**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP** & **INTERAGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE**

*Key Messages on the Humanitarian-Development and Nexus and its Link to Peace*

1. recognized as
2. **Protracted humanitarian crises continue to increase in numbers.** Over recent years, the nature of crises has evolved both in sheer numbers of affected people and in complexity. These emergencies – often located in fragile contexts and caused by drawn-out conflicts - have resulted in massive levels of displacement lasting for years and sometimes decades, as well as the erosion of national systems and human development capital. These interdependent challenges cannot be solved through short-term or incremental approaches.
3. **Reducing the impact of protracted crises on affected populations requires not only meeting immediate needs but also reducing over time their needs,chronic vulnerability and risks,,** boosting resilience **and building self-reliance** through measures such as strengthening formal and informal institutions and communities’ capacities, improving livelihoods, and increasing access to services that can enhance people’s ability to cope with current disasters and withstand future crisis, while addressing the root causes to crises and vulnerabilities. In practice, this requires providing short-, medium- and longer-term assistance concurrently to vulnerable people - while prioritizing “reaching those furthest behind first”.
4. **In protracted crises**, **development and peacebuilding activities are often possible and need to be planned and started at the onset of a crisis in close coordination with humanitarian actors.**  **or constrained by political conditionalities** in In these contexts, neutral humanitarian assistance should be focused on life-saving and quick-impact goals has become a gap-filling measure, providing independent basic social services perennially, thus increasing the risk of aid dependency and affecting the ability to respond to humanitarian needs in an impartial and neutral manner. At the same time, limited traction for political solutions manifest the barriers and prevention and peacebuilding measures are generally initiated too late, not prioritized or insufficiently sustained.
5. Whether dealing with the long-term consequences of drought; managing the impacts of intractable violent conflicts that impede the prospects of peace and development; ensuring durable solutions for the millions of displaced populations; or mitigating the generational impacts of infectious diseases, **aid actors must evolve their thinking on working methods to address these issues, aid .**andways
6. Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the on Refugees and Migrants UN GA and, nexus and human rights required, especially with the aim to improve the protection environment as well as contribute to prevention and peace. to reach this shared commitment, whilst respecting the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance
7. **and “whole-of-society” approach have leave no one behind through works** , building on existing methodologies for joint work.capitalize on individual comparative advantages and mandates and , with relevant stakeholders (government, UN, donors, as well as local, national and international humanitarian and development actors, communities),which sets the delivery of
8. For this vision to be successful, and stakeholders different streams of **assistance to vulnerable populations must be simultaneous, with principled humanitarian action, aiming to achieve measurable impact in meeting immediate current needs whilst over time other efforts also reducing needs future needs and vulnerability as waystations towards the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.** Development action will need to be more responsive, more risk focused, and more flexible through context-adaptable programming, including a stronger focus on presence and impact in communities and a flexible approach in terms of working with fragile/transitional institutions. Wherever relevant, Peacebuilding efforts will need to be more focussed on engaging national stakeholders and more risk tolerant work, in support to local actors, to address root causes of conflicts and crises, are and ensure that violations and neglect of human rights are front and centre of their strategies.. At the same time, humanitarian action should be placed within the broader context of aid, while protecting the humanitarian space, clearly indicating what needs it strives to address and the actions and indicators required by relevant stakeholders to phase out humanitarian aid and people access to services and protection transfer service delivery to non-humanitarian assistance providers and/or institutions over time.
9. the *New Way of Working* national systems and to shocks programming. As far as the UN is concerned, the UN Development System reform process and inform corrective action. the efforts to rationalize and make more efficient analysis should be capitalized on.
10. This **calls for a renewed investment in the participation of, local and focus on, national actors and affected populations**. We cannot succeed without accountability to and by those most affected by crises. Shared responsibility requires inclusivity, national and local actors and affected populations must be included nto analysis, programme design information sharing, and monitoring and evaluating results. Grievance and dialogue mechanisms are key.
11. **Changes required to make this approach work are institutionally and financially complex**. The *New Way of Working* is context-specific and enabled through flexible structures and support mechanisms at the global level. A priori, guidance need to emphasize an approach that learn from the field to clarify gaps and focus on achieving better outcomes. Based on the challenges we currently face **four priority areas should guide the early phases of changing the way we work together:**
12. ***Invest in consistent and sound joint context and risk analysis*** to establish a joint problem statement and shared understanding of priorities based on reliable data as well as the capacities available to address them. This joint analysis, conducted on a regular basis by all relevant actors led by the UN RC/HC, should identify the areas and population groups of greatest need, risks and vulnerabilities including their drivers and root causes.
13. ***Incentivize better joined-up response planning and programming:*** Joined-up planning will ensure complementarity of approaches and programmatic activities that will help minimize gaps in the response, articulate how ‘simultaneous’ assistance in the same communities and areas will work and be improved in practice, and increase possibilities of collective efforts towards shared goals. and appropriate. Whenever possible, planning should be done in conjunction with and be consistent with the priorities of national authorities as long as these are not at odds with providing humanitarian assistance based on need and in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, wherever necessary.. In every situation, cooperation with relevant local, national or regional partners should be sought. Better joined-up planning should also ensure nimbleness to react to early warning and forecast-based analysis. Common multi-year targets that are realistic, quantitative and concrete and relevant to all pillars should be established where possible to support the achievement of collective outcomes.
14. ***Strengthen leadership and coordination*** through governments and an empowered RC who will work collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders - UN entities, national and local authorities, donors, local, national and international humanitarian and development actors and communities partners, to facilitate the identification of priorities, implementation, monitoring and financing .outcome(s). .

***Recalibrate financing modalities*:** Grant-based funding instruments have limited scope and triggers for use, and are in some situations not dynamic enough when the system requires mobilization of additional resources that could help provide more sustainable solutions. To Flexible and multiyear public, private and innovative financing is. the, while overtime and and vulnerabilities At the same time, it is critical to maintain humanitarian funding streams that are more risk tolerant with funds released at much quicker time frames, in order to be able to respond to emergencies.

WHO: INPUT

So as to avoid further contention on the language, WHO proposes to align language as much as possible with most recent report by the Secretary General. the New Way of Working doesn’t appear anywhere in the report and the report speaks clearly of a “development, humanitarian, peacebuilding continuum” and the 3 parts of the house always come together throughout the report, including when referring to the Steering Committee of Principals.

Few extracts from the last SG report:

1. **Resident Coordinators must be better prepared to work across the development–humanitarian-peacebuilding continuum**

Where country contexts require, Resident Coordinators should have competencies to effectively lead humanitarian responses. In conflict and post-conflict settings, they will need to ensure that UN Country Teams work in an integrated manner with UN peacekeeping or political missions to fully contribute to building resilience and sustaining peace.

1. **Resident Coordinators will continue to be double-hatted as Humanitarian Coordinators (HC), and triple-hatted as Deputy Representatives of the Secretary-General (DSRSG), in relevant contexts.** An improved Resident

Coordinator system will clearly define authorities in situations of humanitarian crises or peacebuilding

In countries where Resident Coordinators are double or triple-hatted, they would be expected to receive integrated support across development, humanitarian and peacebuilding entities to drive an integrated response.

To bridge this gap, Member States may consider strengthening the role of the ECOSOC, building on the principles of the Charter and the direction given by the QCPR. In enhancing its governance and functioning, the Council may wish to utilize the full range of its tools, including the Operational Activities Segment, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Transition Event and the ECOSOC-Peacebuilding Commission joint meeting

1. **Member States may also use this session to enhance guidance on the development system’s coordination with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts**

The UNDAF also should link UN development and humanitarian efforts to limit threats and setbacks to progress on the sustainable development goals, and ensure earlier investment in the foundations for resilience, stability, long-term inclusive development and peace. In situations of protracted crises, in particular, multi-year Humanitarian Response Plans should be harmonized with the UNDAF to ensure a focus on collective outcomes

The Joint Steering Committee also will seek to foster greater synergies in humanitarian and development action, as well as its linkages to peace, in support of the 2030 Agenda

WFP: INPUT

1. Firstly, the messages are articulated in a way that furthers the current siloes we have, which the Nexus and NWoW (and the Secretary-General) are working to break. For example, Humanitarian, Development, Prevention and Peacebuilding is treated separately. As such there is a lack of understanding (or perhaps a reluctance to admit) that resilience work is prevention, such work can take place soon after an emergency begins by humanitarian actors themselves (3,4).
2. Characterizing protracted crises as “the new normal” is not a very interesting or inspiring way to start – it sounds very complacent. Further, the first four points state well known issues. These could be consolidated into a concise single point that sets the stage for the remainder.
3. There is a general undertone throughout the text that the various actors have been working in ignorance of each other up until now. It would be useful to at least acknowledge that the nexus is a long-standing issue that we have been struggling to address through a variety of means over decades, with some success in places and not so much success in others. For instance, multi-year HRPs that were developed across the Sahel region. Our work with UNHCR and other actors to build self-reliance of refugees in Uganda and elsewhere. Surely there are many good examples that could be referenced. There needs to some acknowledgement.
4. The language of “need to” and “should be” doesn’t give a very concrete idea of what exactly humanitarian, development and peace actors will be doing differently in the future. A few lines that set out the “how” would be useful. For instance, para 9 speaks about involving local actors and beneficiaries in analysis, programme design, etc. – what does this mean in practice, e.g. will RC/HCs be required to meet regularly with communities and/or establish feedback and complaints mechanisms? A more concrete sense of what will be different would be useful.
5. The document incorrectly says that because development and peacebuilding activities are possible but under resourced in protracted crises, humanitarian assistance has becoming a gap filling measure increasing dependency on aid. It specifically cites ‘basic social services.’ The message that humanitarian assistance is itself chronically underfunded is missing and important, which in turn impacts the ability to build partnerships that allow for exit/handover.
6. Of most concern is that the  document fails to acknowledge the need for Co-Designed / Joint Programming (6,10) which is fundamental to nexus realisation. Instead it uses the term – deliberately – Joined Up (we know which agencies push this language). Joined up simply means to better connect our respective programmes with each other, but doesn’t essentially mean there is any real change to the way we do business. While the document highlights collective outcomes, which is positive, it fails completely to convey that to achieve collective outcomes you need to design programmes together. E.g. to ensure children are moved off the streets where they beg and work into schools requires WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, Government, All related NGOs sitting around the table together to design a coherent programme. One where the outcome is agreed together first, and the programmes are then developed collectively. Not the other way around. This is the future and the fundamental shift required by the Nexus. It essentially stems from ‘true’ partnership. So a push to change ‘joined up’ to ‘joint’ with the insertion of ‘co-designed programmes’ would be important.
7. Collective outcomes should not be diminished by being referred to as a ‘notion’ (6)
8. Finally, the messaging needs to do more focus on the need to ‘keep those we serve at the centre’ of our planning. Similarly that our humanitarian principles must be observed in particular through the peacebuilding development work (not mutually exclusive). As such the reference to accountability is very good, but our approach must be coherent (9)

OCHA: INPUT

OCHA has serious objections to the key messages being presented to the Principals or shared with field colleagues as "collective" messaging, as they conflate the New Way of Working - which has intentionally been limited to the humanitarian-development nexus in SG reports and other official documents - with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

We are sharing some of our concerns in the attached, but this does not mean that we are endorsing the draft key messages, as at this stage we do not think that the differences can be resolved easily through editing. Even if the key messages did not directly reference the New Way of Working, they heavily rely on the concepts that underpin this approach - notably how to achieve collective outcomes that reduce need, risk and vulnerability through joint analysis, better joined-up planning, leadership and coordination, and financing, but present them in a way that we do not agree with and that we believe causes confusion.

Given the establishment of the Principal-level Joint Steering Committee and the fact that, based on yesterday's report on the UNDS reform the DSG's office is looking at options for the new UNDG, we do not think that these key messages should be shared with Principals at this time.

Within OCHA, we will not be able to consult our ASG and USG on the New Year.

In this context, please also note that, as OCHA is one of the co-chairs of the UNDG Sustainable Development-Sustaining Peace Results Group Task Team A, we would not want to sign any messages on this without further discussion.