

# Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Haiti

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

## CONTEXT



Haiti is a disaster-prone country regularly facing multidimensional

crises and instability. Institutional weaknesses, such as the rent-based structure of the national economy, pervasive corruption and collusion between the economic and the political elites, along with the instrumentalization of violence are at the basis of chronic humanitarian need, extreme poverty, and growing

social inequity. Much needed development efforts in the country are hampered by a culture of short-termism and an excessive focus on individual projects to the detriment of long-term development objectives. Given that the root causes of Haiti's humanitarian needs are to be found in structural weaknesses and development deficits, there is ample room to advance a nexus approach in the country.

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**IASC** Inter-Agency Standing Committee

## THE NEXUS APPROACH

An overarching strategy to operationalize the nexus in Haiti has yet to be defined and the approach has just been initiated. Preliminary discussions have identified three priority areas for collaboration: 1) Strengthening disaster response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); 2) institutionalizing social protection as a way to address the needs of

the most vulnerable, and 3) improving food security. These priority areas were reflected in the first strategic objective of the 2021-2022 HRP launched in March 2021. The objective aims to reduce the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance by 20 per cent at the end of 2022, with a focus on strengthening the resilience to shocks of communities,

increasing food self-sufficiency, and supporting the implementation of the national social protection policy. Discussions are ongoing to develop and articulate collective outcomes in those areas, which would also be reflected in development frameworks (such as the One UN Plan for the UN).

# OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

## KEY STEPS



### 1. Leadership and capacity

The DSRSG/RC/HC leads on the nexus approach. While there is no dedicated forum to discuss the nexus yet, it is regularly discussed both in the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), where most actors have dual humanitarian/development mandates and interventions. The HCT includes five local NGOs.



### 2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

OCHA is participating in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) process and development actors have participated in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) process. In addition, a Peace and Development Advisor arrived in Haiti in 2021 and will support joint analysis in order to create a shared understanding of need, risk and vulnerability.



### 3. 'Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas

Three priority areas have been identified by the UNCT and HCT to work on the nexus. These focus on 1) strengthening disaster response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), 2) Institutionalizing social protection as a way to address the needs of the most vulnerable; and 3) Improving food security (through projects of resilience building, agricultural development, transformation and tariffs). Those priorities are areas, in which the country team might articulate collective outcomes in the future.



### 4. Joined-up planning and programming

Significant steps have been taken with regards to joined-up planning and programming around the three priority areas outlined above and the UN has strengthened its interventions around those priorities linked to the nexus. Within the UN, these efforts are all embedded in a One UN approach, with joined-up programming and planning as the rule. In addition, the nexus was included as the first strategic objective of the HRP with specific objectives to address the three priority areas.



### 5. Financing

Involvement of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in the strategy and priority-setting process for the triple nexus in Haiti is still a work in progress. The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, in collaboration with the UN, are increasingly supporting financing towards social safety nets and resilience, which makes it a good entry point for increased engagement around the priorities identified and the wider nexus approach.

# LESSONS LEARNT

## GOOD PRACTICES



**Shared understanding that the nexus approach could strengthen effectiveness of development activities in fragile settings:** there is a recognition and an on-going discussion (with connection to the OECD and ECOSOC) about the lack of development effectiveness and impact. The potential of a nexus approach to invert this trend and address development deficit is part of these discussions.



**The One UN plan** is a splendid opportunity to advance a nexus approach strengthening coherence and complementarity with the Humanitarian Response Plan.



**The inclusion of national NGOs in the HCT** represents a great opportunity to expand a nexus approach while also involving local development and humanitarian actors.



**Donors have shown interest** and support to the implementation of a nexus approach. In addition, the growing involvement of IFIs is also key in strengthening resilience approaches.

## CHALLENGES



**Uncertainty with regards to the operationalization strategy:** Lack of joint understanding and concrete strategies on how to operationalize the nexus approach in Haiti.



**Differing levels of engagement:** Some actors seem less involved than others in the implementation of a nexus approach. This is due to the structure of their incentive system/business model, which is not necessarily conducive to a nexus approach.



**Lack of dedicated staff expertise:** This challenge is currently being addressed with support from the Swiss Cooperation.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

With the arrival of a Peace and Development Advisor, the integration of conflict-analysis, conflict-sensitive programming and peacebuilding will be enhanced. In relation with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) portfolio in Haiti, a conflict analysis will also be conducted in 2021.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

The country team has recently obtained GenCap support which allows for strengthened strategic promotion of gender equality in the response.



## SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

All humanitarian sectors in Haiti are led by national actors (Government institutions), with the vice-lead being a UN agency. National actors are therefore involved in all processes, including the HNO/HRP. The recent inclusion of local NGOs in the HCT is also ensuring a wider array of Haitian voices in the debate and has strengthened support for the nexus approach.

This summary is part of the initiative Mapping good practice in the implementation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches carried out by the IASC Results Group 4 in 2021.

Photo: OCHA/Christian Cricboom

