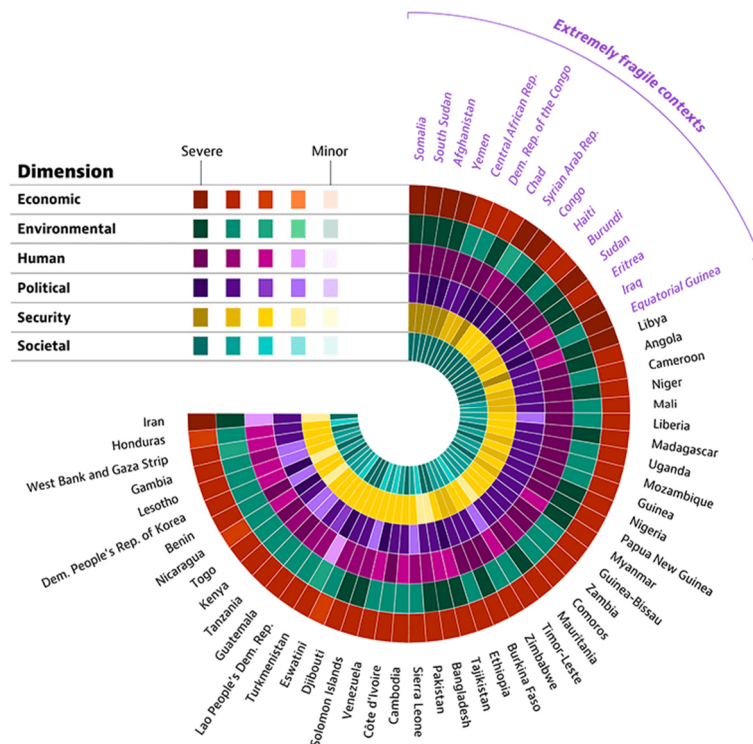




Fragility Assessment Tool

The fragility assessment is part of the CSPM tool box for context analysis which comprises also the Actors Mapping and the 4A's, as well as the Connectors & Dividers. The purpose of this tool is to give orientations to SDC's staff on essential elements that should be taken into account when assessing existing fragilities at the strategic and operational levels. It complements the institutional support and advice provided upon demand by the FCHR Unit.



Background

SDC's approach to fragility is aligned with the OECD DAC's [multidimensional fragility framework](#). This framework comprises the following six dimensions of fragility: political, human, security, societal, environmental and economic. It measures each dimension on a spectrum of intensity based on the combination of exposure to risks¹ and related coping capacities of the State, systems and/or communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks. The framework builds on the recognition that fragility influences States and societies in different ways, affecting not only conflict or violence affected contexts but all countries to some degree.

Purpose of the tool

The tool aims at assessing, in a given sector/context, the factors that impact on the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in the six dimensions of fragility, as well as at identifying entry points for Switzerland to contribute to reducing or mitigating risks and strengthening coping capacities.

How to use the fragility assessment?

The fragility assessment is based on a qualitative analysis that looks at fields of observation related to each dimension of the fragility framework, distinguishing between: (i) issues at stake (risks); (ii) root causes, (iii) coping capacities and (iv) entry points for Switzerland.

It draws on context knowledge from the participants, which can be complemented by other sources. The analysis should be carried out collectively, including colleagues from the humanitarian, development and peace pillars within the representation. Partners or resource persons can be invited when deemed relevant.

It is particularly useful to conduct the fragility assessment when designing a new project or a new project phase, or when looking at a sector of intervention in the framework of the elaboration of a new country program. It is equally recommended to link the fragility assessment to the MERV exercise. The fragility assessment can be reassessed whenever a context or situation changes significantly.

¹ **Risks** (do the indicators alter either the likelihood or impact ex-ante?) are related to the six dimensions of fragility while **coping capacities** (what indicators would stop the risk cascading ex-post if the risk occurred?) that are assessed according to a total of 44 [indicators](#).

FRAGILITY ASSESSMENT				
Political fragility				
<i>Fields of observation (FO)</i>	<i>What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?</i>	<i>What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?</i>	<i>What are existing coping capacities in the FO?</i>	<i>What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?</i>
Governance and state institutions: accountability of public institutions (duty bearers), existence of oversight mechanisms as well as availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of public services				
Human rights[†], justice and rule of law: Respect for international human rights norms and standards and the prevalence of rule of law (e.g. separation of powers; independence of judiciary; access to justice and equality before the law; public oversight; access to remedies and effective responses to rights violations.)				
Gender equality and LNOB: meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, incl. marginalized groups, in political, economic, social and cultural affairs and decision making				

[†] SDC guidance on human rights

Human fragility				
<i>Fields of observation (FO)</i>	<i>What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?</i>	<i>What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?</i>	<i>What are existing coping capacities in the FO?</i>	<i>What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?</i>
Access to basic water: Access to: basic drinking water services, i.e. drinking water from an improved source provided collection time not more than 30 minutes for a round trip.				
Access to immunization services: child immunization, DPT, measures the percentage of children ages 12-23 months who received DPT vaccinations before 12 months or at any time before the survey.				
Social protection coverage: share of the population effectively covered by a social protection system, including social protection floors (the share of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit).				
Gender gap in secondary school enrolment: the ratio of girls to boys enrolled at secondary level in public and private schools.				

Economic fragility				
<i>Fields of observation (FO)</i>	<i>What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?</i>	<i>What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?</i>	<i>What are existing coping capacities in the FO?</i>	<i>What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?</i>
Labor market: Diversification of the economic sector, including share of formal versus informal sector and natural resources dependency				
Jobs / decent work[‡]: quality of work (e.g. fair wages, safe and healthy working conditions, social security / social protection, guarantee of right to form and join trade unions) equal access to the labor market for all, including women and marginalized groups;				
Education and vocational skills development (VSD): inclusivity, accessibility to and quality of the education system, as well as to vocational skills development;				
Food security / right to food: access to adequate dietary supply for all population groups and eventual degree of food price volatility;				

[‡] <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Conflict-and-Human-Rights/our-topics/emerging-topics>

Societal fragility				
Fields of observation (FO)	What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?	What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?	What are existing coping capacities in the FO?	What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?
Inequality: inequality between women and men (gender inequality) as well as between social groups regarding language, ethnicity, religion, race, region or cast (horizontal inequality);				
Space for civil society: level of CSO repression and / or CSO participatory environment;				
Refugee population: integration / exclusion of uprooted groups (refugees and IDPs), incl. access to basic services and respect of their human rights;				
Public trust: trust in the authorities and institutions as well as trust between population groups;				

Fragility related to security				
<i>Fields of observation (FO)</i>	<i>What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?</i>	<i>What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?</i>	<i>What are existing coping capacities in the FO?</i>	<i>What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?</i>
Violence and conflict: quality of the state-society relationship and of social cohesion; existing forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, cultural violence as well as deprivation or neglect), including armed conflict and related causalities through violence by state and non-state actors;				
Security sectors governance: Satisfaction of the population with the governance (accountability, transparency, effectiveness, efficiency and engagement of civil society) of the security sector, including the role and performance of public, private and commercial security providers, management and oversight bodies;				

Environmental fragility				
Fields of observation (FO)	What are the issues at stake and related risks (impact, effects of fragility) in the FO?	What are the root causes of fragility in the FO?	What are existing coping capacities in the FO?	What are entry points for Switzerland to reduce or mitigate risks and strengthen coping capacities in the FO?
Climate change: exposure and vulnerability to climate change impacts (i.e. climate variability and longer-term changes in rainfall / temperature / frequency and intensity of climate and weather-related events, resource depletion, sea-level rise); adaptive capacity and infrastructure (adaptation plans, agricultural practices etc.);				
Natural resources management: good governance and sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment (e.g. irrigation systems, forests, ecosystem management, waste management, protected areas, addressing environmental risks such as desertification, deforestation, environmental crimes etc.) and equitable access to environmental resources;				
Disaster risk: exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards (i.e. earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, floods, storms, wildfires and drought) as well as disaster risk management / response (incl. early warning systems and physical infrastructure);				
Health situation: Prevalence of infectious disease and related deaths as well as the guarantee of the right to health [§] ;				

PGE Unit, rev 15 March 2023, Bern

[§] <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/Health.aspx>; <https://undocs.org/E/C.12/2000/4>

Combined Fragility Assessment Tool and Gender Analysis

