

LESSONS LEARNED FROM HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS REVIEWS IN MYANMAR, NIGER AND AFGHANISTAN

WHAT IS THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS (HDN) AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO NUTRITION?

The Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) frames the work of development and humanitarian actors, along with national and local counterparts. It is the point where efforts converge to prevent, prepare and address crises, particularly with regard to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. It balances short-term responses with longer-term solutions, allowing humanitarian and development actions to be more complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Growing evidence shows that investing in nutrition security contributes to the fight against hunger and helps build peace, stability and development in human capital. Ensuring nutrition security for all is therefore a crucial yet complex feat, which requires various sectors and multiple actors to work together. Collaboration needs to be done through an integrated approach aimed at improving access to nutritious food and nutrition services, water, sanitation, health, and social protection services.

The HDN for nutrition is characterized by:



Understanding the **EXTRA BENEFITS** that the Humanitarian-Development Nexus could generate.



A MULTI-YEAR HORIZON, acknowledging the persistent or recurring nature of crisis.



Defining responses based on the comparative advantages of a **DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTORS**.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL ACTORS: humanitarian and development, national as well as local, authorities and communities, implementers and donors, UN and civil society.



GREATER ALIGNMENT of development and humanitarian policies, plans, programmes and funding.



COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING of the needs and identification of common objectives.



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND SYSTEMS at national and local levels.

WHERE TO START?

Developing an understanding of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus among all stakeholders relevant to nutrition, including at the sub-national level.

Engaging in a nexus approach requires developing a shared understanding of the extra benefits that could be generated, identifying areas where efforts can converge or become aligned and what roles, responsibilities and principles this entails for each stakeholder.



The nutrition sector/cluster coordinators and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) government Focal Points, supported by the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), SUN secretariat and global SUN networks undertaking the following:

Reaching out to the sub-national level coordinators and SUN Focal Points to **DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AND TO ORGANIZE SESSIONS** at sub-national levels, while also to ensuring their inclusion and participation in training and workshops.

CONDUCTING INFORMATION AND TRAINING sessions on the HDN for nutrition actors.

DISSEMINATING GUIDANCE AND FOSTERING the exchange of experiences.

Meanwhile, The UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC)/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) needs to be the HDN champion and advocate for it at the highest country levels.

Build humanitarian-development collaboration in each country on specific shared objectives and priorities for nutrition.

A shared understanding of the needs, common priorities and objectives are fundamental to establishing the basis of an efficient collaboration between humanitarian and development actors and to motivate key stakeholders to participate.



The nutrition sector/cluster coordinators and SUN government Focal Points and SUN multi-sectoral platforms need to:

ORGANIZE DEDICATED JOINT WORKING SESSIONS

to ensure a common understanding of nutrition needs, target groups and causal pathways with all sectors concerned.

ORGANIZE JOINT PRIORITISATION AND PLANNING EXERCISES

to identify common objectives and activities.

Facilitate the development of **ALIGNED ACTION PLANS**, joint monitoring and implementation strategies.

Meanwhile, the GNC, SMS and global SUN networks need to support the NC and Sun Movement Secretariat (SMS) Focal Points to mobilize the required political, technical or other assistance required.

WHAT TO DO?

Ensure sufficient safe space for humanitarian and development partners involved in nutrition to link up.

In countries where coordination mechanisms are more inclusive of all sectors and stakeholders across the so-called humanitarian and development divide, actors are more advanced in identifying shared objectives and developing aligned action plans. Humanitarian and development actors need space to meet and exchange.



For the nutrition sector/cluster coordinators and SUN government Focal Points:

CREATE JOINT WORKING SESSIONS for humanitarian and development actors contributing to nutrition.

For the GNC, SMS and global SUN networks:

- Provide political and technical support when needed.
- Incentivise national counterparts to proactively reach out across the humanitarian-development divide.
- Support advocacy in order to mobilise resources and ensure the inclusion as well as participation of all stakeholders in joint coordination mechanisms.

For UNRC/HC:

PROMOTE INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION and collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in line with global commitments made by the UN under the 'New Way of Working'.

COMBINE HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE in developing aligned United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks and the humanitarian response plans at country level.

Support the implementation of national multi-sectoral plans of action for nutrition to better enhance preparedness for nutrition crises by prioritising, planning and involving humanitarian actors.

The multisectoral plans for nutrition should play a key role in building the nutrition resilience of vulnerable populations and reducing humanitarian needs. However, they are often underfunded so need to be prioritised based on geographical areas where nutritional needs are the greatest and where resilience building would be the most effective. This shared prioritisation across the humanitarian and development divide would also contribute to strengthen disaster preparedness and response.



The nutrition sector/cluster coordinator, SUN government Focal Points and SUN Multi-sectoral platforms (MSPs):

TO WIDELY DISSEMINATE EVIDENCE on nutrition needs, causal pathways and risks.

TO JOINTLY ADVOCATE for greater alignment of development and humanitarian funding and resource allocation for more systematic multi-year financing of activities that strengthen resilience.

TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES (geographic, target groups, interventions) to support the implementation of national multisectoral nutrition plans.

TO DISSEMINATE TOOLS AND LESSONS LEARNT on preparedness and early response.

Strengthen inclusion and accountability to results.

Building a nexus requires a shared participation and commitment from all actors: national and local authorities, communities, humanitarian as well as development donors, UN and civil society. Enduring commitment and engagement need to be supported by concrete signs of inclusiveness, results and accountability.



SUN Focal Point and Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP):

DEMONSTRATE RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING for humanitarian principles and the humanitarian prerogative.

INCENTIVISE ENGAGEMENT with humanitarian actors.

FACILITATE ANNUAL BUDGET TRACKING AND REPORTING on scaling-up multi-sectoral activities and the implementation of multi-sectoral nutrition plans.

The nutrition sector/cluster coordinators, SUN Focal Point and MSP:

TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE the inclusion of all stakeholders.

To ensure each committee, network, technical group, sector working group or cluster **HAVE AN ANNUAL PLAN AND REPORT** against it.

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