

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Jordan

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



In the refugee context of Jordan, the growing and shared realization

that humanitarian efforts must be complemented by innovative development programmes that address socio-economic needs led to the adoption of the humanitarian-development nexus approach. It is based on the Jordan Compact that was adopted between the Government and the international

community in 2016 to address the Syrian refugee crisis in a resilient and holistic manner. The compact is grounded in concessional financing and beyond-aid incentives to support inclusive growth for Jordanians and Syrian refugees, but has evolved into a broader response that seeks to address the evolving vulnerabilities and needs of a sizeable and diverse refugee caseload.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

The nexus approach that is anchored in the Jordan Compact between the Government and the international community aims at opening European markets to Jordanian goods in return for access to livelihood opportunities, education and health services for refugees in Jordan. Access

to these services is facilitated through unified multi-donor funding modalities for education and health that are channeled through existing national systems. More importantly, the set of policy changes is also designed to benefit Jordanian host communities. The reciprocal commitments

are in line with the principles of the Global Refugee Compact (GRC) and the commitment to a New Way of Working (NWOW) made at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. Key stakeholders include the Government, the UN and donors.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The nexus approach is coordinated by the RC/HC through the Humanitarian Development Partners Group (HDPG), the Humanitarian Partners Forum (HPF) and the Nexus Task Team (NTT) bringing together development and humanitarian partners, the Government, donors, international NGOs and local actors. The HDPG is chaired by the RC/HC and the World Bank, while the HPF is chaired by the RC/HC and UNHCR. A dedicated humanitarian development nexus advisor in the RCO supports the RC/HC in the implementation of the portfolio.

Within the context of responsibility-sharing, UNHCR has taken considerable lead in Jordan to implement a development-displacement nexus approach. As the co-lead on the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) for the Syria Crisis (along with UNDP), UNHCR ensures that significant resources are allocated towards the resilience pillar in order to ensure refugee self-reliance, while also ensuring that host communities not only cope and recover from crisis but improve the longer-term development prospects for Jordan.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

The current Jordan Common Country Analysis (CCA) is a cross-pillar analysis that shows the interlinkages between the development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, gender equality and human rights dimensions and reflects the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Plans are underway to harmonize all vulnerability assessments by agencies and development partners in the Joint Common Vulnerability Assessment (JCVA) by 2022, for a shared and standardized understanding of vulnerability in Jordan.



3. 'Collective outcomes' OR HDP priority areas

A core group of UN entities, NGOs and donors in the Nexus Task Team has commenced a dialogue to identify possible priority areas for collective engagement. This includes public health care; education; livelihoods; alignment of refugee cash assistance with the Ministry of Social Affairs' funding for vulnerable Jordanians; and improvement of water and sanitation in refugee camps and surrounding communities.



Photo: UNHCR/ Lilly Carlisle



4. Joined-up planning and programming

UN agencies decided in 2021 to conduct joint programming on economic recovery and growth; addressing water scarcity; strengthening food security and establishing rights-based accountable and transparent institutions under the UNSDCF and the UN Socio-Economic Framework (SEF) for the COVID-19 response. Long-term transformative actions will be considered alongside short-term responses, focusing on the most vulnerable groups.



5. Financing

The international community funds specific interventions through the Jordan Response Plan, under the leadership of the Government. Donor-led initiatives include Joint Funding Agreements (JFA) through national institutions in education, health, social protection and macro-economic recovery. The HDPG, co-chaired by the World Bank, aims to align resources from bilateral and multilateral donors and ensure that all programmes are geared towards a comprehensive national response.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



Pooled funding through the Joint Funding Agreements (JFA) is hailed as a good practice for prioritizing nexus approaches. The joint voice of donors provides collective power to make strategic shifts in prioritizing resources. It also strengthens systems by using national and local structures to channel the funds.



Prioritizing the humanitarian-development nexus as a standing element in all strategic discussions in the Humanitarian Partners Forum and in the work of the Nexus Task Team has been a crucial factor in raising nexus-related issues with key donors and operational agencies.



Collaboration between the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP and OCHA in co-leading the process of the Socio-Economic Framework has provided a clear opportunity for the implementation of joint humanitarian-development needs analysis and policy recommendations.

CHALLENGES



Implementing nexus strategies in refugee settings is challenged by declining funding. Whereas crises tend to last for decades, the bulk of funding arrives during the first few years. The ability of the international community to respond to needs thus decreases over time, commensurately with the level of funding, while governments are not always able to allocate resources from national systems.



Bringing together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors requires time and coordination. Each sector has its own objectives and approaches. Each engages with affected people, local authorities, government, donors and other actors in different ways. A hybrid approach keeping humanitarian needs at the forefront and aligning with national systems would be more efficient than joined-up humanitarian-development programming in the context of Jordan.

CHALLENGES (CONTINUED)



Systemic transformation takes longer than a few programme cycles and requires a shift from output-oriented thinking to outcome-based planning. This enhances opportunities to build partnerships and enhance local leadership. Thought should be given to the kind of funding sought and the types of programmes planned, so that they can be layered and sequenced over time to facilitate the nexus approach.



Multilateral donors should adapt their funding mechanisms towards more coordinated medium-term funding. This would facilitate the creation of efficient financing modalities. The modalities should support collective action and must include a broader range of flexible and predictable multi-year programming and diversified funding tools to enable the layering of short-, medium- and long-term programmes.



SPOTLIGHT ON GENDER

An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was set up in 2015 to provide leadership, coordination and accountability for government action on achieving women's rights commitments. The Chair of the committee heads the IMC for Women's Empowerment at Cabinet level. This is to ensure that government decisions impact men and women equally and that government policy on gender mainstreaming is developed. It is also to ensure that the committee liaises with the different levels of government and civil society organizations on actions to be taken towards gender equality.



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL ACTORS

A localization task team (LTT) has been set up under the HPF, co-chaired by a UN agency and the local Jordan NGO Forum (JONAF). Its objective is to develop monitorable goals for moving forward on localization in Jordan. A progress measuring and monitoring tool on localization is currently being developed, together with a work plan and strategy for 2021, with linkages to nexus processes.