Guidance on fragility

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What is ACROPOLIS?

- ACademic Research Organisation for POLIcy Support

- Following a ten-year experience under GRAP (GRAPAX + GRAP-SWAP / GRAP-PA Santé)

☞ 2014-2017: Aid effectiveness with a focus on fragile contexts

☞ 2017-2018: Governance for development
What is the Guidance?

• Objective
  – To provide BE cooperation actors with a practical and pedagogical document to integrate a fragile-sensitive approach

• A tool to be used as
  – An introduction (“crash course”)
  – A daily work reference

• The result of a participatory process
  – EU workshop in Kinshasa (June 2015) => 31 food for thoughts
  – At BE level: Identification of obstacles and best practices through a workshop (October 2015) and survey, field missions => 37 obstacles and 28 recommendations
The operationalization of previous engagements and strategies.
Fragility as a combination of high risk & low capacity

“Heightened exposure to risks combined with a low capacity to mitigate or absorb these risks.

This situation of vulnerability can lead to violence, conflict, chronic underdevelopment and protracted political crisis”
Fragility as a multidimensional concept

Fragile States Report 2014

States of Fragility Report 2015

States of Fragility Report 2016

FRAGILE STATES → FRAGILE SITUATIONS
The 9 principles of engagement
1 Start from context

Rely on context analysis and use it as the keystone for programming and implementing any core procedures of an intervention

Increase and adapt your resources (human, technical, ...) to manage context-related information (looking beyond the health/medical sector)

What analyses and expertise do you already have? What do you still need?

How do your tools and procedures allow effective adaptation towards a changing contexts?
Focus on state-society relations

Consider the state broadly and improve the social contract between state and society actors

Engage with civil society to provide health services while seeking synergies with the overall public sector and strengthening state leadership on it

How do you promote processes engaging all relevant actors?
How do you contribute to enhance the legitimacy of the state?
Seek to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts that may arise from the intervention

Integrate as much as possible emergency interventions within the existing health system to avoid increasing disparities and inequalities

Do you take into account negative side-effects related to the intervention goals, the injection of resources, and the messages sent?
4 Make prevention a priority

Focus on both quick tangible results and on long term planning and sustainable impact based on a depth understanding of the past.

Intervene to control an epidemic outbreak while strengthening health monitoring and information systems, as well as human resources.

What root causes are identified by context and risk analyses? How do you take them into account?
5 Adopt a whole-of-government approach

Coordinate the design and implementation of interventions across the different agencies

Ensure policy coherence on the strategic level before initiating complementarity and coordination at operational level

How do you take into account all relevant policies and priorities across departments?

How can instruments and resources from other departments contribute to your intervention?
6 Promote non-discrimination

Promote inclusive and stable society

Promote equity and access to basic health services

How do you take into account existing real and perceived discriminations of specific social groups?

What are the political, cultural, social, physical and economic factors that cause discrimination?
7 Align with local priorities

Use the partner country’s policies and systems wherever and whenever possible

Avoid parallel systems for drugs procurement

What are the institutional capacity of local partners at all levels?
How do you take into account opportunities for (shadow) alignment?
Act fast, stay engaged, be flexible

Respond to urgent needs, remaining engaged on a long period, and being flexible enough to adapt to changes.

Provide services on the short term while promoting learning and strengthening capacity.

What strategies and mechanisms do you have to guarantee a rapid response? To ensure a long-term sustainable engagement? And to adapt to context changes?
Manage risks

Have an up-to-date and in-depth understanding of both the possible risks and opportunities

Increase flexibility instead of trying to control and avoid risks

How will you accept, share, mitigate or avoid identified risks?

How will you exploit, enhance, share or neglect the identified opportunities?
→ Stimulate reflection and analysis

→ Foster appropriation of a fragile-sentive approach

→ Help find solutions fitted to specific situations
The way forward on comprehensive approaches

• Focus on **governance networks** to study practice and opportunities towards more integrated actions
  → Collaborations between all actors of BE development cooperation around a country intervention strategy
  → Cooperation with other actors of BE foreign policy (ex. diplomatic, defense, security and justice actors)

• Outputs
  • 3 evidence papers
  • 2 case studies (Uganda and Burkina Faso)
  • Workshops
  • 1 green paper
Thank you!