

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



The conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) is one of the most protracted in the world, causing chronic dependency on aid and long-standing development deficits for millions of Palestinians. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) aims to assist 1.8 million out of 2.45 million people in need. Some 346,000 Palestinians slipped from moderate to severe need in 2020/21, largely due to the impacts of COVID-19. Humanitarian needs

further deepened in oPt due to the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in May 2021, resulting in significant suffering and loss of life. In late May, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) launched a three-month Flash Appeal for US\$95 million to address immediate humanitarian and early recovery responses for 1.1 million Palestinians. This Plan complements ongoing operations outlined in the HRP 2021 and will dovetail longer-term recovery and reconstruction efforts.

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IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

The nexus approach has been implemented since the 1990s, though not using the term "nexus." The UN Special Envoy has an explicit mandate to coordinate international assistance to the Palestinian people in support of the peace process. In January 2020, the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) agreed

to an ambitious transformation of their strategic planning processes. As a first step, a combined data and analysis group developed the Atlas of Sustainable Development, a COVID-19 impact household assessment, and the COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response Plan. This year, the UNCT and HCT are conducting a Multisectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA)

to produce analysis from a nexus perspective. From 2021 to 2022, the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and HRP processes will be aligned, including the identification of collective outcomes. This approach may be augmented to address response and recovery efforts resulting from the recent escalation of hostilities.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

The Deputy Special Envoy/UN Resident Coordinator (RC)/HC is leading on the nexus approach, together with the UNCT and the HCT, and through regular discussions with donors. As the work moves into the technical implementation phase, working groups will be established to support the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), as well as the Cooperation Framework and HRP processes in the latter half of 2021 and into 2022.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

This year, UN entities, the Government of Palestine, and national and local civil-society actors will survey a sample of 7,500 households for the MSNA. By the end of 2021, the RC Office will launch an interactive, online platform to visualize and analyse the nexus approach, including data on needs, risks and vulnerabilities.



3. 'Collective outcomes' or HDP priority areas

Collective outcomes or HRP priority areas will be identified after the MSNA is finalized and the joint analysis is available.



4. Joined-up planning and programming

The next programming cycle will be implemented with a joined-up approach across development and humanitarian efforts. The initial planning is under way, leading up to the CCA/HNO and Cooperation Framework/HRP processes in the latter half of this year. Meanwhile, following the recent escalation of hostilities, politically sensitive discussions are under way with the Palestinian Authority and key regional and international partners to implement medium- and longer-term response and recovery for Gaza.



5. Financing

Bilateral and multilateral donors have been engaging with the UNCT and HCT on the nexus, giving momentum to the approach. The World Bank is expected to be fully involved in the upcoming planning processes.

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



The joint data collection and analysis has informed relevant endeavours in different sectors to address needs, vulnerabilities and risks, including the Atlas of Sustainable Development, a COVID-19 impact household assessment, and the COVID-19 Socio-economic Response Plan. The data is also disaggregated by gender.



National and local authorities are actively involved in the forthcoming MSNA, which will draw on consultations with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, a Government agency with extensive experience in large-scale surveys and collaboration with humanitarian and development actors. National and local civil society were also consulted in elaborating the survey.



The adoption of a nexus approach by the UNCT and HCT has helped to inform high-level advocacy on the interconnected needs and vulnerabilities experienced by Palestinians. This advocacy includes Security Council briefings, UN Secretary-General reports and reports to the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee.

CHALLENGES



There is a lack of donor financing for programming across the nexus. This, in turn, creates fewer incentives for agencies to focus on implementing a nexus approach.



Given that translating the nexus into clear programmes is complex, staff should be allocated for implementation, e.g. through secondment.



SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

The peace and conflict pillar is fully embedded in the nexus approach in Palestine. Since the Oslo Peace Process in the 1990s, the UN Special Envoy and the UN system have coordinated international humanitarian and development aid to the Palestinian people in support of the peace process. Several UN institutions regularly analyse, monitor and report on the social, economic and political outcomes in Palestine with particular reference to conflict.



SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

To create a more sustainable response over time, the UNCT and HCT have consulted the Government, local NGOs and civil-society organizations throughout the process. Some key activities, such as the Atlas of Sustainable Development and the upcoming MSNA, are carried out in partnership with the Government.



SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

Joint analysis and programming, including on the nexus, are fully gender sensitive. In the Atlas of Sustainable Development 2020, all data is disaggregated by gender. Furthermore, UN Women and UNFPA have contributed to the MSNA methodology, and the baseline will be gender sensitive.

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: Ahed Izhiman

