

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Burkina Faso

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



The nexus approach was initiated in 2017 to support

Burkina Faso in operationalizing the Leaving No One Behind principle while reducing longstanding, climate related humanitarian need and creating conditions for lasting peace. It was against the backdrop of an unfolding sub-regional crisis in the Central Sahel, wherein the country had become a target of attacks by non-state armed

groups, shortly after the establishment of a newly elected democratic government in 2016. These attacks revealed needs, risks and vulnerabilities along the Sahel band of Burkina Faso, spanning its North, Central North and Eastern regions. In 2018, violence from non-state armed groups fueled conflicts among communities and generated what in 2019/20 was characterized as the fastest displacement and protection crisis in the world.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▶ Context
- ▶ Approach
- ▶ Operationalizing the nexus
- ▶ Lesson learnt
- ▶ Spotlight on peace, gender & local actors

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

An inclusive nexus approach was championed by the RC/HC in Burkina Faso as early as 2017. Five key collective outcomes have been developed in the margins of the development of the Common Country Assessment (CCA, in 2017) which brought together analysis of humanitarian, development and local peace actors to create a shared understanding of risk, need and vulnerability. The collec-

tive outcomes, focusing around the reduction of food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, climate-induced hazards, poverty and a reduction of risk of conflicts, were identified and jointly agreed in consultation with national authorities, civil society partners and development partners, including the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Since 2017, these collective outcomes have continued to serve as reference

for collective prioritization and channeling of investments. Collective outcomes have been referenced in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF, 2018-21)¹ and led to a positive shift among some donors to finance those nexus priorities. They have also informed and underpinned the Prevention and Peace building Assessment (PPBA) initiated in 2019.

1. The current UN Development Cooperation Framework has been extended for two years (2020-2022) to align the planning cycle with that of the Government's next national economic and social development plan.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The RC/HC has initiated and facilitated an inclusive process around the nexus approach in Burkina Faso. Leadership around the nexus is a shared responsibility between the Government and the UN with support from partners. The RC/HC is leading a Nexus Forum and acts as the President of the Technical and Financial Partners Forum which provide space for nexus discussion in particular with technical development partners. At sub-national level, five regional hubs established in 2019 support collaboration and coordination around context-specific joint programming across the nexus.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

HDP actors have exchanged analyses since 2017 when the RC/HC promoted the sharing of analysis or risks, needs and vulnerabilities across HDP actors in the margins of the CCA. Those efforts were reinforced in 2019 at the margins of the development of the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which served as a key opportunity to share analysis as well with development and peace actors. The sharing of analysis supported the development of collective outcomes and supported early work on the CCA review and the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment. In addition, several other assessment missions such as the joint UN/World Bank (WB)/European Union (EU) and African Development Bank (AfDB) joint assessment contributed to a deepened understanding of drivers of conflict, which will inform a revision of the collective outcomes and the next iteration of the country's development plan (2021-2025). Due to the volatility of the situation, comprehensive reviews of the humanitarian needs analysis, prioritization and planning processes are conducted in priority regions every six months.



3. 'Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas

In 2017, five collective outcomes were jointly identified and agreed in the margins of the CCA process between the UN, national authorities, civil society and development actors.

4. Joined-up planning and programming



The collective outcomes have served as a reference for prioritization and channeling of investments and have been reflected in the HRP and in the UNDAF (2018-21). Collective outcomes informed as well the Government's Region-Specific Priority Plan (Matrice d'Actions Prioritaires). The priorities identified in this plan are aligned with collective outcomes and do also include new ones that address immediate needs and risks generated by forced displacement by focusing mainly on basic social services, social protection and human security.

The current UN Development Cooperation Framework in Burkina Faso has been extended for two years (2020-2022) to align the planning cycle with that of the Government's next national economic and social development plan. This new planning cycle will also provide an opportunity to refine existing collective outcomes in country in light of the Covid 19 pandemic on humanitarian and development's needs.

The 2021 HRP tentatively includes three new collective outcomes. It is a pragmatic attempt, based on the ongoing planning exercise of the UN Development Cooperation Framework, to not lose sight of the strategic and collective dimension that this humanitarian framework is supposed to provide with regard to the nexus.

5. Financing



All nexus financing has been deployed in a complementary manner and as an outcome of joint analyses and planning, with strong engagement of multilateral and bilateral donors in the collective prioritization. OECD/DAC members are increasingly financing initiatives with a nexus focus, including in the areas of WASH, food assistance, resilience building, social protection, peacebuilding and social cohesion.

At the end of 2020, Burkina Faso became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to become eligible for the WB IDA 19 Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA). The allocation is a direct outcome of the collaboration between the UN and the WB in Burkina Faso, founded on joint assessments, planning and programming, and anchored in collective outcomes as defined in the government overarching strategy.

Collective Outcomes



Food Security

By 2020, to reduce by 50 per cent the number of people in phase 3 of food insecurity and reach 0 per cent of people in phase 4 and 5 of food insecurity.



Nutrition

By 2020, to reduce by 30 per cent the rate of chronic malnutrition among children 0-5 years.



Climate-induced hazards

By 2020, to reduce to less than 1 per cent the number of households vulnerable to climate shocks and increase by 50 per cent the number of institutions with capacities for disaster risk reduction.



Peace and security

Perception, in percentage, of risk of conflicts baseline reduced to 39.6 per cent.



Multi-dimensional poverty

Reduce the prevalence of multi-dimensional poverty to less than 35 per cent.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



Strong RC/HC leadership has facilitated the development of an inclusive nexus approach around collective outcomes: RC/HC leadership has ensured the development of a nexus approach in Burkina Faso as early as 2017 even under limited dedicated capacity in the RCO. Several agencies have followed the lead of the RC/HC to operationalize the nexus, among others, by increasing their human resources capacities on the nexus.



Collective outcomes have been a useful tool to prioritize collaboration aimed at reducing need, risk and vulnerability, and have been reflected in a variety of planning documents and strategies: Collective outcomes have not only informed the development of humanitarian and development plans led by the UN, but have also been reflected in national development plans and informed the PPBA, which formed the basis for the Government's overarching nexus strategy.



Collective outcomes and a nexus approach have been a guiding instrument for donors to align their funding to programmes that address underlying drivers of need. For example, one donor committed resources for complementary cross-border development and peacebuilding programmes based on a joint UN-OECD/DAC analysis of needs, risks and vulnerabilities of the Liptako-Gourma region.

Further, promoting the collaboration between clusters and the respective sectoral development coordination mechanisms has triggered the acceleration of the nexus and improved the effectiveness of interventions. For example, one donor increased funding for the WASH sector in one of the most-affected regions.

CHALLENGES



Strengthening a common understanding of the nexus approach in country: Even though the nexus approach has become mainstream and is being operationalized in Burkina Faso, there is room to strengthen a common understanding of the approach among key stakeholders. In particular, there is a need to strengthen the understanding that the nexus supports the reduction of needs, by focusing development and prevention activities on the underlying drivers of need.



Need for a dedicated nexus advisor capacity in the RCO: The RCO would benefit from a fully dedicated nexus advisor to support ongoing efforts around the programming and financing of collective outcomes and to also document lessons learnt and best practices.



SPOTLIGHT ON PEACEBUILDING

The nexus approach in Burkina Faso has been linked from the beginning to the implementation of the UN Sustaining Peace and Prevention agendas. The PPBA launched the process of addressing underlying drivers of conflict. The second phase of the PPBA exercise supported additional analyses of

conflict, vulnerabilities and risks to underpin the formulation of the national development plan 2021-2025 with prevention and peacebuilding mainstreamed. A collaboration with Interpeace is ongoing to develop a detailed mapping of existing “peace” capacities, highlighting further opportunities to strengthen the peace element of the nexus approach. The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in Burkina Faso is working with and supporting local actors, NGOs and think tanks on peacebuilding activities.



SPOTLIGHT ON GENDER

In recognition of the need to strengthen gender analysis and planning, Burkina Faso mobilized a GenCap Advisor in March 2021 to support a comprehensive gender analysis and inform the refining of the

gender strategy, not just for the HCT and humanitarian action, but for coordinated action across the HDP Nexus. The initial findings of the Desk Review and Road Map to strengthen gender considerations were presented in June 2021. Overall, a gender lens is always applied while carrying out analysis, planning and programming, in order to ensure that programs and projects are gender sensitive and gender responsive.



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ACTORS

“Reinforce, do not replace” remains the focus and key message for the nexus approach in Burkina Faso. Development and peace-building programmes are specifically designed to strengthen the capacities of regional and local authorities as well as NGOs and community-based organizations.

In particular, the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility (HDPP Facility) has strengthened coordination capacities of local municipalities in five priority regions in country. Humanitarians in country have strengthened concerted efforts to develop new partnerships with local civil society organizations, in particular to ensure that local partners’ feedback on when and how to conduct humanitarian operations is taken into account.