

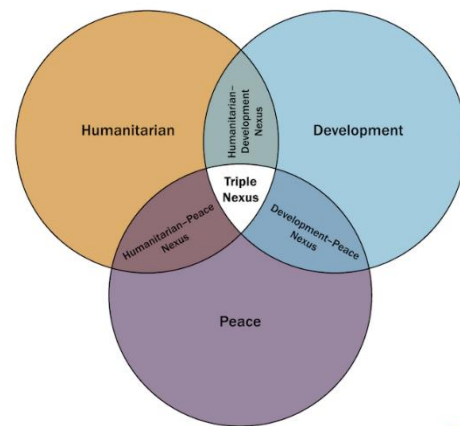
THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE & SECURITY NEXUS

CCDP-GMI March 2020

I. What are We Talking About?

The ‘double nexus’ usually refers to the ‘*humanitarian-development*’ connection. There are two interpretations:

- *Sequential*: Development programming should follow and take over from humanitarian programming when the situation has stabilised. The ‘gap’, often the result of slower planning processes for development programming, then needs to be filled by ‘transition & recovering’ funding.
- *Simultaneous*: Developmental programming co-exists with humanitarian programming, possibly in different sub-national areas of a country, or even in the same area.



A double nexus ‘overlap area between humanitarian work and peace work would be working with ‘*conflict-sensitivity*’: not reinforcing existing antagonisms or creating new ones and reducing tensions and antagonisms where people.

The ‘triple’ nexus envisages simultaneous interventions from each pillar in the same environment.

II. Why a Nexus Approach?

Ending unmet need: The fundamental reason is that, without peacefulness, developmental gains will remain elusive or be reversed, and continued humanitarian assistance needed. People affected by conflict, and local/national agencies providing humanitarian assistance to them, naturally wish a ‘nexus approach’, minimally leading to a reduction of overt violence, ideally to a just peace.

“Prioritization of prevention, mediation and peacebuilding, investing in development whenever possible, while ensuring immediate humanitarian needs continue to be met” (DAC 2019:6)

Broader set of entry points and competencies: Interventions in each pillar require their own competencies and find their own entry points. In theory, such broad spectrum of interventions, when undertaken in synergy with each other, have a greater chance of changing a complex conflict-system.

More and better-quality funding: Humanitarian needs often outstrip available humanitarian funding. Humanitarian funding is also overwhelmingly short-term and tends to be fairly earmarked. A more structural approach requires longer-term and more flexible funding, that also allows for some investment, next to (re)current expenditure. This can also enable more preventative and anticipatory strategies and adaptive programming.

III. What Does It Take in Practice?

- *Greater policy coherence*, within and between institutional donors (bilaterals and multilaterals) and within and between operational agencies

- *Effective availability of the required types of funding*, with a higher proportion of predictable, flexible and multi-year financing
- *Greater operational coherence* between multiple interveners and programmes in the same operating environment

Three approaches to encourage such more intentional pursuit of synergies are:

- A joined-up analysis
- Joined-up planning and programming for collective outcomes
- Context-adaptable programming

IV. What Makes it Difficult in Practice?

Funding

- While some donors provide more multi-year funding for crisis situations, the bulk remains short term. Moreover, overall donor appetite to contribute to pooled funds remains limited
- Much humanitarian funding goes multi-laterally, much development funding bilaterally
- A shortage of funding to address the current humanitarian needs, takes attention away from longer-term perspectives on funding
- Operational agencies see funding from other pillars as new sources to finance their existing programmes, without much adaptation to their intended goals and objectives

Different inclinations between humanitarian, development and peace actors

- Development actors tend to engage more at national policy and strategic programming level; humanitarian actors more at individual, community and local institutions level
- Humanitarian actors tend to be 'state avoiding' while development actors tend to be 'state-centric'
- National governments, donors and development actors may only allow humanitarian programming in areas not under government control (and/or with higher security risks)
- From a national government perspective, nexus programming may be fitted under a broader economic development strategy, that not all actors may see as fully inclusive and benefitting the poorest and most vulnerable
- Peace actors believe that international intervention can create more favourable conditions, but that ultimately sustainable peace can only come from within; humanitarian actors have the experience of being able to import solutions
- Peace actors invest more and intentionally in trust building; humanitarian actors tend to be distrustful and rely on formal oversight and compliance
- Humanitarian actors focus strongly on vulnerabilities and risks, peacebuilders (also) on capacities and opportunities

Different insights and understandings of the operating environment

- Humanitarian actors tend to be less familiar with political economy analysis, or interpret humanitarian principles as not engaging in the analysis of political dynamics; development actors may conduct political economy analyses but keep them internal as they are sensitive
- Humanitarian actors tend to look at current and surface manifestations of conflict; peacebuilders also look at deeper fault lines, structural violence, war economies and mutations of conflict and violence

Coordination

- Where there is much humanitarian action, the UN tends to play a significant coordination role; where there is mostly developmental programming, the national government tends to exercise a lead role
- Development actors tend to engage more bilaterally with the government, tend to be reluctant to engage in inter-agency coordination or may have separate coordination structures. Their coordination structures tend not to be funded like those for humanitarian action. Development

actors may also work with private contractors that are not present in inter-agency coordination spaces.

- The incentives for collaboration and coherence are not strong: competition for resources, profile and protecting mandates among UN, NGOs and private contractors is a disincentive for nexus-oriented coordination
- The coordination leadership is not able to handle the complexities of nexus coordination, or doesn't get the recognition and support for its leadership from the different operating agencies
- There is weariness about adding yet another planning framework to the many existing ones
- Developmental programming planning takes much longer than that of humanitarian or peace programmes
- 'Collective outcomes' are so broadly formulated, that any project or programme can be fitted under them, with no meaningful intent to create synergies that lead to results that are more than the sum of its parts

V. Enabling Factors

- Humanitarian and development actors convene around areas of common interest such as e.g. resilience, long-term solutions to protracted displacement, livelihoods and economic revival, cash programming etc.
- Less ambitious thematic, sector or area-based integrated programming works better than grand design top-down processes

Some examples

- Appointment of a nexus coordinator in the HC/RC office in the DRC
- Joint resilience, peace and stabilization programme of FAO and WFP in DRC
- WFP and UNHCR collaboration around livelihoods for refugees in Uganda
- Area-based resilience consortia in Cameroon
- Joint Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments in Cameroon, CAR and Ukraine

- Starting out with the 'coalition of the willing', then gradually attracting other interested parties, works better than trying to get everyone under the same umbrella at the outset
- Fitting nexus-thinking and programming into existing planning cycles and frameworks works easier than creating additional processes
- Joint Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments have shown promising potential
- Climate change impacts encourage development actors to look differently at crisis situations
- Donors having a strong interest and permanent and active presence in a particular country/region is an enabling factor for nexus programming

Key Sources

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Written by Koenraad Van Brabant, GMI

