



الائتلاف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION

General Directorate of Planning and Coordination

Spotlight
On

10

Special
Reports
Feb. 2020

Review for FRAGILE STATES INDEX





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Spotlight On

Review for **FRAGILE STATES INDEX**

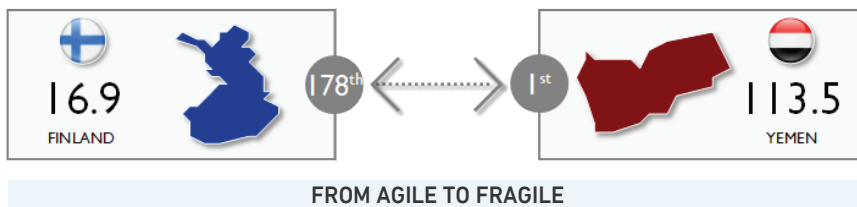
The Fragile States Index (FSI) is a report issued by the Fund for Peace (FFP) and the American magazine Foreign Policy since 2005 to assess the vulnerability of sovereign states with membership in the UN, ranking these countries with reference to 12 key indicators in addition to a sum of sub-factors, including the vulnerability of the economy, and instability. It stands to reason that investigating into the situations of each and every country helps to identify associated problems and work out relevant solutions in addition to fostering awareness across all communities to further promote development and growth, while improving human life and achieving peace locally and globally.

The FFP, one of the most important international institutions working in diagnosing, identifying and investigating problems simmering below the surface, and working out methods and feasible solutions since the early 1990s, has been concerned with setting standards for assessing the “conflicts” taking place in the world. Based on the foregoing framework, the FFP first issued the “Failed States Index” (FSI) in 2005, which is an annual report publication.

The 15th edition of the index came out in 2019, in which the term ‘Failed’ was replaced by ‘Fragile’, making the official name of the report the Fragile States Index (FSI). The report covers 178 countries of varying degrees of fragility. The FSI identifies

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12 levels of vulnerability, according to which 59 countries fall into the first six levels in which the lowest level of fragility is recorded, while the remaining 119 countries fall into the six levels that recorded the highest levels of fragility.

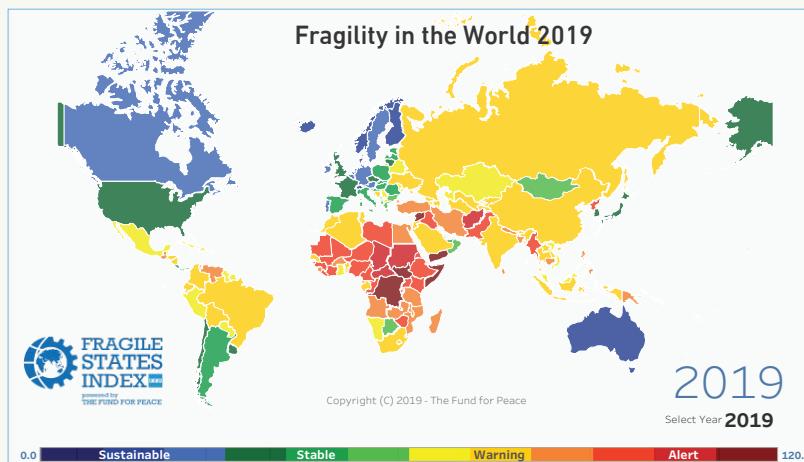


Assessment Results

Based on the FSI 2019, the countries are classified according to the total score obtained by each country after being assessed using all indicators. The FSI value for different countries ranges between 0 and 120. The classification explains and describes the categorization of the countries as follows:

- ▶ Sustainable countries have an index value that falls between 0 and 30.
- ▶ Stable countries have an index value that is over 30, and it may reach 60.
- ▶ Warning countries have an index value that is over 60, and may reach 90.
- ▶ Alert countries have an index value is over 90, and may reach 120.

Categories of FSI											
Sustainable Countries			Stable Countries			Warning Countries			Alert Countries		
FSI 12 Indicators											
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120



Measuring Fragility Risks

The FSI is a very important tool; not only does it show the natural pressures that all countries face, it also determines when these pressures push a country towards teetering on the brink of failure, as well.

The FSI Report 2019 covers 178 countries, and defines the concept of fragile states as countries that suffer from internal and external crises at all levels, with political and financial corruption rampant in their systems. Unemployment, poverty, corruption and insecurity are pointedly rife in fragile countries, despite the different internal conditions in each of these countries. The FSI identifies a fragility map for 2019, supported by an analysis of the results and lessons drawn from some cases. The FSI emphasizes that the countries covered should look forward to seeing the brighter side rather than harboring pessimistic insights albeit some negative results.

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The FSI Report 2019 attaches more attention to some countries as special cases that should be carefully considered, including Venezuela, which is nicknamed the “sick man of South American”, the Brazilian model, and the case of Yemen, and Somalia, which is seen as an example to accommodate agility, and the stellar rise of Ethiopia, and Mauritius, which is the island of stability in Africa, and the Caucasus, which express optimism cautiously.

The FSI outlines the approach adopted by the FFP in assessing fragility scores of the countries covered, and how to understand the FSI methodology, linking the FSI indicators with four areas: cohesion, economics, politics, social cross-cutting differences.

Most Improved Countries

The FSI Report 2019 shows that Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, Iceland, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Luxembourg are the most stable countries globally, and made it clear that Finland is the most robust country in the world.

Ethiopia, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Nepal, The Gambia, Iraq, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, East Timor and Armenia have significantly improved their resiliency levels.

The FSI shows a slight improvement in the rankings of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uzbekistan, the Gambia, and Nepal. Remarkably enough, after Ethiopia ranked the most worsened country in the FSI for 2017, it staged a remarkable turn-around this year, as it ranked first among the most improved countries, following the implementation of ambitious reforms that have led to more political and social harmony, while breaking down the previous ethnic system that the country has suffered and endured for decades.

African Stable Countries

The wide perception that has been common for many years tells of a strong association between African countries and fragility given the fact that in the FSI 2019, 21 of the 30 most fragile countries are from the African continent. However, Mauritius is a revealing example that Africa is also home to some of the world's more stable countries. In the 2019 FSI, Mauritius ranked 20th this year out of 190 countries, ahead of Rwanda which ranked 29th and scored within less than one point of the United States. This economic success of Mauritius is supported by a critical component that goes beyond the easy economy to the nature of stable democratic governance, rule of law and security.

The Report commends Mauritius, noting that it is a very stable country this year in Africa. As such, the country has become the first African nation to



REGIONAL FIRSTS

break through to the Very Stable category of the FSI. Likewise, the Report pays tribute to Singapore, which became the first Asian nation to move into the Sustainable category according to FSI 2019. It is very important to remark that by no means is Mauritius alone in the Stable category; Seychelles and Botswana, which showed strong political stability have also ranked in the Stable category. Both countries displayed great improvement on the FSI over the past decade.

The FFP has been working for more than 60 years to develop practical tools and approaches for conflict reduction, attaching an undivided attention to the relationship between human security and economic development, while providing help and support to communities to better achieve peace and prosperity, enabling policymakers to diagnose risks and vulnerabilities and developing solutions.

Rising Star

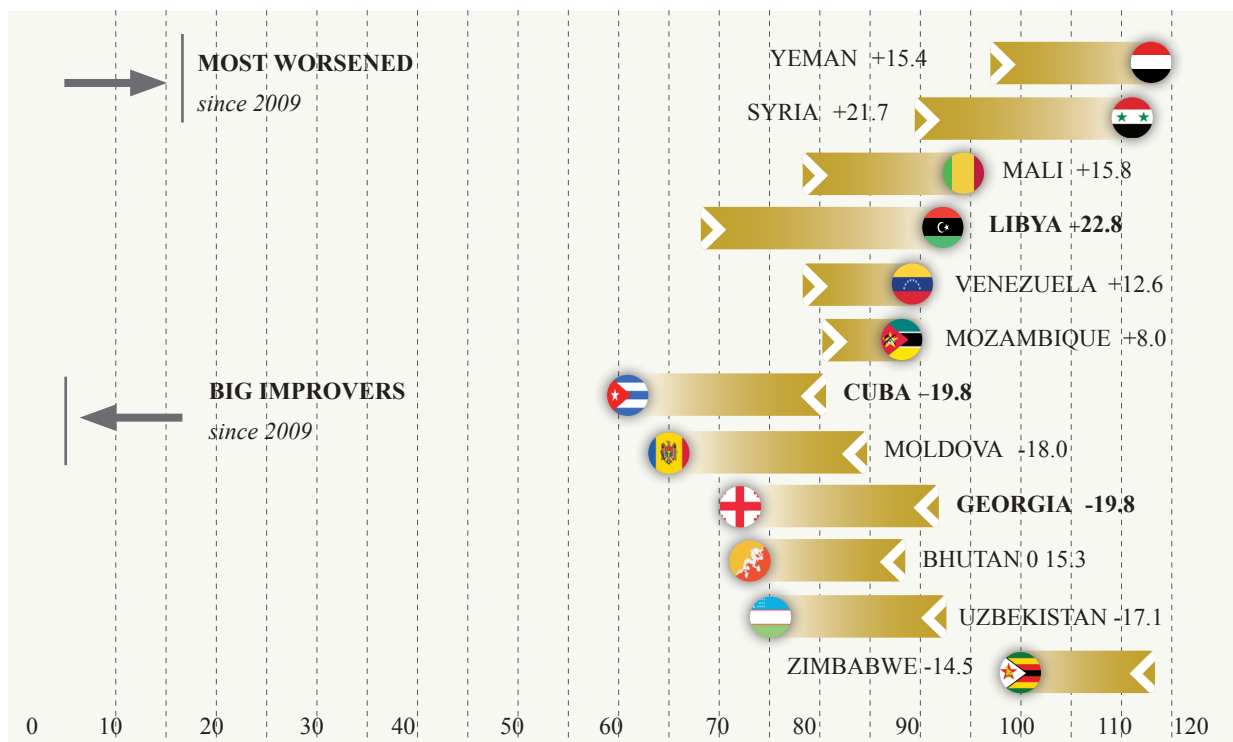
Ethiopia is the most-improved country on the FSI 2019 although it experienced a steadily worsening trend over the decade to 2017. Its momentous performance could herald a success story of

generating remarkable resilience through political reform in 2018. The significant political changes were driven by a peaceful transition of power and by a new Prime Minister who implemented bold reforms to boost economic and social inclusiveness.

Most Worsened Countries

Another group of countries recorded a significant decline in FSI, the most worsened country of which was Venezuela over the past twelve months. Venezuela is the “sick man of South America”, which has suffered great instability tied with Brazil that faces major internal challenges and a troubled policy.

Of Latin American countries Nicaragua and Honduras also declined, to be alongside the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Poland, and African countries such as Togo, Cameroon, Mali and Tanzania, in addition to Yemen, which topped the most fragile countries. While the former Soviet Union countries still dominate the list of most improved countries in the long run; Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan ranked first among the top 20 countries.



Source: Fragile states Index FSI

DECADE TRENDS

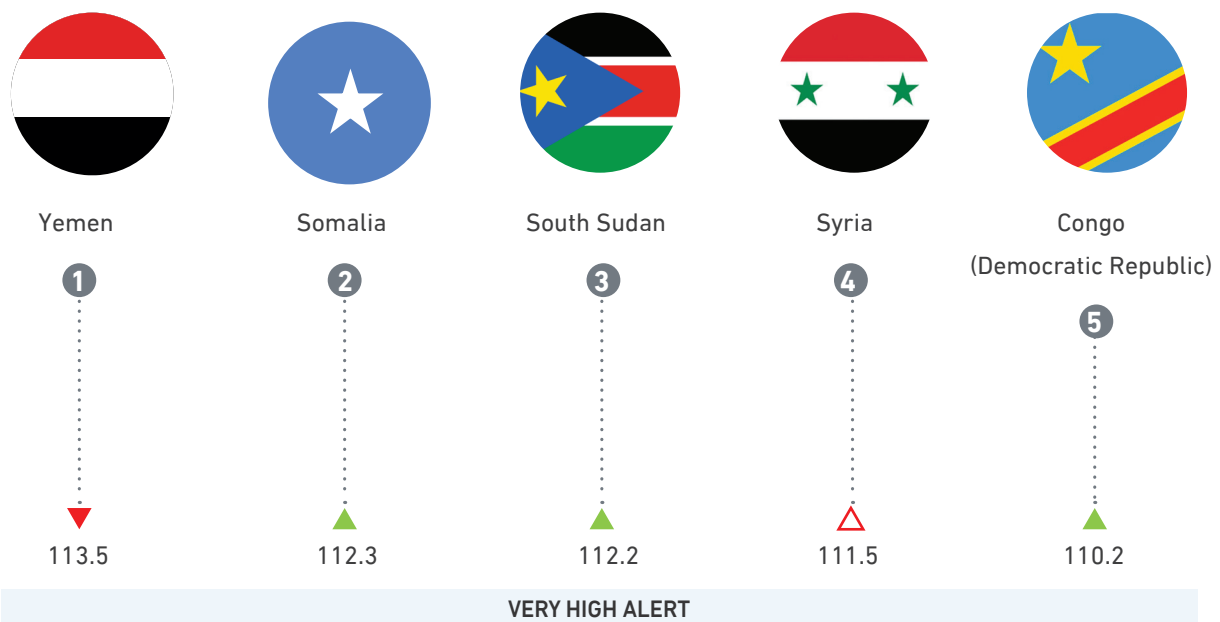
The Case of Yemen

On the other hand, the results show the spiraling deterioration across most of the Arab world countries, as categorized Alert countries, especially those that have experienced wars and unrest in recent years, making them suffer from instability and insecurity. Yemen ranks first in terms of fragility and gravity of the situation: the most critical issues are the consequences of the domestic situation and the humanitarian crisis brought about by the prolonged war, which the country has been experiencing for a long period of time. Yemen is also the fourth-most worsened country over the last decade, behind only Libya, Syria, and Mali.

Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Democratic Republic of the Congo rank at the top of the list of fragile states by the FSI 2019, among the countries in which poor conditions make it very high alert.

The country saw the greatest worsening in external intervention, human rights and rule of law group grievance and refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) during this period.

The Report also emphasizes that for ten years in a row, Yemen, Syria, Mali, Libya, Venezuela and Mozambique have been still the most worsened countries, while Cuba, Moldova, Georgia, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe recorded in this decade a remarkable improvement in terms of cohesion and durability. Libya topped the list of fragile states in North Africa as it ranks 150th globally, while in the FSI 2010 Report, it ranked 60th.



Accommodating Resiliency

The global efforts made to reduce poverty by supporting infrastructure and institution-building have achieved overwhelming global success, as poverty rates have decreased significantly in the past two decades. However, there is a clear exception in some fragile states, which are suffering the effects of long or repeated crises, so the international and multilateral development efforts did not pay off for them; rather, poverty persisted stubbornly, crises glaringly worsened, and conditions slipped into more deterioration. Things grew worse by the scarcity of water and the succession of natural disasters, which led to the occurrence of large-

scale forced migration, especially in specific areas such as the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

In response to these challenges, the multilateral development financial institutions and humanitarian and development agencies are developing policies and guidelines, and facilitating new financing methods to address development challenges in fragility-stricken situations. Somalia has emerged in this context, with the Somalis' great stamina to withstand 13 years ago, among the three most fragile states, despite the violent acts of Al-Shabaab Al-Mujahideen terrorist movement, which carries out terrorist acts relentlessly, and the recurring and devastating droughts and mass displacement, which is a place of pride.

Country	Global Level	Index
Yemen	1	113.5
Somalia	2	112.3
Chad	7	108.5
Sudan	8	108.0
Afghanistan	9	105.0
Guinea	11	99.4
Nigeria	14	98.5
Niger	18	96.2
Guinea Bissau	19	95.5
Uganda	20	95.3
Mali	21	94.5
Pakistan	23	94.2
Libya	28	92.2
Cote d'Ivoire	29	92.1
Mauritania	31	90.1
Egypt	34	88.4
Bangladesh	36	87.7
Togo	38	87.4
Sierra Leone	39	86.8
Djibouti	43	85.1

Country	Global Level	Index
Lebanon	44	85.0
Burkina Faso	47	83.9
Gambia	47	83.9
Comoros	56	81.7
Turkey	59	80.3
Senegal	66	77.2
Jordan	69	75.9
Benin	75	73.6
Morocco	78	73.0
Gabon	92	70.5
Saudi Arabia	93	70.4
Tunisia	95	70.1
Maldives	96	69.8
Bahrain	113	63.8
Malaysia	119	60.5
Brunei Darussalam	124	57.5
Kuwait	130	53.2
Oman	133	50.0
Qatar	141	45.4
United Arab Emirates	149	40.1

FSI Methodology

The FSI adopts a clear methodology drawn from the diverse and reliable abundant information sources, and aims to explain the causes of fragility of states through “four” areas that include “12 different indicators” used to determine the extent of fragility and vulnerability. These reasons include human rights, public services, demographic pressure, refugees, IDPs, security and stability.

The FSI Report 2019 covers 178 countries, and defines the concept of fragile states as countries that suffer from internal and external crises at all levels, with political and financial corruption rampant in their systems.

The assessment defines the indicators of the areas adopted and accredited by “48 elements”, each of which has sub-sections that explain the reasons for fragility to be watched for and carefully considered, highlights the elements of each indicator and the method of assessment, up to the assessment of

the indicators and determining the outcome of the indicator within the framework of a comprehensive measure.

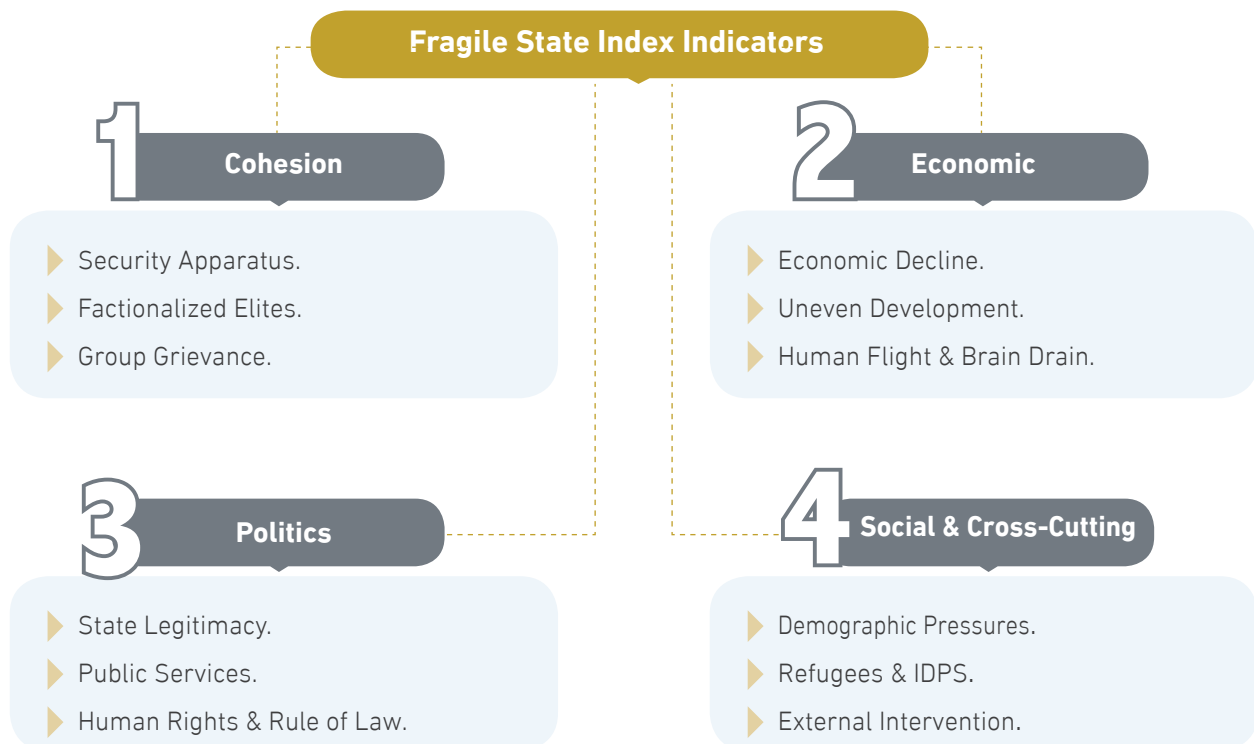
The higher the rank of any country in the FSI means its vulnerability and fragility; the higher the rank, the more the country is at risk.

The assessment includes big data on countries processed to address such data based on a set of main areas, represented as follows:

- ▶ Content Analysis
- ▶ Processing Quantitative Data
- ▶ Qualitative Review
- ▶ Index Generation

FSI Indicators

Inasmuch as the elements of the FSI indicators are highly complex, along with the large number of identification references and the assessment data used, the authors of FSI do not provide in their



report a comprehensive and deep investigation at the elements of the indicators; rather, they only ask questions about their concept. Below are the four areas of the indicators:

1. Cohesion Indicators

This area includes three key indicators:

- ▶ **Security Apparatus:** monopoly on the use of force, the relationship between security and citizenry, the use of force, and the availability of weapons.
- ▶ **Factionalized Elites:** representative leadership, identity issues, distribution of state resources among segments of community, equality and equity.
- ▶ **Group Grievance:** response to post-conflict reform, equal resource allocation, categorization and categorical violence

2. Economic Indicators

This area includes three key indicators:

- ▶ **Economic Decline:** public finances, existing economic conditions, prevailing economic climate, and economic pluralism.

- ▶ **Uneven Development:** economic equality, economic opportunities available, prevailing economic climate and economic and social activities.
- ▶ **Human Flight & Brain Drain:** preservation of technical and intellectual human capital, economic factor of brain-drain, prevailing economic climate, diaspora and associated economic impact.

The FSI adopts a clear approach drawn from reliable sources of information, and aims to explain the causes of fragility across 4 areas, including 12 indicators to identify cases of human rights, public services, demographic pressures, refugees, internally displaced persons and security and stability.

3. Political Indicators

This area includes three key indicators:

- ▶ **State Legitimacy:** people's confidence in the political system, political opposition, transparency as a weapon against corruption, openness and equity and equality of political action and political violence.

- ▶ **Public Services:** providing public services to all community members, healthcare services, access to education, housing and infrastructure.
- ▶ **Human Rights & Rule of Law:** civil and political rights, violation of rights, degrees of openness and freedom of the media, justice and legal authority and equality at the political level.

The causes leading to fragility cannot be predicted, as they are complex and labyrinthine, nor can the identification of problems be anticipated, which may resurface at some point. However, it is important for the international community to understand the conditions that contribute to fragility with a special attention to better address it, while taking the necessary measures to reduce severity and effects.

4. Social and Cross-Cutting

This area includes three key indicators:

- ▶ **Demographic Pressures:** population issues, public health, food availability, surrounding natural environment issues and availability of resources.
- ▶ **Refugees & IDPs:** refugees from abroad and IDPs, response to travel needs, and provision of assistance.
- ▶ **External Intervention:** political and economic intervention and interventions using physical force.

FSI Significance

Since the end of the cold war, collective violence caused by internal conflicts has spread in many countries. Some crises stemmed from ethnic unrest, some turned into civil wars, while others took the form of revolutions that ended in complex humanitarian emergencies. However, fragile states exposed to pressures or crises do not alone bear the dangerous repercussions resulting from such crises; rather, they may extend to neighboring

countries as well as to other countries around the world.

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For decision makers to implement influential policies, they need a deep understanding of conditions, a rapid assessment of conditions and a thoughtful approach to identifying treatment patterns, combining qualitative and quantitative data, and solid analysis. As such, the importance of the FSI sheds light on measuring the risks of fragility and investigating the contributory vulnerabilities that can be factored in such results, and related issues in fragile and vulnerable countries, and the use of social, economic and political sciences in conducting analyses; as it enables assessing the associated political risks, early warning to policymakers and the general public and implementing programs to put back the situation to the right path.

The FFP has been working for more than 60 years to develop practical tools and approaches for conflict reduction and attaching a special attention to the relationship between human security and economic development. The FFP contributes, through the establishing smarter partnerships and methodologies to helping communities achieve peace and prosperity, and enabling policymakers and stakeholders to diagnose risk, vulnerabilities, and developing solutions through collective dialogue, supported by the data rendered available.

The interest in identifying the factors of state fragility was not limited to the FFP that issued the FSI, but there are other organizations that are interested in this issue. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), known as the "Club of Rich Countries", issued five reports on "States of Fragility", the first of which was issued in 2013, and the most updated one was in 2018.





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