

IASC Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN TT) in Protracted Settings - Progress Report

HDN TT's 2017/2018 work plan has three objectives: 1) Shape and contribute to common understanding of what is required to strengthen the humanitarian development and peacebuilding nexus, 2) Review and assess current policy, guidance, and operational tools based on the common understanding to identify gaps and best practices, and 3) Ensure coherence in field support towards successful implementation of the NWoW.

General Achievements

- Organized a **practitioners' workshop** on HDPN in Dakar, the second of its kind, an opportunity to gather field practitioners working on advancing collaboration between humanitarian, development, and peace-related activities in West and Central Africa.
- Produced a number of **key documents to advance a common understanding**: incl. updated mapping of existing operational and guidance documents on the HDN, a mapping of HDPN country pilots (ongoing), collective outcome research (WHO), input to UNSCC course material and lectures on the HDPN, in the context of the Dakar workshop, 9 new and 2 updated country snapshots on HDPN progress, and together with the UNDG Sustainable Development – Sustaining Peace Results Group, a draft Key Messages on the HDP Nexus.
- Continued to strengthen **cooperation between IASC and related mechanisms** by effective information exchange w/ co-chairs/process owners of those groups (P2P, IASC TT HF, the IASC MHCUA, the JIPS, the RG on Displacement, TT PHA, ICVA Webinars on HDPN developments, HPC, and the UNDG.

1. Establishing a common narrative

- Work continues on the [key messages](#) on strengthening collaboration between humanitarian development and peacebuilding action. Following a fourth round of consultation, a latest draft is being developed by a small group of agencies, considering the recommendations from practitioners.
- Linked with the ongoing work in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) review process, the HDN TT was tasked with undertaking a **mapping of pilot initiatives related to the HDPN**. This work is led by WFP and supported by WHO and UNHCR.
- Following the outcome of the subsidiary bodies review in which a series of recommendations were made regarding the HDN TT, discussions with TT PHA, RG Displacement and w/ MHCUA have taken place to **maintain continuity** for some of the products that have been developed in reference groups that have been closed and or have a link to the nexus.
- In line with the statement of intent and request from the IASC Working Group, **collaboration with the HFTT** has been strengthened. The HFTT workplan now contains a specific outcome on HPDN and includes various sub-tasks and activities, incl. operational support to be undertaken jointly with the HDN TT.
- As a contribution to ongoing HDN TT activity workstream on **articulating collective outcomes** (activity 1.5), WHO commissioned an independent study to map varying understandings and definitions of Collective Outcomes. The report is currently being finalized after a consultation round with the IASC HDN TT.
- The co-chairs have been approached by the **UN staff-college** in Turin who are working on the early stages of a process of designing and developing an **online learning opportunity** focusing on the Sustaining Peace resolutions and implementation reference to the HDPN.
- As per the roles and responsibilities of subsidiary bodies outlined in the recently endorsed **IASC Gender Policy**, work is underway between the HDN TT and the Gender Reference Group to explore how the processes and deliverables of the HDN TT contribute to the implementation of the policy and uphold its standards.

2. Field and country support

- On the margins of the practitioners' workshop held in Entebbe, a dedicated **"mini-workshop"** was held for participants from the Mali country team w/ the purpose to accelerate progress towards convening a national level HDN workshop to kickstart implementation of the New Way of Working. As requested by the RC/HC/DSRSG in Mali, the HDN TT will provide technical support in collaboration with the HF-TT.
- The **community of practice network** (HDN CoPN) established at the Entebbe workshop has expanded, including through participants from the Dakar meeting. Supported by the HDN TT, WFP manages monthly virtual meetings. The CoPN include practitioners from UN, NGOs, IFRC and has gradually grown to include field based colleagues from all regions of the world effectively bringing together deployed staff that now actively share their experiences and lessons learnt.

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3. Identifying gaps and best practices

- Focusing on West and Central Africa, a **2nd Practitioners' meeting** was held, 28-29 May. The agenda featured deep-dives on thematic elements that feature in the nexus; analysis, planning/programming, and the elaboration of collective outcomes. The workshop brought together 39 participants from 11 countries. In collaboration with participants, the HDN TT developed additional [country snapshots](#) highlighting progress against the implementation of core HDPN elements.
- The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Action Against Hunger organized a working meeting entitled **"Shaping a nexus-respectful system of aid: what can we contribute?"**. ICVA also held their annual NGO Conference with the theme **"Navigating the Nexus"**. The HDN TT co-chairs were invited to offer their perspective in both of these meetings.

4. Planned for 2nd half of 2018

- Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus, and promoting the NWoW amongst humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) actors requires the concerted efforts of IASC, UNDG, and other bodies who possess the technical know-how. To this end, the HDN TT will, or is in the process of finalizing, the following sub-tasks in line with the agreed workplan. The specificities of these sub-tasks are yet to be confirmed awaiting the finalisation of ongoing workstreams
 - Continue to grow the HDN Community of Practice:** in response to demand from the field, the HDN TT will convene 1 additional practitioners' workshop.
 - Country support:** finalize draft generic terms of reference for mission support, and provide concrete support to 5 country-contexts.
 - Produce inter-agency guidance:** focusing specifically on Collective Outcomes (COs), the HDN TT will convene light review and drafting process and will convene a workshop to validate a collective position on COs.
 - Handover for the IASC WGs consideration **a set of system wide recommendations** on the applicability of IASC protocols in protracted settings.

- UN Agencies, funds and programmes
- World Bank Group
- Red Cross movement
- Think-tanks
- Individual and umbrella NGOs
- DOCO Secretariat
- Other interagency entities
- IASC Secretariat

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