



## Swiss Working Paper on Ensuring Sustainable Peace and Inclusive Societies in the Post-2015 Agenda

### **Main objective**

Switzerland actively supports a post-2015 agenda that promotes sustainable peace and inclusive societies and addresses the drivers of conflict, violence and fragile situations. Switzerland recommends i) defining a standalone goal on sustainable peace and inclusive societies and ii) addressing the drivers of conflict, violence and fragile situations as a cross-cutting issue in targets and indicators of other goals.

### **The relationship between development and sustainable peace and inclusive societies**

Sustainable peace and inclusive societies are both an enabler for, as well as an outcome of sustainable development. Addressing this link is primordial, as shown by the following selection of facts<sup>1</sup>:

- 1.5 billion people live in conflict-affected or fragile states
- In 2015, more than 50% of the total population in extreme poverty will reside in places affected by conflict and/or chronic violence.
- For every three years a country is affected by major violence, poverty reduction lags behind by 2.7% points.
- 8 of the 10 countries with the world's highest under-five mortality rates are marked by conflict or violence or are characterized by weak central governments.
- While there is progress in some countries with regard to the protection and assistance of displaced people, the number of people uprooted by conflict or persecution is at its highest level in 18 years.
- While there has been remarkable progress in reducing the proportion of slum dwellers in cities in many parts of the world, urban residents living in slums in conflict-affected states increased from 2000 to 2012.

Indeed, in many countries, re-establishing peace and personal safety also resulted in fast progress in achieving MDGs, as the following examples show.

- Ethiopia more than quadrupled access to improved water source, from 13% of the population in 1990 to 66% in 2009-10.
- Mozambique more than tripled its primary school completion rate in just eight years, from 14% in 1999 to 46% in 2007.
- Rwanda cut the prevalence of under nutrition from 56% of the population in 1997 to 40% in 2005.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, between 1995 and 2007, increased measles immunizations from 53% to 96% for children aged 12-23 months.

Conflict, violence and fragile situations are often rooted in development deficits. In turn, they can seriously undermine development prospects. They have strong links with all three dimensions of sustainable development, as illustrated with some (non-conclusive) examples in the annex.

Conflict, violence and fragile situations may as well have long-term negative impacts on the environment and influence people's access to ecosystem services, including water and land. They influence patterns of poverty and decide on the access, quality and use of social services, including education and health services.

Due to different social roles and responsibilities, consequences of conflict, violence, and fragile situations affect women and men in different ways. Shifts and diversification in gender roles may even

<sup>1</sup> See [World Development Report 2001](#); [MDG Report 2013](#); [Report of the High Level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda](#); [OECD-DAC Reports on Financial Flows](#); [International Development Association](#)

provide opportunities for women's empowerment. More often, however, conflicts reinforce existing gender inequalities and lead to additional vulnerabilities of marginalized groups. Conflict, violence and fragile situations may also negatively affect state economies, discourage investment and destroy or deploy economically valuable human resources. Furthermore, people are often pushed to leave their homes. This puts additional strains on capacities of recipient countries or regions and, in turn, depletes the human capital of their home place. Moreover, the tremendous financial costs incurred by conflict and violence are always to the detriment of the provision of other basic economic, social or environmental goods and services.

It is important to note that the vicious cycle between conflict/violence/fragile situations and development not only affects middle and low-income countries, but also the most industrialized ones. On the one hand, a higher interdependence between countries has led to the fact that drivers and consequences of conflict, violence and fragile situations often have a regional or global dimension. High-income countries have to assume their share of responsibility in addressing global drivers of conflict, violence or fragile situations as well as in addressing the consequences thereof. On the other hand, pockets of violence, and aspects of conflict or fragile situations can be at stake even in the most developed countries and may slowly erode or impede other development efforts (e.g. urban gangs, violence against women and children, corrupt institutions).

In declaring its determination to "establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter", the international community did recognize the importance of issues related to sustainable peace and inclusive societies for development in the Millennium Declaration in 2000. But despite this strong commitment in the Declaration, no related goals were part of the Millennium Development Goals. Today, this is recognized as one of the major shortfalls of the MDGs. Switzerland therefore strongly recommends addressing this deficiency in the new framework.

## **Promoting sustainable peace and inclusive societies as a standalone goal and as a cross-cutting issue**

### **Switzerland's approach**

In accordance with the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Switzerland sees peace as a core element for sustainable development.<sup>2</sup> Switzerland promotes an approach that focuses on people and their aspiration to live a decent and safe life in peaceful societies, free from violence and the fear thereof. Within the post-2015 process, it should be asked what it takes to build and maintain sustainable peace and inclusive societies and how the causes and consequences of conflict, violence and fragile situations can be best addressed in the new framework. In this context, Switzerland supports a holistic approach.

### **Standalone goal**

Switzerland calls for a standalone goal on sustainable peace and inclusive societies. Given the importance of sustainable peace and inclusive societies for sustainable development, it is now time to mobilize resources and expertise from various sectors, including the civil society and the private sector, in order to identify, address and measure the needs and progress in this issue. This is best accomplished with a standalone goal. The current Swiss Position on the post-2015 Agenda, which is based on national consultations and approved by the Federal Council, therefore recognizes sustainable peace and inclusive societies as one of four key issues, for which Switzerland will specifically promote a standalone goal in the post 2015 process.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the [UN Development Group's Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster](#) and its [Expert Meeting on Accountability Framework for Conflict, Violence and Disaster](#), the [New Deal on Engagement in Fragile States](#), important work undertaken by the [Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development](#), as well as the work of other NGO's such as [Saferworld](#), Switzerland advocates a goal on sustainable peace and inclusive societies that meets the conditions

<sup>2</sup>High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, May 2013: "Freedom from fear, conflict and violence is the most fundamental human right, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies. At the same time, people the world over expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs. We are calling for a fundamental shift – to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of wellbeing, not optional extras."

<sup>3</sup> Federal Council, 23 June 2013: "With respect to the following domains, Switzerland will essentially promote specific individual goals: - Water security for all; - Maximizing health in all life stages; - Gender equality; - Peace and security, particularly in the context of fragile states and regions",

in the following paragraph. A possible goal with sub-goals is illustrated in graph 1<sup>4</sup> and a non-conclusive list of possible targets for the two sub-goals is outlined in table 1.

A goal framework on sustainable peace and inclusive societies should

- be globally relevant and measurable
- be universal at goal level, but translatable into national contexts at target and indicator-level (and thereby allowing, among other things, for a special focus on countries in or emerging from conflict or fragility)
- use clearly defined wordings and concepts that prevent misinterpretations
- not only address the characteristics, but also the drivers and consequences of conflict, violence and fragile situations
- be measured through a basket of targets and indicators that include:
  - The perception of the concerned population (such as victims, civil servants, people involved in conflict or criminal activities, etc. (women and men differentiated). This is especially important where measurability of quantitative factors is difficult, such as non-state or informal justice mechanism, trust in institutions, sexual abuse etc.)
  - Institutional capacities (such as aspects of existing legal frameworks, financial investments in resolving the issue, access to Justice, Rule of Law, etc.)
  - The objective situation, facts and figures (such as incident rates, available arms, unemployment rates, etc.)

Graph 1: Possible Goal Framework for Ensuring sustainable peace and inclusive societies

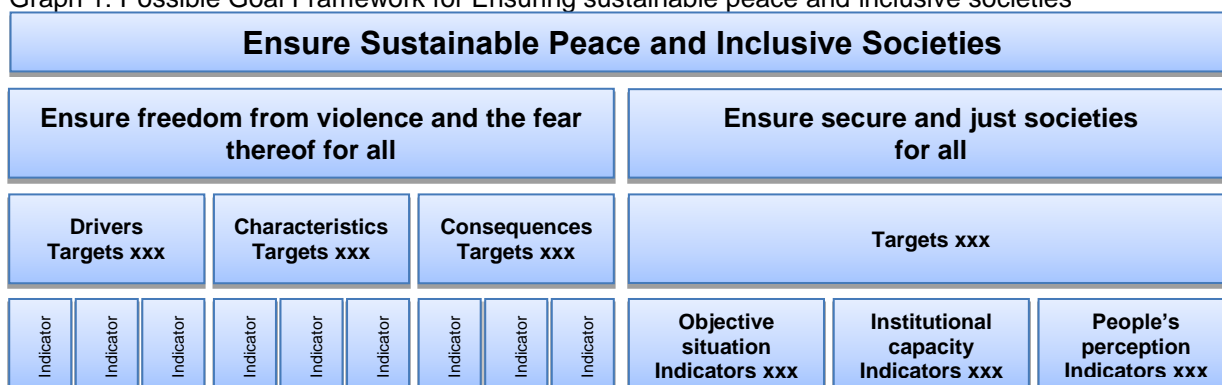


Table 1: Examples of possible target areas

Goals	Ensure freedom from violence and the fear thereof	Ensure safe and just societies for all
<b>Targets</b>	Equity and social cohesion	Equal opportunity for all (including women and men) to political participation on all levels
	External drivers of violence and conflicts, including illicit flows of goods and human trafficking ( <i>some of which to be included as targets in other goals, see cross-cutting issue</i> )	Investments in violence/conflict prevention and reduction programmes
	Issues related to arms trade and firearms use	Rule of Law and access to justice for all
	Deaths and injuries due to violence or conflict	Implementation of international treaties
	Violence against women and children (including incidence of rape and sexual violence)	Access to comprehensive rehabilitation services
	Perception of safety	Human Rights violations
	Children associated with armed violence	Human Rights mechanisms
	Refugees, migrants and internally displaced due to violence, conflict or fragile situations	Alliance between private sector, government and civil society
	Patterns of urban violence	Impunity
	Adequate formal and informal mechanisms to manage disputes peacefully	Accountability and inclusiveness of institutions

<sup>4</sup> The HLP has proposed to focus on a stable and peaceful society goal. However, while a “stable” situation in the sense of sound institutions, accountability, rule of law etc. is certainly crucial for development, seen from the individual’s perspective, and in particular through the lens of the poor and disadvantaged, a stable system can also be very oppressive and full of structural violence, like the “stable” systems ruled by dictators. To support the very important goal of sustainable peace and safe societies, the building of the state capacity for services in favor of the people and at the same time the constant efforts for mutually constructive relations between state and society are key.

	Psychological, mental and structural impact of violence	Public confidence in the performance of institutions
	Public confidence in performance of security institutions	Capacity of Justice Institutions (including independence of judiciary)
	...	...

## Cross-cutting issue

In line with the above mentioned documents, Switzerland strongly believes that drivers of conflict, violence and fragile situations must also be tackled transversally, with targets in other goals, in order to promote sustainable peace and inclusive societies. There are three ways of how this could and should be done:

- While conflict, violence or fragility may be a consequence of unsustainable development, issues related to conflict, violence, and fragile situations also have a direct influence on the achievement of other sustainable development goals, as illustrated in the upper part of the table in the annex. Switzerland therefore suggests that **aspects of sustainable peace and inclusive societies are considered when elaborating targets and indicators of other goals** (for example, number and sex of injured people by conflict and violence in the health cluster, no access to education for certain people due to conflict, violence or fragile situation in the education cluster, lack of accountable institutions in measuring environmental crime in an environmental cluster, participation of women and men in peace processes in a governance cluster).
- **Shared targets** across goals may be a good way to ensure the transversality of the issue, since a lot of drivers of conflict, violence and fragile situations are indeed indicators for unsustainable development in other areas, as outlined in the lower part of the table in the annex (for example, targets and indicators related to access to education, sustainable resource use, gender equality, etc.)
- In line with the results of the expert meeting in Glen Cove (June 2013), Switzerland strongly recommends that in order to safeguard **conflict-sensitivity** within the framework, the main drivers of conflict, violence and fragile situations (that is, inequality and lack of participation, fairness, inclusivity and cohesion), always are taken into account when formulating targets and indicators of other goals.

## **Existing know-how and experiences from other frameworks, processes and documents**

Switzerland encourages the international community to build on the various initiatives, frameworks and reports that have already reflected the link between peace and development.

Even before the discussion on the post-2015 officially started, three UN SG reports<sup>5</sup> as well as the [World Bank 2011 World Development Report](#) focused on this issue. Within the political discussion of the post-2015 agenda, the acknowledgement of the importance of including a peace dimension into a new framework has been widely reaffirmed and refined in all high-level publications. While all publications affirm the inclusion of peace and security as cross-cutting issue or as fourth dimension of development<sup>6</sup>, newer high-level publications, including the [report of the Secretary-General “A life of dignity for all”](#) (July 2013), the report of the [High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (May 2013) and a position paper of the [United Nations Global Compact](#) (June 2013), do recognize the importance of having a standalone goal on peace. The recently approved [outcome document](#) of the [General Assembly’s special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals](#) (25. September 2013) clearly recognizes the importance of “promoting peace and security” within the new framework.

Switzerland also recommends taking into account the expertise and technical work undertaken by experts, NGO’s, Think Tanks and Institutions.<sup>7</sup> The following three processes are to be highlighted in this regard.

Conflict and violence figured, together with disaster risk reduction, among 11 [global thematic consultations](#) led by the UN within the post-2015 MDG process.<sup>8</sup> This consultation officially ended in a high-level meeting in Helsinki in March 2013 and was followed by the [expert meeting on accountability framework](#) in Glen Cove New York, in June 2013. Switzerland attended parts of the meetings during the consultation as well as the follow-up expert meeting and strongly recommends other States to consider these results.

<sup>5</sup> In [larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all \(A/59/2005\)](#); [Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence’ \(A/64/228, 2009\)](#); [Peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict \(A/63/88, 2009\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> including the [Rio+20 Follow-up document](#) (July 2012), [the report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (June 2012) and [the report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (June 2013)

<sup>7</sup> Including PBSO, ODI, and, most importantly, Saferworld

<sup>8</sup> Within this consultation a total of four meetings were held in Indonesia (22-25.10.2012/19-20.02.2013), Liberia (28-30.11.2012) and Panama (31.01.-01.02.2013)

In 2006, Switzerland and UNDP launched the [Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development](#) - a diplomatic initiative that aims at addressing the interrelations between armed violence and development - explicitly because this dimension was missing in the MDGs. With 112 signatory states today, it is a flagship for Switzerland's efforts to understand peace and development relations. Its extensive work especially on measuring questions, as well as its important network of states from all over the world provides an ideal foundation for substantial discussion that should be used.

In 2011, together with 35 countries and 6 Multilateral Organisations, Switzerland has signed the [New Deal on Engagement in Fragile States](#) at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea. In this framework, 'Establish and strengthen people's security' is highlighted as one of the five basic Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals. The sets of indicators which were designed should help inspiring the post-2015 monitoring framework. As a committed signatory of the New Deal, Switzerland has incorporated many of its aspects in the Federal Council's Message on International Cooperation 2013-2016.

### **Relevance for Switzerland and Switzerland's aspired role in international discussions**

Switzerland has a long-track record in recognizing the link between peace and development and is internationally recognized for its efforts in making this link. It also constitutes a clear objective of its foreign policy<sup>9</sup> (see also Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, or the New Deal on Engagement in Fragile States).

However, aspects of conflict, violence and fragile situations do concern Switzerland not only as a donor country and in its foreign policy, but also as a country directly affected by global dynamics of conflict, violence and fragile situations (such as, for example, transnational organized crime, illegal financial flows, but also as a host state for displaced people). As a county that can be considered as peaceful and inclusive, Switzerland has a vital interest in maintaining this situation. Furthermore, economically and socially highly interlinked, Switzerland also assumes its responsibilities in preventing or mitigating global, regional and national drivers of conflict, violence or fragile situation (such as irresponsible or unsustainable business activities within and across its borders, unsustainable resource exploitation, inequalities in access to social, economic and environmental goods and services).

In the international discussion, Switzerland aims at overcoming possible stumbling blocks in order to bring forward the substantial discussion on this important aspect of sustainable development. The recognition and appreciation of Switzerland's humanitarian tradition and neutrality hopefully has the potential to make Switzerland a bridge-builder among actors and states with regard to this issue.

### **Remarks on the Methodology of this paper**

The paper at hand was co-written by the Human Security Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The results of a full-day expert workshop<sup>10</sup> served as an important substantial input, as did the various outcomes of the global consultation processes on the post-2015 agenda. The paper is subject to change and may be adapted in the course of the ongoing international discussions and consultations.

<sup>9</sup> The [Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2012–2015](#); the [Federal Council's Message on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2013-2016](#); the [Message concerning the Continuation of Measures relating to Civilian Peace Building and the Promotion of Human Rights 2012-16](#); the [Foreign Policy Report 2012](#); the [Report on Foreign Economic Politics 2012](#)

<sup>10</sup> Represented were: Human Security Division of the FDFA; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Swisspeace; Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development; The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Center for Security Studies; Caritas; UNDP

## ANNEX: Interlinkages between conflict/violence/fragile situations and the three dimensions of sustainable development – some examples

	Aspects of conflict, violence or fragile situations that may lead to unsustainable development (conflict, violence or fragile situations as possible <i>drivers</i> of unsustainable development)
Social dimension	Death and injuries that severely weight on the health system, destruction of health facilities, no or unequal access to health care.
	Gender-based violence and discrimination, violation of women's human rights, undermining social cohesion
	Discrimination of access to education, biased education, due to conflict or fragile situations
	Displacement and forced migration that trigger structural changes (e.g. slum dwellers due to IDPs', brain drain)
	Unequal access/provision of social goods and services due to conflict, violence or fragile situations
Economic dimension	Destruction of social, human and physical capital
	Lack of rules, control and regulatory frameworks in the management of natural and human resources, cause of abuses
	Discouragement of investment, lack of job creation
	Distraction of quantitatively and qualitatively important human resources
	Destruction of infrastructure, including for the provision of energy
	Economic pressure in host communities due to migration and displacement based on conflict, violence or fragile situations
	Corruption, illicit flow of money, illegal trafficking of arms and drugs as well as human trafficking
Environmental Dimension	Insufficient and unequal access to and provision for economic goods and services (that, among other things, often discriminate women as head of households)
	Destruction, pollution or unequal access to land, water and other natural resources, due to conflict, violence or fragile situations
	The use of forests, mountains or other ecologically important – and sometimes protected - places as battlegrounds (including the resultant destruction and pollution)
	Environmental pollution because of nuclear, chemical, biological, and conventional weapons stockpiles
	Environmental pressure for the host-region of migration based on conflict, violence or fragile situations
	Unequal access/provision of environmental goods and services
	Aspects of unsustainable development that may lead to conflict, violence or fragile situations (conflict, violence or fragile situations as possible <i>consequences</i> of unsustainable development)
Social dimension	Gender inequalities, incl. widespread gender-based violence and the reinforcement of gender stereotypes that may fuel conflicts
	Insufficient or unequal access to education
	Lack of access to land, water and other natural resources (resulting from structural/political/economic issues as well as land degradation due to climate change, natural disaster or the unsustainable use of land)
	Horizontal inequalities in the access to and the quality of social goods and services.
Economic Dimension	Unsustainable exploitation of natural and human resources
	Irresponsible business conduct, including unsafe working conditions (often including violence and violation of human rights)
	Insufficient access and/or discrimination in the access to employment
	Unequal access to technology, especially in the information and communication sector
	Weak and non-inclusive governance, lack of regulatory framework and weak judicial institutions.
	Unequal regional development, horizontal inequalities in the access to and the quality of economic goods and services
Environmental Dimension	Resource-based conflicts
	Lack of resilience to disaster, inappropriate response to disasters
	Environmental pressure due to climate change and resource overuse resulting in forced migration
	Horizontal inequalities in the access to and the quality of environmental goods and services