

State Building

2nd Grade

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What is State-Building & how promote it in fragile countries?

State building

State building is a **general term used to describe the re-construction of functional countries**, in other words countries that are capable of **providing their citizens with basic functions and services** and that meet their responsibilities and obligations as members of the international community.

Essential components for state building in fragile countries

Typically(Usually, Normally) **fragile countries** are those that are unable to guarantee the aforementioned functions to a sufficient degree.

Fragility, namely **weaknesses** in the areas of **legitimacy, authority** and **capacity**, which are also the central points addressed(directed, forwarded) when building functional states.

State building is always an endogenous process that **must be borne(produced) at local level**. External parties should provide support only.

Legitimacy:

Strengthening the social contract between state & society

Meaning

In the strictest sense of the word.

In the broader sense.

Legitimacy can be promoted

Legitimacy:

Strengthening the social contract between state & society

In the strictest sense of the word, **legitimacy means the legality of a government** (e.g. granting of authority through fair, elections...).

However, in the broader sense, it refers to the **legitimacy of the relationship between the state and society 'social contract'** and, in particular, the government's capacity to solve conflicts of interest consensually on behalf of its citizens.

Participation and **transparency** are both important factors and can reinforce(strengthen, support) **trust** in the state and acceptance of the government.

Imbalanced favor towards certain groups can also undermine (weaken) legitimacy.

Consideration of the 'do no harm' principle (in other words, the conflict-neutral establishment of measures) is particularly important during the planning and implementation of **projects in fragile countries.**

In the field of foreign affairs and development policy, legitimacy can be promoted with the following measures, for example:

- Strengthening/establishing **political processes** that help to build trust (election support, mediation, reconciliation, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption campaigns, etc....).
- Strengthening **pluralism** and **civil society**.
- **Getting the population participation** in the planning and implementation of policies and measures.

Authority:

Securing a monopoly on the legitimate use of force and the rule of law

Violent conflicts

Legitimate use of force



Policy procedures can help to restore authority

Authority:

Securing a monopoly on the legitimate use of force and the rule of law

Many fragile countries are **involved in violent conflicts**. In many cases, governments are unable to guarantee or maintain their monopoly over the **legitimate use of force** in their capital cities and key urban centres.

Other areas of the country are controlled by rebels or other groups. Authority is also reflected in an ability to guarantee constitutional relationships.

the following security, foreign policy and development policy procedures *can help to restore authority*:

- **Political mediation** in crises.
- **Reinforcement** of the military and civil security sector.
- Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of **combatants**.
- Promotion of the **rule of law** (e.g. through legislation, courts and justice).
- Promotion of **human rights** organisations and the free press.

Capacity:

(Re-)establishing basic governmental capacities at state level

- **services at all levels are basic requirements**
- **reinforcement of legitimacy and establishment of authority.**
- **(Re-)integration into the international community**

Capacity:

(Re-)establishing basic governmental and administrative capacities at state level

The functioning of the administration and public services at all levels are **basic requirements** for state duties.

This is also a very effective way of supporting the **reinforcement of legitimacy and establishment of authority.**

(Re-)integration into the international community may also be an important factor in the protection of stability and prevention of conflicts.

Typical(standard, perfect) **approaches for foreign & development policy measures include:**

- Supporting the provision of **basic social and economic services** at a municipal level (primary education, basic health services, energy and water supply, etc.).
- Promoting(Supporting) **decentralisation** and the reinforcement of municipal structures.
- Using **local structures** when implementing measures (local planning and budgeting processes).
- **Incorporating**(Joining) the government into international & regional peacekeeping structures & dialogues.

Conclusion:

state building calls for integrated approaches, patience and realistic expectations

State building is essential if we are to overcome fragile states over the **long term** and stop the **risk** of falling permanently into growing conflicts (stabilisation).

we particularly need **integrated approaches** that simultaneously address(treat) weaknesses in the areas of **legitimacy**, **authority** and **capacity** in equal measure.

These approaches also need to complement (supplement) measures for establishing and maintaining peace.

State building processes must to be very **lengthy** and are often marked(noticeable) by temporary setbacks(failure, delays) due to the limited degree of control. **Patience** is therefore important to the process of state building.

Thanks