

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO OVERCOME SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN THE SAHEL REGION

INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

World Bank

MODERATOR

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OVERVIEW

Violent conflict has become more complex, protracted, and intractable—and after decades of decline it is once more on the rise in many parts of the world, including Africa. Increasing levels of violent conflict and fragility pose a significant threat not only to human lives and national security but also to economic and social development. The impacts of these trends are enormous: instability in Mali and the escalation of violence by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Region have displaced more than 4.5 million people and dramatically increased food insecurity across the Sahel. This roundtable session discussed the underlying causes of violence in the Sahel and innovative approaches to overcome fragility and development challenges in the region.

FOCUS

The session focused on the themes of countering violent extremism, social inclusion and cohesion, citizen engagement, and country platforms. It is critical to have a coherent understanding of these themes to successfully address development and security challenges in the Sahel.

Violent extremism—“the beliefs and actions of people who support or use ideologically motivated violence to further social, economic, or political objectives”—is especially on the rise in the region. Defining this threat and formulating, monitoring and evaluating effective interventions against it has remained a challenging effort.

Social inclusion and cohesion leads to the empowerment of disadvantages, marginalized and vulnerable groups leading to stronger economies, achieving development and sustainability goals and improving the quality of life. Social cohesion is necessary to build trust between members of society and state institutions.

Citizen engagement also contributes to rebuilding trust between communities and institutions. It helps to promote citizens’ ownership of development interventions through their participation in decisions regarding access and the distribution of resources.

The use of disruptive technology and reinforced donor coordination and transparency around renewed country platforms, which broaden the collaboration within and across government, society and humanitarian and development organizations, are essential to overcome FCV challenges and achieve results.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Operational responses in the Sahel can only be successful if they focus on the drivers of conflict and fragility, and if these are integrated and coordinated in the responses. Participants raised the problem of coordination of actors at the country level and regionally, as shown in the response to the Boko Haram crisis around the Lake Chad Region. The importance of area-based approaches was also highlighted—such approaches are based on the differences in security and risk-levels in the region (this is especially crucial when a response is regional) and will be designed and implemented along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (triple nexus).

Furthermore, innovative and sustainable delivery models that invest in conflict prevention and CVE were discussed and participants raised the issue and importance of finding operational models that are scalable in different settings across the Sahel. Participants also identified the need to improve early warning systems and responses at the community level through risk monitoring and risk management.

Discussions centred on the delivery of peace dividends and participants agreed that successful operational models need to include the re-establishment of the social contract via citizen engagement, social inclusion and cohesion. Experiences and lessons learned from solutions in Burkina Faso and Niger were shared. These cases shared a strong engagement and inclusion of civil society, and addressed social inclusion challenges. The role of religion in the conflicts in the Sahel was debated.

There is a need to improve early responses at the community level through risk monitoring and risk management. Regarding regions and a regional approach, the differences in security and risk-levels should be considered. Target areas require different responses along the triple nexus.



Jago Salmon
@JagoSalmonUN



@UNPeacebuilding @WorldBank and partners discussing the scaling up of support to communities in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali to aid #sustainingpeace in the #Sahel. #SthlmForum @Sida
♡ 2 2:44 PM - May 16, 2019

[See Jago Salmon's other Tweets](#)

Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Mon, 27 May 2019 13:11:45 GMT.
Permalink: twitter.com/JagoSalmonUN/status/1129034848776183808



Johanna Damboeck
@johannadamboeck



Had a great World Bank organized roundtable on innovative approaches to overcome security and development challenges in the Sahel Region! @Stockholm #SthlmForum @sipriorg @WBG_Cities @aly_rahim
♡ 7 6:32 AM - May 17, 2019

[See Johanna Damboeck's other Tweets](#)

Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Mon, 27 May 2019 13:11:14 GMT.
Permalink: twitter.com/johannadamboeck/status/112927349503111685

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Operational solutions have to focus on the drivers of conflict and fragility in the Sahel, which range from poverty and rising inequalities to poor service delivery, slowing growth and job creation, weak institutions and poor governance as well as social and economic exclusion.
- Actors along the triple nexus need to comprehensively address structural issues, the reform of institutions and direct incentives of actors while targeting grievances across arenas of power, security, service delivery and natural resources.
- Successful operational models include, community-driven development (CDD) approaches; territorial approaches aiming at reconnecting lagging regions through economic corridors; and citizen engagement approaches that help to re-establish the social contract between societies and strengthen the capacity and legitimization of government and local institutions.
- Organizations need to change their operational models to focus on (a) conflict prevention and quick implementation and (b) innovations through the use of information communication technologies (ICT) to enhance the measuring of results and monitoring and evaluation of interventions.
- Regional, sub-regional and local approaches and their coherence with each other should be strengthened. In many instances, a focus on regions in terms of humanitarian and development investments is more effective than single national responses.



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