UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UN-ESCWA

"Good Governance in Conflict Affected Countries: Revisiting the Priorities"

4th Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Community of Practice in the Arab States Region: "The Arab Region after 2011: Issues and Prospects for Anti-Corruption Programming"

June 8, 2011



Why is a focus on governance reform, including anti-corruption, important in post conflict, transitional and fragile situations?

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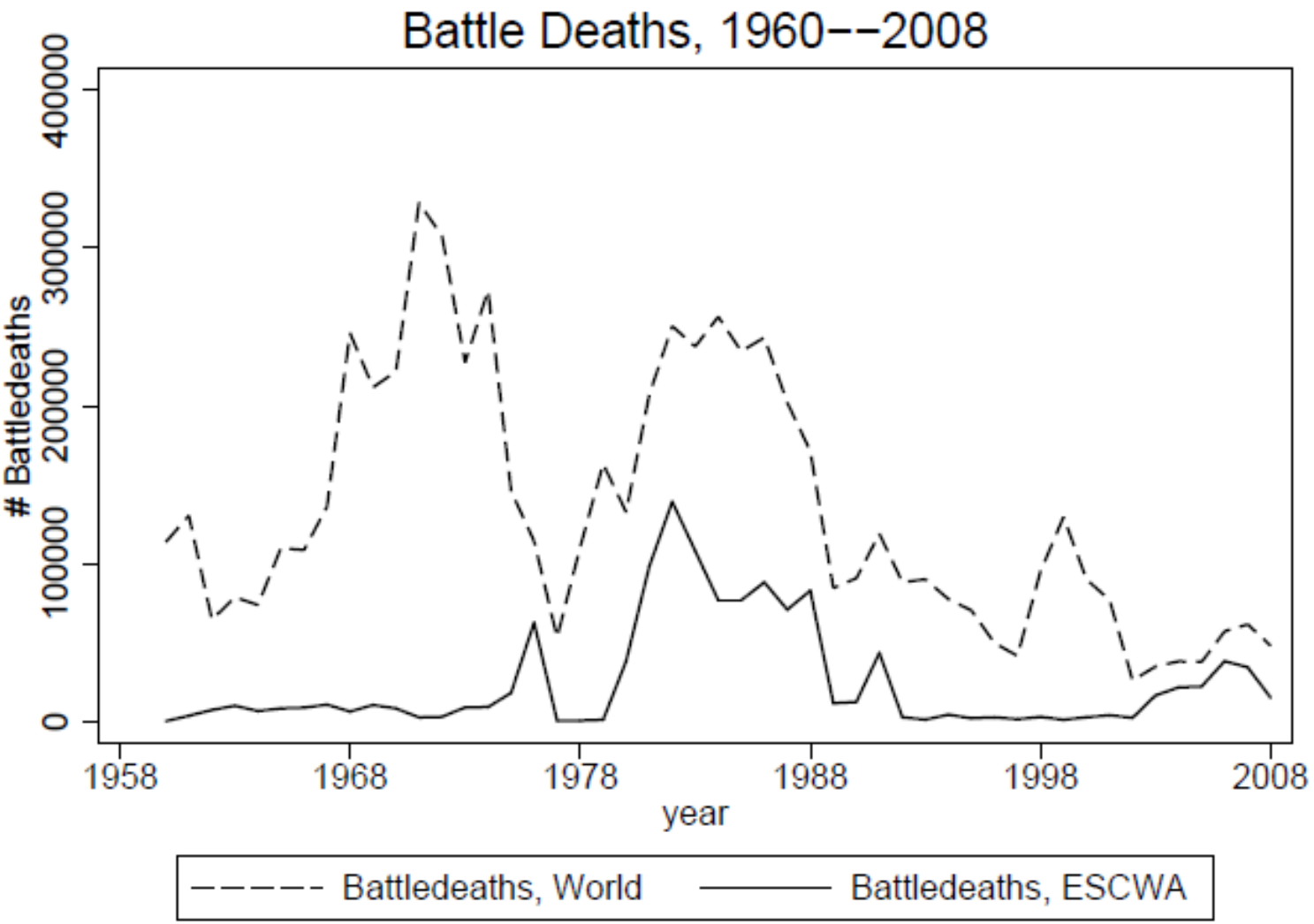
Poor governance is a catalyst for conflict.

Conflict reinforces poor governance practices.

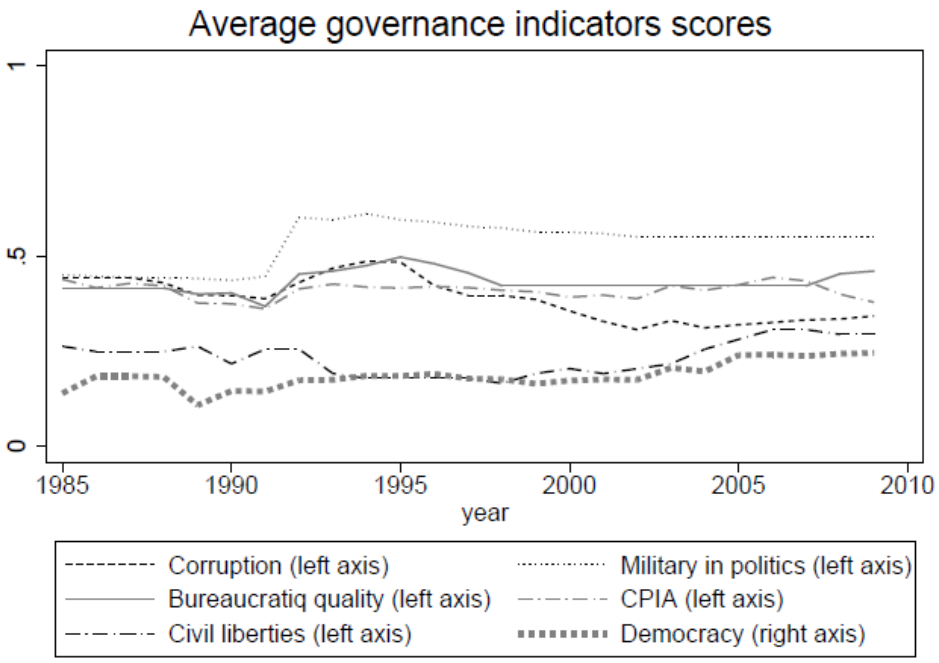
Conflict and governance: high correlation

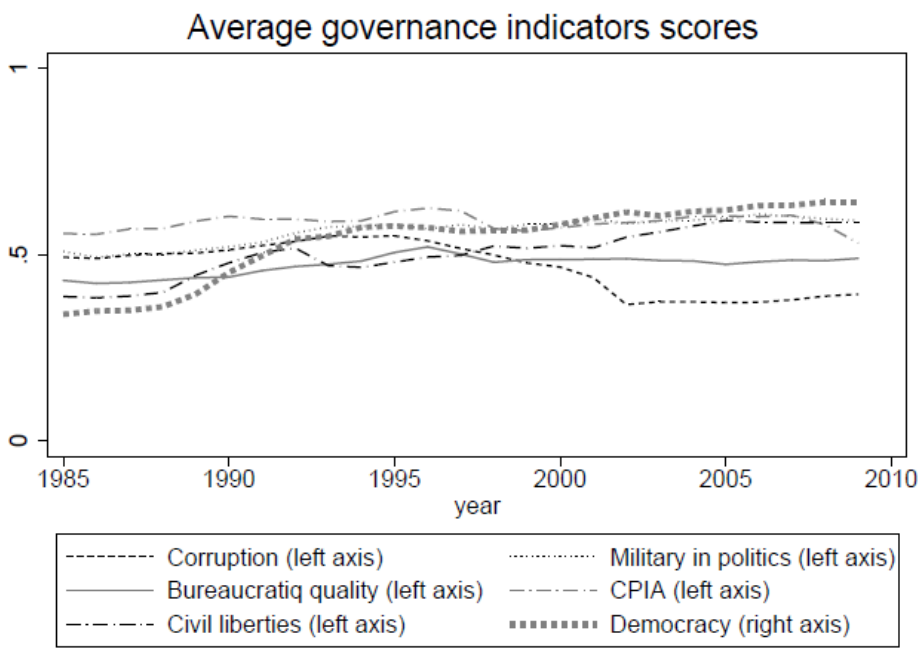
Battle Deaths in the WORLD and ECSWA Region, Internal and International



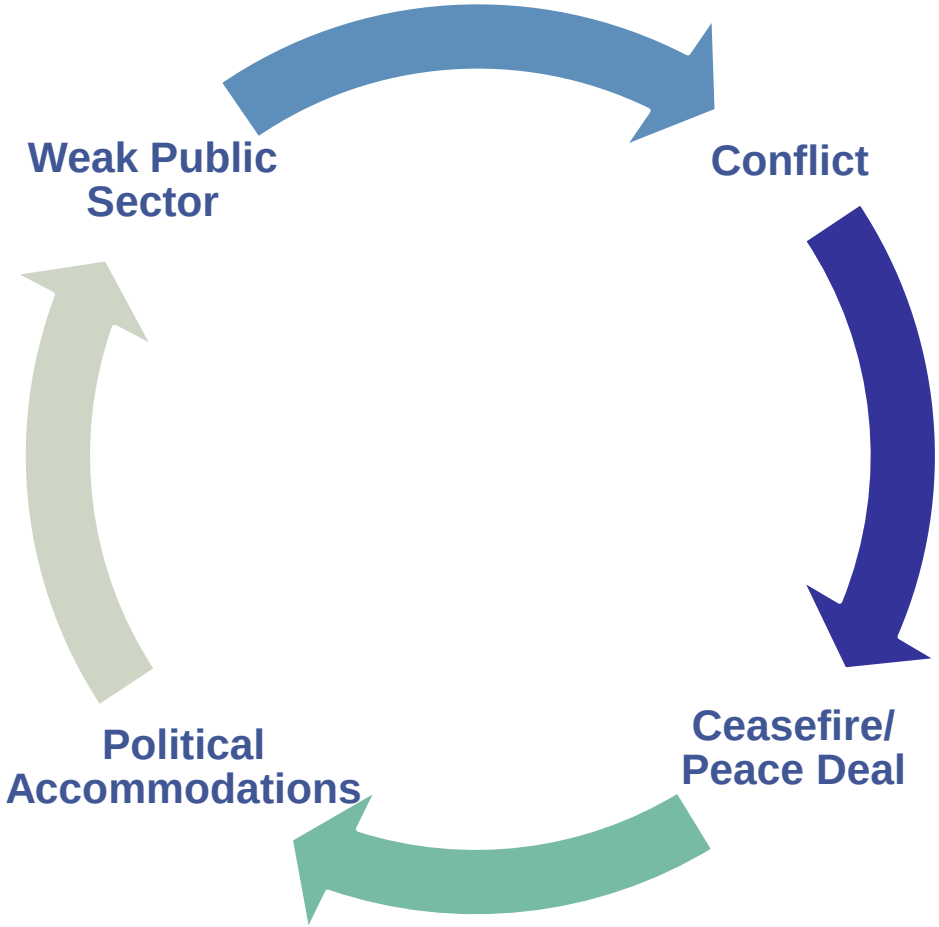
Conflict and governance: high correlation

Governance indicators: ESCWA (left) and other developing countries (right)





Vicious Cycle of Conflict and Governance Deficit



Governance and Conflict

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Aftermath of Conflict



Insecurity
Political Uncertainty

High expectations for:

- **Political and social stability**
- **Reconstruction**
- **Peace**
- **Provision of Basic Services**
- **Restoration of Core Government Functions**
- **Economic Revitalization**



Requires Good Governance Practices

The Arab Spring: some very real examples

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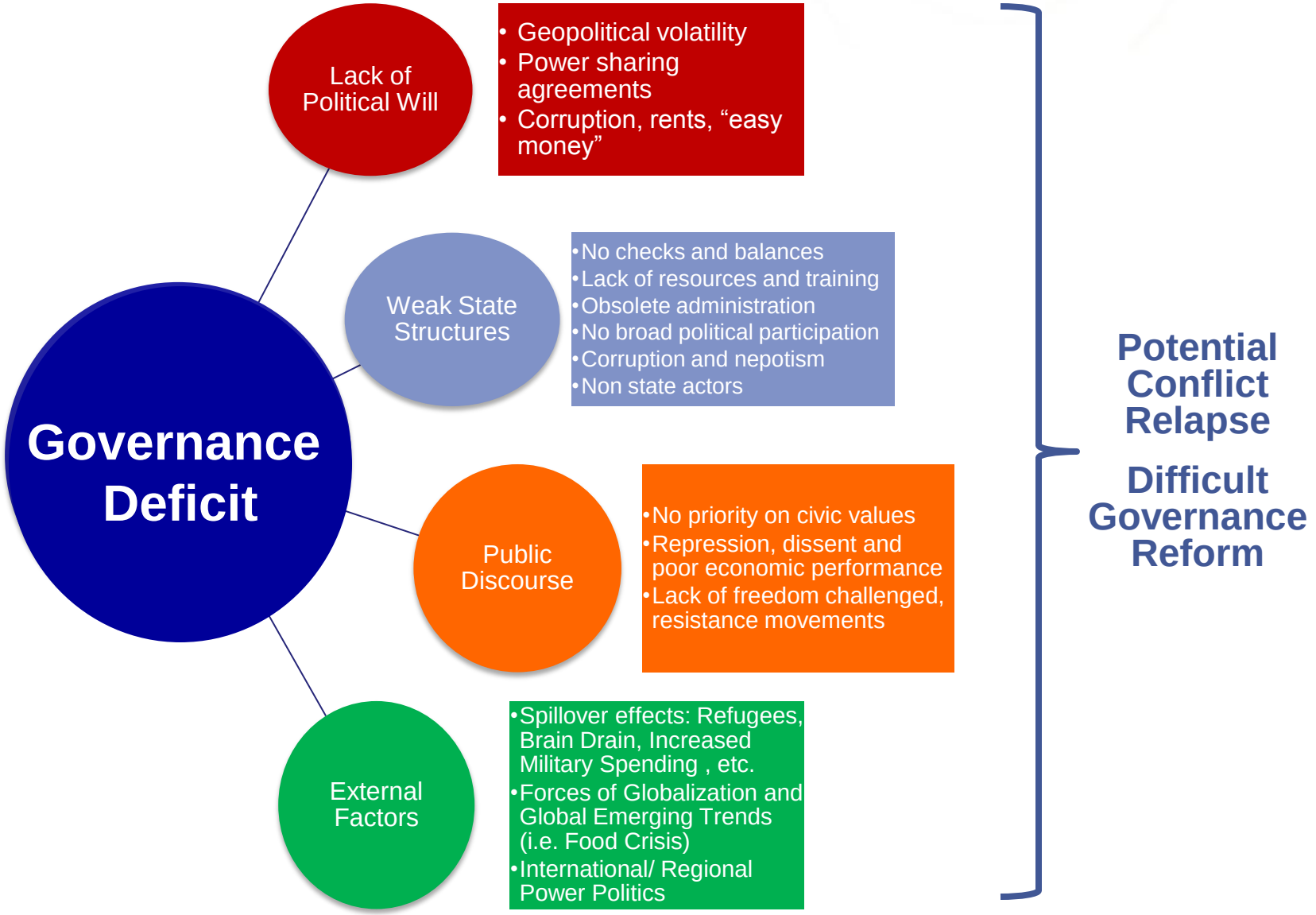
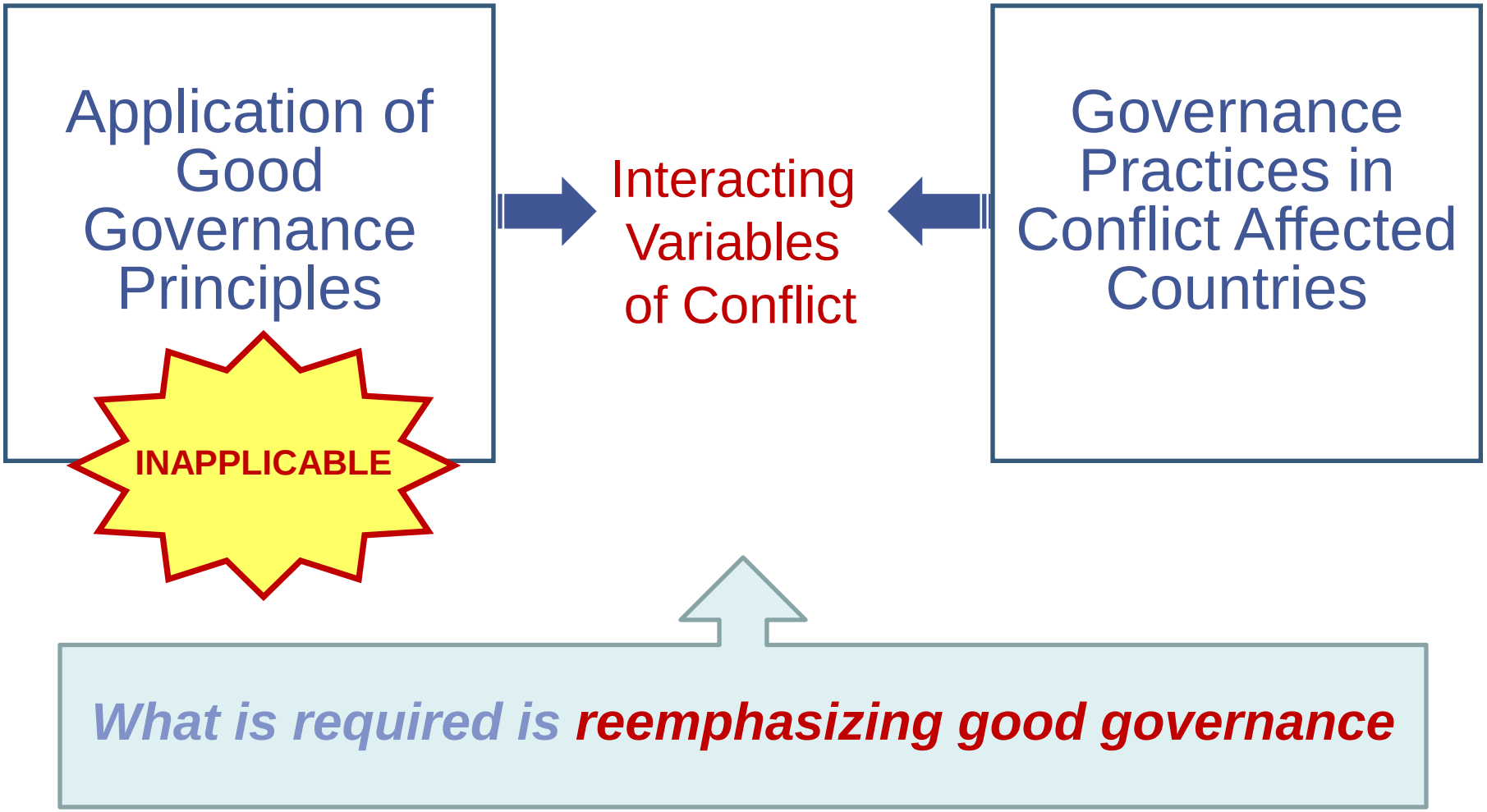
Why did citizens rise?

- Government failed to provide the most basic services
- Nepotism and predatory corruption
- Unemployment was widespread
- Restricted freedom of press
- Limited political debate
- Weak participatory mechanisms
- Police brutality, human rights violations and repression

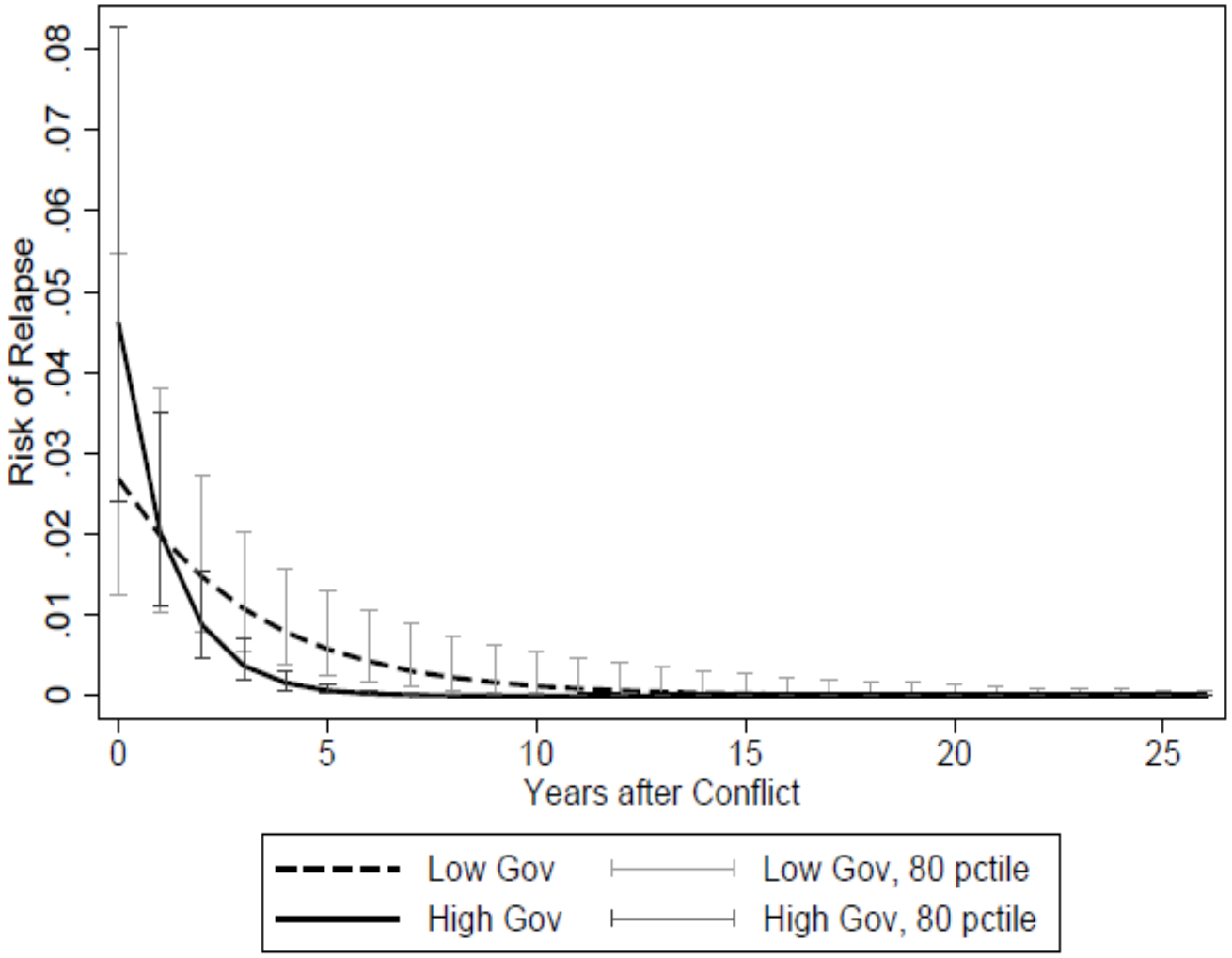
The Interacting Variables of Conflict



Reemphasizing Good Governance



Governance deficit – conflict trap



Good Governance: Suggested Approach

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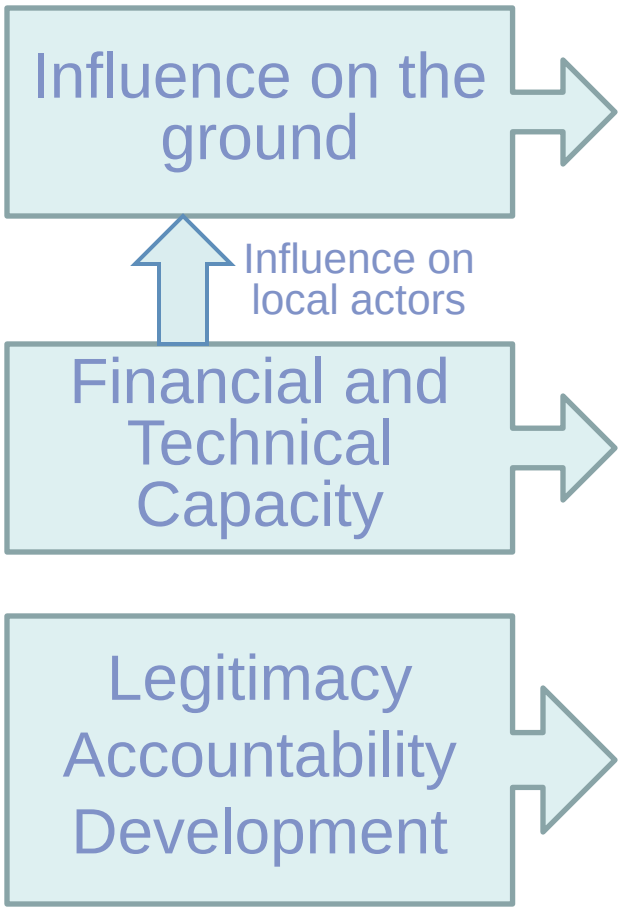
Good governance in conflict settings is the optimal utilization of resources by all stakeholders for the delivery of essential services to the entire civilian population, thereby mitigating the impact of conflict on development and strengthening peacebuilding efforts

Suggested Approach: All Stakeholders



National: ruling elite (leaders of factions, political parties, non-state actors, etc.)

International: donors, multilateral agencies (World Bank, UN, and International Civil Society)

Beneficiaries: entire civilian population, including conflict driven displaced, residents in marginalized areas or “hot spots”

Suggested Approach: Public Services

Primary focus on
Essential Service Provision

Sound governance practices
Resilience to withstand conflict



Sustainable Peace, Reconciliation and Development

Suggested Approach : Optimal Utilization of Resources



Separate technical from the political National Will (Arab Spring)

Build human resources, infrastructure and administrative legislation

Focus on essential service provision

Long term commitment to build resilient public sector

Governance *during* conflict

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In this new approach:

Public service delivery

Reconciliation process

1) Reestablishment of Social Network
2) Driver of National Purpose
3) Reinforce National Identity and Legitimacy
4) Mitigation of Political Fractures
5) Infrastructure for Development and Recovery

Concerted efforts of development practitioners

CONCERTED EFFORTS BETWEEN STATE AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS

Create a public sector that is resilient to conflict and able to address adverse elements

The only entity capable of generating donor concerted efforts is the national government and its specialized institutions:

- Aid Coordination
- Recovery Coordination
- Planning and Prevention

Civilians' basic needs are covered,
even during conflict

Thank you

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