



FRAGILITY, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE FRAMEWORK

Enhancing CIWA's engagement in FCV-affected areas

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Last updated: September, 2023

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The Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) was established in 2011 and represents a partnership between the World Bank, its African partners, the European Commission, and the governments of Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. CIWA supports riparian governments in Sub-Saharan Africa to unlock the potential for sustainable and inclusive growth, climate resilience, and poverty reduction by addressing constraints to cooperative management and development of international waters.

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Abbreviations

CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation
REC	Regional Economic Community
RBO	River Basin Organization
RRA	Risk and Resilience Assessment
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
ToC	Theory of Change
TTL	Task Team Lead

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Enhancing CIWA's engagement in FCV-affected areas

Executive Summary

This note describes the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) program's Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Framework (CIWA FCV Framework). The development objective of the CIWA FCV Framework is to provide Task Teams a step-by-step guidance to enhance effectiveness of CIWA-funded activities in FCV-affected areas. It provides background information on CIWA's engagements in water cooperation, resources, and references for building a relevant project narrative and a methodology for systematically applying conflict sensitivity to project design that will support the project cycle. Figure 1 illustrates the CIWA FCV Framework's three-step process. CIWA Task Teams will use the CIWA FCV Framework Template (Annex 1) to capture the information relevant to the intersections between FCV and the development objectives of CIWA-supported activities.

1. Introduction: CIWA and FCV

The Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) program is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund that supports Sub-Saharan governments to realize sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient growth by addressing constraints to cooperative management and development of transboundary waters. The program has sought to strengthen water resources development, management, and regional cooperation to increase productivity, security, and sustainability across the region.¹ CIWA works closely with governments, river basin organizations (RBOs), regional economic communities (RECs), and other stakeholders through both World Bank-executed and recipient-executed activities, under three types of engagements: i) sustained engagements with priority basins to strengthen foundational elements such as data systems, policy and legal agreements, institutions, and investment and operation plans; ii) strategic engagements to contribute to high-impact projects through analytical efforts, capacity building, and technical assistance; and iii) knowledge generation and management initiatives to strengthen the evidence base to cooperatively manage international waters.

In FY23, CIWA continued to deepen its support to countries affected by FCV and remains engaged in four high-priority FCV-affected regions—the Horn of Africa, West and Central Sahel, Lake Chad, and the Great Lakes. FCV is one of CIWA's five key cross-cutting development priorities, along with gender equality and social inclusion, resilience to climate change, pro-poor development, and biodiversity conservation.

The challenging landscape for water resources management and development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is exponentially greater in countries experiencing FCV.² CIWA works in 10 of 19 FCV-affected countries in SSA included in the World Bank's FY23 *List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations* (See Annex 2). The *World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025* and the *Bank Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence* are the key documents that guide the World Bank's engagement in FCV. Two interrelated World Bank strategies—the *World Bank Africa Strategy 2019-2023* and the *Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy for FY18-FY23*—are similarly relevant for guiding engagements by the World Bank and CIWA in fragile areas across Africa.

Transboundary waters management is significantly more challenging in FCV-affected areas. FCV may result in loss of life and destruction of assets; threaten security; contribute to political, social, and economic disintegration; impede efforts to end extreme poverty; exacerbate environmental impacts; weaken sources of resilience; and forcibly displace people.³ In these contexts, institutions tend to be weaker, infrastructure and data-driven knowledge and information are scarcer, RBOs and RECs face distinctive security challenges, implementation arrangements are more costly, monitoring and evaluation of activities are significantly more challenging, large numbers of forcibly displaced people often pose additional pressures on the use and management of surface and groundwater sources; and field access to some areas by government, development, and humanitarian actors is severely restricted. Armed conflict from both non-state and state actors, the presence of criminal groups, and landmines and explosive remnants of war make CIWA's work in FCV areas substantially more complex. Climate change and weather shocks such as droughts and floods can exacerbate ethnic or communal friction and violence and increase transboundary water disputes.⁴ Water agreements are frequently not climate change-sensitive or 'climate-proofed.' If water agreements are not 'climate change-proofed,' they can become obsolete as climate change will continue to drastically change the multi-year averages of flow (in volumetric terms) on which these agreements are frequently based.⁵

The objective of this note is to describe the CIWA FCV Framework. The development objective of the CIWA FCV Framework is to enhance the program's effectiveness in contexts affected by FCV by providing key sources and a concise framework to identify the relevant drivers of FCV and their links to project elements. This effort responds to CIWA's commitment to increase support to clients affected by FCV, guided by the pillars and principles embedded in the *World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (2022-2025)*⁶ and CIWA's 2022 Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) Recommendations (Annex 3).

¹ <https://www.ciwaprogram.org/about/>

² SIPRI and CIWA, 2022. *Water Cooperation in the Horn of Africa: Addressing Drivers of Conflict and Strengthening Resilience*. Stockholm: SIPRI.

³ World Bank, 2022. *Bank Policy on Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence*. Washington DC: World Bank.

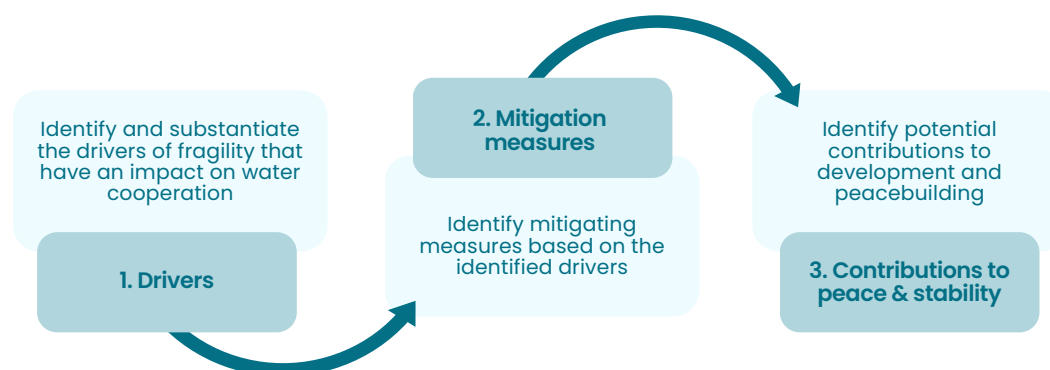


Figure 1: CIWA Framework: Analysis, Actions, and Contributions to peace

2. World Bank approach to FCV

In 2021, the World Bank launched the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025⁷ with the objective of enhancing its effectiveness in supporting countries to address the drivers and impacts of FCV and strengthen their resilience. The Strategy, which is critical to achieving the World Bank's mission of creating a world free of poverty on a livable planet, set out a new framework for understanding FCV and a robust set of measures to increase the effectiveness of the World Bank's development support to both low- and middle-income countries that are dealing with diverse challenges across the FCV spectrum, including high levels of violence, shocks from forced displacement, and subnational conflict.

The FCV Strategy has four pillars of engagement and 23 measures to strengthen effectiveness. An essential premise of the Strategy is that, given the diversity of FCV challenges, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. It explains that operating in FCV settings is challenging because of often rapidly changing circumstances, differing levels of insecurity, fragile and volatile political situations, macroeconomic instability, low institutional capacity, a weak enabling and investment climate for the private sector, higher risks of violence against vulnerable populations, and significantly higher risks and costs of engagement.⁸ The Strategy's four pillars of engagement and six priority areas⁹ are designed to strengthen the World Bank's approach and address challenges across the full spectrum of FCV: Pillar 1—Preventing Violent Conflict and Interpersonal Violence, Pillar 2—Remaining engaged during crises and active conflicts, Pillar 3—Helping countries transition out of fragility, and Pillar 4—Mitigating the spillovers of FCV. The CIWA FCV Framework responds primarily to Pillar 1. The World Bank FCV Strategy also highlights the role that natural resources, including water, play in FCV dynamics.

The Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRAs) led by the World Bank FCV Group highlight the relevance of transboundary waters in the current fragility scenario and the need to develop granular sector-specific notes to help inform the regional integration portfolio and pipeline and to provide additional detail to Task Teams on how to design and implement FCV-sensitive projects in fragile regional contexts.¹⁰ A 2022 World Bank report, *Defueling Conflict: Environment and Natural Resource Management as a Pathway to Peace*, highlights environment-conflict dynamics to help integrate them more broadly into World Bank interventions in FCV and is key to understanding the development objectives of the CIWA FCV Framework.

In August 2021, the Bank approved the Development Cooperation and Fragility, Conflict, and Violence policy (FCV Policy). The FCV Policy sets forth the operational framework for the Bank's engagements in FCV situations.¹¹ Relevant to the scope of the CIWA FCV Framework is that the FCV Policy clarifies that any engagement in peacebuilding activities should be consistent with the World Bank's mandate and based on a robust development rationale, the World Bank's comparative advantage, and core development competencies. It also reinforces that understanding drivers of fragility, sources of resilience, and the way in which they relate to the World Bank's mission of development and poverty reduction is central to the success of its country and regional engagements, analytics, and operational interventions.

3. CIWA's comparative advantage in the transboundary waters-FCV nexus

CIWA is well-positioned to support African governments that are addressing FCV-related challenges in transboundary waters management. Almost half the globe's land surface lies within international watersheds—the land that contributes to the world's 310¹² transboundary waterways.¹³

⁷ World Bank, 2020. World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025 (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. [2] (i)

⁹ (i) Investing in human capital; (ii) Supporting macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability; (iii) Creating jobs and economic opportunities; (iv) Building community resilience and preparedness, especially regarding the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation; (v) Engaging on justice and the rule of law; and (vi) Developing approaches to dealing with the security sector within the WBG's mandate and comparative advantage.

¹⁰ See: Horn of Africa Risk and Resilience Assessment Final Report (internal document)

¹¹ This Policy replaces OP 2.30 (Development Cooperation and Conflict) and is to be read together with OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies).

¹² Oregon State University, 2022. Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database. College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at the Oregon State University.

¹³ Wolf, Aaron, 2007. Shared waters: Conflict and cooperation. Annual review of Environment and resources, 32(1), 241-269.

CIWA's technical knowledge of transboundary water resources management and development position the program as a stakeholder that can support African governments to address some of their most complex challenges in water security. Globally, evidence indicates that investing in cooperative management of transboundary waters in FCV-affected basins helps ease tensions, promote stability, and build resilience to water shocks.¹⁴ Cooperation over shared waters has been central to multiple peace agreements and in broader inter-state negotiations.¹⁵ Countries are increasingly jointly developing transboundary waters to meet escalating water demands and to manage and develop shared river systems and aquifers to strengthen resilience to climate change. This trend, however, suggests that competition will also intensify, and disputes may arise over the use of transboundary water resources.¹⁶

The competition to access international water resources—coupled with climate change-related challenges—can create tensions at all levels.¹⁷ At the local level, access to transboundary surface and groundwater sources can create conflict and violence among vulnerable groups, for example, between herders and farmers or refugees and their host communities.¹⁸ At the national and regional levels, a lack of cooperation between two or more riparian states can cause tensions and disputes, for example, between Namibia and Botswana over the Okavango Basin or between Ethiopia and Egypt over the Nile River.

Climate change is a key variable in the FCV-transboundary waters management equation. Climate variability contributes to higher water stress in multiple transboundary water sources, which exacerbates tensions. Increased hydrological variability will have a significant impact on all dimensions of water use and water management, including greater uncertainty and an increase in extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, which can be at least partly mitigated through the data systems, institutions, and cooperative relationships that CIWA supports.¹⁹

In recent years, the World Bank Water Global Practice has created multiple analytical pieces on the intersections between water cooperation and fragility, many of which have dedicated sections on transboundary waters management (Table 1). These provide evidence that in fragile contexts, and especially those with legacies of significant tensions over transboundary waters, investment in cooperative transboundary water management can help de-escalate tensions, promote stability, and provide resilience to hydrological shocks or river developments that might otherwise act as triggers for conflict.²⁰

Table 1 – World Bank analytical work on water and fragility

Year	Title
2022	Defueling Conflict: Environment and Natural Resource Management as a Pathway to Peace ²¹
2022	Invisible Bonds: Transboundary Resilience Building in the Horn of Africa—Lessons from World Bank Regional Projects and Advisory Services and Analytics
2021	Ebb and Flow (Vol I): Water, Migration, and Development
2021	Ebb and Flow, Volume 2: Water in the Shadow of Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa
2021	Joining Forces to Combat Protracted Crises: Humanitarian and Development Support for Water and Sanitation Providers in the Middle East and North Africa
2018	Water Management in Fragile Systems: Building Resilience to Shocks and Protracted Crises
2017	Turbulent Waters: Pursuing Water Security in Fragile Contexts

¹⁴ Bousquet, Franck and Sara, Jennifer, 2020. Breaking the vicious circle of fragility and water insecurity. Washington DC: World Bank.

¹⁵ Jägerskog, Anders. (2003). Why states cooperate over shared water: The water negotiations in the Jordan River Basin (Doctoral dissertation, Linköping University Electronic Press).

¹⁶ Borgomeo, Edoardo, Sadoff, Claudia and De Waal, Dominik, 2017. Turbulent Waters: Pursuing Water Security in Fragile Contexts. Washington, DC: World Bank.

¹⁷ Cooley, Heather, and Peter H. Gleick, 2011. 'Climate-proofing transboundary water agreements.' Hydrological Sciences Journal 56.4 (2011): 711-718.

¹⁸ SIPRI and CIWA, 2021. Water Cooperation in the Horn of Africa: Addressing Drivers of Conflict and Strengthening Resilience. Stockholm: SIPRI.

¹⁹ De Stefano, Lucia et al, 2010. Mapping the Resilience of International River Basins to Future Climate Change-Induced Water Variability, Volume 2. Appendices.

²⁰ Sadoff, Claudia Borgomeo, Edoardo, and De Waal, Dominik, 2017. Turbulent Waters: Pursuing Water Security in Fragile Contexts. Washington, DC: World Bank.

²¹ Work led by the Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice.

4. Objectives of the CIWA Framework

The development objective of the FCV Framework is to enhance CIWA's support to countries addressing FCV challenges that have an impact in transboundary waters management and development. The specific objectives include:

- **Not contribute to conflict.** To do no harm, CIWA will purposefully navigate issues to avoid supporting projects that could foreseeably cause or exacerbate conflict. CIWA's projects will exclusively pursue no-regret and win-win opportunities for development.
- **Contribute to peacebuilding and development.** CIWA's effectiveness in promoting cooperation and improving water resources management will be enhanced by the application of an easy-to-use framework that allows the identification of three components: i) drivers of fragility, ii) mitigation measures, and iii) the project's contribution to peacebuilding and development. Water investments benefiting riparian countries will similarly be enhanced.
- **Generate knowledge.** Contribute to expanding the knowledge base on transboundary waters management, FCV, and peacebuilding.
- **Facilitate reporting and communication.** Facilitate reporting and communication to World Bank teams, CIWA donors, and partners on how CIWA is addressing FCV drivers and contributing to peace through its engagements.

The specific objectives are closely related and mutually complementary.

4.1 The three components of the CIWA Framework

This section provides guidance to help CIWA specialists develop a strong narrative that showcases a project's contribution to addressing the identified drivers of fragility that have an impact on water cooperation. Information related to the CIWA FCV Framework's three components discussed above must be captured on the CIWA Framework Form (Annex 1).

- **Step 1: Identification of drivers of fragility**—Identify the drivers of fragility that have an impact on water cooperation in the project implementation area during project preparation.

The drivers of fragility can be identified through a review of existing literature (grey literature, studies produced by governments, UN agencies, think tanks, or research institutes) or through primary research conducted during project preparation. The World Bank's FCV Group's RRAs, for example, provide an excellent basis for the early identification of both drivers of fragility and sources of resilience that impact water cooperation.

Task Teams can consult the following websites and resources, which can provide ideas and technical insights for the identification of drivers of fragility:

- CIWA Program (Resources)
- International Center for Water Cooperation
- Stockholm International Water Institute
- Geneva Water Hub
- Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database - Oregon State University
- World Resources Institute
- Transboundary Water In-Cooperation Network
- Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile
- Nile Basin Discourse
- Water Peace and Security Partnership
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

The drivers of fragility must be listed. Special attention should be dedicated to those drivers of fragility and sources of resilience that can potentially be addressed through the CIWA-funded project. Table 3 provides a list of general drivers of fragility that impact water cooperation and sources of resilience.²² The list is only indicative, and CIWA Task Teams are encouraged to identify alternative drivers of fragility and sources of resilience.²³

²² This list was developed through a review of grey literature on water cooperation and conflict. Some of the drivers of fragility and sources of resilience are defined as indicators of hydro-political resilience and vulnerability (See Wolf, Aaron, 2007. Shared waters: Conflict and cooperation. Annual review of Environment and resources, 32(1), 241-269.).

²³ Each World Bank RRA identifies a set of drivers of fragility and sources of resilience. The CIWA FCV Framework's list was derived from the 2022 South Sudan RRA: Driver 1: The militarized rule has led to a dysfunctional governance, Driver 2: The concentration of power by elites creates a destabilizing impact, Driver 3: Intercommunal violence influences local and national conflict dynamics Driver 4: A weak justice system perpetuates impunity and violence, Driver 5: Limited socioeconomic opportunities for youth increase their susceptibility to violence, Resilience source 1: Traditional authorities and community organizations, Resilience source 2: Agriculture as a potential source of growth, Resilience source 3: Religious actors and faith-based organizations can foster social cohesion, Resilience source 4: The role of women in building resilience.

Year	Title	Sources of resilience	
i	Armed conflict	i	Active RBOs
ii	Breakdown of social contract (including basic water supply and sanitation services)	ii	RECs involved in transboundary waters management
iii	Presence of disputed territories	iii	Active civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in transboundary waters management
iv	History of disputes and tensions over a transboundary water body	iv	Water treaties
v	Presence of forcibly displaced and migrant populations (internal and across borders)	v	Climate-change-proofed water treaties
vi	Presence of pollutants/contaminants (e.g., pulp mills legal case between Argentina and Uruguay)	vi	Informal information-sharing mechanisms (e.g., between riparian communities)
vii	Country dependence on transboundary rivers and aquifers for its water supply (e.g., dependency ratio)		

The three steps are captured in the Framework Template (Annex 1).

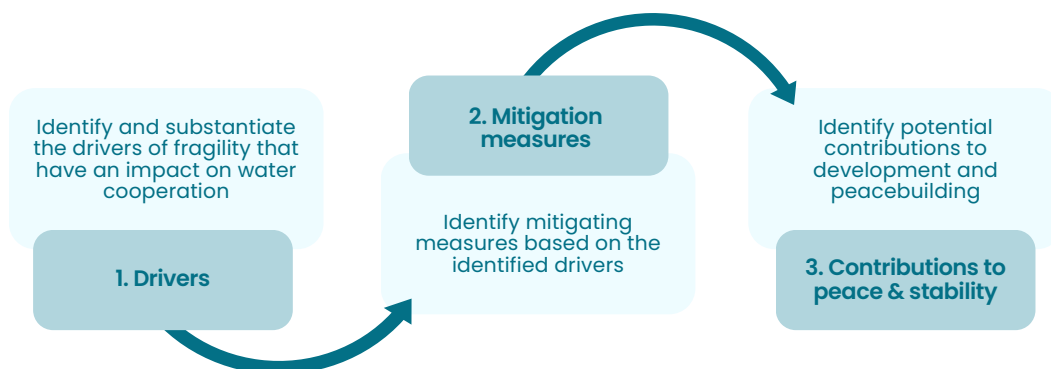


Figure 1: CIWA Framework: Analysis, Actions, and Contributions to peace

5. Applicability and roll-out throughout the project cycle

Applicability

The CIWA Framework will be applied to both new and ongoing engagements as follows:

New engagements

For new engagements, the Framework will be applied before inception. Task Team Leads (TTLs) will fill out the CIWA Framework Template (Annex 1) of this Note and submit it with the draft Concept Note for review; feedback/guidance will be provided before the Concept Note Review meeting. After approval, the TTL will meet with the CIWA Program Managers and share the CIWA Framework Template for review by the FCV country focal point. The TTL will have two additional check-in meetings with the CIWA Program Managers during the engagement's cycle.

Ongoing engagements

The CIWA FCV Framework will be tested in several CIWA-funded engagements. Based on lessons learned, the Framework will be adjusted and refined to address existing programs and projects.

6. References

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7. Annexes

7.1 Annex 1 – The CIWA FCV Framework Template

CIWA FCV Framework Template—New Engagement			
1. Activity information			
Project ID:		Product Line:	
Short Name:		Full name:	
Project Status: Concept Note		Completion Fiscal Year: 2022	
Processing			
Type of engagement	i) Sustained engagements with priority basins ii) Strategic engagements linked to high-impact prospects iii) Knowledge generation and management initiative		
Recipient-executed or Bank-executed:			
Sub-region:	Country/ies:	FCV countries:	
FCV countries (FCS):			
Requesting Unit: SAEW2	Team Leaders/s:		
FCV focal point:			
Responsible Unit: SAEW2			
Practice Area (Lead):	Contributing Practice Areas:		
Partnerships (if any):			
Project development objective:			
Alignment with pillar of FCV Strategy:			
Pillar 1 Preventing Violent Conflict and Interpersonal Violence	Pillar 2 Remaining engaged during crises and active conflicts	Pillar 3 Helping countries transition out of fragility	Pillar 4 Mitigating the spillovers of FCV
Alignment with relevant RRAs and/or with development objectives of other country strategy documents [Bullet points are fine			

2. The CIWA Framework

2.1 Drivers of fragility and sources of resilience

[List and provide a brief explanation of the main drivers of fragility linked to the proposed activity. Focus especially on those that will be addressed in the context of the proposed activity. Bullet points are fine. See Table 3 for examples.]

2.2 Mitigating measures

[List of mitigating measures that can contribute to addressing the drivers of fragility identified in 2.1.]

(e.g., strengthen technical cooperation/partnerships between riparian countries, enhance information exchange between two riparian countries, support development of small-scale water infrastructure in borderlands, provide technical assistance to an RBO to manage a transboundary water source more efficiently)

2.3 Opportunities for peacebuilding

[Identify opportunities for peacebuilding—Are there existing tensions with which this project will intersect? How are those stakeholders involved?]

7.2 Annex 2: CIWA in FCV Situations

FY23 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (37)

Type	Countries	In Africa	CIWA operates ²⁴
Conflict	Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Republic of Yemen (17)	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen (12)	Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan (6)
Institutional and social fragility	Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Venezuela, West Bank and Gaza (territory), Zimbabwe (20)	Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Sudan, Zimbabwe (9)	Burundi, Chad, Sudan, Zimbabwe (4)
Total	37	21	10

²⁴ This is a list of CIWA's active country engagements in FCV-affected countries at the end of FY23, which will change in subsequent fiscal years as various interventions are introduced and closed.

7.3 Annex 3 – External Mid-Term Evaluation and FCV-linked recommendations

The development of a CIWA Framework is aligned with the findings and recommendations of the CIWA Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) completed in August 2022. The MTE presents 34 findings that inform 11 recommendations clustered in four areas: (i) Donors and Resource Mobilization; ii) Program Design and Implementation; iii) Improving Sustainability; and iv) Learning, Monitoring, and Reporting. Finding 21 acknowledges that CIWA's work is closely aligned with the priorities of the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025 and the interest of its donors in the water-fragility nexus.²⁵ Table 3 captures the recommendations that are relevant to the CIWA FCV Framework.

Table 1 – World Bank analytical work on water and fragility

Recommendation	Related findings
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>CIWA and its donors should develop greater strategic and operational intentionality in building complementarities and synergies between CIWA interventions and donor development programs to produce greater shared impact.</p>	4, 10, 28, 31
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>CIWA should focus on increasing its programmatic resource mobilization overall and specifically to meet challenges associated with working in FCV contexts, regions, and basins and with increasing demand for interventions related to resilience, biodiversity, and gender and social inclusion.</p>	29, 31, 32
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>Without decreasing its focus on the Nile River Basin where it has delivered impactful work but also where diminishing returns are in early evidence, CIWA should be very intentional about increasing its work in other priority basins and regions of interest, given the unbalanced distribution of resources on the continent and the significant opportunities for engagement and impact throughout, particularly in FCV contexts.</p>	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 28, 29
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>CIWA should continue to improve its communications and reporting to better disseminate its added value and overall results based on the Program's Theory of Change (ToC).</p>	7, 8, 10, 11
<p>Recommendation 10:</p> <p>To apply an overall Program narrative to planning and reporting, CIWA's ToC and Results Framework should be further aligned.</p>	12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 34

²⁵ Finding 21: CIWA's work is closely aligned with realizing the priorities of the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020-2025. Its work has been informed by an intention to advance sustainable water management and development, through cooperative water and water-related processes, aiming to promote "reduced risk of resource-related conflict, improved political cooperation, greater regional economic integration," as per the Program ToC. CIWA has responded to growing donor interest in addressing water-related issues in FCV contexts including in Somalia, Sudan, and the borderlands across the Horn of Africa. CIWA is doing this through conflict-sensitive knowledge generation, information and analytics, regional institutional strengthening, joint investment support, and other project-based work. Overall, CIWA is moderately recognized by key World Bank staff as playing an important role in advancing the World Bank's work in FCV contexts.

Cooperation in International Waters in Africa