

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Burundi

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



Burundi has faced episodes of political instability, natural disasters, and socio-economic crises that have severely impacted the most vulnerable communities, who continue to be exposed to many shocks. The return of Burundian refugees from neighboring countries has increased considerably and this trend is expected to continue. The humanitarian-development-peace (HDP)

nexus approach provides an opportunity to link response to immediate needs with sustainable development activities which can support progress towards Burundi's development goals. The peace component of the HDP nexus is extremely relevant, as Burundi has been exposed to civil wars and periods of political instability in the last decades and considering the Great Lakes conflicts and political tensions in the region.

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IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

The nexus approach in Burundi is led by the RC/HC with the support of OCHA, UNDP and the RCO. Currently, a range of activities aimed at strengthening coordination between

development and humanitarian actors is being implemented. In early 2021, the process for the operationalization of the HDP nexus approach has been relaunched through the Human-

itarian Country Team (HCT) and the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) with the first priority to sensitize national authorities and ensure their involvement.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The RC/HC guides the implementation of the nexus approach with the support of OCHA, UNDP and the RCO. The UNCT, the HCT and the PAG oversee its operationalization at the strategic level, and are responsible for ensuring the inclusion of NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors. Coordination with the Government takes place through bilateral ad-hoc meetings.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

In 2019, the PAG, the FTPs and the HCT produced a joint analysis based on the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the analysis of the risks for resilience based on the INFORM risk methodology. The HNO includes relevant analyses from the socioeconomic response plan to COVID-19 and the national development plan. A peacebuilding situational analysis report identifying drivers of conflict and peace, as well as challenges and opportunities, will be released at the end of May 2021.





3. Collective outcomes

Based on the joint analysis above, the FTPs and the HCT developed the Resilience Framework for 2020-23. The Resilience Framework represented a first step towards identifying three common priorities at the national level:

- Reduction of chronic morbidity and vulnerability
- Reinforcement of institutional coping capacity
- Disaster risk reduction

For the six most vulnerable provinces, these priorities will be addressed through up to 10 strategic/sectorial objectives, depending on the context of each province. Each strategic objective is composed of a series of activities to address sectoral vulnerabilities in areas such as (health, food security, education, WASH, etc.). Based on this analysis, the FTPs and HCT developed the Resilience Framework for 2020-23. This approach has been presented in a 20-page brochure, co-signed by the World Bank, and introduced to the Government.

In early 2021, partners have launched a process to identify collective outcomes for HDP collaboration, with a national workshop planned for May. These outcomes may be designed at provincial level to adapt them to the challenges of the most vulnerable and to prioritize the zones most affected by the humanitarian crisis.



4. Joined-up planning and programming

The HRP, while remaining an independent document, has been included as the first of four pillars of the Resilience Framework 2020-23. The 2020 Partner's socioeconomic response plan to COVID-19 (and the SERP, which is the UN country team contribution to the Partners' response plan) was developed around three common priorities and proposes a mid-term response to complement the humanitarian response and build up resilience.



5. Financing

As the operationalization of the nexus is ongoing, financing is not yet aligned with collective outcomes. However, the HDP nexus is supported by the World Bank, who co-chaired a meeting to introduce the HDP nexus approach to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, discussions are underway between humanitarian actors and the World Bank to identify potential collaboration for people affected by emergencies related to natural disasters and climate change.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



The development of common analyses by humanitarian and development actors has been highly appreciated by all partners and has helped identify vulnerabilities as well as thematic and geographic priority areas for the nexus approach.



Applying existing skills and practices, such as mapping of actors and activities done by OCHA and broadening them to include development actors has been a practical way to support the nexus approach.



Building on existing coordination mechanisms, including strong coordination mechanisms with donors and IFIs.

CHALLENGES



Humanitarian and development actors have different rules of engagement and ways to respond (including varying timelines). Strengthening mutual understanding of each other's mandates, principles and strategies is necessary to work together towards collective outcomes.



Coordinated monitoring needs to be strengthened: This includes monitoring of financial tracking and mapping of the different actors across the HDP spectrum in order to promote synergies and avoid duplication/double reporting.



Mobilizing stakeholders around a new strategy is challenging when several plans already exist in country (a challenge exacerbated in the context of Covid-19).



Lack of official national data/statistics in Burundi.



SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

A situational analysis on peacebuilding in Burundi will be available at the end of May 2021. Its findings will be taken into consideration in the programming of the HDP nexus operationalization.



SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

Gender is a cross-cutting theme in the specific Strategic Objectives of the Resilience Framework, although there is a dedicated strategic objective that addresses gender-based violence (GBV).



SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

The distribution of the Resilience brochure is targeted at national actors involved at sectoral and local level, to promote the inclusion of the HDP nexus approach more systematically in their strategies.