



## THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The preparation of the FSA comprised two rounds of consultations between September 2020 and March 2021 involving more than 40 parties from at least 23 countries and more than 500 participants. Parties included DMCs, bilateral development agencies, civil society organizations, other international organizations, and multilateral development banks. Internal ADB consultations involved all key departments and sector and thematic groups. The extensive consultations helped make the FSA knowledge-driven, context-sensitive, and adaptable in meeting the needs of DMC populations.

The first round of consultations sought guidance from practitioners on the scope and extent of the FSA. Initial consultations with civil society organizations in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and the Pacific; development and humanitarian organizations; multilateral development banks; and a core group of ADF donors were held during September–December 2020.

The discussions centered around critical causes and drivers of fragility and vulnerability, how to identify and address these, and on capacity building and inclusiveness. Topics of discussion included working in FCAS and SIDS environments; improving DMCs’ service delivery effectiveness; building resilience among DMCs; and strengthening collaboration and partnerships, including with the private sector.

The second round of consultations, concluded in the first quarter of 2021, provided opportunities to fine-tune the first FSA draft and better address the required flexibility and adaptability. During February–March, more than 400 representatives of ADB departments, central and local governments, civil society organizations, think tanks, academia, and the private sector engaged in more than 35 meetings and ADB management briefings.

### Consultations Round 1: September to December 2020

- External / Internal (ADB)
- Virtual consultations, focus group discussions, one-on-one meetings
- Critical issues identified
- Effective and feasible solutions discussed
- First working draft circulation: January 2021

### Consultations Round 2: February to March 2021

- Internal discussions with each ADB department on the action plan
- External stakeholders
- ADB interdepartmental review and Board seminar
- ADB approval process: March to April 2021
- Launch at Annual Meeting: 3 May 2021

