

a few reflections on

Security and Development Matters: Linking Research to Policy

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Global Fragility Work

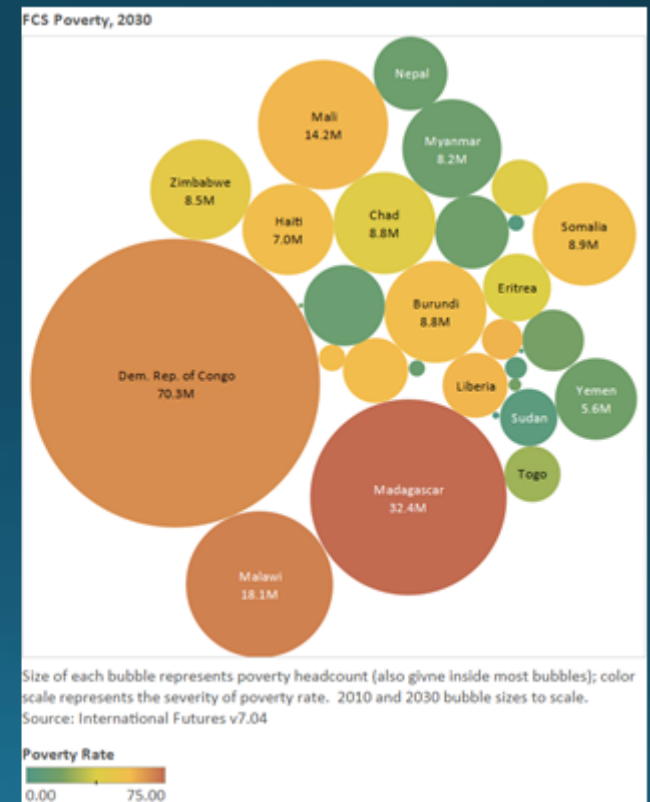
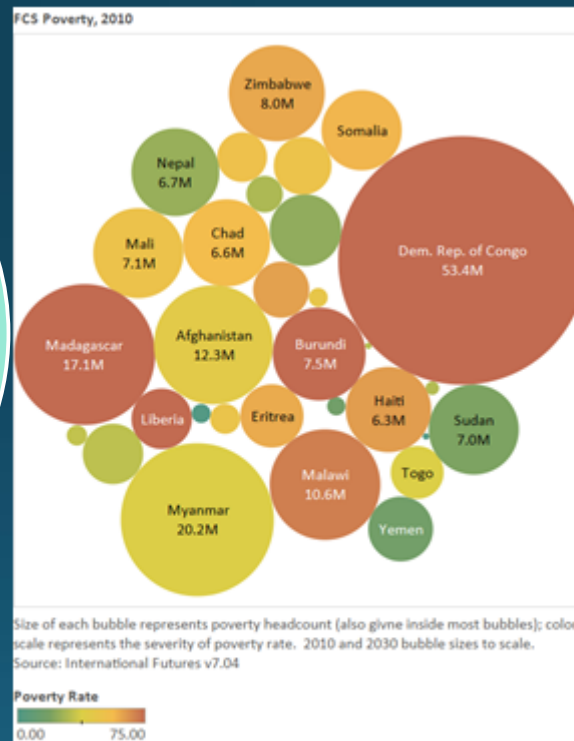
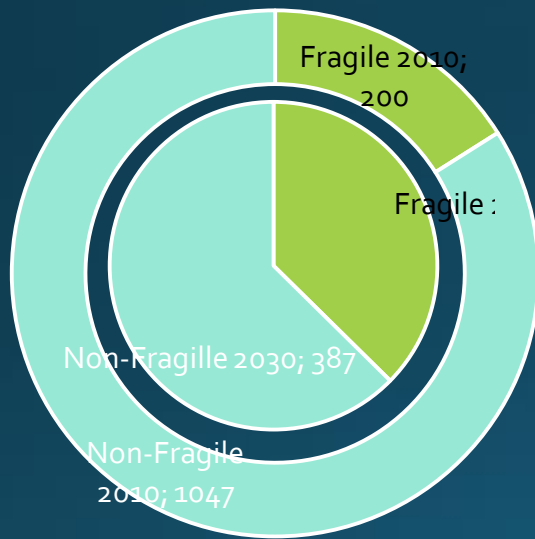
- Overcoming the research, practice and policy divides
 - WDR Background Paper and Consultation Process
 - The value of communicating your ideas to a diverse audience
- We have challenges connecting spheres – diplomatic, humanitarian, development, security
- Overcoming academic discipline challenges – economists talking to anthropologists talking to sociologists talking to lawyers, engineers and soldiers
- The North–South divide, g7+, learning from the south – challenges for new researchers

Systems thinking and wicked problems in FCS

- Systems approach as prescribed in the IS work
- In particular, FCS are usually wicked problems (Rittel and Webber, 1973/84; Conklin, 2003):
 - Problem not well understood, incomplete information
 - Multi-dimensional, so there are always “better” solutions on other dimensions
 - Solutions not right or wrong
 - Every problem is unique
 - Every solution is ‘one shot’
- Implications for policy makers and practitioners in fragile states
 - You will never have the certainty of the “right” answer
 - You will never know the counterfactual
 - You will always learn more later and wonder “What if?”

Poverty Trends, FCV

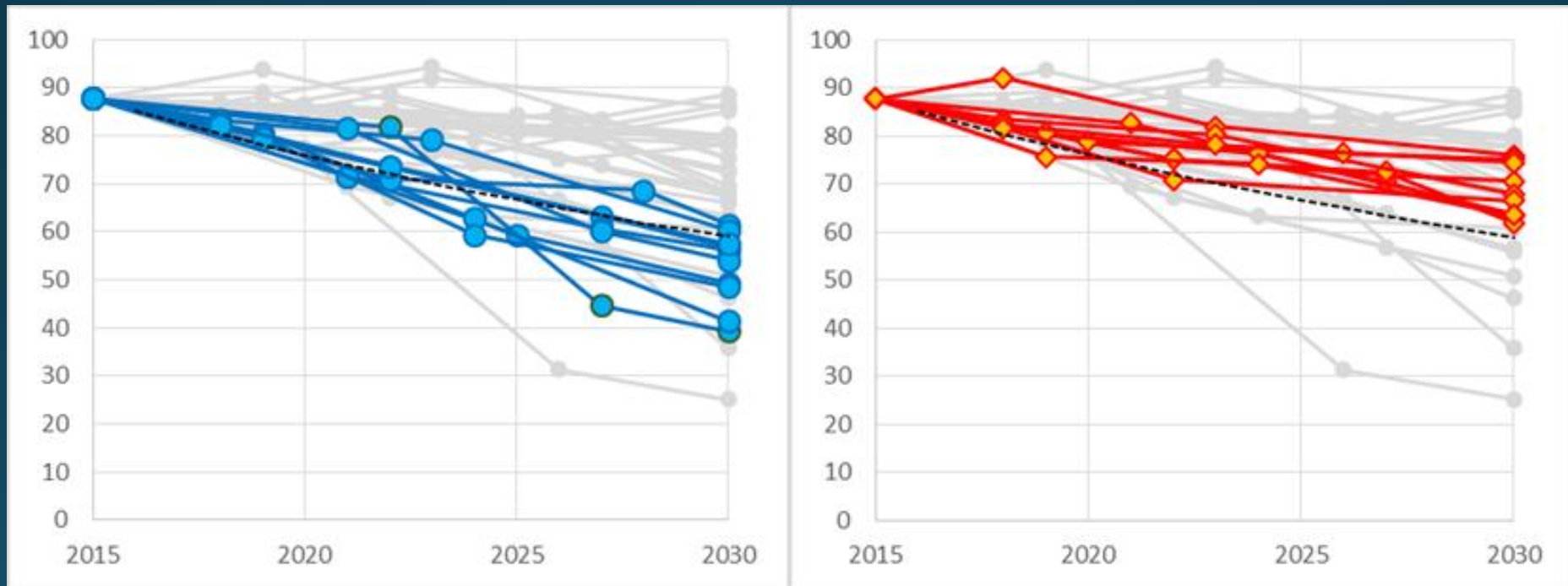
- Poverty Increasingly Concentrated in FCV
 - Particularly in Africa, in a few persistent challenges



Burt, Hughes and Milante, 2014

A Thousand Paths to Poverty Reduction

- Poverty reduction is a system process – singular in time and space, highly complex, multi-dimensional, incomplete information
- While context matters, we believe that knowledge transfers
- Methodology for exploring solution space for policymakers

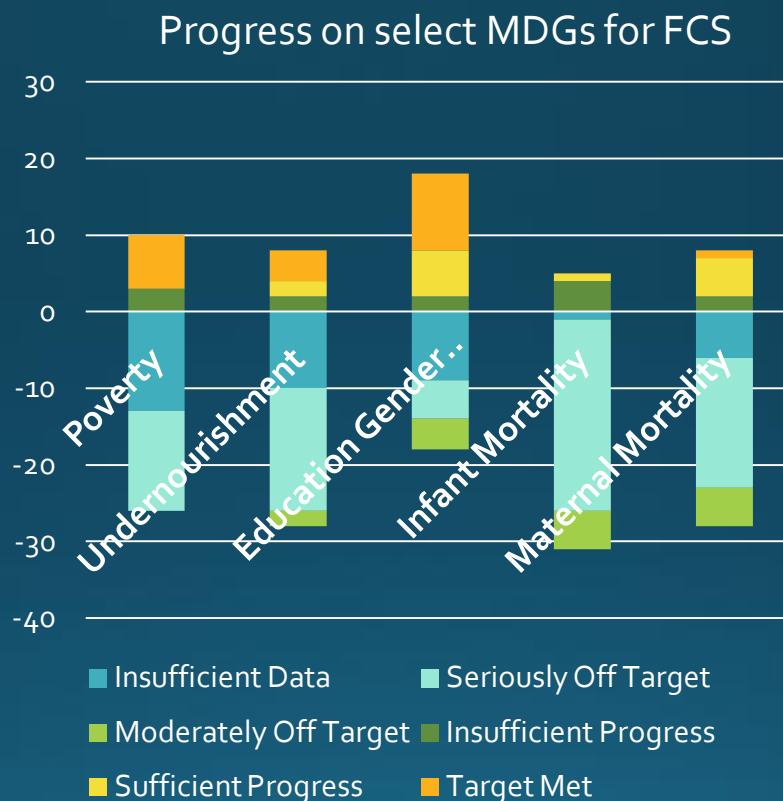


Milante, Forthcoming

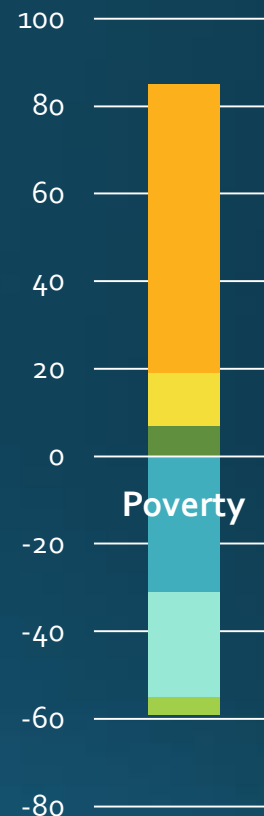
Gary Milante, "Security and Development Matters: Linking Research to Policy", keynote at final conference of the IS Academy Human Security in Fragile States "Facing Fragilities: people, aid and institutions in socio-economic recovery", 11 September 2014

Trends in MDGs, FCS

- WDR 2011 – None
- Now roughly 25% have met or are on track
- Still pale in comparison of performance of rest of developing world
- Implications for post-2015



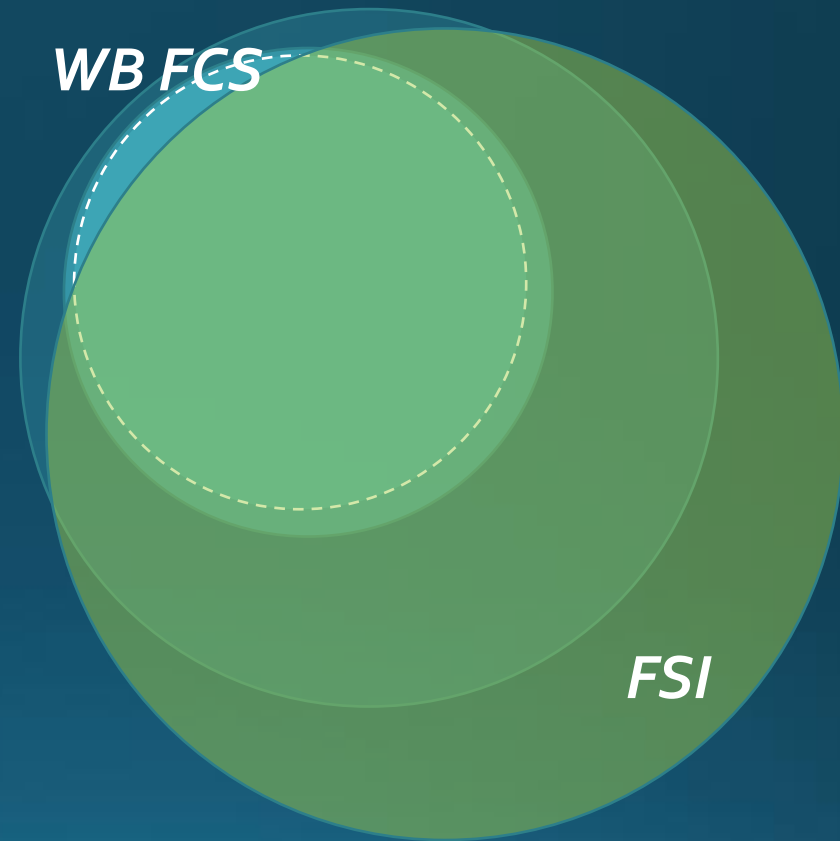
Developing World



World Bank MDG Data Dashboards

Who is fragile?

- Current definitions and indices
 - World Bank - FCS
 - Fragile States Index
 - OECD
 - UN – never “fragile”
- Evolving conceptualization
 - FCS, FCV and other acronyms
- Complex Development Environments
 - Pivot from fragility and instability to definition as “difficult places to do development”
 - Middle income countries
 - Sub-national
 - Avoid discrete (and perverse) threshold effects



Future development in FCV

- Prospects for poverty eradication and development by 2030 are bleak, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try
 - New methods and approaches could accelerate progress, particularly knowledge exchange within developing countries
 - Early investments compound for growth and development
 - New resources coming online, including new researchers
- Development, particularly in fragile states, is a generational endeavor
 - Allows time for specialization and focus
 - Allows for longer interventions, with less variance and more adaptation, monitoring and feedback
 - Opportunity for better strategic planning – sequencing is vital, though sequencing is itself a wicked problem

Implications for future research

- Conceptualization of fragility will continue to evolve
- Demographic changes – urbanization, high fertility and population growth, youth bulges
- Climate change and impacts in FCV – resilience to shocks
- New data, new methods, new approaches – new technologies, cell phone and internet penetration
 - On new data sets – absorb what we have
 - On new techniques reconcile to social science methods
- Paradox of timely policy advice and high quality research
- Middle-income challenges and issues – special nuances on engaging with these issues in more developed countries