Selected definitions and characteristics of 'fragile states' by key international actors"	
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African Development Bank (ADB)	Countries or situations with unique development challenges that have resulted from fragility and conflict including weak institutional capacities and poor governance, economic and geographic isolation, economic disruption, social disruption and insecurity.
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Fragile statehood exists in situations where there is low level of government performance, where state institutions are weak or on the verge of collapse and where the state either fails to perform core roles or performs them wholly inadequately. The BMZ also refers to the CPIA by the World Bank.
Country Indicators for Foreign Policy (CIFP)	Fragile states lack the functional authority to provide basic security within their borders, the institutional capacity to provide basic social needs for their populations, and/or the political legitimacy to effectively represent their citizens at home or abroad.
Department for International Development (DFID)	DFID has used a broad definition ("Where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor.") but also refers to a combination of the three widely accepted assessment frameworks: World Bank's CPIA-indicators, the Fund for Peace's Failed States Index (FSI) and the Uppsala Conflict Database.
European Union (EU)	Fragility refers to weak or failing structures and to situations where the social contract is broken due to the state's incapacity or unwillingness to deal with its basic functions, meets its obligations and responsibilities regarding service delivery, management of resources, rule of law, equitable access to power, security and safety of the populace and protection and promotion of citizens' rights and freedoms.
g7+	"[A] state of fragility can be understood as a period of time during nationhood when sustainable socio-economic development requires greater emphasis on complementary peacebuilding and State-building activities such as building inclusive political settlements, security, justice, jobs, good management of resources, and accountable and fair service delivery".
International monetary Fund (IMF)	Fragile states have characteristics that substantially impair their economic and social performance. These include weak governance, limited administrative capacity, chronic humanitarian crises, persistent social tensions, and often, violence or the legacy of armed conflict and civil war. In these countries the poor quality of policies, institutions and governance substantially impairs economic performance, the delivery of basic social services and the efficacy of donor assistance. Such states are least likely to achieve the MDGs. They also have considerable negative spill over effects on economic growth in neighbouring countries.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Pockets of fragility may occur at a subnational level, making it hard to keep the fragile states terminology. The States of fragility report 2015 marks a change towards defining dimensions of fragility: violence, justice, institutions, economic foundations and resilience. Thus, the OECD breaks down the drivers of fragility for each country and reveals different patterns of vulnerability instead of trying to stringently define fragility.
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	A state or context is describe as fragile if a significant proportion of the population does not regard the state as the legitimate framework for the exercise of power, if the state does not or cannot exercise its monopoly of the legitimate use of force within its territory, and if the state is unable or unwilling to provide basic goods and services to a significant part of the population.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Fragile states refer to a broad range of failing, failed, and recovering states that are unable or unwilling to adequately assure the provision of security and basic services to significant portion of their populations and where the legitimacy of the governments is in question. USAID distinguishes between distinguishes between fragile states that are vulnerable from those that are already in crisis.
World Bank (WB)	The World Bank defines fragile states according to their ranking in the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment that includes a set of 16 criteria grouped in four clusters: economic management, structural policies, policies for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions. The result is published every year in the "Harmonized List of Fragile Situations". Fragile Situations include countries or territories with (i) a harmonized CPIA country rating of 3.2 or less, and/or (ii) the presence of a UN and/or regional peace-keeping or political/peace-building mission during the last three years.