

CIFP's Top 30 Most Fragile States - 2008

Country	Fragility Score	Fragility Rank	Authority Score	Authority Rank	Legitimacy Score	Legitimacy Rank	Capacity Score	Capacity Rank
Sudan	7.02	1	7.35	2	6.88	4	6.75	5
Afghanistan	6.93	2	7.40	1	7.09	3	6.24	28
Congo, Dem. Rep.	6.91	3	7.12	5	6.56	10	6.76	4
Somalia	6.89	4	6.79	13	7.15	2	6.54	12
Ethiopia	6.79	5	6.84	8	6.26	18	6.89	2
Iraq	6.77	6	7.26	3	7.17	1	5.38	76
Burundi	6.69	7	7.20	4	6.19	21	6.54	11
Haiti	6.65	8	6.83	9	6.72	6	6.50	13
Pakistan	6.60	9	6.74	14	5.95	35	6.45	17
Liberia	6.59	10	6.70	15	6.55	11	6.62	7
West Bank and Gaza	6.57	11	6.59	17	6.68	8	6.62	8
Eritrea	6.57	12	6.41	21	6.87	5	6.46	16
Cote d'Ivoire	6.55	13	6.81	12	6.17	22	6.19	34
Nepal	6.55	14	7.02	6	6.50	12	6.20	33
Nigeria	6.53	15	6.82	10	6.06	29	6.21	31
Yemen, Rep.	6.45	16	6.20	27	6.11	26	6.29	25
Chad	6.44	17	6.35	24	6.40	15	6.50	14
Angola	6.28	18	6.88	7	5.84	43	5.67	60
Togo	6.27	19	5.90	34	6.62	9	6.33	22
Sierra Leone	6.22	20	6.01	30	6.13	23	6.71	6
Central African Republic	6.21	21	6.09	29	6.36	17	6.17	36
Guinea-Bissau	6.19	22	6.26	26	6.25	19	6.27	26
Uganda	6.17	23	6.67	16	5.76	50	6.18	35
Myanmar (Burma)	6.15	24	6.82	11	6.45	14	5.30	80
Kenya	6.12	25	6.48	18	5.64	60	5.97	49
Djibouti	6.12	26	5.10	66	6.12	25	6.77	3
Zimbabwe	6.11	27	5.95	32	6.39	16	5.81	54
Guinea	6.08	28	5.85	36	5.90	39	6.25	27
Comoros	6.08	29	4.87	86	6.10	27	6.98	1
Equatorial Guinea	6.03	30	5.05	71	6.46	13	6.03	45

This summary table presents the latest results of CIFP's state fragility index. The current analysis uses data from more than 70 indicators that have been selected from an initial list of more than 100, with indicators selected on the basis of their relation to state fragility and their level of country coverage. State fragility is defined as the extent to which a state can or cannot provide the basic functions of governance to its population. Broadly understood, good governance also refers to the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society groups that play important roles within a state; accordingly, measures for these elements also appear within the index. Ultimately however, it is the presence or absence of a functional government that distinguishes functional from fragile and failed states. Given this fact, state performance forms the heart of CIFP's fragility index. State weakness in any of the areas of authority, legitimacy and capacity (ALC) is a cause for concern, with implications for both the stability of the country. Each is briefly describe in turn.

Authority

Any functional state must possess the ability to enact binding legislation over its population. Further, that state must be able to provide a stable and secure environment to its citizens and communities. This security is a necessary prerequisite to the realisation of public, private, and civil society interests. States lacking in authority may be unable to exercise control over the full extent of their legal territory; such states will have difficulty responding effectively to security threats, whether internal or external.

Legitimacy

Legitimacy refers to the ability of a state to command public loyalty to the governing regime, and to generate domestic support for that government's legislation and policy. Such support must be created through a voluntary and reciprocal arrangement of effective governance and citizenship founded upon principles of government selection and succession that are recognized both locally and internationally. States in which the ruling regime lacks either broad and voluntary domestic support or general international recognition suffer a lack of legitimacy.

Capacity

Capacity refers to the power of a state to mobilize public resources towards productive ends. States with a satisfactory level of capacity display a basic competence in political and economic management and administration, with governments capable of regulating domestic affairs and conducting international transactions. They also possess the basic infrastructure required of a modern state, including functional transportation and communication networks.

In comparing these results from our previous analysis¹ Sudan is now ranked as the most fragile state followed by Afghanistan and the Congo . In 2006 Burundi was ranked as the most fragile state followed by Congo and Afghanistan. Somalia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Burundi , Haiti, Pakistan and Liberia round out the top ten most fragile states. In examining the authority rankings, we see that Afghanistan is ranked top most with Sudan, Iraq, Burundi and the Congo rounding out the top five. Legitimacy rankings portray a different set of concerns with Iraq ranked the least

¹ Carment, D. Prest, Y. El Achkar, S. and Yiagadeesen S. (2006). "The 2006 Country Indicators for Foreign Policy", *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* , 13:1, 1-35.

legitimate, followed by Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Eritrea in the top five. Finally capacity rankings indicate that Comoros is top ranked with Ethiopia, Djibouti, the Congo and Sudan completing the top five. In comparison to prior rankings there is a greater concentration of fewer countries with high risk scores in all three categories of authority, legitimacy and capacity suggesting that for a few countries, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Congo and Sudan in particular, their overall situation has deteriorated. It is also worth pointing out that a large percentage of the most fragile states come from sub-Saharan Africa. Exceptions to this include of course Iraq and Afghanistan but also Yemen, Pakistan, Haiti, Myanmar, West Bank and Gaza. For full reports, a complete methodology, related rankings and policy briefs, please visit www.carleton.ca/cifp.