IFC’S FCS Africa Program

Supporting private sector growth in Africa’s FCS
(Fragile and conflict affected situations)

Key business challenges in FCS
- Sector feasibility under-researched
- High business development costs
- Long business development timelines
- Multiple due diligence issues
- Complex local stakeholder relationships

IFC’s FCS Africa Program provides support through a combination of:
- Funding
- Market intelligence
- Business development
- Coordinators on the ground in many FCS
- A focus on gender (a ‘gender lens’ is helping ensure IFC projects support women in business)
- A focus on conflict issues (a ‘conflict lens’ is helping ensure IFC projects ‘do no harm’ in FCS)
- Knowledge management.

AFRICA’S FRAGILE STATES

A greater focus on investment, trade, and entrepreneurship is helping many African countries build strong, stable economies. Still, in FY16, IFC classified 22 of sub Saharan Africa’s 48 countries as ‘fragile or conflict affected situations’ (FCS). These FCS suffer from ongoing – or the legacy of past – violence, and face serious economic challenges, including damaged infrastructure, small private sectors, and weak regulatory environments and institutions. Entrepreneurs in FCS often struggle to access capital and training, while governments in these countries operate with a limited tax base.

IFC’S SUPPORT FOR AFRICA’S FCS

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. IFC’s FCS Africa Program supports private sector growth in all 22 FCS in sub Saharan Africa. FCS Africa’s goal is to help fragile situations attract investment that will support infrastructure, improve services, and create jobs and opportunities.
A flagship program of FCS Africa is the Conflict Affected States in Africa Initiative (CASA). Launched in 2008, CASA is funded by Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway, and is active in 13 FCS in Africa.

**PROJECT EXAMPLE**

To help modernize Côte d’Ivoire’s Azito power plant, IFC invested $125 million of its own account and arranged a $345-million package funded by other lenders. The largest independent power generator in Sub-Saharan Africa, Azito will produce 50 percent more energy without using additional gas and serve more than 2 million people.