

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Cameroon

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



Cameroon ranks 153 out of 189 on the Human Development

Index and faces persisting levels of poverty, underemployment and food insecurity. Drivers of instability include Boko Haram attacks in the Far North Region and the socio-political conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions resulting in large-scale displacement. Cameroon also hosts large numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic in its eastern regions. Cameroon also hosts

large numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic in its eastern regions. Stakeholders in Cameroon recognized the importance of complementarity between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding response efforts. While continuing to meet humanitarian needs, efforts were strengthened to reduce needs, mitigate risks and address vulnerabilities in support of both the immediate requirements of the people affected by forced displacement and the SDGs.

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IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

In May 2019, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) requested the creation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Taskforce to implement the nexus. Co-chaired by the HDP Coordinator and OCHA HDP Regional Advisor, it includes representatives from the Government, UN, World Bank (WB), bilateral donors, international and national

NGOs, and the private sector. In October 2019, the HCT and the UNCT endorsed one collective outcome consisting of three pillars and accompanied by a set of common principles of action and cross-cutting issues, as well as a roadmap for implementing the collective outcome. At the regional level, two regional nexus groups, support the selection, prior-

itization and sequencing of assistance in “convergence areas.” (“Convergence areas” are municipalities or groups of municipalities in priority regions, where the different actors complement their efforts and create synergies in order to achieve the collective outcome.)

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The RC/HC is leading the nexus approach with the support of the HDP Coordinator based in the RCO and funded by the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Partnership Facility (HDPP), with continued support from the OCHA HDP Nexus Regional Adviser. Previously, the UNDP and OCHA HDP Nexus Regional Advisers had supported the coordination of the nexus approach.



2. Joint analysis

The collective outcome proposed by the Taskforce is built on the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) analysis conducted for the Recovery and Consolidation of Peace (RCP) Strategy by the Government with support from WB, UN, EU and partners.



3. Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas:

Based on shared analysis, the HDP Nexus Task Force developed one collective outcome and three pillars supporting the achievement of that outcome. The nexus approach in Cameroon also underlines the importance of respecting humanitarian principles and development principles through a set of agreed “common principles for action” and “cross-cutting issues.”



4. Joined-up planning and programming

The nexus approach around the collective outcome has been integrated into the various planning documents, including the 2020 HNO, 2021 HRP, UNDAF mid-term review, CCA/UNSDCF, and are linked to various WB country documents. UN Agencies and other partners have started integrating the nexus into their country strategic approach. At municipality level, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors coordinate data collection and identify programmatic priorities for collaboration and gaps in support of the nexus approach.



5. Financing

Several donors and the WB are members of the HDP Nexus Task Force and were involved in priority-setting around collective outcomes. Funding continues to be channelled through existing frameworks and projects. A pooled fund, the Cameroon Trust Fund (CTF) is currently designed and expected to fill financing gaps. The CTF includes two windows: Rapid assistance/HDP Nexus and UNSDCF.

Collective Outcomes

By the end of 2026, the most vulnerable populations living in convergence areas recover indiscriminately their fundamental rights and improve their physical well-being and social welfare. (The most vulnerable populations include “returned internally displaced persons, repatriated

or ‘economically inserted’ refugees, and their host and/or communities of origin) in the Far North, North, Adamaoua, East, Northwest and Southwest priority regions or in other regions affected by the crises.”)



Pillar 1: Basic social services

By the end of 2026, the most vulnerable people living in convergence areas and/or affected by conflict access sustainable basic social services.



Pillar 2: Sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities

By the end of 2026, the most vulnerable people living in convergence areas access sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities.



Pillar 3: Protection, social cohesion and local governance

By the end of 2026, good local governance and the consolidation of peace protect the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable people living in convergence areas.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



Programming for collective outcomes: The nexus in Cameroon does not stop at identifying collective outcomes and creating synergies between strategic frameworks. The focus is on operationalizing the approach in convergence areas through strengthened programming towards those outcomes, aiming at increasing the impact on the communities.



Bottom-up approach: The nexus discussion started at the field level (Far North and Eastern Front) with the participation of different stakeholders (Gouvernors, “Prefets”, “Sous-Prefets”, Mayors, UN agencies, NGOs, and some affected populations). The information gathered at the field level facilitated and informed the discussions of the HDP Nexus Taskforce.



An inclusive coordination platform: The HDP Nexus Taskforce convenes more than 80 representatives from Government, UN Agencies, the World Bank and donors, international and national NGOs and the private sector. HDP Nexus regional groups in the Far-North and in the Eastern Front have further facilitated coordination of the approach at sub-national level.



Coordinated data collection: The collective outcome proposed by the HDP Nexus Taskforce is built on the RPBA analysis. The HDP Nexus regional groups in the Far-North and in the Eastern Front are mapping humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors and interventions to guide the selection, prioritisation and sequencing of convergence areas.



HDP Coordinator position: The Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) has supported an HDP Coordinator position within the RC Office, which has been commended by the Inter-Agency Mission on Strengthening Humanitarian-Development Collaboration in the Northwest and Southwest regions. The Coordinator provides support to both the HCT and UNCT, in close collaboration with the Peace and Development Adviser.



Photo: OCHA/Mouangue

CHALLENGES



Adequate financing: There is lack of adequate humanitarian and development financing for Cameroon to sufficiently address drivers of need and development deficits.



Lack of development actors in the Eastern Front of Cameroon.



Need for dedicated and sustainable nexus staff capacity: There is a need for dedicated nexus capacity, to coordinate and advance the approach at national, regional, and local level and to continue to strengthen collaboration and complementarity between all stakeholders.



SPOTLIGHT ON
PEACE

The initiatives funded by the Peace Building Fund are risk-tolerant, rapidly funded and catalytic. They seek to support national efforts to reduce community violence, restore social cohesion, and consolidate peace. The fourth 2021 PBF strategic priority reads: “Strengthening the Peace component of the HDP Nexus approach in areas of convergence, and pilot the HDP nexus approach through PBF-funded projects.”



SPOTLIGHT ON
GENDER

The HDP Nexus Taskforce has convened a group of gender experts and nexus experts to develop guidance on the gender dimension in the HDP nexus to support the integration of transformative actions in each of the packages of the three pillars. This guidance has been shared with all organizations contributing to the Taskforce, and with all agencies participating in the Gender Working Group.