FRAGILE AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED SITUATIONS (FCAS) AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) GROUPS

Since December 2020, ADB has designated 11 countries as FCAS: Afghanistan, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu. These countries are classified on an assessment of the quality of macroeconomic management, coherence of structural policies, degree to which policies and institutions promote equity and inclusion, quality of governance and public sector management, and the performance of concessional assistance project portfolio. FCAS are generally characterized by political instability, weak governance and institutional capacity, economic and social insecurity, and greater vulnerability to the effects of climate change and natural hazards. While FCAS typically refers to a country, it sometimes describes a sub-national territory that has been destabilized due to fragility, conflict and violence. In the Asia and Pacific region sub-national conflict is the most common type of conflict-related violence.

There are 16 ADB DMCs designated as SIDS. They include the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Maldives. Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. SIDS generally share the same structural constraints regardless of whether they are formally categorized fragile or not, in that they face complex disaster risks and/or climate change, economic shocks, and debt sustainability risks. Their small size, remote locations, narrow asset bases (including resource extraction, agriculture, or tourism) leave most SIDS exposed to international market shocks, and extreme exposure to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change can threaten lives and livelihoods and supplying public services is complex and costly given the wide coverage of the small islands. For four of the SIDS that are atolls, rising sea levels are an existential threat. In a number of SIDS, prevalence of gender-based violence is high.

---

1 ADB has used a harmonized MDB classification system since 2013 in defining the status of DMCs as FCAS. This quantitative classification system is based on a score (less or equal to 3.2) of the overall rating of ADB’s country performance assessments (CPA) ratings averaged with the World Bank’s country policy and institution assessment (CPIA), or the presence of UN peacekeeping mission, to delineate FCAS countries.
2 ADB follows the United Nations classification of SIDS.
3 Tuvalu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Maldives