

Concept Note/Generic Terms of Reference:

IASC Humanitarian-Development Nexus Task Team (HDN TT) Technical Support to the Field

Introduction: The TT is the interagency forum for convening, presenting and formulating the collective views of the IASC TT members around the issue of strengthening the humanitarian development nexus. In collaboration with the UNDG, its aim is to advance a collective narrative on this agenda in a sequenced and time-bound manner. Guided by the IASC WG Workplan, the TT purpose is to i) coordinate information flows that help shape a common understanding of elements around the HDN; ii) Review and assess current humanitarian policy, guidance and operational tools against this understanding to identify policy gaps; iii) serve as a port of call to offer support where possible to country teams in their efforts to operationalize the mechanisms, processes, and structures required to strengthen the humanitarian development, and where applicable, peacebuilding nexus.

Background: In June 2017, at the request of the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, DERC and chair of the IASC Working Group, the IASC Humanitarian Development Nexus Task Team (HDN TT) was tasked – through a survey - to reach out to HC/RCs with the objective of clarifying gaps and required guidance on the operationalization of the New Way of Working. The major findings highlighted three major bottlenecks where HDN is being pursued, 1) understanding of what HDN entails varies, 2) the parameters of what is required to do so are unclear; and 3) implementation across context is unequal.

Since then, considerable progress has been made to shape and contribute to the common understanding of what is required to strengthen the humanitarian development and peacebuilding nexus. Various forums and mechanisms have been created or strengthened to provide strategic, technical, and operational support to country teams working on the nexus. Most notably, the creation of the Joint Steering Committee of Principals, as well as the new priorities and structures of the IASC and the UNDG, have provided the overall strategic direction necessary to alleviate the first two bottle necks identified by the HC/RC survey.

However, progress on the third bottleneck remains a challenge. While acknowledging that implementation of the *New Way of Working* must remain field focused and demand driven, it is also clear that while some are far ahead in moving this work forward (having had workshops, funding, and even staff dedicated to this subject), others are lagging behind. Through the Community of Practice and the regional Practitioners' meetings that the HDN TT has convened, there continues to be requests for additional support, ranging from clear but light guidance; to field mission support to accelerate progress towards effective collaboration between humanitarian development and peacebuilding actors.

Purpose: with the objective to **provide policy coherence and consistency in programme support**, in response to these requests, and in line with the HDN TT's agreed workplan, this document is designed to offer a menu of support activities that members of the IASC Task Team, collectively or individually and in collaboration with other relevant bodies both within and outside of the IASC can undertake to support field-colleagues. These activities, stem from experience in providing such support in Sudan, current pending requests from Mali, as well as support activities identified through discussions with field-practitioners. It is important to note, however, that the following list of activities is non-exhaustive and must be adapted to context, adapted to the degree of understanding, buy-in, and capacity in-country (see scenarios below).

Scenario 1: *Country Team is interested in pursuing the New Way of Working or other similar initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration across the HDN. Understanding remains cursory, and discussions preliminary [Bolivia, Iraq, CAR].*

1. Support the organization and facilitation of joint HCT/UNCT retreat providing introduction to key concepts, main elements. Retreat will also provide overview of learning from other similar contexts.
2. Assist in elaborating a roadmap that supports the implementation of actions that help operationalize the linkages between humanitarian and development programming, including peacebuilding programming, based on the Multi-Year Humanitarian Strategy, UNDAF the Peacebuilding Fund, if present.
3. Explore the possibility of developing a road map and accompanying joint accountability framework to define and achieve collective outcomes including possible models for joint analysis, joint planning and joint programming to enhance linkage of humanitarian and development programming.

Scenario 2: *Country Team has had advanced discussions both internally (within the UN) and externally (close consultation with NGOs and Government). A road map has been developed, but the identification and articulation of Collective Outcomes require refinement and multi-stakeholder validation [Mali, Cameroon]*

1. Support the Conception and development of a set of collective outcomes concrete, measurable and time bound (3 to 5 years) including humanitarian, recovery, development and where relevant, peace-building, within a unified perspective and approach with affected people at the center.
2. Support the elaboration of an overarching accountability framework for the achievement of the Collective Outcomes to monitor and report on the progress made.
3. Support the establishment of specific baseline and the analysis of possible data gaps. Possible new data collection with prioritization of assessments can also be support.

Scenario 3: *Implementation is advanced, Collective Outcomes have been defined and agreed. Requirements revolve around granular operational aspects related supporting co-designing joint programmes, monitoring and evaluation, refining coordination and responsibility sharing arrangements [Sudan, Ukraine, Chad, Somalia].*

1. Support the review of the current coordination architecture with a focus on humanitarian coordination, building on best practice, and ensure that it is fit-for-purpose and functioning well while being better equipped to link with development coordination structures.
2. Propose options to achieve coherence among humanitarian and development coordination including adequate mechanisms to coordinate the Multi- Year Humanitarian Strategy, the UNDAF, PBF and oversee the HDP nexus.

3. Organize Collective Outcome specific support to develop, and collective agree on basket of indicators to track and monitor short-, medium-, and long-term progress against agreed Outcome. A solid monitoring mechanism will need to be defined to set the periodicity of data collection and review with roles and responsibilities for this important function.

All-Scenario: *Country team is in the process of implementing actions to strengthening collaboration between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors and require support specific focus on Financing.*

1. Understand financial gaps and highlight opportunities by mapping financial flows (Domestic public and private flows; international public and private flows) to facilitate in-country discussions with country teams and produce recommendations. In line with the joint output between the IASC HDN TT and the IASC HFTT workplans, this activity will be undertaken by the IASC HFTT sub-group.

Planning and approach

- I. Support requests may come from IASC and/or UNDG agencies, be requested by the Joint Steering Committee in their role of providing strategic direction, and/or come directly from HC/RCs.
- II. Requests can be routed through the IASC and UNDG coordinating secretariat in interaction with respective nexus task teams and/or results groups, through which the appropriate composition of the support team can be determined by consulting TT members and other subsidiary bodies in the IASC such as HF TT, and in the UNDG.
- III. Support teams will remain small and light in number (team of 4 to 5), bringing together relevant sectoral and technical expertise as per the request. Appropriate diversity in agency representation, UN/NGOs composition, as well as gender will be observed.
- IV. Preparatory work will be undertaken by the selected Task Team members and agency actors on the ground under the leadership of the HCT and UNCT. Duration of support mission will depend on the menu of activities requested.

Funding Requirements:

As part of the common output between workplans in the IASC HFTT and HDN TT, and in line with the Joint Plan of Action between the HND TT and the UNDG, **5 country-contexts** would be prioritized for 2018. Given that neither group has dedicated funding for such activities, costs associated with travel will be borne by the agency which he/she represents. However, this concept note will serve as the basis for funding request from external sources of funding.