

# Action Against Hunger: Working in Fragile States

We have work extensively in fragile states for nearly four decades. Programming in these settings is integral to the work we do and our identity as an organisation.

## CHALLENGES



1. Principled Action



2. Access & Security



3. Partnerships & Collaboration



4. Building & Retaining Capacity



5. Data & Quality Control

## LESSONS LEARNED

Strengthens reputation and allows access. Alliances with government or military can compromise neutrality and impartiality



Prioritise programme delivery, and therefore focus on accessible areas and security of staff.



Long term presence in country strengthens relationships.



Insecurity and state influence affect the collection and retention of data.

## RECOMMENDATIONS



Maintain operational transparency to strengthen our reputation

Operate flexibly, in safe areas. Anticipate change. Invest in neutral negotiators.



Focus on preparedness & resilience to build win-win relationships with partners from the design of the project to its end.

Prioritise national staff, enable international staff to stay in country longer and advocate for longer-term funding with donors for strategic planning.

Use qualitative data & multiple collection methods in extreme contexts, invest in government relationships to build trust and understanding of the value of data collection.



# Factors Affecting State Fragility

## Certain

### Protracted conflict

will continue, mostly in the form of civil wars. While a few may be resolved, others will emerge. They will be focused in Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.



### Vulnerability to natural hazards

will continue to be a barrier to reducing fragility. Disasters take a heavy toll on the state and population. Resources are diverted from development initiatives to recovery efforts.



### Security apparatus

Fragile states will continue to have weak security apparatuses that can be challenged by domestic and/or foreign actors.



### Economic inequality

remains persistently high in fragile states where it inhibits growth and is a source of tension that threatens social and political stability.



### Geographic barriers

such as mountains and wetlands, hinder the flow of goods and people, impeding economic growth and the delivery of service and promoting social fragmentation.



### Ethnic divisions

will continue to shape conflict and weaken the unity of the state.



### Unemployed youth bulge

When a disproportionately high number of individuals between 15-24 years of age is heavily unemployed, it can lead to resentment and social unrest.



### Petty corruption

flourishes in fragile states by exploiting weak institutions and lack of government structure.



## Uncertain



Conflict



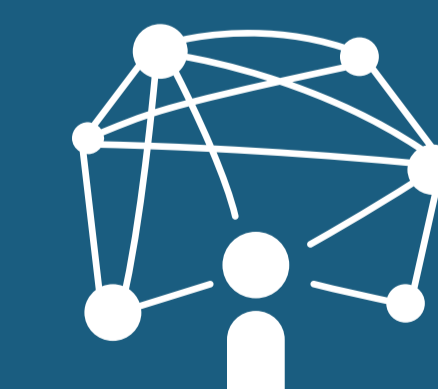
Regional conflict dynamics



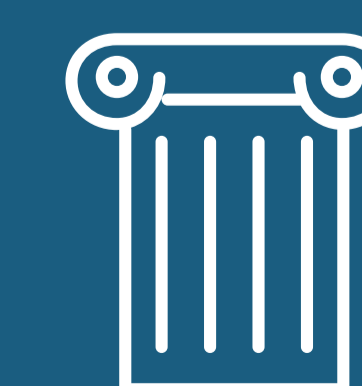
Displaced persons



Access to basic services



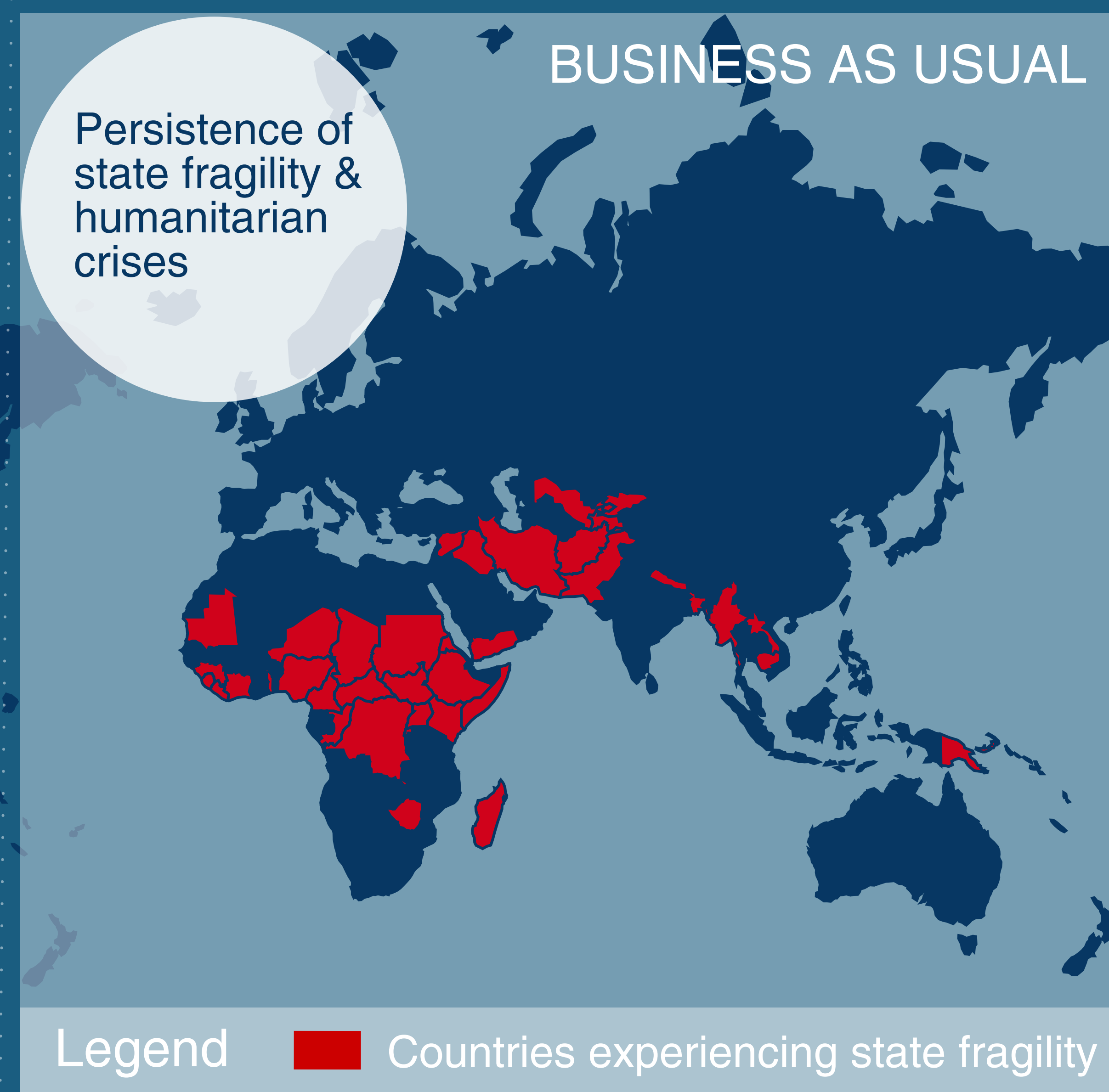
Social inclusion



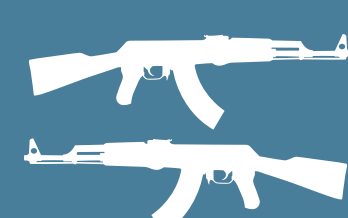
Institutional sustainability



# State Fragility: Scenarios to 2030



State fragility is the norm in large portions of the world. Calamities have swept through the Middle East, then sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia.



Conflict is a driving force that exacerbates situations, and instability spills over national borders. Regional cooperation is not occurring and governments are overwhelmed.



As crises spread, large scale involuntary migrations occur (see arrows above. Note: Europe quickly becomes overwhelmed and shuts borders).



Conflict remains a primary driver of state fragility. The world has averaged 40 active conflicts for the last 50 years. The number of people dying every year from conflict spikes over 100,000. It is only a matter of time before the next crisis hits.



Large numbers of people are still being displaced by war and natural disasters.



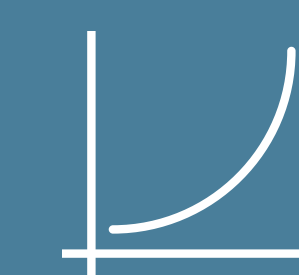
Regional cooperation and humanitarian services manage to contain situations, but little progress is being made towards building resilience.



Humanitarian conditions around the world have improved. There are less new conflicts and existing ones have not escalated or spread like they did in the past. Death toll from conflict stays below 20,000.



Governments remain relevant by proactively containing and resolving conflict, refusing safe haven to belligerent non-state actors, and are able to provide basic services to their populations even during times of crisis.



Previously unstable nations are now on an unbroken path towards greater resiliency.

The scenario projections are of how state fragility may appear under the different scenarios in 2030, based on a regression model of the drivers using averages from 1990-2015. The global level analysis is not a forecast for any one country, rather it to illustrate the extent and distribution state fragility could take given changes described in the scenario.