharing and learning events related to frontier SPF grants, and by doing so identify opportunities for cross-pollination to potentially lead to development of new frontier grants in FCV.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3

**BOX 2.6. EXAMPLES OF SPF GRANTS ADDRESSING FRONTIER TOPICS****MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT****Psychosocial Services for Traumatized Persons in Conflict-Affect Areas in Thailand**

This US\$1,500,000 grant, approved in August 2023, aims to strengthen the capacity of providers to deliver psychosocial services in three conflict-affected provinces of the Deep South of Thailand and design modalities for integrating these services with livelihoods support for the sustained socio-economic wellbeing of the victims of trauma. Protracted subnational conflict between the Thai state and Malay Muslim insurgent groups since 2004 has resulted in more than 7,000 deaths and 13,000 injuries. Over 3,000 women have been widowed and more than 9,000 children orphaned. The conflict has led to a decline in socio-economic well-being (e.g., adverse health outcomes, domestic violence, economic hardship), the erosion of trust and relationships among people, and increased fragility of institutions. To contribute to building sustainable peace in the conflict-affected provinces, the World Bank for over a decade has provided support to strengthen confidence-building measures through participatory local development approaches, further state-civil society engagement, and enhance responsive, transparent, and accountable service delivery. Building on these experiences, lessons, institutional arrangements, and approaches, the grant aims to: i) enhance the capacity of the network of frontline practitioners to expand coverage of effective mental health services to key traumatized groups, namely ex-combatants, children, widows, and communities in which they live; and ii) propose modalities to Mental Health Department as well as relevant line agencies for integrating psychosocial services and livelihoods support for traumatized families, especially those headed by women and widows. The grant activities will be implemented by the Thai Health Academy, an organization designated by the Mental Health Department of the Ministry of Public Health.



## CLIMATE & FRAGILITY NEXUS

### Climate Resilience and Fragility in Southern Madagascar

This US\$250,000 grant, approved in February 2023, aimed to analyze social dimensions of climate change and fragility in Southern Madagascar to support the Government of Madagascar in defining and implementing an inclusive climate-resilient development program for the South. Southern Madagascar is marred by entrenched poverty and conflict, and climate change brings additional stresses. There is a considerable risk that climate change impacts will push more people into further vulnerability and exclusion and will compound the drivers of conflict. The grant funded several analytic activities to unpack the links between climate threats and fragility in the South and understand more precisely the household-level and community-level transmission routes between social exclusion, climate shock and the drivers and consequences of conflict. Topics integral to the climate-fragility nexus in the south include water resource management, GBV, migration, and communal violence. Within these topics, the analysis identified opportunities for building local resilience against the detrimental combination of fragility, climate, and exclusion threats. Identified pathways for resilience will be built into CCDD recommendations for climate adaptation development pathways and into recommendations for the design of World Bank operations in the South.



## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Innovative Solutions for Land Dispute Resolution in Sierra Leone

This US\$3,360,000 grant, approved in June 2023, aims to pilot innovative approaches for reducing fragility and conflict in the context of the land administration reform process and build capacity among land sector CSOs to support communities and land governance. The grant places particular emphasis on the needs of women, youth, and other disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Sierra Leone has made progress towards development goals in the face of many challenges since the end of the country's civil war (1991-2002). The reestablishment of democracy since 2002 is an important achievement but signs of fragility remain, including unresolved land disputes and gender inequality in the land sector which pose a significant risk to social cohesion and economic development. The grant activities include piloting of legal aid as well as supporting alternative land dispute resolution mechanisms to empower communities to improve access to legal support from legal aid institutions for women, men and communities. The activities aim to support these groups to better understand and enforce their newly created land rights as per new land laws in the context of large-scale land-based investments. The grant will also support pilots of training programs for women in new land institutions and of local governance structures for land sector dialogue, as well as compliance of national investors with responsible land-based investment principles. The grant will be implemented through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations contracted by the Ministry to manage the grant and to engage local CSOs to implement the activities.

## FUND ADMINISTRATION

### GOVERNANCE

SPF maintains a streamlined and efficient governance structure comprised of the SPF Partnership Council, which provides strategic direction to the trust fund, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which approves proposals, and a program management team (PMT), which manages day-to-day operations of the fund (figure 2.4).

The SPF Partnership Council serves as the governance body of SPF. It meets annually to take stock of progress and provide strategic guidance. The Council comprises a representative of each donor providing a financial contribution to the SPF; representatives from the World Bank, including the Director for the FCV Group; and the SPF Program Manager. Other stakeholders are invited to participate as observers in consultation with members of the council.

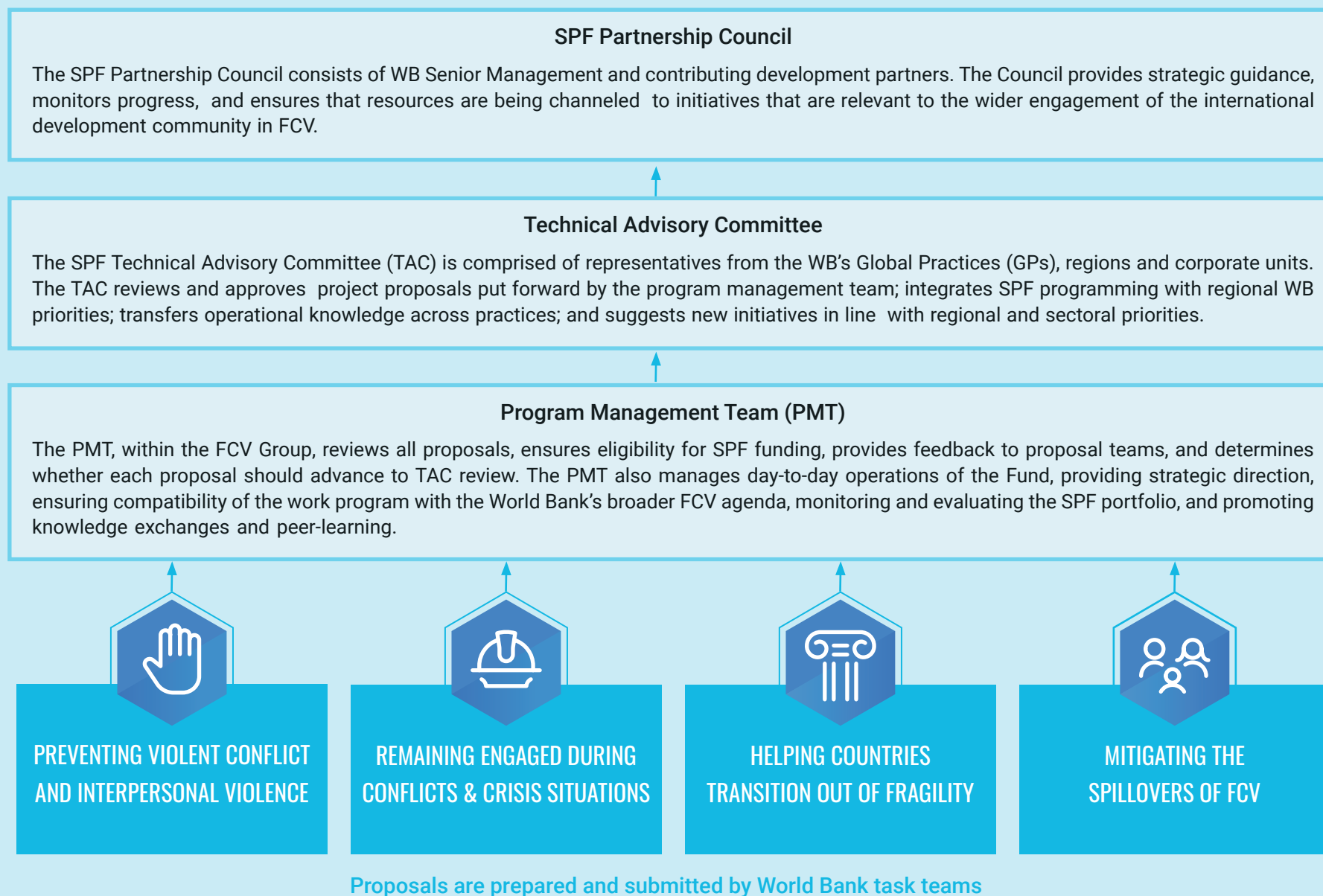
The 2023 SPF Partnership Council Meeting was cohosted by the World Bank and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and brought together development partners, the SPF PMT and TAC members, country management, and grant teams to present and discuss progress, results, and future priorities. The Council Meeting also featured a presentation by Universal Management Group, the firm contracted to conduct the completion evaluation of SPF 1.0.

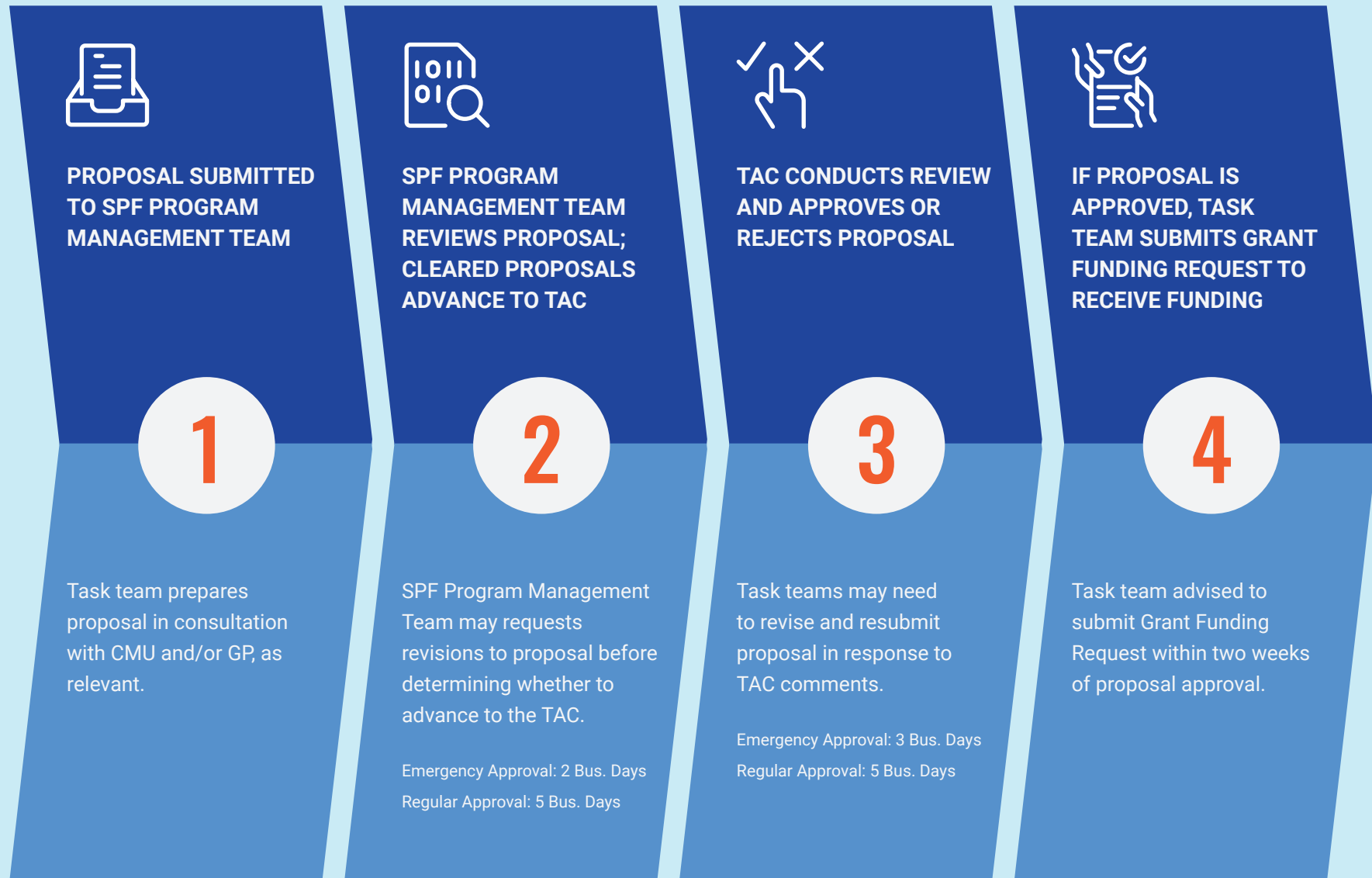
## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The World Bank's FCV Group manages the SPF. The PMT is responsible for coordinating the allocation of funds and leading the day-to-day management and administration of the fund. The TAC is a World Bank-wide body with the authority to review and approve proposals for SPF financing. The committee is designed to ensure a balanced representation of key World Bank units, including regional Vice Presidential Units, Practice Groups, and the Legal department. The TAC was reconstituted in July 2023 with increased emphasis on FCV experience across regions and sectors. Committee members provide advice on and approval of proposals, and guidance on potential frontier areas in FCV where SPF could provide support to further the FCV agenda.

### ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

As a demand-driven fund, the SPF accepts proposals on a rolling basis. The PMT reviews proposals as they are received (figure 2.5). Allocations at the activity-level are made by the TAC in alignment with the SPF's development objective, results framework, and indicative work plan and budget as endorsed by the SPF Partnership Council. Addressing gender-specific drivers and impacts of FCV is a cross-cutting priority for the SPF, as is working in collaboration with partner organizations, particularly across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

**FIGURE 2.4. SPF GOVERNANCE**

**FIGURE 2.5. SPF REVIEW PROCESS**

## KNOWLEDGE AND LESSONS LEARNED

Knowledge generation and dissemination is core to the SPF's mission to support work on frontier issues and innovative approaches in FCV. SPF is expanding its work on knowledge generation and sharing through enhanced upstream consultations to shape and promote frontier issues supported by SPF; increased investment in synthesis and dissemination of knowledge and learning generated by SPF; deepened partnerships with key internal and external stakeholders; and strengthened communications.

In line with this focus on knowledge generation and dissemination:

- ▶ All SPF-funded activities complete a short 'lessons learned' form upon the grant's closing. This form follows a standard template and captures key insights and lessons learned from the grant activities that are relevant for World Bank operations and work in FCV contexts.
- ▶ All deliverables and knowledge products produced under SPF-funded grants, including the lessons learned forms, are shared with the SPF PMT.
- ▶ The most relevant and interesting lessons learned forms are selected to become lessons learned notes, a more curated knowledge product designed to share good practices, results, and additional resources about innovative grants in the SPF portfolio.
- ▶ SPF organizes or co-sponsors knowledge sharing events to ensure results and lessons learned are shared with World Bank audiences. Teams must describe their knowledge and dissemination plans in the funding proposals, and are encouraged to coordinate with the SPF PMT on any knowledge sharing events.
- ▶ All knowledge products generated by SPF grants, including recordings of knowledge events, are circulated via a World Bank-wide FCV Newsletter and posted on the SPF internal website.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communicating the work of the SPF is critical to its impact and continued support. For external audiences, SPF communicates through the SPF external website, blog and feature story platforms,

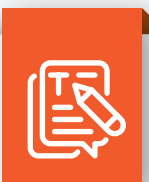
news outlets and newsletters (see box 2.7 for examples of SPF communications products).

### BOX 2.7. EXAMPLES OF SPF COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS



#### FEATURE STORY

- ▶ [Tackling Gender Based Violence in Fragile Contexts](#)



#### BLOGS

- ▶ [Migrant Women and girls in Central America risk their lives in search of a better future](#)
- ▶ [Seven ways to increase access to justice in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings](#)
- ▶ [Empowering women in fragile and conflict-affected states: navigating land rights and protections from violence](#)



#### PRESS RELEASE

- ▶ [Armenia Receives \\$2.9 million Grant to Support Teachers in Providing Psycho-Social Support to Displaced Children from Nagorno-Karabakh](#)

## SPF SPOTLIGHT

# SUPPORTING THE WORLD BANK'S APPROACH TO REMAINING ENGAGED IN SOUTH SUDAN

Since attaining independence on July 9th, 2011, following decades of civil war with Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan has faced a challenging path marred by persistent political instability, widespread subnational violence, and unresolved drivers of FCV.

Only two years after independence, South Sudan experienced its own civil war. Following multiple rounds of failed ceasefires and peace agreements, the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed in 2018 between the parties to the conflict. The agreement committed signatories to establish the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, tasked with carrying out the agreement's implementation to pave the way for national elections. However, more than five years have elapsed since the signing of the R-ARCSS and the transitional period has seen repeated violations of the agreement; delays in its implementation due to national, regional and global challenges; and growing divisions between and within the parties, often linked to bouts of subnational and intercommunal violence.

Notwithstanding, the R-ARCSS is now in the midst of its third extension and continues to be viewed by many as the only pathway to sustainable peace. Regional and global developments have not favored implementation. Since the agreement's formation, South Sudan has suffered two devastating floods, COVID-19, and crippling shocks to its heavily oil-dependent economy following global and regional developments. The agreement must also contend with the need to engage non-signatories in parallel, a process which has thus far yielded little progress. Despite these setbacks, some critical milestones have been reached, including the swearing-in of the National Elections Commission, National Constitutional Review Commission, and Political Parties Council from December 2023 - January 2024; the formation of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly in August 2021; graduating the first batch of the National Unified Forces in August 2022; and passing the Constitution-making Process Bill and National Election Bill in September 2023. Despite this progress, critical political, technical and security preparations remain outstanding, as does much of the requisite legislative reform.

South Sudan's economic outlook has continued to worsen through 2024. The South Sudanese Pound depreciated by 47% against the US Dollar since mid-February. The country has also seen a steep drop in gross foreign exchange reserves, ongoing overdrafts from the Bank of South Sudan, and disruptions in oil revenue flows due to conflict in Sudan. Rapid depreciation of the exchange rate is fueling inflation and poses a threat to the country's macroeconomic stability and is exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs. South Sudan grapples with the absence of robust economic governance structures, acute food insecurity, forced displacement, sexual and gender-based violence and worsening human development indicators. At the same time, these concurrent challenges have presented an opportunity for the Government and its international partners to engage in dialogue and lay the foundation for key reforms and longer-term development.

The World Bank has been engaged in South Sudan since the creation of the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan in 2005, focusing on providing health services, strengthening social safety nets, and supporting governance reforms. The Country Engagement Note (CEN) FY21-23 built on these engagements and was informed by a national RRA to ensure that FCV drivers and sources of resilience were reflected in the World Bank's engagement with South Sudan. The CEN strived to lay the groundwork for institution building, continue support for basic service delivery, and increase resilience and livelihood opportunities. It promoted social inclusion, particularly of youth and women, as a cross-cutting principle. As of April 2024, the World Bank portfolio in South Sudan stood at US\$1.4 billion, covering eleven national and three regional operations across sectors including governance, energy, agriculture,



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3

human capital development, social protection, digital development, and community resilience. Guided by its CEN, the implementation modality of World Bank-financed projects has gradually shifted back towards government-led implementation.

In May 2023, several SPF donors including Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland participated in a World Bank-facilitated joint mission to South Sudan. The mission's objective was to take stock of how the SPF was contributing to the implementation of the FCV Strategy in South Sudan in support of the country's development priorities. The mission reflected on the SPF's relevance and comparative advantage, the role of specific SPF grants in supporting country priorities, and the World Bank's approach in South Sudan covering issues related to third-party and government implementation, humanitarian-development-peace nexus, operational partnerships, and peacebuilding.

During the mission, the donor group commended the World Bank's presence and approach in South Sudan, as well as its technical understanding of the political economy, important role in capacity building, and adaptability in programming. The donors also recognized that the SPF's role and comparative advantage has been to flexibly provide critical support to targeted FCV-sensitive grants to support operational priorities in complementarity with the wider country portfolio. At the same time, donors encouraged the World Bank to increase its efforts in several areas. First, in deepening strategic and operational partnerships with key partners including the UN. In this regard, the UN in South Sudan acknowledged the World Bank's provision of technical capacity building as well as its strong safeguard policies, procurement procedures and

fiduciary guidelines to facilitate third-party implementation as a critical value-add in the partnership. The UN also recognized the World Bank's approach of using a combination of third-party and government implementation modalities as important for South Sudan's gradual and coordinated transition to more government-led implementation. Second, donors encouraged the World Bank to ensure greater conflict sensitivity across its portfolio. Third, donors asked for further clarity on how SPF grants specifically support and contribute to state and peacebuilding outcomes, in line with the World Bank's mandate. Donors also encouraged greater selectivity in use of limited SPF funds to address key FCV issues where other sources of funding cannot be used.

SPF has played a critical role in financing grants to address these issues and support state and peacebuilding outcomes in line with the World Bank's mandate, thereby supporting implementation of the FCV Strategy under the pillar of remaining engaged. For example, the Bank-executed SPF grant 'Strengthening transparency and accountability of public finances in South Sudan' (US\$300,000, February 2023-February 2024) aimed to support improved credibility and equity of public financial management (PFM) through providing recommendations for fostering PFM transparency and accountability and decentralizing fiscal management. The grant provided technical assistance to the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission on corruption prevention and mitigation measures; conducted six capacity building workshops with the Committee on Finance and Economic Planning of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), CSOs, and the Western Equatoria State Assembly to support the budget review process and

promote citizen participation around the budget cycle; developed a strategy to improve inclusion of underrepresented groups in the public sector; and formulated recommendations to improve fiscal decentralization, expenditure controls and transparency at the state level to support service delivery.

Chapter IV of the R-ARCSS focuses on enhancing PFM as a critical building block to consolidate peace by enhancing the Government's stewardship of public resources, thereby building trust and establishing a more constructive social contract. The Government identified twelve priorities, including improving the budget process and credibility, strengthening anti-corruption measures, and improving allocation and execution of the budget at state level. The SPF grant was aligned with and sought to contribute directly to these priorities, supporting the achievement of reforms necessary to achieve the peace agreement. The capacity building activities were designed to assist the TNLA in effectively analyzing budget documents. As a result, the budget for FY23/24 was approved in August 2023 with a significantly reduced delay of 41 days, compared to the 89 day delay in the previous year. The TNLA also convened a citizen participation forum for the first time, to discuss the FY23/24 budget estimates. These are important steps toward improved credibility and equity of public financial management and the legitimization of institutions involved in the budget process in South Sudan, which are critical to consolidating peace.

The team also leveraged the grant to foster close collaboration with CSOs and lawmakers through capacity building activities. CSOs, as vital representatives of citizens, play a pivotal role in

enhancing transparency and accountability of the state vis-à-vis citizens. To this effect, the grant team focused on bolstering the technical skills and communication strategies of CSOs to allow them to contribute to the promotion of fiscal transparency and accountability in South Sudan. Through a partnership with one of these CSOs, the team delivered the first workshop on budgeting and reporting for lawmakers at the state level. Significant effort was also directed towards providing technical assistance to government institutions to address gaps in operational capacity and garner political support for enhancing corruption prevention measures. Overall, the grant demonstrated the importance of identifying and engaging committed stakeholders and creating platforms for open discussion.

The grant enabled the World Bank to develop a robust working relationship with the TNLA, which holds a central role in the transition process. Activities with the TNLA will be continued and scaled with the South Sudan Multi-Donor Transition Trust Fund. The outputs addressed crucial knowledge gaps and provided foundational assessments and recommendations to guide the prioritization and implementation of urgent PFM reforms to support the implementation of Chapter IV, thereby contributing to potential increased public trust in state institutions over time. Grant activities directly contributed to and informed ongoing and pipeline operations. The knowledge generated has allowed the World Bank to tailor its interventions to address specific challenges faced by different stakeholders in the realm of PFM and support the transition from third-party to government-led implementation of World Bank-financed projects.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAGE 3

## SECTION 3

# LOOKING FORWARD



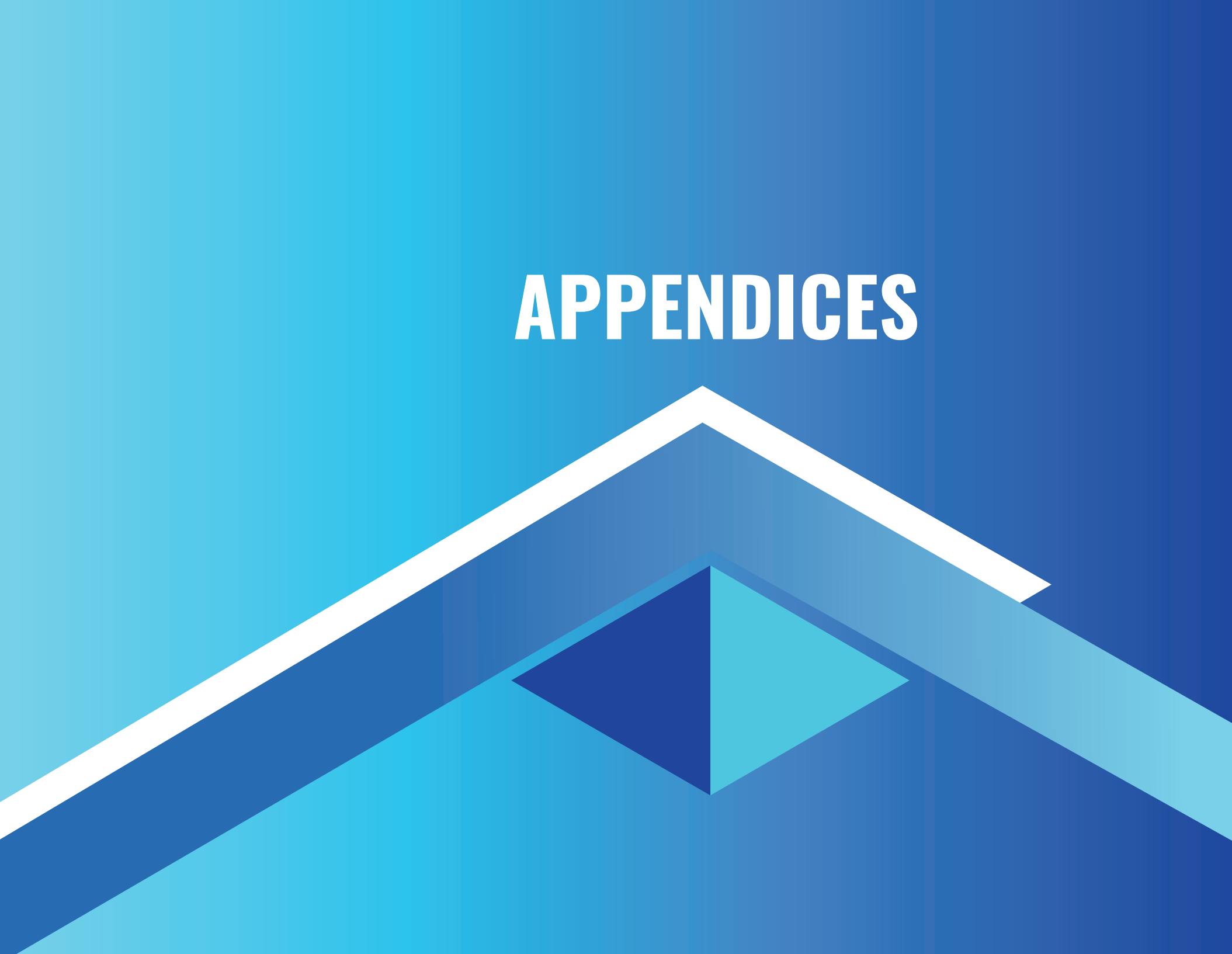
In 2024, the world continues to face increased levels of fragility, conflict and violence, climate stresses, irregular political transitions, and record levels of forced displacement, as well as economic challenges. While poverty reduction is making headway at the global level, it is increasingly clear that the World Bank's ability to deliver on its mission of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity on a livable planet will increasingly depend on its ability to deliver in FCV settings. Doing so in complex, insecure, and highly politicized environments is not easy – but it is urgent and paramount.

The World Bank has updated its mission and approach to reflect its focus on addressing global challenges, bolstering financial capacity, proactively responding to crises, engaging with the private sector, and tackling climate issues to ensure prosperity and growth on a livable planet. The FCV Strategy MTR identified important areas for the World Bank to enhance its engagement on FCV going forward

including increased focus on prevention and resilience, private sector development, operational adaptiveness and strengthened crisis preparedness and response.

As a key part of the FCV financing toolkit supporting implementation of the FCV Strategy, SPF's role in supporting catalytic and frontier topics in FCV, its comparative advantage, and its flexible operating model make it well-placed to support implementation of the World Bank's mission and the strategic directions coming out of the FCV Strategy MTR. Informed by the findings and lessons of the completion evaluation of the SPF Trust Fund (2008-2022), going forward SPF will continue to expand and enhance the frontiers of World Bank engagement in FCV, including by actively engaging with the GCPs and Knowledge Bank Agenda where its support is relevant to catalyze and crowd in new investments.

# APPENDICES

The background features a series of overlapping triangles and lines in various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy blue. A prominent white line forms a large 'V' shape that points downwards, framing the central text. Below this, there are more complex geometric shapes, including a dark blue triangle and a light blue triangle that appear to be part of a larger, layered structure.

## APPENDIX 1

## SPF FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND BALANCE (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023)

(IN CALENDAR YEARS AND EXPRESSED IN US DOLLARS)

|                                                     | NOTE | 2023                 | 2022                 | 2021                | TOTAL                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>OPENING BALANCE</b>                              |      | <b>35,610,435.55</b> | <b>9,594,575.14</b>  | <b>0.00</b>         | <b>-</b>             |
| <b>RECEIPTS (Total)</b>                             |      | <b>14,288,411.08</b> | <b>27,403,528.14</b> | <b>9,594,575.14</b> | <b>51,286,514.36</b> |
| Donor contributions                                 | 1    | 12,164,573.00        | 26,898,620.00        | 9,594,275.00        | <b>48,657,468.00</b> |
| Net investments & other incomes                     | 2    | 2,123,838.08         | 504,908.14           | 300.14              | <b>2,629,046.36</b>  |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS (Total)</b>                        |      | <b>9,958,021.20</b>  | <b>1,387,667.73</b>  | <b>0.00</b>         | <b>11,345,688.93</b> |
| Grant disbursements                                 |      | 7,819,023.81         | 1,195,281.95         | 0.00                | <b>9,014,305.76</b>  |
| Program management                                  | 3    | 957,711.99           | 43,707.09            | 0.00                | <b>1,001,419.08</b>  |
| World Bank administration fee                       | 4    | 1,181,285.40         | 148,678.69           | 0.00                | <b>1,329,964.09</b>  |
| <b>ENDING BALANCE</b>                               |      | <b>39,940,825.43</b> | <b>35,610,435.55</b> | <b>9,594,575.14</b> |                      |
| Less: Committed funds (active and approved grants)  | 5    | 31,558,351.75        |                      |                     |                      |
| <b>FUND BALANCE (available for new programming)</b> | 6    | <b>8,382,473.68</b>  |                      |                     |                      |
| Contingency amount                                  | 7    | 5,000,000.00         |                      |                     |                      |

**NOTE 1 - DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions to the SPF Umbrella Trust Fund include both new contributions and rollovers of donors' pro rata shares of the legacy SPF. New contributions from Germany, Sweden, Switzerland as well as IBRD total US\$20,694,275 as of end 2023. Rollover contributions from Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland totaled US\$27,963,193.

The following table provides details of contributions received and contributions receivable by donor in respective calendar years.

|                                                                                |                       | 2023                            |                | 2022                            |                | 2021                            |                | Total          |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Donor                                                                          | Contribution Currency | Amount in contribution currency | Amount in US\$ | Amount in contribution currency | Amount in US\$ | Amount in contribution currency | Amount in US\$ | Amount in US\$ | Contributions Receivable |
| <b>DENMARK.</b> Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs                              | DKK                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 10,268,719     | -                        |
|                                                                                | USD                   | 268,719.24*                     | 268,719.24*    | 10,000,000.00*                  | 10,000,000.00* | -                               | -              |                |                          |
| <b>GERMANY.</b> Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation      | EUR                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 5,000,000.00                    | 5,627,500.00   | 8,446,711      | -                        |
|                                                                                | USD                   | 2,819,210.93*                   | 2,819,210.93*  | -                               | -              | -                               | -              |                | -                        |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT</b>                   | USD                   | 5,000,000.00                    | 5,000,000.00   | 5,000,000.00                    | 5,000,000.00   | -                               | -              | 10,000,000     | 5,000,000                |
| <b>THE NETHERLANDS.</b> Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation | EUR                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 7,000,000      | -                        |
|                                                                                | USD                   | -                               | -              | 7,000,000.00*                   | 7,000,000.00*  | -                               | -              |                |                          |
| <b>NORWAY.</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                     | NOK                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 3,798,620      | -                        |
|                                                                                | USD                   | -                               | -              | 3,798,620.00*                   | 3,798,620.00*  | -                               | -              |                |                          |
| <b>SWEDEN.</b> Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency            | SEK                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 25,000,000.00                   | 2,866,775.00   | 2,866,775      | 4,803,651                |
| <b>SWITZERLAND.</b> Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation               | CHF                   | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | -                               | -              | 6,276,643      | 2,200,000                |
|                                                                                | USD                   | 4,076,642.95*                   | 4,076,642.95*  | 1,100,000.00                    | 1,100,000.00   | 1,100,000.00                    | 1,100,000.00   |                |                          |
| <b>TOTAL.</b>                                                                  | USD                   |                                 | 12,164,573     |                                 | 26,898,620     |                                 | 9,594,275      | 48,657,468     | 12,003,651               |

The actual US\$ equivalent is based on the exchange rate on the date of the fund transfer.

\*Rollover contributions from the legacy SPF to the SPF Umbrella Trust Fund.

**NOTE 2 - INVESTMENTS AND OTHER INCOMES**

Net investments and other incomes in the amount of US\$2,123,838 for calendar year 2023 consist of the SPF's share of the interest income earned by the World Bank's trust fund portfolio including realized gains/losses from sale of securities and other incomes.

**NOTE 3 - PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

The cost of the SPF program management for calendar year 2023 amounted to US\$957,712. For all of calendar year 2021 and most of calendar year 2022, SPF program management costs were charged to the legacy SPF. The following table provides details of expenses by the SPF Secretariat for program management.

| Expense categories (in \$) | 2023              | 2022             | 2021     | Cumulative disbursement |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| <b>STAFF COSTS</b>         | 596,903.50        | 43,707.09        | -        | 640,610.59              |
| <b>CONSULTANT FEES</b>     | 239,198.33        | -                | -        | 239,198.33              |
| <b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>     | 55,091.20         | -                | -        | 55,091.20               |
| <b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>      | 66,518.96         | -                | -        | 66,518.96               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>957,711.99</b> | <b>43,707.09</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>1,001,419.08</b>     |

Staff costs include salaries and benefits for the SPF Secretariat staff. Other expenses include costs associated with the independent evaluation of the legacy SPF; overhead expenses; contractual services such as editing, graphic design, publishing and printing; and representation and hospitality.

**NOTE 4 - ADMINISTRATION FEE**

The World Bank administration fee covers indirect costs related to corporate services provided in support of operational work. Indirect costs include institution-wide services such as human resources, information technologies, office space services, etc. The World Bank administration fee is not specific to the SPF but applies to all trust funds administered by the World Bank.

Administration fee of US\$1,181,285.40 was charged in calendar year 2023. This reflects 5% of commitments to Recipient-executed activities and 12% of disbursements for Bank-executed activities, in accordance with the SPF Administration Agreement.

**NOTE 5 - COMMITTED FUNDS (ACTIVE AND APPROVED GRANTS)**

Commitments in the amount of US\$31,558,351.75 are outstanding as of December 31, 2023. These are the remaining balances committed but not yet disbursed under active grants; funds committed to grants approved in 2023 that were not yet active as of December 31, 2023; and the Bank administration fee corresponding to all active and approved grants.

**NOTE 6 - FUND BALANCE**

Fund balance in the amount of US\$8,382,473.68 is outstanding as of December 31, 2023 and can be used for new programming.

**NOTE 7 - CONTINGENCY AMOUNT**

As agreed with SPF donors, US\$5,000,000 is reserved as a contingency to enable the SPF to respond rapidly to urgent needs that may arise.

## APPENDIX 2

## SPF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Table 1

| Results Chain                | Indicator                                                                                                                           | Targets* | 2023 Results | 2022 Results |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>DO-LEVEL OUTCOMES</b>     | 1. Operations, strategies, and policies in FCV influenced by SPF-supported work on frontier topics                                  | -        | <b>16</b>    | -            |
|                              | 2. SPF grants that increase capacity of clients, partners, and WB to address drivers and impacts of FCV or to strengthen resilience | -        | <b>6</b>     | -            |
|                              | 3. Beneficiaries of SPF-supported projects                                                                                          | -        | <b>231</b>   | -            |
|                              | <i>Women beneficiaries of SPF-supported projects</i>                                                                                | -        | <b>231</b>   | -            |
| <b>INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES</b> | 4. SPF grants that enhance prevention related to the onset or escalation of violence and conflict                                   | 35%      | <b>6%</b>    | 0%           |
|                              | 5. SPF grants that preserve institutional and human capacities in situations of active conflict                                     | 10%      | <b>1%</b>    | 0%           |
|                              | 6. SPF grants that facilitate post-crisis transition and recovery                                                                   | 35%      | <b>9%</b>    | 6%           |
|                              | 7. SPF grants that mitigate the institutional, social, and economic stresses of forced displacement                                 | 35%      | <b>4%</b>    | 0%           |
|                              | 8. SPF grants that strengthen response to cross-border shocks and spillovers                                                        | 35%      | <b>6%</b>    | 0%           |
| <b>PROGRAM OBJECTIVES</b>    | 9. SPF grants that explore frontier topics or pilot innovative approaches <sup>A</sup>                                              | 60%      | <b>74%</b>   | 48%          |
|                              | 10. SPF grants that are scaled or mainstreamed into IDA/IBRD operations                                                             | 30%      | <b>10%</b>   | 6%           |
|                              | 11. Ratio of financing mobilized                                                                                                    | 6.00     | <b>2.01</b>  | 0.06         |
|                              | 12. SPF grants engaging with UN entities <sup>A</sup>                                                                               | 90%      | <b>82%</b>   | 85%          |
|                              | 13. SPF grants designed or implemented in partnership with NGOs and CSOs, MDBs, or local governments <sup>A</sup>                   | 50%      | <b>47%</b>   | 47%          |
|                              | <i>a) MDBs</i>                                                                                                                      | -        | <b>29%</b>   | 26%          |
|                              | <i>b) NGOs or CSOs</i>                                                                                                              | -        | <b>32%</b>   | 20%          |
|                              | <i>c) Local governments</i>                                                                                                         | -        | <b>8%</b>    | 0%           |
|                              | 14. SPF grants convening knowledge sharing events or exchanges                                                                      | 70%      | <b>40%</b>   | 4%           |

| Results Chain                       | Indicator                                                                         | Targets* | 2023<br>Results | 2022<br>Results |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>CROSS-CUTTING<br/>PRIORITIES</b> | 15. SPF grants targeting vulnerable populations <sup>A</sup>                      | 70%      | <b>77%</b>      | 62%             |
|                                     | <i>Grants targeting youth</i>                                                     | -        | <b>29%</b>      | 8%              |
|                                     | <i>Grants targeting forcibly displaced including IDPs</i>                         | -        | <b>25%</b>      | 42%             |
|                                     | 16. SPF grants addressing gender-specific drivers and impacts of FCV <sup>A</sup> | 50%      | <b>81%</b>      | 56%             |
|                                     | <i>Grants primarily addressing gender</i>                                         | -        | <b>27%</b>      | 27%             |

\* Targets are fund targets for the mature portfolio. Results are reported annually, allowing for demonstration of progress towards these targets and trends in results year-over-year. Some Program Objective and Cross-Cutting Priority indicators have annual targets, denoted with.<sup>A</sup>

Table 2 – Grant-level Indicators

| Results Chain                   | Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Results |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES</b>    | Increased capacity to monitor and analyze crisis and conflict risks<br>(Number of clients or partners receiving capacity building or TA on monitoring and analyzing conflict and crisis risks)                                                       | -       |
|                                 | Project implementation facilitated in situations of active conflict                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5       |
|                                 | Resilience, recovery, or peacebuilding 'pathways' identified<br>(Number of analytics, strategies, policies, or programs supported that identify root causes of fragility and/or opportunities for recovery, peacebuilding or transitions out of FCV) | 8       |
|                                 | Post-conflict and transition processes supported                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 3       |
|                                 | Regional or sub-regional initiatives strengthened                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 3       |
| <b>PROGRAM OBJECTIVES</b>       | Analytics produced on frontier topics                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10      |
|                                 | Access to financing instruments facilitated<br>(Number of grants that secure additional financing)                                                                                                                                                   | 4       |
|                                 | Joint analytics, assessments, frameworks, or data platforms produced with UN entities                                                                                                                                                                | 5       |
|                                 | Policy dialogue supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8       |
|                                 | Guidance notes, best practice notes, or lessons learned notes produced                                                                                                                                                                               | 19      |
|                                 | Knowledge sharing events or exchanges held (internal and external)                                                                                                                                                                                   | 43      |
|                                 | <i>Of which, external events and exchanges</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 36      |
| <b>CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES</b> | Analytics produced on the impacts of FCV on forcibly displaced populations, youth, or other vulnerable groups                                                                                                                                        | 6       |
|                                 | Inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in project design or implementation (Number of grants)                                                                                                                                              | 13      |
|                                 | Analytics and assessments produced on gender disparities, inequalities, or risks in FCV                                                                                                                                                              | 8       |
|                                 | GBV prevention and response approaches piloted<br>(Number of pilots)                                                                                                                                                                                 | 2       |

Aggregate results achieved under all SPF-funded grants active before December 31, 2023. Use of these indicators was piloted in 2022-2023 to complement the Fund results framework.

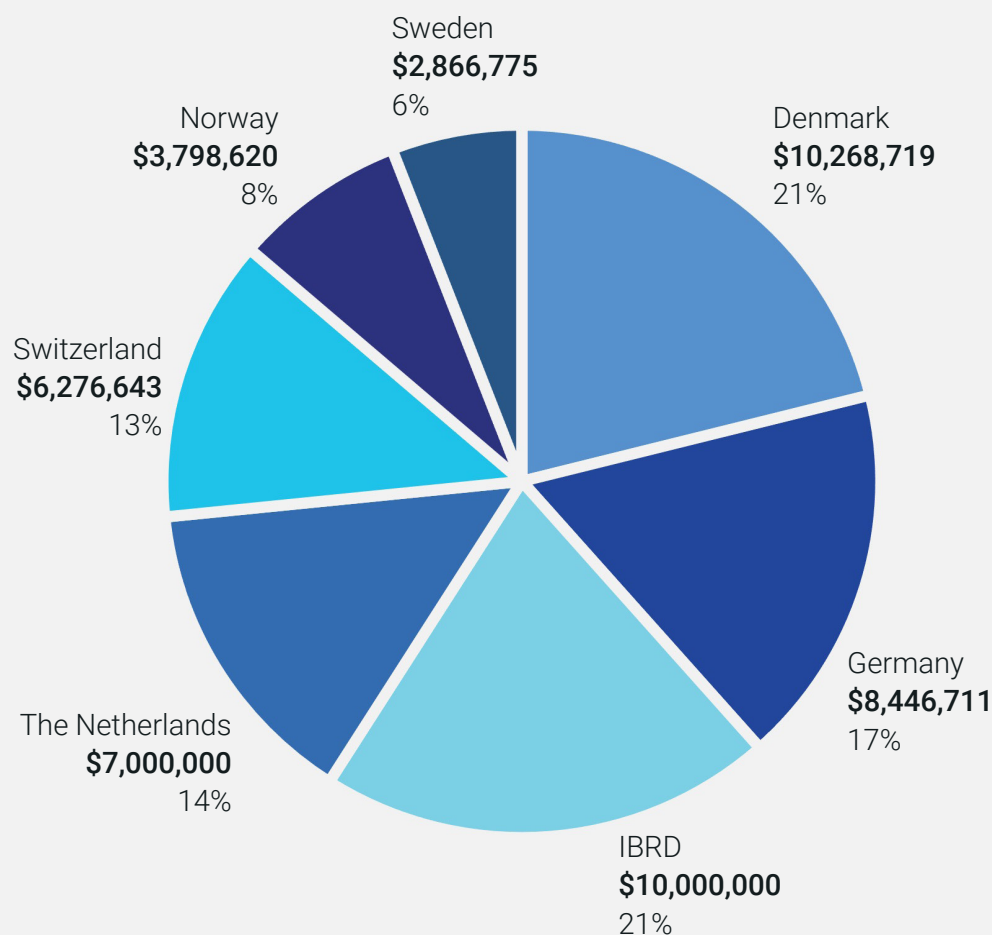
## APPENDIX 3

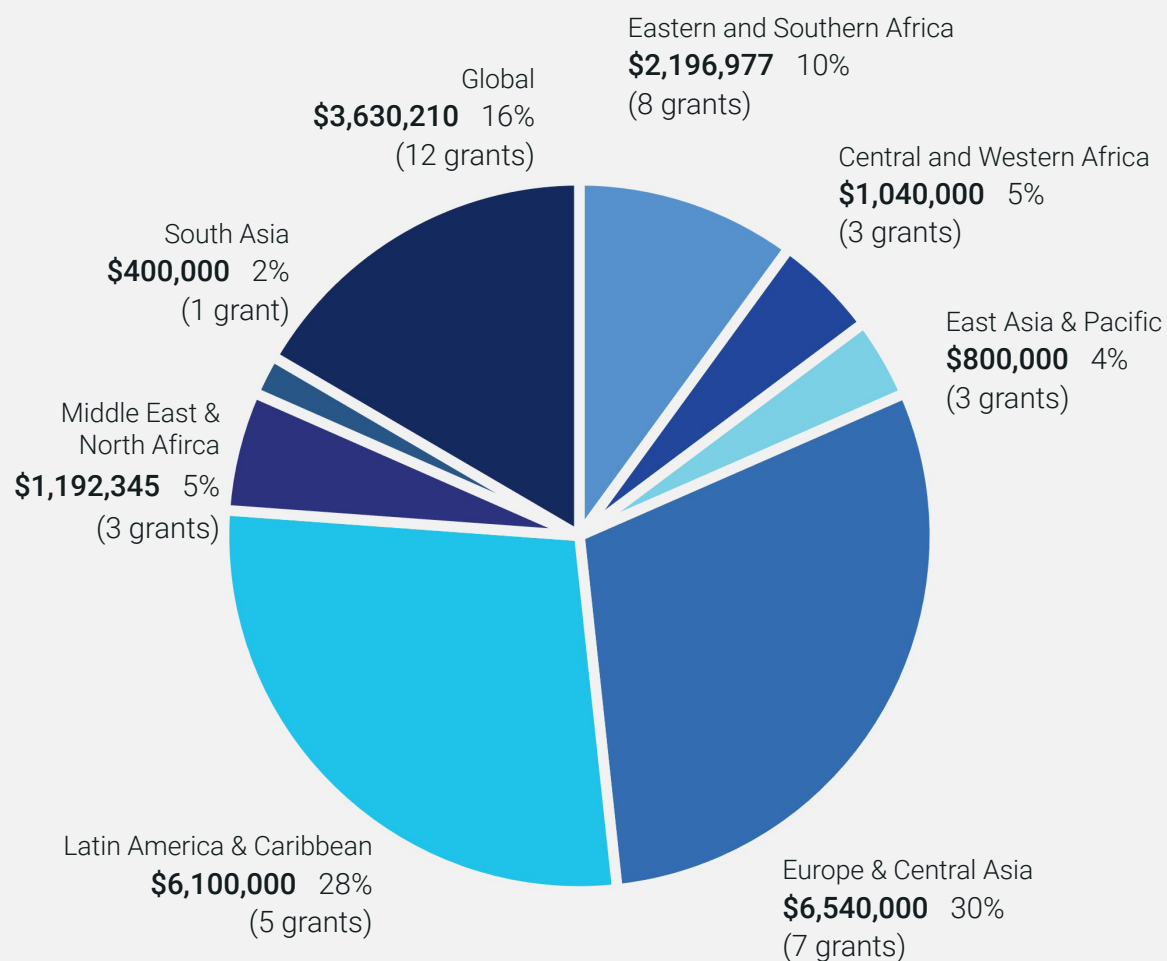
# SPF PORTFOLIO

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Six development partners have contributed to the SPF Umbrella Trust Fund since its establishment in 2021: the Danish Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation; the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. IBRD has also contributed \$10 million from IBRD net income. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed the largest share of funding since inception, with 21 percent of overall contributions (figure A3.1). The total fund size as of December 31, 2023, was \$48.7 million.

**FIGURE A3.1. SPF CONTRIBUTIONS, 2021-2023 (US\$ EQUIVALENT, %)**



**FIGURE A3.2. VOLUME OF SPF GRANTS ACCORDING TO REGION, 2022-2023**

## ALLOCATIONS ACCORDING TO REGION

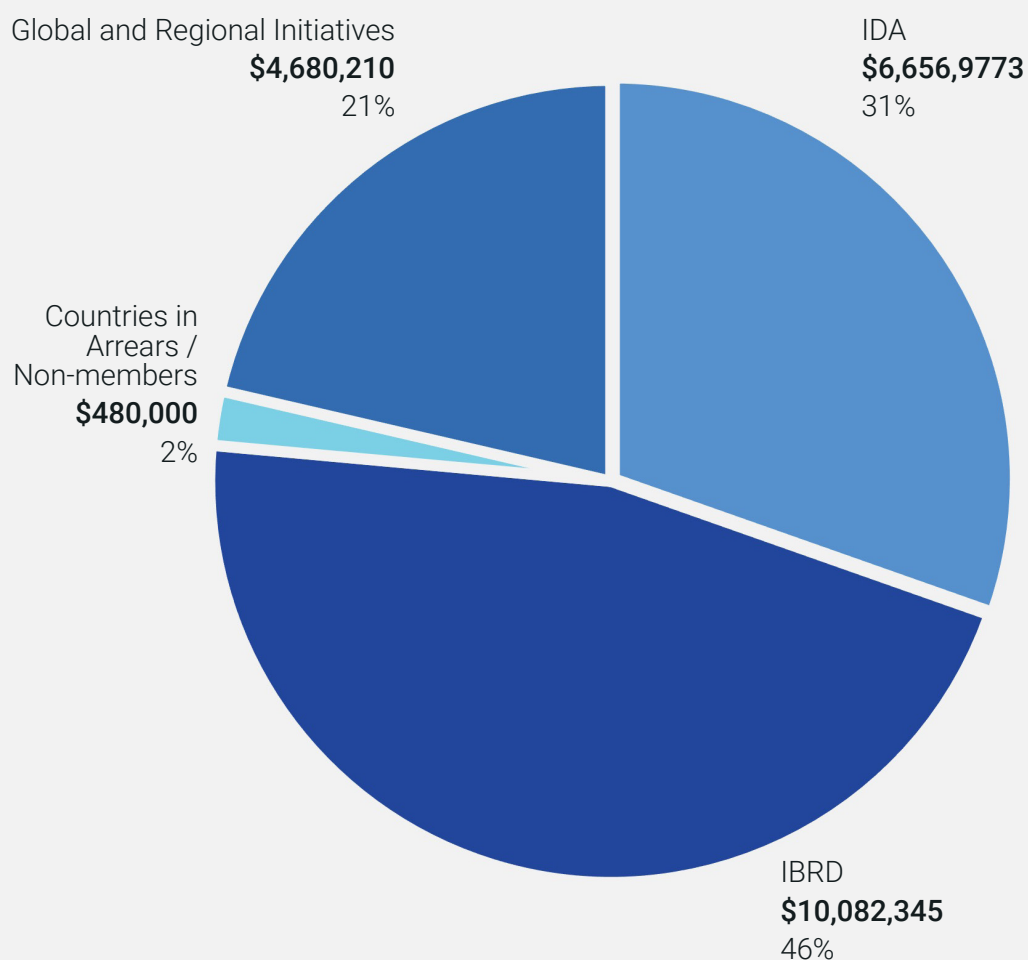
The SPF portfolio spanned all seven World Bank regions as well as global activities (figure A3.2). The largest share of commitments to active grants<sup>23</sup> went to activities in Europe and Central Asia (30% of commitments) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (27%).

<sup>23</sup> Grants approved in 2023 that were not yet under implementation as of December 31, 2023, are not included in the portfolio data.

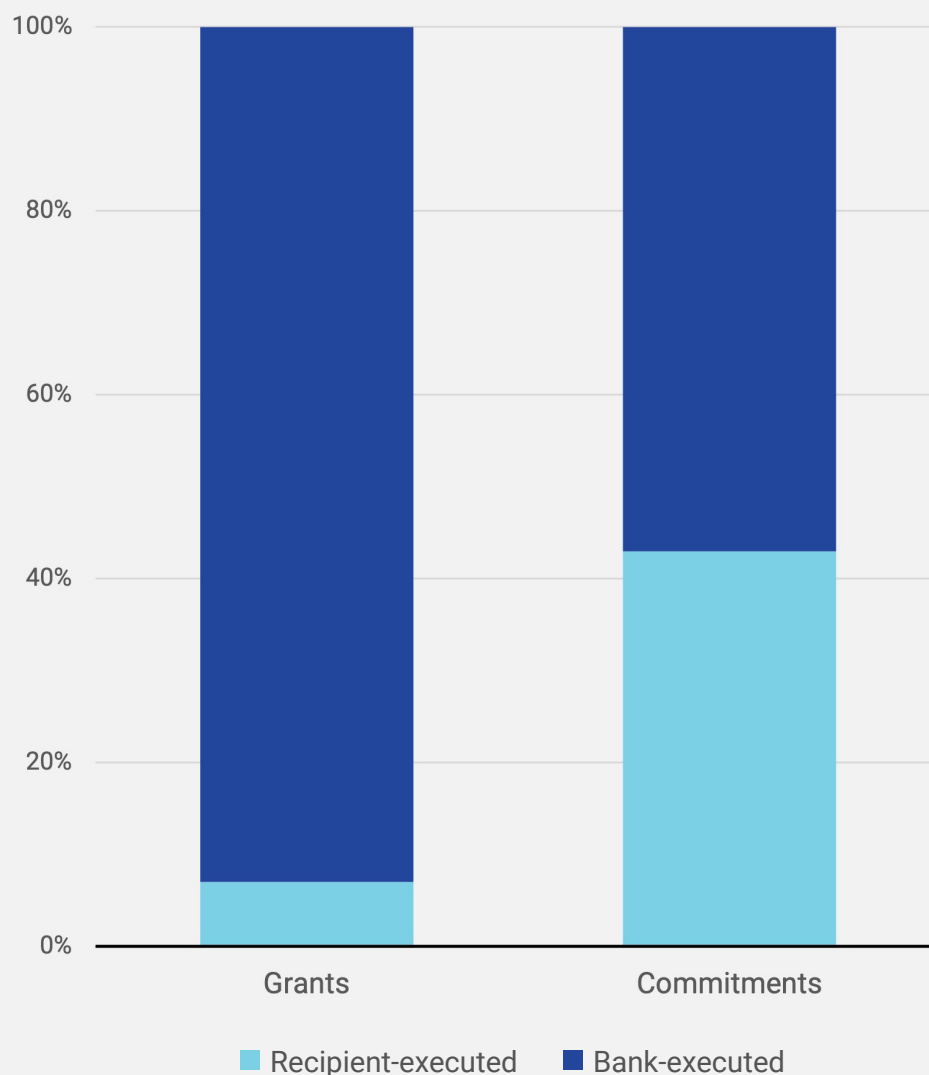
## ALLOCATIONS ACCORDING TO FCV TYPE

SPF can provide funding for all developing countries facing FCV challenges regardless of geography, income level, or arrears status. Activities in territories and nonmembers of the World Bank Group are also eligible for SPF support. SPF financing is not limited to countries on the annually updated FCS list. SPF is thus a source of flexible, rapid-response financing for countries that cannot access IDA funding. In its first two years of implementation, the largest portion of SPF financing for active grants – 46 percent – went to middle-income countries that are eligible for IBRD financing (figure A3.3). IDA-eligible countries received 31 percent of SPF commitments, and global and regional initiatives received 21 percent. Countries in arrears and nonmembers comprised two percent of commitments, corresponding to two grants in Zimbabwe.

**FIGURE A3.3. SPF FINANCING ACCORDING TO COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY FOR IDA AND IBRD, 2022-2023**



**FIGURE A3.4. SPF GRANTS AND COMMITMENTS BY IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY, 2022-2023**



## COMMITMENTS BY IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

SPF provides grants to recipients for execution, as well as grants that the Bank executes. Recipients eligible for SPF grants include partners such as governments, United Nations entities and regional organizations, local and international NGOs, and academic institutions. Three Recipient-executed grants were active as of December 2023, supporting projects in Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic, and Kosovo. While comprising only 7% of active grants (figure A3.4), these three projects represent 43 percent of total commitments due to the larger size of Recipient-executed grants. Two of the grants are implemented by client governments and one by a local umbrella civil society organization. Four additional Recipient-executed projects were under preparation in 2023 and will start implementation in 2024. Bank-executed activities constitute 93 percent of grants in the portfolio and 57 percent of commitments.

## COMMITMENTS BY AREA OF FOCUS

SPF has four strategic areas of focus aligned with the WBG FCV strategy. While most SPF-funded activities align with more than one strategic area of focus, task teams submitting proposals for funding are asked to select the primary area of focus pertaining to the work. Almost half of SPF commitments thus far support the Helping Countries Transition Out of Fragility area of focus, followed by Preventing Violent Conflict and Interpersonal Violence at 39 percent, Mitigating the Spillovers of FCV at 11 percent, and Remaining Engaged During Conflicts and Crisis Situations at 5 percent (figure A3.5).

**FIGURE A3.5. VOLUME OF SPF COMMITMENTS BY STRATEGIC AREA OF FOCUS, 2022-2023**

