

The Millennium Development Goals: The 2005 Agenda

Fragile states, external interventions and the MDGs

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Do fragile states matter?

- 14% of the world population
- 1/3 of all the world's poor
- With 41% of all child deaths

The MDGs won't be met without them

Concepts and definitions

- Range of terms
- Range of characteristic
- Range of definitions/indexes
- Ultimately about subjective judgements and relationships
- Emphasis on interaction between states, not just what is wrong with the fragile ones

The problem...

- Don't fit the new 'reward good performance/policy with major aid scale up' development orthodoxy (e.g. MDG Sachs Report)
- Really serious challenges/dilemmas around mixed objectives: trade-aid-humanitarian-development-security-drugs etc. tensions
- Each with a multiplicity of external actors
→ Overloading the agenda and undermining our own objectives?

2005 initiatives on the table

- UN High Level Panel → Peace Building Commission?
- USAID fragile states strategy
- DFID fragile states policy
- OECD DAC et al. Senior Level forum on fragile states
- ongoing LICUS work by World Bank
- UK Cabinet office CRI report



The current agenda

- Large body of serious work/engagement
- Lots of problem identification
- but slightly different problems
 - threat to themselves
 - threat to regional/collective
 - threat to 'West' (but evidence...)
- Many lists/mechanisms of interventions
- Acknowledgment of the importance of country context and coherence problem

How to we take this forward?

- A focus on the sum of the incentives external actors are presenting across all objectives and all actors
- Coherence agenda at the point of impact i.e. the country
- In the long run this is a state building exercise
- Implementation mechanisms...

Mechanisms for implementation

- Single country level process moving towards common problem identification, objectives, strategies, policies, plans, resourcing and implementation mechanism
- Understand what is there, don't assume it isn't, then build on and repair

continued...

- Do no harm approach to long term capacity: use their rules (shadow systems alignment) even if not their systems or policies
- Simplicity and sequencing of demands, priorities and activities
- Support capacity for managing external actors

Thank you

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