

THINK TO DO INSTITUTE

FRAGILE STATES INDEX

CURAÇAO

Country
Report
2023

Executive Summary



We wish to thank the many persons in the Think To DO Institute and those from various institutions who assisted in the identification of data sources, contributed expertise and who offered helpful suggestions to this research initiative.

Copyright 2023, Think to DO Institute



The Think To DO Institute is an independent, apolitical think tank located in Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean. The T2DI has as its purpose to help Curaçao become a more resilient society by producing research that is based in best practice, and which delivers practical solutions to the barriers that hold the community back from becoming more resilient. Research evidence shows that Resilient Societies are created by attention to people, to organizations, to place, and to knowledge. Resilient Societies design, redesign organizations, institutions, and systems to better absorb disruption, operate under a wide variety of conditions, and shift more fluently from one circumstance to the next. For more information about the Think To DO Institute, visit the website: www.thinktodoinstitute.com

Preface

The IMPORTANCE of Why?

Why would this be important? Why publish such a report? The importance of WHY. The purpose of the report is to identify specific areas of fragility that when addressed can break the country out of the fragility cycle that it is in. Breaking out of the fragility cycle requires leadership. Leadership requires two things: a vision of the world that does not yet exist and the ability to communicate it. WHY SHOULD WE CHANGE? Leaders achieve very little by themselves. They inspire people to come together for the good of the group. Leaders start with WHY. Why are we strong or why are we fragile? Why are other countries more globally competitive? Why are we falling behind? Why should the people come together around a vision for the future. Finding the answer to why requires data collection and a focus on data driven decisions. Finding strategies from other places that launch countries out of their fragility cycles is critical to long term resilience of a country's people. At the country level, the value in repeating the index annually is to be able to focus on trends and rate-of-change, with attention paid to the individual country's indicator scores instead of only its total composite scores. Being informed and armed with powerful data to drive decision making of influencers and governments is why this think tank has made the index an annual task.

What is the Fragile States Index?

The Fragile States Index is an annual assessment of 179 countries based on a measurement of the social, economic, and political pressures that each country faces. The Index is unique, in that it is based on a platform of content analysis (using algorithms to analyze tens of millions of qualitative data points) that is then triangulated with quantitative data and qualitative research inputs. Now in its fourteenth year, the Index provides over a decade of trend analysis, including long-term trends for each country and the ability to disaggregate those trends to the specific social, economic, and political aspects of the challenges that each country faces.

Why is it important to define and measure fragility? In any discipline, it is important for policy objectives to be clear and grounded in solid metrics. For example, sound agricultural policy is based on metrics, such as crop yields, nutritional needs, or commodity prices. State fragility is no different. In formulating policy for development, metrics are important for understanding baselines and objectives. In that sense, data is critical, and where it is lacking, it needs to be generated. That is fundamentally the role that the Fragile States Index fulfils – it helps to inform understanding and response to issues of social, economic, and political fragility based on solid data. But even beyond this, the issue of state fragility is by its nature a sensitive topic. No country wishes to be known as a “fragile state” – but we cannot hope to address issues of fragility if we are not prepared to talk about it. In so doing, it is equally important that such discussions are based on fact and clear metrics, to avoid terms such as “fragile state” being thrown around casually. Conversations about state fragility need to be objective and most of all constructive, and a data-driven approach is critical to ensuring this.

How is the Fragile States Index used? The Fragile States Index is used extensively by foreign governments and aid agencies to measure their contributions toward development initiatives, and to focus their efforts in identifying further areas in need of development or support. Further, the private sector and financial institutions use the Fragile States Index to better understand risk – not necessarily to determine whether to invest or to operate in a certain country, but how to do so in an informed manner that takes account of risk that it then appropriately mitigated. And most importantly of all, the Index is used by countries themselves – governments use the Index to better understand their own challenges and how to address them, whilst local civil society groups use the Index as a tool to advocate for reform. At The Fund for Peace, they are impressed by the diversity of stakeholders who use this data; ultimately, the data should be used to understand fragility, to inform policy, and to provide a platform for constructive dialogue on collective responses to countries' challenges.

Does fragility only affect developing countries? A frequent criticism of any Index – whether it be the Fragile States Index or other organizations' similar efforts on issues such as transparency or freedom – has been that they are somehow “Western”-centric efforts to undermine or defame developing countries. But the reality is that the Fragile

States Index has been quite indiscriminate in its identification of fragility trends. For example, last year the Index ranked the United States as the most-worsened country on the Index's three "Cohesion" indicators. During much of the past decade, the Index also charted the relative decline of countries such as Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain as they witnessed the fallout from economic shocks in the mid-2000s. What this demonstrates is that every country – developed or developing alike – experiences fragility to different degrees. What sets countries apart is their resilience, or their ability to withstand shocks, and their capacity to respond effectively to those pressures. Furthermore, in a globalized and interconnected world, fragility, wherever it may be, is everybody's problem. Fragility ultimately affects everyone, one way or another.

Why are there changes in the content of the Fragile States Index Report beginning in 2023 report? In 2022, the Fund for Peace (FFP), a US-based non-profit educational and research institution and creator of the Fragile States Index, was motivated by unexpected outcomes in the COVID-19 pandemic (where some countries fared poorer than expected, while others were not as affected as expected) to look for better ways to prepare various organizations, and countries themselves, to deal with future crises around the globe, and better understand which countries may be more heavily affected by crises in different sectors.

These findings, when documenting the strengths and weaknesses of a country, can help in further evaluating what makes a country resilient.

As a result, the Fund for Peace now has two measures: the Fragile States Index (FSI), looking at the amount of pressure countries were under in different sectors (economic, political, social, cohesion, with 3 factors under each pillar), as well as the State Resilience Index (SRI), which examines the capacity each country has for managing these pressures in each sector.

These SRI pillars inform the Fragile States Index pressures by connecting to the ability of the country to manage these pressures. The pressure pillars are grouped to include data from the FSI in the areas of **Inclusion, Social Cohesion, State Capacity, Individual Capabilities, Environment and Ecology, Economy, and Civic Space**.

As a result of this change at the international level, the Think To DO Institute will also transition to include these data pillars during the 2023 analysis of Curacao. Each chapter of the FSI 2023 will have a special section which notes the impact of the indicators of the SRI on the analysis of Curacao's resilience.

Further, the Think To DO Institute has taken note that another international measure, the Social Progress Index (SPI) also gives valuable insights through its indicators of the ability of a country to provide social progress for its people. Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.

The **Social Progress Index** framework focuses on three distinct (though related) questions:

1. Does a country provide for its people's most essential needs?
2. Are the building blocks in place for individuals and communities to enhance and sustain wellbeing?
3. Is there opportunity for all individuals to reach their full potential?

Because these questions are critical to resilience and because these data are being collected in the FSI analysis, the Think To DO Institute has decided to include in its analysis a section that indicates whether the data collected can answer these social progress questions, and additionally inform the question of the resilience of the people of Curacao.

Background

As defined generally, a nation's resilience is its ability to respond to hazards. Resilience is measured by the nation's ability to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner.

Resilience

How a state responds to these threats demands greater resilience of the nation's physical, social, cultural, economic, and environmental health. The extent to which these threats are addressed, moves a state in the direction of the capacities of a resilient nation. To accomplish this and to safeguard future generations requires an ability to anticipate, adapt and respond to the earlier mentioned factors, natural or man-made, short, or long-term, local, or global. To begin the process, the existing status quo must be determined before contemplating the necessary changes to accomplish this resiliency. The assessment of the countries vulnerabilities, or its fragility is the first order of business before policy interventions are contemplated.

What are the fundamental causes of state fragility?

Every state has its own complex history of internal and external influences, and any generalized explanation of fragility will necessarily omit some factors that are relevant and important to an individual case. State-building is a lengthy and difficult process for today's developing states; it takes time to build a stable state. A historical perspective is required when considering the challenges facing newer states. As well, several other possible factors help to explain why some have been less effective than others. "Fragile states measurements" consider colonial legacy, geographical location, a lack of regional integration, border delineation conflicts, limited internal market because of size, and important barriers to effective development such as the policies pursued by the leaders and governments of fragile states. History is not destiny, and some states have made real development progress despite an unfavorable history and negative trends.

A ranking, in the end, is pretty meaningless — it is the underlying scores, and as far as they can be determined, the specific root causes and drivers of instability that must be recognized and addressed.

Methodology

Based on the international comprehensive social science approach, data from three main streams — pre-existing quantitative data sets, content analysis, and qualitative expert analysis — is triangulated and subjected to critical review to obtain final scores for the Index.

These data sets were collected from international sources, local public and private sources and from structured interviews with the private and public sectors.

These three data streams are then triangulated, applying a set of rules to ensure the data sets are integrated in a way that leverages the strengths of the different approaches. This approach also helps to ensure that inherent weaknesses, gaps, or biases in one source is checked by the others. A panel review is then conducted by the research team of the final index to ensure all scores are proportionate across the country spectrum.

The final FSI Index product is intended as an entry point into deeper interpretive analysis for the user. Though an international index inherently ranks different countries — making some more fragile than others — ultimately the goal of the FSI is to measure trends in pressures within each individual state. By identifying the most salient pressures within a country, it creates the opportunity for deeper analysis and planning by policy makers and practitioners alike to strengthen each state's resiliency.

The international comparison and local analyses of the FSI are arrived through Content Analysis, Quantitative Data and Qualitative Review. The FSI for Curacao followed the exact analyses as prescribed for all countries.



Twelve conflict risk indicators are used to measure the condition of a state at any given moment. The indicators provide a snapshot in time that can be measured against other snapshots in a time series to determine whether conditions are improving or worsening. Below is the list of indicators used in the Fragile States Index.

Security Apparatus

State Legitimacy

Factionalized Elites

Public Services

Group Grievance

Human Flight and Brain Drain

Economic Decline and Poverty

Demographic Pressures

Uneven Economic Development

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Human Flight and Brain Drain

External Interventions

Content Analysis: Each of the twelve indicators of the CAST framework are broken down into sub-indicators, and for each of these, hundreds of Boolean search phrases are applied to global media data to determine the level of saliency of issues for each of those sub-indicators in each country. The raw data, provided by a commercial content aggregator, includes media articles, research reports, and other qualitative data points collected from over 10,000 different English-language sources around the world. Every year, the number of articles and reports analyzed is between 45-50 million. Based on the assessed saliency for each of the sub-indicators, provisional scores are apportioned for each country.

Quantitative Data: Pre-existing quantitative data sets, generally from international and multilateral statistical agencies (such as the United Nations, World Bank, World Health Organization) are identified for their ability to statistically represent key aspects of the indicators. The raw data sets are normalized and scaled for comparative analysis. The trends identified in the quantitative analysis for this specific country are then integrated with the results from the Content Analysis phase.

Qualitative Review: Separately, a research team reviews each of the 178 countries, providing assessments based on key events from that year, compared to the previous one. Recognizing that every data set and approach has different strengths and weaknesses, this step helps to ensure that dynamic year-on-year trends across different indicators are picked up – which may not be evident in lagging quantitative data sets that measure longer term structural factors. It also helps to mitigate any potential false positives or negative that may emerge from noisy content analysis data.

For the first time, the results of the Fragile States Index for Curaçao were triangulated with the results of two other indexes to further identify and validate the results and recommendations: the State Resilience Index and the Social Progress Index.

Different methodologies were used in each, but the purpose of the triangulation is to determine if the outcomes will be comparable.

The **State Resilience Index (SRI)** stands alongside the Fragile States Index (FSI), as a new tool to identify capacities and capabilities in countries under stress. Resilience is the extent to which a country can prepare, manage, and recover from a crisis, relative to the severity of that crisis such as the global pandemic.

This index focuses on the dynamics between the pressures a country faces and its capacity to respond to the pressures and stressors. To understand the dynamics, we must define *pressure and capacity*. Pressure is an umbrella term for stresses faced by a given country. It is assumed to be highly variable in the short-term. This is borne out by observation where stresses, such as natural disasters or economic shocks, arise in a matter of weeks, if not days. Accordingly, pressure can be considered the driving force in the model as it evolves from an initial shock in a linear or potentially non-linear fashion.

Capacity is the resources able to be brought to bear in response to stress. In contrast to pressure, capacity is considered relatively static over the short term. Resources such as infrastructure, governance, and societal support mechanisms are not readily improved and often require years of consistent attention.

Pressure and capacity, together, determine the response of a country to an exogenous stressor. Periods of extreme pressure (relative to capacity) act to degrade capacity. Conversely, in more benign periods when capacity exceeds pressure sufficiently, capacity can be “repaired” or expanded.

This relationship is critical to identify vulnerabilities is the capacity of a country in order to address the vulnerabilities so that the country becomes a resilient state.

By conducting this additional analysis, the findings of the Fragile State Index are validated and strengthened.

The third analysis conducts what the **Social Progress Index. Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.**

Its methodology is as follows:

To evaluate country performance on each of these dimensions, this dimension must be broken down into specific actionable components. Each component of the framework is comprised of between three and five specific outcome indicators. The included indicators are selected because they are measured appropriately, with a consistent methodology, by the same organization, and across all (or essentially all) of the countries in the sample.

The overall Social Progress Index score is a simple average of the three dimensions. Each dimension, in turn, is the simple average of its four components. Each component is weighed equally. The aim this index is to measure social progress directly, rather than utilizing economic proxies. The Social Progress Index is the first measurement to do this. By excluding economic indicators, the index rigorously and systematically analyzes the relationship between economic development (measured for example by GDP per capita) and social development. Prior efforts to move “beyond GDP” have commingled social and economic indicators, making it difficult to disentangle cause and effect.

By way of this analysis the index assesses how well a country provides for its people's essential needs by measuring access to nutrition and basic medical care, if they have access to safe drinking water, if they have access to adequate housing with basic utilities, and if society is safe and secure.

This SPI framework was adopted as the third methodology to determine the impact of the country's resilience or fragility on its people's ability to thrive.

Research and analyses over the course of ten months, using these methodologies, the Fragile States Index for Curacao has been created. It must be noted that the absence of data effected the scoring in the assessment, in

that the absence of data resulted in a low score for some areas. The lack of data for Curaçao, therefore, made assessment scoring difficult.

Based on this country analysis, the degree of fragility was determined, and comparisons could be made. Knowing the degrees and areas of fragility made it possible to then offer best practice recommendations/interventions across the five areas of the Fragile States Index. The study also provided insight into possible factors that affect how and why this country is caught in the fragility cycle and allows the researchers to offer mitigating strategies. Further, the research serves as foundation for further research into how to escape the fragility cycle and develop resiliency.

Key words related to FSI: *resilience, resilient societies, fragile states, Fragile States Index, cohesion, economic, political, social, and cross cutting indicators, and state's capacities.* Other key words: *abundance/growth mindset, autonomous state, demographic pressures, economic decline and poverty, economic diversity, electoral processes, environmental protection, external intervention, factionalized elites, governance legitimacy, group grievance, human flight and brain drain, human rights and fundamental freedoms, human rights and rule of law, inclusion, institutional strength, macro/meso/micro level analysis, migration policy, nation-building, public services, refugees and internally displaced persons, rule of law, security apparatus, state legitimacy, statistical information systems, sustainability, tripartite consultation, uneven economic development*

KEY FINDINGS:

Chapter 1: Cohesion Indicators



Introduction:

Cohesion indicators focus on three areas: *security apparatus*, factionalized elites, and group grievances within the population. Because violence disrupts social cohesion, these indicators look at serious criminal factors such as organized crime, and the perceived trust of citizens in domestic security such as organized attempts to disrupt governance or violent uprisings. When looking along ethnic, class, clan, racial or religious lines, the *factionalized elites* indicators look for dangerous policies that limit safety of all or gridlock between “ruling elites”. These sub-indicators measure power struggles, political competition, political transitions or their absence, and the perceived legitimacy of the ruling class. Lastly, the *group grievance* indicators focus on divisions, and “schisms” (splits or divisions between strongly opposed sections or parties in society, caused by differences in opinion or belief) between different groups in society.

The analyses of these indicators were completed via review of qualitative and quantitative external and internal documents (international and national) available for the period of 2022-2023.

Through close analyses of the above-mentioned trends, the status of cohesion within the country Curaçao can be estimated. The degree of cohesion is a predictor of social and economic stability, sustainability, and resilience. In this chapter, comparison to specific characteristics measured in both the Social Progress Index and the State Resilience Index will be addressed.

Lessons Learned:

- The overall status of cohesion in the community is weakening.
- The gap between the various socio-economic groups is widening.
- Distrust amongst the factions of society is deepening.
- Evidence of corruption is weakening the effectiveness of security.
- Police and government officials are being accused and/or found guilty of crimes at a high rate that in the past

Security Apparatus

The scope of the indicators related to the security apparatus include incidents of arms proliferation; use of force; presence of guerrillas, militias; control of the military, presence of paramilitary; accusations of police brutality, professionalization of the police, political violence, private forces; government response to security threats. Some examples of serious criminal factors may include more than one of the following categories.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Considering that personal security is a basic human need, the rise of organized crime, the lack of trust in law enforcement and its lack of an integrity monitoring system, suggests that people are not feeling protected, and their sense of belonging is being jeopardized. Due to corruption of public entities, there is not equal opportunity.

FSI Assessment:

Security is in the hands of the government, but cases of police misconduct are reported. There are examples of the weakening of and threats to the security apparatus. Transnational organized crime is able to operate with some success due to the low state resilience and resistance to its operations and

influence in many countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Curaçao is vulnerable because of its weak or corrupt institutions and lack the capacity, resources, and political will to combat organized crime. Because of its ideal conditions for money laundering in its various, different guises, curacao, and the Netherlands, now has a vested interest in allowing its presence. The necessary “criminality fighting” policies have not been given the necessary priorities to address the impact on the economy; other topics such as climate, education and medical care have been given higher priority. There is evidence of a growing threat of violence and control of portions of the island by gangs. Because the military is the responsibility of the Kingdom, the impact of the corrupt institutions and loss of security are less evident to the community.

Score: 5

State Resilience Index Comparisons

When comparing the FSI indicators to the State Resilience Index pillars, most of the cohesion concerns are tied to the other FSI indicators in this chapter.

Group Grievance

As noted in the introduction, *group grievances* indicators focus on divisions and “schisms” between different groups in society, especially those divisions based on social or political characteristics and their role in “ACCESS”. This reference is to access to services or resources, and to inclusion in the political process.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Of the three dimensions of the Social Progress Index, the one most affected by this FSI indicator is the *Foundations of Wellbeing*. There is evidence that due to the “schisms” between social groups and political parties, citizens do not have information and may not communicate freely which contributes to divisiveness. The trust among individuals in the community, the need for reciprocal loyalty and solidarity, the strength of social relations and shared values all contribute to wellbeing and are disrupted by the actions within the population to create divisions socially and economically.

FSI Assessment: Group grievance is not being addressed and sporadic outbursts of group-based violence still occur and are often triggered by provocation events or activities, including the media that inspires scapegoating, mob violence and group-based hostilities. Numerous reports show patterns of specific types of actions that lead to escalation of group dynamics that cause group hatred, group inequities, and “schisms” between different groups in society, especially those divisions based on social or political characteristics and their role in “ACCESS”. Left unresolved this has led to increased vigilantism and the consequences of organized crime.

Score: 7

State Resilience Index Comparisons

The country is not managing the pressures that contribute to the reduction of group grievances. The documentation supports the lack of capacity in the pressure pillars of *inclusion, social cohesion, state capacity, individual capacities, and civic space*. Because of social, economic and political divisions within the society, risks arise. Because of the divisions, there is not a sense of solidarity, generosity and collaboration. Trust and confidence in the government is lacking and vulnerable individuals are not receiving basic social services and protections. Institutions and structures for open and inclusive dialogue have been weakened and there is no evidence of a national strategy or social contract between the citizens and the government.

Factionalized elites

The Factionalized Elites indicator considers the fragmentation of state institutions along ethnic, class, clan, racial or religious lines, as well as and brinkmanship and gridlock between ruling elites. It also factors the use of nationalistic political rhetoric by ruling elites, often in terms of nationalism, xenophobia, communal irredentism (e.g., a “greater Serbia”) or of communal solidarity (e.g., “ethnic cleansing” or “defending the faith”). In extreme cases, it can be representative of the absence of legitimate leadership widely accepted as representing the entire citizenry.

The Factionalized Elites indicator measures power struggles, political competition, political transitions, and where elections occur will factor in the credibility of electoral processes (or in their absence, the perceived legitimacy of the ruling class). During the assessment of this indicator, researchers considered if there is *representative leadership*, if there is a common sense of *national identity*, is there a fair *resource distribution* and are *equality and equity* protected by law.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Of the three areas of the Social Progress Index, the one area that is most relevant to this FSI Cohesion Indicator is opportunity. Although the country’s population can make their own choices and pursue higher education, the fact that the economy has become a single sector economy, has consequences in the areas of personal freedom and choice, inclusiveness, access to advanced education, retrenchment and retraining and labor force diversity. All of these characteristics contribute to the level of opportunity within a given society. This dimension of the Social Progress Index is perhaps the most controversial and most difficult to measure. Curacao struggles to meet the moral imperative to guarantee the equality of opportunity for all citizens.

FSI Assessment:

The country’s leadership, though elected through a fair election process, does not represent all, or even most, factions in the community. Social programming has been systematically defunded, and a large portion of the community can barely make ends meet. Add to this a lack of a common national identity and cross-cultural respect. The Curaçao people are a divided people that is reflected in a weak, and fractious political class trying to overcome deep divisions with the ruling elites, with no lasting success. Frequent collapse of the governing coalitions and alliances are the result.

Score: 8

State Resilience Index Findings

Since the State Resilience Index (SRI) examines the capacity, each country has for managing specific pressures in each sector, it is important to note that the limiting of economic sectors has weakened the country’s ability to manage the *economy, civic space and state capacity*. For longer term economic resilience, infrastructure and high-quality economic management are necessary to compete in a changing global economy. This is lacking. A health public square (civil space) enables robust consultation, debate, dialogue, and consensus-building so that the needs and grievances of individuals and communities can be addressed constructively. There is no evidence that Curaçao has a stable social contract that generates accountability for leaders and buy-in by the general population to a national strategy, and, there is not a consistent, long-term national strategy. The government does not utilize effective systems to build the trust and confidence of the population, nor does it transparently act in the interest of the public good.

Chapter 2: Economic Indicators



Introduction

Economic indicators are important temperature gauges to measure a nation's wellbeing, resiliency, and global competitiveness. These indicators also have a direct correlation with the social aspects and the population's ability to adapt to the ever-changing markets on the global level where the labor force should be flexible in catering to the demands of these ever-flexing markets. The indicators measure *economic decline*, *uneven economic development*, and *human flight and brain drain*.

Lessons Learned

- Private investment in tourism is driving economic growth, while the single sector economy does not provide sustainable employment for low-, middle- and high-income earners.
- Compliance issues have caused blacklisting by the FATF
- Because of the rising costs of living and general economic decline, there is a lack of access by the total population which causes basic human needs, well-being and opportunity not to be met.
- A more flexible immigration policy with more focus on foreign skilled laborers will address the labor market shortage and will eventually contribute towards economic growth
- A clear match between vocational skills and the needs of the individual sectors is important in order to fulfill the labor force and avoid more potential skilled workers to leave the island.

Economic Decline

The recovery from the pandemic is gaining momentum but is facing headwinds from inflation pressures driven by fuel, food, transportation and other import related costs and prices. The hospitality sector is demonstrating resilience and has shown outperformance as compared to the Caribbean during 2021 and 2022. Continued recovery in the hospitality sector in conjunction with higher private investment, particularly in tourism, and favorable employment dynamics this year would support real growth of about 6 percent.¹

However, lingering effects from the closure of the refinery means that growth is not yet broad-based and could delay full recovery to pre-pandemic levels to 2025-26. Other developments that may impact further economic growth are both the challenges that Damen Shipyards Group is having for economic survival, and the compliance issues the island is facing to avoid being blacklisted by the FATF reviewed by FATF next year. This requires much preparation from government, and so far, there is no indication of such. This review will also take a close look at the pending online gaming law.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Because economic growth drives the social and economic success of the country, the degree of economic decline directly affects all three areas of the SPI: basic human needs, well-being and opportunity. The population's capacity to survive and thrive are threatened and affected by the degree of economic decline in the country. The loss of opportunity because of the weakening of the economy, the loss of job opportunities and the types of jobs available in the single sector economy that calls for low-income workers weakens the population's ability to make their own choices and participate in the economy. It is the moral imperative the country to guarantee the equality of opportunity for ALL citizens.

FSI Assessment

A one-pillar economy, a refinery that is not likely to be restarted, and a governmental apparatus that needs immediate reform on all levels, Curaçao still finds itself in a high-risk environment. The

administrative financial measures that were taken on short term basis has helped government tax revenues and compliance. Although the efforts to improve revenue mobilization, in principle, can be applauded. Sustainable public finances requires more than that; it requires long term budget discipline and optimal debt management to put finances on a sustainable track. However, the lack of a structural fiscal reform puts the government future budgets in uncertain waters, especially when you have financial events such as the Ennia and Giro that draws on both the CBCS and government's financial resources. Reforms can best be implemented with Kingdom assistance and long-term financing, where benchmarking and goals are set for the next 5-7 years.

Score: 7

State Resilience Index Comparisons

The pillars of resilience that are weak in this indicator's comparisons *are inclusion, state capacity, individual capabilities, economy and civic space*. First and foremost, there is not robust consultation, debate and dialogue with consensus about the national strategy and vision for the total population. People with the community do not have a sense of belonging, socially, economically or politically. Individual capabilities are not being developed through education and life-long learning opportunities to match the changing and necessary skills for current and future employment. There is not high-quality economic management necessary to compete in the changing global economy.

Human flight and Brain Drain:

Even before the pandemic, the decline in the refining sector – historically one of the largest employers of skilled labor – led to negative trends in employment, contributed to emigration and resulted in skills mismatches as the economy transitioned to a new growth model. The pandemic aggravated these trends, resulting in population decline of almost 6% since 2016 and a reduction of private employment by 17 % during the same period.² Labor market mobility in this case is unidirectional since skilled workers can easily move to The Netherlands and even some that went to other Caribbean islands. Replacing them is difficult due to immigration barriers. A possible alternative is becoming an associate member of Caricom where exchange of labor could serve our medium-term employment and skills needs.

Also, a more flexible immigration policy with more focus on foreign skilled laborers will address the problem and will eventually contribute towards economic growth. As long as our economy is very much dependent on skilled/ vocationally trained workers, we need to (at least temporarily) open up our borders to allow people with these skill sets to immigrate. Meanwhile, our vocational schools need to step up to the plate and prepare our next generation of skilled workers, otherwise the temporary import of skilled workers become permanent. A clear vision is needed where and in which sectors we need to invest, in order to broaden our economic base. The vision and policy have to be part of the overall structural reform.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

All three dimensions of the Social Progress Index are effect in this indicator comparison. When there is not a well-planned and structure for economic reform, the people are not able to be gainfully employed and, therefore, their *basic human needs* cannot be met, their *well-being* is unhealthily affected, and in the face of lack of *opportunity*, they leave.

FSI Assessment

The transition to only the hospitality industry has not stimulated the educational system to create the necessary skills in order to produce a skill set work force for this industry. The indirect workers with other skills to support this industry is also not up to par. It looks as if the vocational schools are not going to catch up, causing international hotel chains to import temp workers from abroad to fulfill the vacuum. Several years ago, when it became clear that the refinery was not going to reopen, many skilled laborers left the Island and went to The Netherlands or other islands in the Caribbean. Although the contracting business sector has picked up after the Covid period. There are also many skilled workers from Latin

² Ibid.

America who have started working for local contractors. The continuous mismatch between the educational system and the business sectors will drive the local unskilled people from the island. Last but not least, when people start questioning the integrity of government institutions (such as CBCS or civil servants) they may choose a country where such integrity is higher valued.

Score 8

State Resilience Index Comparisons

As stated in the previous indicator, because there is not a clear economic vision and plan for economic growth, there is a lack of trust and respect in the civic space for the government. Further, because people's human rights and dignity are not honored and a focus of the government there is a weakening of the individuals growth capacity, the consequence of which is human flight and brain drain. The pillars of the SRI they are affected, therefore, are *individual capabilities, state capacity, economy, civic space*.

Uneven Economic Development

Ever since the refinery closed and the uncertainty of reopening, has led to emigration and the loss of a sector learning platform. The learning platform catered to both the petrochemical and contractors work force, whereby the vocational schools assumed a complementary function. These vocational schools have now become the primary educators for our next generation skilled workers, not only for the technically skilled but also for the service-oriented hospitality sector that has now become the major economic pillar.

A clear match between vocational skills and the needs of the individual sectors is important in order to fulfill the labor force and avoid more potential skilled workers to leave the island. The low-income uneducated work force will remain unemployed, and the labor participation rate will decrease. Curacao need to make sure that its potential work force is equipped to fulfill these job opportunities and thereby improve their wellbeing and career opportunities. Closing of the refinery but also the effects of Covid have deteriorated the job opportunities for the next generation workers and will keep deteriorating if our education system does not take drastic and serious action.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Reflected in this indicator is the fact that the building blocks necessary for individuals and the community to enhance and sustain well-being are not in place. Opportunities are not being created and prepared for the current or next generation. Curacao struggles to meet the moral imperative to guarantee the equality of opportunity for all citizens.

FSI Assessment

Inequality has existed for more than a decade but has deteriorated due to an educational mismatch and business. Having to import workers from abroad to fulfill the job and profile needs, makes the unskilled local laborers feel like second rate citizens that are socially and financially excluded from the labor participation process and at least part of a minimum level of wellbeing. After covid this inequality has become worse and deteriorated the lower income and lower educated amongst us, displaced in our social wellbeing. For development and growth to benefit all, a clear inclusion policy is needed, which is currently not the case. To the extent that efforts are being made (e.g., improving access to banking services), the country runs the risk of these not giving results because of the absence of an inclusion policy.

Score 8

State Resilience Index Comparisons

Curaçao is not prepared to meet the pressures connected to state resilience. Because it is not a diverse and innovative economy with access to capital, it is more vulnerable to price shocks and supply-chain disruptions, and it will not be able to recover quickly after an economic or environmental disaster. The necessary economic and physical infrastructure, and economic management are not sufficient to compete in the changing global economy.

Chapter 3: Political Indicators



Introduction

Amongst the indicators of fragility and vulnerability that help define the countries considered as fragile, are the Political Indicators. They basically cover the potential of de-legitimization of the state by amongst others the rise of factionalized elites and intervention of other states or external factors, progressive deterioration of the public service, and widespread violation of human rights and its legal infrastructure. Availability of statistics (timeliness and quality-wise) is critical for an acceptable assessment of the above. In the case of the political indicators this has proven to be very difficult. For development interventions to be effective, the absence of data to assess what the real status of affairs is, makes it difficult to construct the right policy interventions to address any aspect of fragility.

Lessons learned:

State legitimacy :

- No indication of significant progress on issues identified in the FSI 2022 report
- No indication of significant progress on completion of the election governance framework
- More can be done on combating public corruption
- The possible consequences of external factors on the success of local revenue mobilization efforts
- No attention for the role of independent oversight institutions

Public services

- No indication of significant progress on issues identified in the FSI 2022 report
- Poor progress of land package in general
- Lack of oversight on state owned and semi-public entities
- Lack of public housing becoming a more pressing issue

Human rights/Rule of law

- No indication of significant progress on issues identified in the FSI 2022 report
- Some progress identified with respect to capacity issues in the law enforcement chain
- Proposal of KPK of a “small claims court”

State legitimacy

State legitimacy is the concept that a given state has moral responsibility for and authority within a society. It refers to the grounds on which citizens and rulers alike accept the legal and political legitimacy of a governing entity. A state is considered to be legitimate when it is recognized by the people and the citizens accept it as an authority, and not only blindly obey it. The concept of state legitimacy is important in today's world, as many countries face political upheaval or contentious governance. In order for a state to be recognized and recognized as legitimate, it must adhere to certain standards and principles.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

For countries that wish to improve their social progress, it is important for them to foster and uphold the legitimacy of their state. This is done through the promotion of trust and adherence to international laws and norms, and the implementation of policies that aim to ensure the rule of law, justice, and equity.

When citizens are able to trust their government, they are more likely to actively participate in society and take part in building upon its progress. This trust also helps to spur economic growth, as businesses are more willing to invest when they are confident in the legitimacy of the state. Likewise, the legitimacy of the state also enhances the conditions for less conflictive society, and leads to greater stability. In this

way, state legitimacy plays an important role in promoting social progress. However, this will remain a difficult task considering the abovementioned weaknesses identified.

FSI Assessment:

State legitimacy is an important concept in today's world. To be accepted as legitimate, a state must be based on principles of equality, justice and representation and it must demonstrate its commitment to those principles. As such, elections, integrity, independent oversight, and taxes are amongst the vital components of government legitimacy. Free, fair and frequent elections are essential for providing citizens with the assurance that their government is genuine in its representation of them. Furthermore, exhibited government integrity in all its matters, independent oversight, combined with responsible taxation, increases citizens' trust in their government. As such, apart from the fact that in terms of output no visible action has been taken to address last year's issues, understanding the importance of and addressing this year's issues mentioned earlier is crucial for the general public's recognition of state legitimacy. And therefore, the conclusion is that in terms of outcome little has changed.

Score: 10

State Resilience Index Comparisons

Unfortunately, all pillars of the State Resilience Index are negatively impacted by the data reported in this indicator of the FSI. Most profound is the weak *State Capacity*. The government does not have effective systems, nor the trust and confidence of the population to act in the interest of the public good. Because of its lack of interest in systemic civil space engagement, and the lack of investment in its people and economy, it will not easily mobilize collective action when faced with crisis.

Without legitimate authorities enforcing the rule of law (due to amongst others lack of capacity), the illegitimate actions of corrupt individuals or groups are further enabled, ultimately leading to a deterioration of public safety and social services. Additionally, such state fragility renders citizens in less empowered positions in terms of their civil rights, leading to (indirect) suppression of speech, and access to services. Alongside the negative impacts on citizens' rights, a lack of public services and human rights affects individuals in terms of their mental and physical health. For example, there is an increasingly documented link between a lack of mental health services, and prolonged poverty. These factors further hinder social progress, as mental health issues can greatly impact educational and economic opportunities as well as personal and professional development.

Public services

Public services are those services that exist to protect the public, in areas such as health, safety and the environment. These services are provided by government, and can also include non-governmental organizations (corporations or foundations) and voluntary bodies. Public services are important as they ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens, providing an essential support to the functioning of society. Public services can be categorized into two main types: essential services and additional services. Essential services are those that are considered necessary for the health and safety of the general population, such as water, electricity, waste disposal, fire and police services, education and health care. Additional services are those that are not essential, but are still important for social and economic development, such as transport, communications, recreation and culture.

Public services are essential for the protection and well-being of citizens. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that these services are maintained and funded to ensure that everyone can access them easily and without financial burden. They ensure that certain standards and regulations are met in the delivery of goods and services to the public. For example, water and electricity provision is regulated to ensure that supplies remain safe and within environmental standards.

Public services play a vital role in the development of any society, as they ensure that the public is provided with basic needs and services that are of a high standard. They provide economic stability and growth, as well as social cohesion. They help to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of citizens. Additionally, public services are responsible for providing essential services such as health care and emergency services, which protect the lives of

citizens in times of crisis. One of the most important public services institutions is public education. Public education is essential to ensure a literate, informed population and provides the opportunities for citizens to reach their full potential.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

Poor public services can have a tremendous impact on all three basic aspects of the social progress index. Many of these services are not only crucial for those living in poverty in particular, but help ensure that everyone has access to essential goods and services that improve their quality of life in general. In addition, these services can reduce economic ‘divides’, promote economic growth. As such, addressing the abovementioned developments are crucial in terms of improving the social progress index.

FSI Assessment:

In conclusion, public services are important for the functioning of any society. They help to maintain economic and social stability, reduce poverty and improve living standards, while also providing essential services such as health care and emergency services. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that these services are adequately funded and maintained in order to ensure that all citizens can access them at an affordable cost. In terms of outcome not much has changed. We are still battling the same problems, and in addition it is becoming clear that there is little effective oversight on the independent institutions that provide this myriad of services.

Score: 8

State Resilience Index Comparison

The provision of basic services offered by governments is essential in ushering in social progress, and public service delivery reflects successful state legitimacy and governance. In other words, when a state is seen as legitimate, citizens are more likely to comply with its laws and authorities and, more crucially, trust the government’s ability to deliver the necessary public services. However, when state legitimacy is poor due to extreme political division and consequent societal division, or simply a lack of trust in government or its authorities, it becomes much more difficult to provide public services and protect human rights and rule of law.

Human Rights and Rule of Law

Human rights and the rule of law are two fundamental components of a modern, equitable society, and are integral to the understanding of justice and equity. Human rights are a set of fundamental rights that all individuals enjoy simply as a result of being human; they are rights that are inherent and immutable, and are essential to human dignity. The rule of law, on the other hand, is the legal framework which governs the exercise and enforcement of these rights.

Human rights are codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1948. This declaration states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”, and sets out 30 articles concerning different aspects of international law. These rights include the right to life, liberty, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right not to be subject to torture, slavery, and arbitrary arrest or detention.³ Furthermore, human rights assert the fundamental right to human dignity, which means that individuals should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, gender, religion, or social class.

Civil society organizations are a key part of the rule of law. Such organizations provide for important checks and balances against government powers, and work to advocate for the rights of citizens.

Social Progress Index Comparisons

In terms of the three dimensions of the SPI, Curacao is weak. The data supporting this indicator of the FSI illustrates that the country falls short in providing equally for the people's most essential needs. It further demonstrates that the necessary building blocks are not in place for individuals and community to enhance and sustain well-being. And lastly, because their rights are not equally guaranteed and the freedom of opportunity through education and employment are not guaranteed, one can conclude there the moral imperative to guarantee opportunity equally to all citizen is absent.

FSI Assessment:

In conclusion, human rights and the rule of law are essential components of a modern and effective society, and should be protected and upheld by all governments and citizens. It is essential that democratic states create strong laws that protect human rights, and that these laws are enforced fairly and consistently. It is also important that citizens have the knowledge and resources to be able to access and exercise their rights, and to seek redress for violations of their rights. By creating and maintaining a legal system that respects and protects human rights and the rule of law, justice, fairness, and dignity are safeguarded and ensured for all. Although there are some indications of progress, outcome of the sector remains a challenge. However, based on the Law Enforcement Council observation in their latest report, there is reason to give this year a different score.

Score: 7

State Resilience Index Comparisons

The lack of trust and recognition of the government's legitimacy eventually leads to a decrease in the services that governments are supposed to provide, such as quality education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and access to technology. The results of poor public services and lack of human rights/rule of law are particularly damaging to youth and women populations, as education and employment opportunities are severely limited while discrimination, and abuse become rampant. Without access to basic needs as well as social, political, and economic rights, many citizens are not able to reach their full potential in terms of health, education, and job opportunities, hindering any sort of progress that could be made in the future. This is further compounded when state legitimacy is weak, leading to a lack of public confidence and trust in the government.

Without legitimate authorities enforcing the rule of law (due to amongst others lack capacity), the illegitimate actions of corrupt individuals or groups are further enabled, ultimately leading to a deterioration of public safety and social services. Additionally, such state fragility renders citizens in less empowered positions in terms of their civil rights, leading to (indirect) suppression of speech, and access to services. Alongside the negative impacts on citizens' rights, a lack of public services and human rights affects individuals in terms of their mental and physical health. For example, there is an increasingly documented link between a lack of mental health services, and prolonged poverty. These factors further hinder social progress, as mental health issues can greatly impact educational and economic opportunities as well as personal and professional development.

Chapter 4: Social and Cross-Cutting Indicators



Introduction

The Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Indicators measure the pressure upon states caused by the forced displacement of large communities because of social, political, environmental, or other causes, measuring displacement within countries, as well as refugee flows into others. The indicator measures refugees by country of Asylum, recognizing that population inflows can put additional pressure on public services, and can sometimes create broader humanitarian and security challenges for the receiving state, if that state does not have the absorption capacity and adequate resources.

The Indicator also measures the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Refugees by country of origin, which signifies internal state pressures as a result of violence, environmental or other factors such as health epidemics. These measures are considered within the context of the state's population (per capita) and human development trajectory, and over time (year on year spikes), recognizing that some IDPs or refugees, for example, may have been displaced for long periods of time.

Lessons Learned

- This analysis is reliant upon international data resources as little reliable local data could be found.
- Curaçao is considered as one of the worst violators of human rights. The Government of Curaçao does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, and therefore remains at Tier 3 in anti-trafficking capacity.
- The local government set up refugee camps and incarcerate refugees in the local prison, with criminals, rather than integrating the refugees into the community which are deemed Inhuman conditions for those refugees.
- Migration initiatives were recommended by the OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe ODIHR Good Practices in Migrant integration. These were offered to Curaçao in 2018. As reported in the FSI 2020 report, again in 2022, and again in 2023, none of the recommendations for migrant integration and OSCE commitments are evident in policy or practice.⁴
- External interventions in the form of economic support from the Kingdom have, because of instability of local governance, the lack of institutional strength nor financial discipline at the local level, created economic dependency on the Kingdom as documented in annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports, College Financieel Toezicht (Cft) reports.
- The country is faltering in its responsibility to address and provide for the basic human needs of its people.

Nationality, defense, foreign affairs, human rights, maritime and air traffic, and good governance are Kingdom matters; all other matters are those of the local autonomous authority. Consequently, such matters as aid, security, development projects, ongoing budget support for certain Caribbean matters fall within the EU dominion, while others are controlled by the local sovereignty of Curaçao. For the purpose of this analysis, the use of the terms *Illegal persons*, *refugees*, *migrants* and *internally displaced persons* will follow international definitions and economic crisis from which they fled may not resolve for years and, therefore, the refugee may migrate. Because of the size of the island of Curaçao, the concept of *internally displaced persons* does not exist.

Refugees, Relief Efforts, Relocation and Settlement

Influx of Refugees: TRAFFICKING PROFILE: As reported over the past six years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Curaçao.⁵ Curaçao is considered as one of the worst violators of human rights.⁶ The

⁴ *Fragile States Index Curaçao Country Report*, 2020, Think To DO Institute, Curaçao.

⁵ *Trafficking in Persons Report*, United States Department of State, June, 2022, 2023,

⁶ Human Rights Watch, 2020 report on Venezuelan-Netherlands Refugee Relations

Government of Curaçao does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so, even considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, if any, on its anti-trafficking capacity; therefore Curaçao remained on Tier 3. Venezuelan migrants are vulnerable to exploitation by Spanish-speakers purporting to offer employment assistance in Curaçao. Recent research suggests traffickers in Curaçao may exploit more domestic and more male victims than previously understood.

Curaçao has not signed or ratified international agreements such as the 1951 Refugee Convention or the regional 1984 Cartagena Declaration. As an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, however, Curaçao is bound by Dutch and European legislation that forbid deportations to countries with noted human rights risks – *of which Venezuela is one*. As reported in the June 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report of the United States Department of State, local officials demonstrated limited familiarity with human trafficking and conflated the crime with migrant smuggling, hindering the effectiveness of prosecution, prevention, and protection efforts. The government’s coordination with civil society organizations and internally, across agencies, was inadequate.⁷ The government finalized and adopted the 2022-2026 NAP to guide anti-trafficking efforts, replacing the 2017-2022 NAP. However, the new NAP was not comprehensive; it outlined efforts to hold traffickers criminally accountable but did not include objectives to protect victims or prevent the crime.⁸

Increase in Refugee Camps/Violence against Refugees/Safety of Refugee Camps:

The local government set up refugee camps and incarcerate refugees in the local prison, with criminals, rather than integrating the refugees into the community. Local NGOs have taken the initiative to address the human rights issues. They acknowledge that there are 22,000 undocumented migrants of which 9,000 are refugees that are locally identified as “crises migrants”. The goal is to give undocumented people a temporary legal status and to set the amount of time they can remain on the island, because their only alternative now is deportation or detention.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission, UNHCR, within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and Amnesty International have been offering its help in developing an asylum procedure and—subsequently—resettling refugees in other places to help ease the pressure on Curaçao. Local NGO’s continue to work to convince the government to comply. In its 2022 report, and again in the 2023 Monitoring Report, Amnesty International detailed alleged human rights abuses by the Curaçao authorities and reports that little improvement has been made in the protection of Venezuelans.⁹ Amnesty reports that they are please that the Curacao court has recognized that Curacao is acting unlawfully and that the inhumane detention of Venezuelans who are seeking protection must end.¹⁰ Amnesty International will monitor the refugee situation on Curacao. The inhuman conditions in which they are held, such as being imprisoned in a cell for most of the day and a lack of hygiene products and recreational activities, remain a deterrent to people initiating the Protection Procedure or following it through.¹¹

Dispute settlement procedures are missing and need to be instituted. Only the Roundtable on Inclusive Migration and Integration could be sited as an example of open dialogue. No formal or regular cooperation exists.¹²

Relocation and Settlement:

According to European Resettlement Network, different countries interpret relocation and settlement differently. Resettlement to the Netherlands is not formally regulated by law. The Policy Framework for Resettlement sets out priorities for the Dutch quota and is renewed for each four-year flexible quota period. Curaçao does not have a specific policy for Relocation and Settlement. There is no available evidence of any plans for relocation and settlement of current refugees. Migration initiatives were recommended by the OSCE Organization for Security

⁷ 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Curaçao

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Amnesty International <http://manesty.org/ess/wp-content/uploads/2023/2/AMR0564042023ENGLISH.pdf>

¹⁰ Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR3589372018.ENGLISH.PDF>, and April, 2022 update

¹¹ Amnesty International <http://manesty.org/ess/wp-content/uploads/2023/2/AMR0564042023ENGLISH.pdf>

¹² Ibid.

and Co-operation in Europe ODIHR Good Practices in Migrant integration. These were offered to Curaçao in 2018. As reported in the FSI 2020 report, again in 2022, and again in 2023, none of the recommendations for migrant integration and OSCE commitments are evident in policy or practice.¹³

Social Progress Index Comparisons:

Of the three areas of the social progress index the one that is most connected to this cohesion indicator is that of building blocks in place for individuals and communities to enhance and sustain wellbeing. If the country is denying basic human rights to those seeking refuge and if the country does not have this as priority or provides adequate funding for it, then the entire community suffers. And the well-being of all deteriorates. This thinking of “us/them” also causes social cohesion pressures and effects the human elements related to the sense of belonging of all citizens.

FSI Assessment:

In the case of Curaçao with a total population of 154,000, the influx of refugees from South America and other Caribbean islands, due to the on-going political and economic crisis there, has put considerable pressure on public services, and has created humanitarian and security challenges for the receiving state of Curaçao. Curaçao does not have the necessary laws and policies related to population, migration, and labor force distribution to absorb and manage the influx. This crisis is complicated by the relationship between the autonomous island status of Curaçao within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the division of responsibilities which result from this relationship.

Again, this year, International organizations have sited Curaçao as one of the worst violators of human rights by denying sufficient and safe refugee camps, and because of reports of violence against refugees. There has not been an adequate response to the displacement in the form of additional resources from the international community or through well designed relocation and settlement plans nor migration initiative proposed by international organizations. Because Curaçao has received tens of thousands of displaced persons fleeing, mostly from Venezuela, and has not addressed it, it falls into a critical fragile state score.

Score: 8

State Resilience Index Comparison

Of the seven pillars of the State Resilience Index, those most impacted by this cohesion indicator of the FSI are inclusion, *state capacity* and *individual capacity*. The laws and the mindset of the people of the island sees “others” as a threat to social cohesion and, although has caused the island to be seen as a human rights violator, little is done to mitigate and respond to the crisis of refugees. Further the state capacity is seen as weak by international human rights organizations because year after year, warnings and recommendations are made but the local government does not act to improve the situation, and it cites the lack of funds for this. Lastly, the individual capacity of people is affected, as this situation puts a strain on the education, health and social protection services.

External Interventions

The external interventions indicators look at the influence and impact of the “external actors” in the functioning of the state, especially in the functioning of security and economics. By this it is meant that it looks at the extent to which the external actors are engaged in security aspects such internal affairs of the state, intelligence services, and other entities that can affect the balance of power; and the extent to which external actors are focused on economic engagement through such things as a large-scale loans, development projects, foreign aid, on-going budget support, control of finances, or management of the state’s economic policy, creating economic dependency. External interventions also refer to humanitarian interventions such as deployment of an international peacekeeping mission.

¹³ *Fragile States Index Curacao Country Report, 2020*, Think To DO Institute, Curacao.

For clarity, interventions from the Kingdom in these matters of the Kingdom responsibilities mentioned above would be considered internal interventions. All other areas of interventions from the Kingdom would be considered external interventions. Of the three forms of external interventions: political, force and economic, the most notable is economic.

There is no documented evidence of direct political intervention from the Kingdom in political matters.

As for force intervention, there has been a long-term regional focus on drug trafficking. Based on a Kingdom responsibility for defense and foreign affairs, the Kingdom of the Netherlands has had a long-term agreement with the United States for hosting the Forward Operations Location (FOL) in Aruba and Curaçao for the purpose of surveillance of drug trafficking. Because it falls under the kingdom responsibility, the FOL is an external intervention.¹⁴ This agreement continues to be in effect in 2023.

Economic Intervention

For at least the past 15 years, economic packages, consisting of various development assistance programs, that have been created to support the sustainable socio-economic development of the country through the local government by the kingdom can (considering how this assistance is structured) be considered external interventions because the areas supported in the packages are part of the country's autonomous responsibilities.

In reality, because of instability of local governance, the lack of institutional strength nor financial discipline at the local level, these initiatives have created economic dependency on the Kingdom as documented in annual International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports, College Financieel Toezicht (Cft) reports.¹⁵ The packages are also contributing to the ever-persistent feeling of "reverse sovereignty" because of the way this assistance is structured. In recent months, the Curaçao Minister of Finance has reported increased revenue from short term strategies and stresses a reduced need for financing from the Kingdom. (see Economic Chapter for explanation)

Social Progress Index Comparisons:

The two areas of the Social Progress Index which support the fragility index score are *Foundations of Wellbeing* and *Opportunity*. These deserves equal attention. Because the country's lack of resolution on the COHO and Mutual Agreement (Onderlinge Regeling) areas of development, and because there has not yet been actualized any long term economic and social development plan which was to be the outcome of the cooperation agreement, the citizens have not experienced an improved basic education, do not obtain information and communicate freely due to the decline of the free press, do not benefit from a modern healthcare system due to funding and medical personnel shortages, and do not yet live in a healthy environment conducive to a long life. Whereas most all countries struggle with at least one of these aspects, Curacao is struggling with all of these aspects. Secondly, Personal rights, personal freedom and choice, inclusiveness, and access to advanced education all contribute to the level of opportunity within a given society. Because of the dependence of the country on external actors, it still struggles to meet the moral imperative to guarantee the equality of opportunity for all citizens.

FSI Assessment: The country is dependent on some assistance from external actors, but this assistance is requested. These external actors aid the country both economically and institutionally, but not politically. Due to the complex relationship and shared responsibilities between the Kingdom and the island's autonomous government, some interventions are external, and some are internal. Economic intervention by the UN, and other international organizations exist. Economic interventions by the Kingdom of the Netherlands include large-scale loans, development projects, aid, ongoing budget support, control of finances, and influence over the management of the state's economic policy, creating economic dependency. Humanitarian interventions have been given to support strategic efforts to stem the

¹⁴Verdrag inzake samenwerking tussen het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden en de Verenigde Staten van Amerika betreffende toegang tot en gebruik van faciliteiten in de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba voor drugsbestrijding vanuit de lucht; Oranjestad, 2 maart 2000, zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/trb-2000.34/html; Forward Operating Location Agreement five-year renewal, 2015

¹⁵ CFT reports (2021,2022, 2023) cft.cw

influence of organized crime and large-scale immigration due to political unrest in countries of South America.

Score: 7

State Resilience Index Comparison

The pillars that are informing Curacao most about its ability to manage these resilience pressures in this section of the Fragile States Index are the *Economy* and *State Capacity* pillars. The local economy is neither diverse or innovative and has not structured itself to withstand economic disruptions. Because of the reliance on external interventions and large-scale loans, neither long-term economic resilience, infrastructure and high-quality economic management can be realized or sustained.

Demographic Indicators: Population, Health and Environment

The Demographic Pressures Indicator specifically considers pressures upon the state deriving from the population itself or the environment around it. It focuses on basic human needs. For example, the Indicator measures population pressures related to food supply, access to safe water, and other life-sustaining resources, or health, such as prevalence of disease and epidemics. The Indicator considers demographic characteristics, such as pressures from high population growth rates or skewed population distributions, such as a “youth or age bulge,” or sharply divergent rates of population growth among competing communal groups, recognizing that such effects can have profound social, economic, and political effects. Beyond the population, the Indicator also considers pressures stemming from extreme weather events (hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, or drought), and pressures upon the population from environmental hazards.

Population

Curacao's population (148,000 2023 estimate) has been declining for the last couple of years. (It must be noted that different reports site different numbers for the population.) This decline is the result of the declining fertility rate, increasing mortality figures and, lately, negative net migration figures. In addition, the community is aging (constrictive pyramidal structure) with a high dependency ratio as a result, which is contributing to increasing fiscal pressure on the active population. It is also worth mentioning that multiple external and local studies by various organizations have indicated that a population twice the current size is needed for societal sustainability. Unfortunately, no studies on this topic can be found in the past five years.

Health

The earlier indicated aging population coupled with a relatively high longevity coupled with an increased incidence of circulatory systems and neoplasm diseases is not only affecting the productivity of the nation, but also putting increased pressure on the finances of public health, resulting in a continuing pressure on benefits from the general medical coverage system. The many problems that have arisen around the costs of the health care system, the building of an oversized hospital and the controversy between medical professionals and the Ministry of Health about the payment of specialists has further weakened the health care system since the last report. There is now more concern about the equal access to health care on the island.¹⁶

Water is essential to good health as well as access to water being a basic human right. The Curacao dams and collection canals known as “rooien” are in decay and cannot handle the tasks of reservoirs. It is estimated that 1100 households do not have a water connection. Another two percent have no water because of the connection being closed (usually due to lack of ability to pay). In September 2022 the Foundation Hende-i-Medio-Ambiente (HiMA) filed a lawsuit against the Curacao government because it does not make sufficient efforts to guarantee access to clean water, especially for socially disadvantaged groups on the island. (see also Public Services section of Political Indicators Chapter).¹⁷

¹⁶ Annual Reports SVB 2021, 2022

¹⁷ Stichting Hende-i-Medio Ambiente (HiMA), “Recht op drinkwater geborgd”, September, 2022

The electrical grid is vulnerable and within the first seven months of 2023, there have been regular interruption in the electricity grid of the island causing homes to be damaged by power surges and business to lose revenue and property loses. This outage has also caused concern about the digital communication grid. The community has lost trust in the power provider to have a redundant and reliable power grid. As seen in other countries, the loss of the power grid can be an intense threat due to climate change and in extreme weather events.¹⁸

Environment

Both the health of the population and the sustainability of the economy are also being compromised by poor environmental management. Dwindling groundwater level is also a major challenge. The factors contributing to such are many: the resulting salination is affecting the flora and making agriculture, in an environment devoid of other natural fresh water sources (other than rainwater) to contribute to its replenishment, ever more difficult. Considering the change in weather patterns as a result of climate change, the island runs a higher than usual risk of natural disasters, but also of ever more unusual heat waves and rainfalls. It is also clear that the population and business activities located in the south coastal region will suffer in the event of a tsunami, and not to mention longer term because of sea level rise.¹⁹ All of the above indicators add to the fragility of the state.

Social Progress Index Comparisons:

Social Program Framework focuses on how to meet one's own citizens basic human needs. The dimensions of *and Foundations of Wellbeing* show fragility in this indicator of the FSI. In this section , it has been documented that Curacao's population's capacity to survive with adequate nourishment and basic medical care, clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, and personal safety are at risk. The education system is not open to all and because of the demise of many media outlets due to financial issues, citizens do not obtain information freely. Because these needs are still not met, the score for this indicator must be noted as very fragile.

FSI Assessment

Demographics are of key importance to development, but this link to resilience is often ignored in Curaçao. Population—the study of people using the tool of demography—is now appearing across development discourse, with policy implications that reach far beyond family planning and reproductive health. Apart from the obvious, that is its implications for the sustainability of public finance, old age pension and healthcare schemes, the upcoming young population will have implications for political behavior and the education system. Both trends will profoundly affect workforce and employment models.

Across all areas of this indicator, there is evidence of policy failures and lack of strategic infrastructure planning. As mentioned in other chapters and earlier in this chapter, population, migration, labor force retrenchment and retraining, and economic development policies are key to breaking out of many of the fragility cycles identified.

Rating: 8

State Resilience Index Comparison

Again, in the context of this Fragile States Indicator, the data identifies the following as pressure pillars of Resilience that the country Curacao is not have the capacity to manage *Inclusion, State Capacity, Economy, Environment and Ecology, and Civic Space*. The people are not included in the social and economic discourse of the country and access to public resources is limited to the weakening of social support institutions. The capacity of state is weak, and the public is not sure that the public good is the priority of the government. The Economy is not guided by long-term vision and public policy and environmental and ecological concerns are not addressed to ensure a stable water and electrical grid so that individuals and private sector can thrive.

¹⁸ Manage Interruptions-www.aqualectra.com

¹⁹ Curaçao Climate Change Policy Assessment, 2019

Chapter 5: Capacities of State Indicators: Supplement to the Fragile States Index

Area of State

Leadership

Military

Police

Judiciary

Civil

Introduction to the Use of the “Assessing Capacities of State” Metrix

The **Fragile States Index (FSI)** an annual report list that aims to assess states' vulnerability to conflict or collapse, ranking all sovereign states with membership in the United Nations where there is enough data available for analysis. The Fund for Peace developed a set of companion indicators that can begin to provide a representation of the **capacity of states**. These pressure indicators look at specific aspects of a country: the competencies of government, specifically the branches of government and security services. It is noted that other aspects of a state that are critical to a state's capacity, such as the media, communications, civil society are measured in the Fragile States Index (FSI) itself.

Beginning with the 2023 version of the Fragile States Index, as with the earlier chapters, the Capacities of State Metrix will be compared with the Social Progress Index and the State Resilience Index to show the relationships to how the competencies of the government are directly affecting the lives of local citizens.

The **Capacity indicators, Leadership, Military, Police, Judiciary and Civil Service**, are accessed on a **0-5 Likert Scale** and are graded on an **A to E** system for each aspect of professionalism, legitimacy, and representativeness. Each of the scales and systems have clear indicators and descriptors against which evaluators can measure and rank country data. These measurements are important in the collection of data about the governance legitimacy of a country and, more importantly, the resilience of the country. As the Think To DO Institute is looking at resiliency factors and the relationship to governance legitimacy, the Curaçao Country Assessment has been undertaken. It is the hope that this analysis will give insight into what needs to be improved and what best practice looks like.

The narrative for each capacity score can be found in the full FSI 2023 report.

Key Findings:

- Curaçao may be a small island nation but has the tasks and responsibilities of a full-blown country, with a large, deep harbor, international airport, health care system that needs to support itself, international borders (although this is done in cooperation with the Netherlands). In 2019, following a “size of government” study, there was a discussion for the government to redesign the government, keeping specific core tasks within its own organization and outsourcing other tactical or operational tasks, therefore, being slim and more focused on strategy/policy and laws and related tasks and, therefore, have fewer public servants, cost less and be more effective.
- In terms of leadership in this country, the “moral hazard” must be mentioned. Due to the Kingdom's decisions to give “bail outs” every few years. The islands play the moral card; Holland succumbs over and over again under the pressure of the islands, creating a mindset at the island level that they can always get away with poor governance and its consequences. This creates a moral hazard.
- There are three areas of vulnerability noted in this year's local data regarding the Police Force.²⁰ First is the **instability of leadership**. The Chief of police has been assigned other duties since June of 2020 and the position has been filled in, it is occupied by a Chief of police, however, he is acting as *operational chief* of police which is a separate function. The position of Chief and other key leadership positions are now acting as *operational or acting* via a temporary approach making them vulnerable politically. This instability has also influenced the necessary policing operational documentation in that key fundamental documents like a Service Regulations Document are *not* in place, thus cannot be enforced. Second, is the area of **integrity**. In 2022, Internal Affairs had approximately 60 to 70 open files, meaning that more than 10 percent of the force is subject of an ongoing (integrity) investigation. Approximately, 12 officers were sentenced in penal law. This indicates a strong need for training and leadership guidance. IT depicts a chronic lack of professional knowledge and management.²¹ *Quota-based policing* is still mandated. Finally, the force is fragile due to the **aging out of the force**. Recruitment, training and placement of young officers must be a priority.
- The current government continues the transfer of power from the civil servants to political advisors through ministerial decrees and ministerial communiques, thus weakening rather than strengthening the civil service

²⁰ Jaarverstag 2021, 2022, Openbaar Ministerie Curaçao

²¹ Ibid

- Lack of confidence in the system calls for Judiciary review: . An independent professional perception survey/study is much needed to address the trust level of this organization in society. And, third party (peer) reviews should be held on a periodic basis
- Unbiases of judges is not guaranteed due to perceptions and concerns about the professional qualities of the prosecutors and judges.²²
- The capacity of the judiciary is a WEAK and is a threat to the rule of law and therefore to democracy.

Summary and Conclusions: Since Chapter has a different scoring system, that is presented in the table below and only the SPI and SRI comparisons are presented here.

Social Progress Comparison

Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential. Key to this social progress is the capacity of state, in all five areas of its capacities, to provide the laws, policies and processes to meet these basic needs. The most important aspects of social progress are not present as Curacao does not provide for its people’s most essential needs. The building blocks in place for individuals and communities to enhance and sustain wellbeing are not provided through policy, procedure and programming. And lastly, there is not opportunity for all individuals to reach their full potential.

State Resilience Index Comparison

Again, in this chapter, the importance of the relationship between resilience and fragility must be stated. In the State Resilience Index, the capacity the country has for managing these pressures in each sector is examined. These pressures are critical to cohesion and resilience. When looking at the three capacity areas of the State Capacity: responsibility, legitimacy, and representativeness, the pressures have not been managed.

In the table below, the actual language of the indicators and key characteristic of the FSI are summarized and the overall score for the capacity area and for the subsets of the competencies that make up the capacities of state are sited. In the text of the evaluators, there may be degrees of compliance within the Likert scaling or key characteristics, but the data would indicate that the scores fall within the range of the agreed-upon Likert number or grade.

Capacity Area	Overall Score	Professional	Legitimate	Representative
Leadership	2 Descriptor: Not all characteristics are present to sustain a score of 3. There is a clear erosion of leadership. Elections are considered flawed but acceptable. There may be some corruption, but it is either limited in scope or is dealt with adequately by the legal system. Power is maintained largely through providing services to the citizens but there may be some evidence of patronage networks and political opposition is weak. Individual leaders may be considered corrupt, illegitimate, or incompetent by the population, but the system is respected. A system of checks and balances does not operate and needs greater oversight and stronger enforcement mechanisms. (note several aspects received a lower rating)	D Descriptor: The leadership is not effective and does not look after society. Even if there are elections, stability and tenure may be based on oppression, patronage and/or nepotism. Corruption is a major issue.	D Descriptor: The leadership has little respect or trust from the population. It is perceived as highly corrupt.	E Descriptor: The leadership is comprised of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) and/or services only its group(s).

²² Antwoorden Kamervragen over officieren van Justitie die in de fout zijn gegaan, 14.01.2020

Military	5 The military is under strong civilian and legal control and can defend the country against external threats. It also can undertake international missions as appropriate and is respected by foreign militaries. Corruption and human rights abuses are rare and are investigated and prosecuted appropriately under a system of law. (based on NL Military protection)	A There is a strong civilian and legal control of the military. It can defend the country as well as undertake international missions. Positions are merit based. Issues regarding corruption or abuses occur rarely and are handled appropriately.	A The military is highly respected by the population and not politicized. It is perceived as being able to protect the country and undertake international missions as appropriate.	A The military is highly representative of the population and does not discriminate against any group(s).
Police	2 The police protect the citizens to some degree in some areas, but there are also concerns regarding greater need for training, neutrality, and professionalism. There are reports of sporadic human rights abuses, but they generally are considered to respect human rights. There is evidence of increased incidences of excessive use of force.	D Civilian control is weak and sporadic, but some systems are in place. Training, uniforms, pay, and weapons are not adequate. Corruption is a major problem and human rights abuses are reported with regularity.	D The police are not trusted by the population. There are still officers that protect citizens and uphold the law. The system and individuals in it are perceived as corrupt or biased or ineffective.	C The police are composed primarily of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) but only slightly favors its own group(s).
Judiciary	3 The judicial system has established procedures and experienced judicial personnel, although the system needs strengthening. It is considered somewhat ineffective and sometimes perceived to lack independence. The rights to a speedy trial, fair legal representation, and access to evidence are generally protected. Punishment is commensurate with the crimes. Cases of corruption and nepotism are sporadic.	C The judicial system may not be considered to be completely independent or effective. It may lack resources or there may be excessive political interference. Corruption is sporadic.	C The rule of law is somewhat established within the country. Individuals within the judicial system may be perceived as corrupt, ineffective, or biased but the system is in place.	C The judicial system is primarily composed of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) but only slightly favors its own group(s)
Civil Service	1 The civil service is largely ineffective and lacks proper management, skills, and resources. Corruption (in the forms of conflict of interest, nepotism and cronyism) is a major problem. Hiring and product delivery are not very representative of the country's population, and the needs of the citizens are often ignored or go unaddressed. The population cannot depend upon the civil service to serve it appropriately.	E The civil service is perceived and, by outputs, is ineffective and incompetent due to the lack of management, skills, and funding. Position is based on oppression, identity, political affiliation, and or nepotism. Corruption is endemic.	E The civil service no respect from the population. It is perceived as highly corrupt and politically influenced.	E The civil service is comprised of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) and favors the needs of its group(s) and favors nepotism and cronyism in its representative service.
	0-5(5 high)	A-E (A superior)	A-E	A-E

These indicators are intended to be used as guidance tools for institutional reform and country strengthening with the goal being a strong, resilient governance system. Close examination of the areas of weakness can provide specifics related to growth targets in the governance structure, its processes, policies, and people development.

These results become a part of the larger more comprehensive Fragile States Index (FSI) analyses which measures many more aspects of resilience by way of cohesion, economics, politics, and social and cross-cutting indicators.

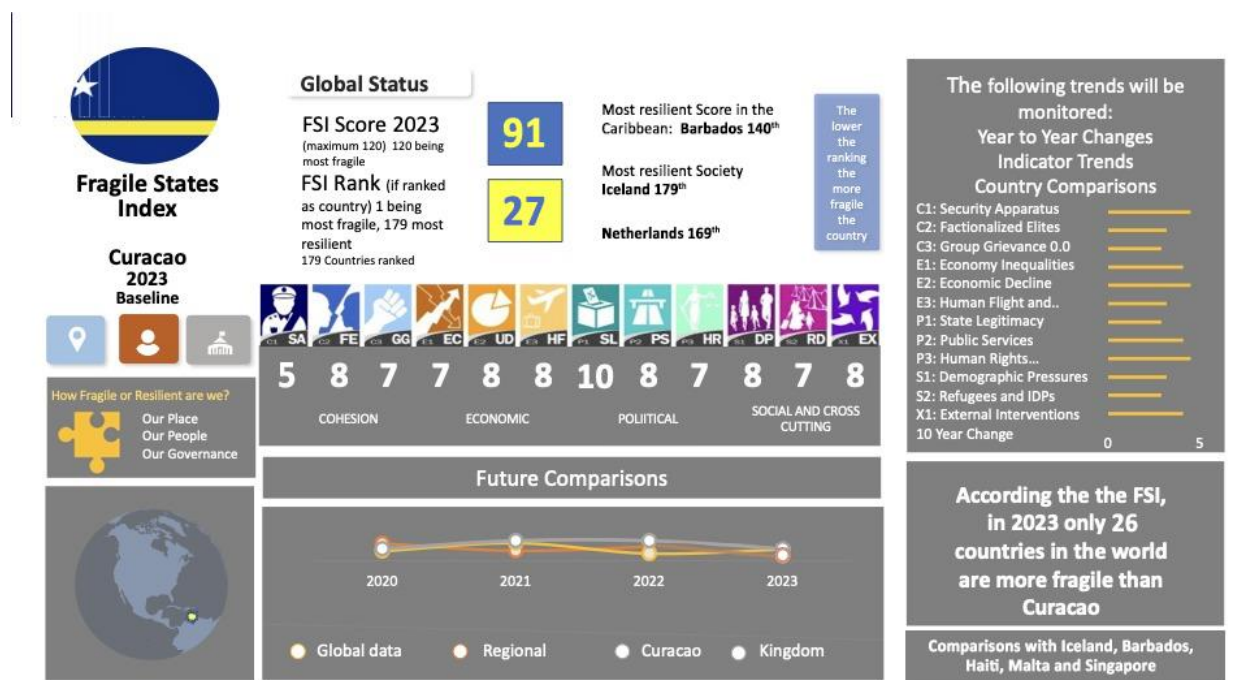
Dashboards

A ranking alone, in the end, is meaningless; it is the underlying scores, and as far as they can be determined, the specific root causes, and drivers of instability that must be recognized and addressed.

In the Country Report, the assessment results aim to point to the root causes which are further explained in the Recommendations and Conclusions section of the document. The conclusions have been arrived at from the qualitative and quantitative data available when measured against the FSI indicators. The concern expressed in the 2020 FSI report regarding the lack of data must again be emphasized. However, of further concern is the diminished availability of local data. In addition to the evidence that the country has not addressed specific root causes and drivers of instability, the lack of data requires the researchers to give low scores across some of the indicators. Below are various infographic representations of these overarching conclusions that provide a baseline for annual comparisons. A detailed list of recommendations to address the root causes and drivers of instability can be found in the complete research report.

Country Dashboard:

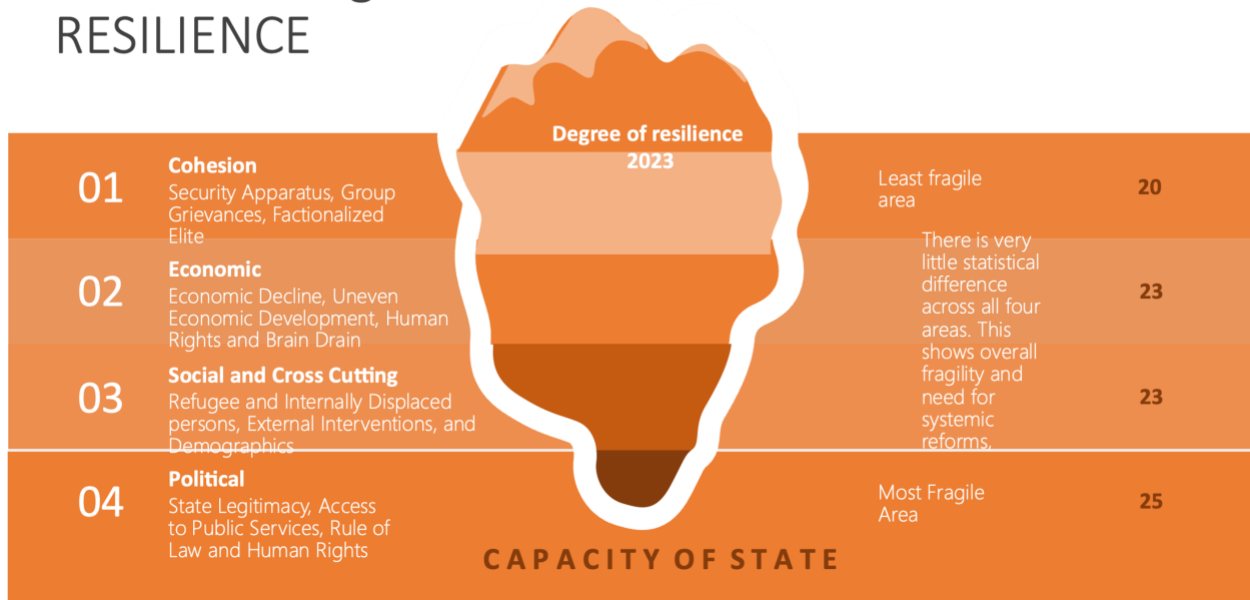
The Country Data Dashboard gives an overview of this country's ranking and scores across the FSI Cohesion, Political, Economic, and Social and Cross Cutting indicators.



There was a possible total of 120 points indicating the most fragile state. Curacao's score was 91, a gain of 1 point. This was mostly due to the weakening of several other countries. Curacao's rank within the 179 countries measured in 2023 was 27: the most resilient rank was 179, the most fragile rank was 1. The dashboard shows the scores in each of the indicator areas and some global and regional results.

The Effects On Resilience Iceberg shows the distribution of the vulnerabilities across the four indicator areas and the even distribution of weaknesses across these indicators resulting in the conclusion that all areas have an almost equal distribution of the specific root causes and drivers of instability.

Effects of Fragile States Indicators on RESILIENCE



The FSI Capacity of State rubric reveals the grade given the professionalism, the legitimacy, and representation of the five areas of the state capacity supplement. The overall scores indicate that the weakest area is the civil service followed by leadership, and police. The details in the complete report divulge specific root causes and drivers of instability contributing to the country’s fragility.

FSI Capacity of State Effect on RESILIENCE

Area of State Capacity	Overall Score (5 High, 1 Low)	Professional (A-F) Grade	Legitimate (A-F) Grade	Representative (A-F) Grade
Leadership	2	D The leadership is not effective and does not look after society	D The leadership has little respect or trust from the population.	E The leadership is comprised of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) and/or services only its group(s).
Military	5	A There is a strong civilian and legal control of the military.	A The military is highly respected by the population and not politicized.	A The military is highly representative of the population and does not discriminate against any group(s).
Police	2	D The police protect the citizens to some degree in some areas, but there are also concerns regarding greater need for training, neutrality, and professionalism.	D The police do their best to protect citizens and uphold the law, but improvements need to be made.	C The police are composed primarily of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) but only slightly favors its own group(s).
Judiciary	3	C The judicial system may not be considered to be completely independent or effective.	C The rule of law is somewhat established within the country.	C The judicial system is primarily composed of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) but only slightly favors its own group(s)
Civil Service	1	E The civil service is largely ineffective and lacks proper management, skills, and resources.	E The civil service has no respect from the population. It is perceived as highly corrupt and politically influenced.	E The civil service is comprised of one ethnic or otherwise related group(s) and favors nepotism and cronyism.

Capacity of State Supplement to Fragile States Index for Curacao

Think To DO Institute

Fragile States Index Country Rankings 2023

For Longitudinal Comparison

South American Neighboring Countries	Caribbean/ CARICOM	Country: Same Ranking as Curaçao (27)	Small Island Nations	Longitudinal Comparison
Columbia 59	Bahamas 134	C o n g o	Cuba 117	Barbados 140
Venezuela 29	Barbados 140	I r a q	Fiji 82	Finland 177
	Dom. Rep. 110		Ireland 171	Haiti 10
	Grenada 127		Maldives 106	Iceland 178
	Guyana 109		Malta 158	Malta 158
	Haiti 10		Mauritius 154	Netherlands 169
	Jamaica 108		Samoa 101	Singapore 165
	Suriname 116		Seychelles 128	
	Trin/Tobago 130		Singapore 165	

The above table of selected country rankings and the below table of those countries charted across quartiles are presented to provide a range of countries to make direct comparisons to Curaçao results. The below table expresses the spread, or dispersion, of these countries across the range of all countries from lowest to highest levels of resilience. It expresses the most vulnerable in the lowest quartile and the least fragile in the highest quartile. It gives another view of the comparisons that can be made, not just against the criteria but with other countries.

Selected Country Rankings Charted Across Quartiles 2023 (scores were rounded up where necessary for comparison)

Bottom Quartile -25% FSI Rank: 0-44	Lower Middle Quartile 25-49% 45-89	Upper Middle Quartile 50-74% 90-134	Top Quartile 75-100% 135-179
Haiti 10	Columbia 59	Dom. Rep. 100	Barbados 140
Congo 28	Fiji 82	Samoa 104	Mauritius 154
Curacao 28		Jamaica 108	Malta 158
Iraq 28		Guyana 109	Singapore 165
Venezuela 29		Suriname 116	Ireland 171
		Cuba 117	Iceland 178
		Grenada 127	
		Seychelles 128	
		Trin/Tobago 130	
		Bahamas 134	

Compared to the results of 2020, 2021 and 2022, the countries that were identified and compared with Curacao and whose results also fell in 2023 rankings were Columbia, Fiji, Haiti, Jamaica, and Samoa. Fiji was a country that moved to a higher quartile from the lower middle to the upper middle quartile in 2022 and fell again to the lower middle quartile in 2023.

Those countries that remain in the lowest quartile are those that have remained most fragile across all areas of the index. This means that, as a country, they have not been able to identify or/and address, nor do they have the national will or capacity to address the root causes of their fragility

Conclusions and Recommendations:

In the Long Document:

Although the intent of the Fragile States Index is to measure fragility of a society, it inversely measures Resilience. For we know that the capacity of a system, enterprise, or person to maintain its core purpose and integrity in the face of dramatically changing circumstances is Resilience. Resilient Societies design, redesign organizations, institutions, and systems to better absorb disruption, operate under a wide variety of conditions, and shift more fluently from one circumstance to the next.

Crucial factors for future societies such as sustainable environment and social planning design will not be able to offer adequate tools to deal with upcoming challenges without improving knowledge of resilience in a networked and interconnected multi-level governance approach on local, regional, national, international, and global levels. To best identify how to become more resilient, countries must first look at their fragility and identify areas of weakness to improve.

According to each FSI report, corruption continues to be Curaçao's greatest threat to resilience as it affects economic growth, political/democratic principles, social cohesion and cross cutting aspects of society. For instance, as stated in the InSight Crime report, *Latin America Organized Crime Study for the Kingdom of the Netherlands*, transnational organized crime can operate with such success due to the low state resilience and resistance to its operations and influence in many countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Resilience can be built in many ways. Legislative frameworks such as penal codes and anti-money laundering frameworks, for example, provide the tools required to tackle organized crime. Institutional strength determines the capacity of security and judicial institutions to combat organized crime, particularly the establishment of specialized units like anti-narcotics police and dedicated organized crime prosecutors. At the top, in a democratic government, there should be transparent leadership, promoting a healthy civil society and a private sector that takes an aggressive stance against criminality and corruption. The greatest deterrent to transnational organized crime and the drug trade is high national resilience.

41 recommendations without going into their details serve the purpose of presenting possible solutions to the obstacles toward the many challenges that preventing the country to become a more resilient society. In the full report, there is a full section dedicated to these recommendations, and the urgency and priority they should be given. (see Conclusions and Recommendation Section of the full report)

All rights reserved, 2023

For more information or to read the complete Fragile States Index Curaçao Report 2023, please visit the Think To DO Institute website: www.thinktodoinstitute.com/Fragile