

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

Advancing Alliance2015 Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus agenda

A **collection** of
best practices and
recommendations
for effective **nexus**
delivery

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1. Introduction

This collection of best practices and recommendations marks the culmination of an Alliance2015 multi-country learning exercise on Humanitarian- Development- Peace (HDP) Nexus programming and approaches.

Launched by the Country Leads Group in mid-2023, the objective of the learning exercise was to provide a forum for reflective discussion and exchange on practices and approaches to HDP Nexus programming, both successful and less so, and the complexities encountered and managed in its implementation across various contexts.

The Alliance2015 Annual General Meeting held in June 2023 provided additional momentum to the initiative, amplifying its importance and relevance. While exploring gaps and challenges experienced in the implementation of HDP Nexus within the Alliance2015, it clearly emerged that in order to advance in our common journey of improving our delivery of HDP Nexus, rather than seeking a common definition or position, Alliance2015 should identify and promote current good practices and principles that guide our design and implementation of Nexus approaches.

This modality was well suited to reflect the shared understanding that there is no blueprint for HDP Nexus approaches and that its design shall be context specific. Additionally, it aligned with our objective of respecting and acknowledging the diversity of perspectives and experiences within Alliance2015, allowing us to leverage these differences to improve our collective operational capacity, effectiveness, and joint advocacy efforts.

In response to these AGM conclusions, the learning series was conceived to capture context-specific case studies, offering tangible illustrations of how Alliance2015 partners operationalize the Nexus in diverse contexts. Facilitated through three online sessions, each tailored to reflect the nuances of Nexus approaches within Alliance2015 strategic impact goals such as climate resilience, transforming food systems, and equal civil society partnerships, the series delved into case studies from Kenya, Ethiopia, Niger, Malawi, Lebanon, Nepal and Burkina Faso.

This document aims to distil key concepts derived from the learning series, providing valuable guidance for future joint programmatic and advocacy actions within Alliance2015.

For deeper understanding and exploration of the individual case studies that underpin the best practices and recommendations outlined herein, please refer to the annex.

2. Best Practices

Multisector partnership is crucial in planning and delivering HDP nexus approaches as it facilitates comprehensive, coordinated efforts that leverage diverse expertise, resources, and networks to address interconnected humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding challenges effectively and sustainably.

- ❖ The Ethiopian case showed that the active involvement of research, the private sector (especially in providing farm inputs and facilitating market access for producers), and

collaboration with farmers' cooperatives is a pivotal element contributing to the overall success of the initiative.

- ❖ ACTED's project on water resources management in Lebanon brings together refugee and host communities in the implementation of practices that promote a more sustainable use and storage of water resources and reduces stress on groundwater. A key takeaway from this project was having all stakeholders around the table with well-defined roles. Governments, donors, the private sector, and local CSOs all play critical roles in the success of our interventions.
- ❖ The case study from Malawi highlighted that while NGOs test sustainable prototypes that work for vulnerable population, the involvement of the private sector is fundamental to upscale such prototypes.
- ❖ Whilst adopting differentiated engagement strategies with our local partners, it is important to acknowledge the complementary expertise held by local, grassroots organisations and national NGOs - leveraging the community access of the former and the advocacy potential of the latter. We shall be ready to work with smaller NGOs, even if they lack certain skill sets. As such this requires a systematic accompaniment to enhancing their systems and capacities.

Fostering community-led responses and local authority involvement to empower communities and enhance the comprehensive impact, sustainability and ownership of interventions.

- ❖ An essential aspect of designing HDP Nexus approach programmes involves meaningful engagement and consultation with local communities. While the organisations' mandates may be siloed within the development or humanitarian spheres, the needs of local communities transcend these distinct categories, requiring a community-centred approach which combine long and short-term solutions.
- ❖ Empowering existing self-help groups and community-based organisations with their own ideas, solutions, and voluntary energy is key for supporting sustainable resilience interventions.
- ❖ Meaningful involvement of local and state authorities in Nexus programming, including strengthening their technical and financial capacities, was integral to the success of interventions both in Niger and in Ethiopia. Investment in relationships with and capacities of local actors is vital to ensure not only the uptake but also the sustained effectiveness of initiatives, encompassing essential components such as Early Warning and Anticipatory Actions.
- ❖ The case from Nepal exemplifies a context where political sensitivity discourages direct engagement with the "Peace" pillar. Applying a systems approach allows for the implementation of the Peace element by analysing the interconnection of actors and exposing mutual benefits of their collaboration.

Flexible and long-term programming to adapt to evolving humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding needs, ensuring effectiveness and sustainability in addressing complex challenges.

- ❖ The joint project by Helvetas and Concern in northern Ethiopia, demonstrated that adopting modifications in response to evolving contexts and implementing a second phase of the project were crucial steps for achieving and consolidating Nexus outcomes.

This further affirms the fundamental importance of longer-term approaches and flexibility in ensuring the successful delivery on the three pillars of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

- ❖ Conflicts have a devastating impact on food systems and food and nutrition security. Crisis modifiers should be considered in any programming and in projects targeting fragile situations.
- ❖ Despite the absence of active conflicts in Malawi, Concern's focus on bio-gas promotion, not only addressed waste management challenges in urban areas but also incorporated income-generating activities that empowered communities to respond and recover from disasters. Income generating activities not only improve livelihoods but also play a key role in enhancing people's capacity to react to shocks and contribute to mitigating tensions within communities.

Breaking siloed funding through diversified Funding Sources for Nexus Solutions.

- ❖ Concern's **Climate Smart Agriculture programme** in Kenya funded through six different grants, ingeniously integrated Cash support, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition, and animal health services targeting the same population. This synergy of diversified funding unexpectedly led to significant contributions to timely dispute resolution within the community and improved the coexistence between livestock and crops.
- ❖ WHH **Nexus Chapeau Project** in Niger showcased the coordination of funding streams from two distinct institutional donors, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and simultaneously strengthening the longer-term resilience of communities. This funding instrument not only facilitates a more solid Nexus design but also embodies an intentional approach to fostering sustainable impacts in complex contexts.
- ❖ In Chad, the development of a strong triple nexus approach was possible thanks to the proactive engagement of Concern, who planned and coordinated with three donors—namely, the EU, AFD, and ECHO—at the project development stage.

3. Recommendations

The case studies across Alliance2015 members showcased various successes, challenges and learnings on advancing the HDP nexus approach.

a) HDP nexus framework and programme design:

- ❖ **Programmes need to be contextualised** and designed based on a deep understanding of local socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors for maximum effectiveness (Example: Ethiopia and Chad cases where local-specific designs proved essential).
- ❖ **HDP nexus components need to be integrated from conceptualisation and throughout the programme life cycle**, with systematic reviews to ensure needs are adapted to meet the context (Example from Lebanon and Niger, where integration was foundational).

- ❖ There needs to be a shift from traditional to **adaptive management practices**¹ in order to positively respond to challenges and any contextual changes (Key lessons from Kenya and Malawi on adaptability).
- ❖ Adaptive management practices will allow for more **inclusive processes to strengthen community engagement and locally led initiatives** to enhance ownership, sustainability and community agency.
- ❖ **Meaningful engagement and investment in partnerships with national and local CSOs is crucial.** The topic of partnerships is increasingly central to our debate. While sometimes influenced by donors or government policies, Alliance2015 partners recognize the significance of this shift towards increased collaboration with local and national actors. As we reflect on and improve our partnership practices, there is a call to consider our role in adopting a decolonizing approach, shifting from a discourse that emphasises issues of trust and capacity, and identifying corrective measures towards more equitable partnerships (Key lessons from Burkina Faso).

b) Team composition, upskilling and coordination:

- ❖ There is a need for investing in our teams, equipping them with the rights skills to foster the HDP nexus approach, and contextualising this for greater impact. Integration needs to take place at all levels, including **team composition** with both humanitarian and development experiences to promote holistic approaches to programme challenges (Success in Burkina Faso with integrated teams).
- ❖ It's crucial to ensure that all different stakeholders are around the table, coordinated, and engaged. Improved efforts in **coordination will maximize resources** and impact, but will also support **initiatives for policy change** and funding practices.
- ❖ Comprehensive communication strategies need to be developed and adapted as the programme is rolled out to enhance coordination and operational coherence (Coordination challenges in Ethiopia and Chad underline this need).

c) Flexible and multi-year programming and diversified funding mechanisms:

- ❖ Engagement with donors at both country and global levels should be structured not only to consistently showcase lessons learned and good practices but also to ensure they can align and coordinate their funding strategies and operational mechanisms, fostering a mutual understanding of project goals and methodologies. Additionally, continual engagement is required to advocate for more flexible and multi-year funding models, enabling HDP nexus programs to adapt to evolving needs and contexts, thereby achieving greater impact and more durable solutions.
- ❖ While advocating for predictable and longer-term funding with our classic institutional donors, we must also explore creative financing solutions and consider the participation of the private sector and diversifying funding sources.

d) Strengthening the peace pillar and ensuring conflict sensitivity:

¹ Adaptive management refers to employing flexible and responsive approaches to adjust programming strategies as conditions evolve, recognizing the changing needs and solutions required in complex crises. This approach includes continuous learning, flexible and scenario-based planning, and decentralized management to ensure interventions remain effective and context-appropriate.

- ❖ **Triple nexus programmes must deliberately strengthen the peace pillar from the outset**, within the limits of our organisational mandates (“small p”), to address underlying conflict dynamics and promote stability (see cases in Chad and Niger).
- ❖ **Inclusive and participatory approaches** are crucial, ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged in a manner that promotes peace and avoids exacerbating existing tensions.
- ❖ **Conflict sensitivity and a commitment to "do no harm" should be embedded in all activities** to avoid unintended negative consequences and ensure positive outcomes. **Regular assessments and monitoring** should be conducted to identify and address any unintended consequences.
- ❖ To achieve this, it is essential to **develop internal competencies not only in conflict sensitivity but also in designing projects that are conflict/peace responsive**.
- ❖ While in-house expertise on peacebuilding may be limited, enhancing capacity is essential also to recognize when **partnering with peace-focused NGOs is a better option to complement our knowledge** and enhance the effectiveness of our triple nexus programs.

4. Next steps

Alliance2015 positioning, capacities and processes on HDP Nexus approach

- ❖ Continual Exploration and Learning of the HDP Nexus:
 - Recognizing that the practice of HDP Nexus evolves constantly and that our network offers a wealth of diverse cases and experiences, we recommend organizing more internal learning exercises aimed at deepening the understanding of the HDP Nexus framework across Alliance2015 members, with a view of positioning Alliance2015 as a HDP Nexus practitioner-champion regionally and/or globally.
 - Within Alliance2015, create a Community of Practice (or integrate these activities into an existing relevant CoP, such as the Peace and Conflict Sensitivity CoP) to facilitate the sharing of experiences, successes, and challenges across various projects and programs through webinars, newsletters, an online repository of case studies, and bi-annual strategy sessions.
 - The community of practice to roll out and/or further develop standard practices for project/programme design, including strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of HDP nexus approach. Use these findings to adjust strategies and project designs proactively.
 - Implementation groups to discuss strategies for improved access to quality funding for nexus initiatives, incorporating more concrete nexus messaging into our advocacy efforts, and identifying the most effective ways to share learning and tools for programming.
- ❖ Encourage members to share and explore guidelines for adaptive management to allow teams to respond flexibly to on-the-ground changes and insights.

- ❖ At country or regional levels, agree on a cohesive set of messages regarding the HDP nexus to ensure all members of Alliance2015 speak the same language and present a consistent narrative and alignment of understanding to external stakeholders, including donors.
- ❖ At global level, utilize case studies of nexus implementation in joint communication and advocacy efforts, and integrate the Alliance2015 Advocacy Strategy and Global Crises Narrative with concrete messages that highlight the benefits of Alliance2015's work in implementing the HDP nexus approach. Focus on the advantages of integrated humanitarian, development, and peace-building efforts while engaging in relevant industry forums.

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6. Annex- Case studies

1. Climate Smart Agriculture in Kenya

Project summary

In Kenya's Counties of Marsabit, Turkana, and Tana River, the Climate Smart Agriculture initiative responded to drought emergencies, significant livestock losses, and acute malnutrition crises. Over four years, the Climate Smart Agriculture initiative, funded through six distinct projects, aimed to change agricultural practices. It encompassed large-scale agricultural production, the promotion of sustainable mixed agriculture models and active engagement with the governmental and private sectors.

Projects components

- ❖ **Development:** Large-scale land preparation and input supply were key components of the project, alongside investments in irrigation canals for efficient water management. The project engaged aggregators and large-scale traders to optimize supply chains, with significant support from the government. Additionally, community health services were provided.
- ❖ **Humanitarian:** Separate funding streams, targeting the same group, offered conditional and unconditional cash transfers. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Surge programs were implemented alongside animal health services to support livestock.
- ❖ **Peace:** Though not explicitly focused on peacebuilding, the project fostered coexistence between livestock and crops and promoted community-led and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Challenges

The initiative faced challenges in sustaining impact, often relying on leveraging multiple projects simultaneously. Approximately half of the participating farmers achieved full sustainability, with others facing dropbacks due to unforeseen shocks. Balancing changing needs and extreme poverty remained a constant challenge. Moreover, attracting large-scale private sector actors proved difficult due to underdeveloped input markets.

Successes

Significant reductions in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates were observed within targeted communities. Participating households experienced enhanced dietary diversity, contributing to improved food security. Moreover, the project led to a substantial reduction in the household hunger scale, indicating tangible progress.

Lessons learnt

The initiative highlighted enhanced community resilience over its three-year duration, underscoring the importance of sustainability in project outcomes. It also emphasized the pivotal roles of government investment and private sector engagement. Additionally, the project's alignment with ongoing discussions surrounding food systems underscored the importance of timeliness. The case underscores the importance of investment in sustainable agriculture at scale to foster long-term resilience.

2. Renewable Energy for Sustainable Environmental Transformation (RESET) in Malawi

Context

Malawi is the 8th poorest country globally, approximately 5.4 million people face moderate to severe food insecurity. The nation's growth has been hampered by sustained inflationary pressures, fuel crises, devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha against the US dollar, and rising living costs. Moreover, Malawi is highly vulnerable to climate hazards, including floods and cyclones, with recent outbreaks of Polio and Cholera exacerbating humanitarian challenges. Urban areas have witnessed increasing demonstrations due to rising living costs and a surge in mob violence.

With the urban population projected to double by 2050, waste management poses a critical challenge. In Lilongwe alone, approximately 553 tons of waste are generated daily, a significant portion of which ends up in open dumpsites or is burnt, emitting harmful carbon emissions and posing health risks. However, urban areas receive less attention and funding, exacerbating the waste management crisis.

Project summary

A part of the project focused on installing 10 Bio-Gas Systems in 5 Informal Urban Settlements in Lilongwe. The initiative involved community sensitization, identification of suitable locations, and the selection and training of 10 groups comprising women and youth. The community was trained in waste separation, system utilization, and safe transportation of biogas. Additionally, the project aimed to create 10 micro-enterprises engaged in waste collection, sorting, biogas sales, and fertilizer production. Entrepreneurial skills training, governance structures, and marketing campaigns were key components, with ongoing entrepreneurial support provided to ensure sustainability. The project also supported an indigenous biogas company's expansion to other locations in Malawi and the creation of a bio-fertilizer value chain.



Project components

- ❖ **Development:** The project contributed to urban governance, promoted biogas and renewable energy, engaged informal settlements in waste management, generated income for the urban poor, and adopted gender-sensitive approaches.
- ❖ **Humanitarian:** By reducing hazards and managing waste effectively, the project contributed to disaster risk reduction in urban areas. Generating income for at-risk urban populations enhanced their resilience in the face of disasters.
- ❖ **Peace:** Through urban community engagement and conflict analysis, the project addressed potential land disputes and promoted social cohesion. Income-generating activities fostered stability in settlement areas amid rising living costs and periodic demonstrations.

Challenges

Operational challenges, including land issues, water availability, and technical limitations, posed significant obstacles. Installation efforts required substantial time and logistics, and marketing bio-fertilizers demanded tailored approaches.

Successes

The successful installation and operation of 10 systems across 5 urban areas significantly reduced waste burning while producing clean cooking gas and bio-fertilizer. Governance structures and women's groups operated effectively, with women earning income from biogas and fertilizer sales. The project demonstrated potential for growth and replication in other areas, creating a value chain for urban waste.

Lessons learnt

Key lessons included the importance of water availability for digesters, the necessity of maintenance for system durability, and the need for tailored marketing and community engagement strategies for bio-gas uptake. Further research and development are crucial for understanding scalability and durability in urban informal settlements.

3. Lebanon - “Sustainability, income generation and job creation through the support of irrigation and water collection infrastructure in Lebanon”

Context

Lebanon faces a multifaceted crisis, including an economic downturn affecting vulnerable families' basic needs and water stress exacerbated by over-extraction of groundwater. In the Aoustuan river basin of Akkar, tensions over water access prevail, primarily among farmers.

Project summary

The project aimed to safeguard water resources from climate change impacts by promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This included increasing the utilization of surface water, reducing groundwater dependency through rainwater harvesting, and fostering awareness of efficient water management. Cash-for-work and training initiatives were employed to empower the local community.



Project components

- ❖ **Development:** The project focused on enhancing surface water utilization and storage while alleviating stress on groundwater resources. By promoting sustainable water use at the household level and raising climate awareness, it advocated for integrated resource management within the river basin.
- ❖ **Humanitarian:** Cash-for-work programs and technical skills transfers were instrumental in addressing immediate needs. The installation of rainwater harvesting systems addressed the pressing water scarcity issue.
- ❖ **Peace:** By bringing together individuals from diverse communities and reducing tensions over water access, the project fostered social cohesion. Gender equality was promoted, contributing to community harmony around climate action initiatives.

Challenges

Challenges included adapting existing irrigation systems, addressing electricity shortages, establishing catchment areas at the school level, and mitigating inter-community tensions. Community habits in water management posed additional challenges.

Successes

The project significantly reduced groundwater dependency, resulting in cleaner irrigation water. Cost savings were achieved through reduced water trucking and pumping, while improved hygiene at schools contributed to community well-being. The initiative also alleviated tensions surrounding well access and created income-generating opportunities. Enhanced climate awareness and alignment with river basin management priorities further underscored project success.

Lessons Learnt

Constant monitoring of social tensions and proactive community engagement were crucial for project success. Developing proof of concept and securing specific funding streams for scale-up were identified as essential strategies for sustainability and broader impact.

4. Food Systems transformation, Ethiopia - Semien Gondor Resilience Project (SEGORP)

Context

Ethiopia, the second-most populous country in Africa, faces significant challenges in its agricultural sector, heavily reliant on rainfed subsistence farming. The North Gondar zone of the Amhara Region is particularly vulnerable, with high levels of chronic malnutrition, recurrent disasters exacerbated by climate change, and escalating tensions near the Tigray border.

Project summary

The Semien Gondor Resilience Project (SEGORP) aimed to bolster household and community resilience to climate change by enhancing adaptive, absorptive, and transformative capacities. Implemented by Helvetas and Concern, and the North Gondor Zonal Administration, the project spanned 2.7 years and targeted areas within the North Gondar Zone. SEGORP sought to contribute to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems, aligning with Ethiopia's Food System Game-Changing Solutions.



Nexus components

- ❖ **Development:** The project focused on improved natural resource management, early warning and response capabilities, enhanced market opportunities, and strengthened systems for overall human well-being. It prioritized women's empowerment and facilitated government-civil society engagement.
- ❖ **Humanitarian:** Community-led responses to crises, including micro-grants through Community-Based Organizations and conditional/unconditional cash transfers, were key humanitarian interventions. These efforts aimed to address the needs of conflict-affected communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- ❖ **Peace:** Efforts to strengthen peaceful co-existence and enhance social cohesion involved capacity-building for target groups, engagement of peace actors such as religious and CBO leaders, and peace and reconciliation initiatives as part of the Community-Led Response to Crisis (CLRC).

Challenges

Conflict and instability posed significant challenges, alongside capacity gaps among nexus programming actors and coordination issues between various stakeholders. Conventional project approaches and difficulties in attracting private sector involvement further compounded challenges.

Successes

Achievements included successful soil and water conservation activities, large-scale seed production collaborations, and reaching a significant number of host communities and IDPs through the Community-Led Emergency Response. Income generation opportunities were created, and crisis modifiers effectively addressed urgent needs.

Lessons learnt

Strengthening the seed system and aligning programs with the Ethiopian food systems national pathway emerged. Recognizing the devastating impact of conflicts on food systems, the project emphasized crisis modifiers and community-led crisis responses. Supporting social groups and CBOs with their own capacities and ideas proved effective in offering rapid assistance.

5. Chad - DIZA/RESPECCT Programme

Context

More than a million people are displaced due to climate change effects, armed group violence, insecure conditions in neighbouring countries, and intercommunity conflicts in Chad. The Darfur conflict caused massive population movements across the eastern Chad border since 2003, leading to the establishment of several refugee camps in Ouaddaï and Sila. The crisis is exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Since early 2023, escalating violence in Sudan has driven a substantial influx of refugees into eastern Chad, with numbers estimated to almost 600,000 new arrivals. These refugees have joined the already significant populations displaced from earlier conflicts, residing in established camps in Ouaddaï and Sila. The relationships among different ethnic groups have significantly deteriorated due to competition for scarce resources such as water and pasture.

Project Summary

The RESPECCT programme aims to improve the living conditions and resilience of indigenous, refugee, and returnee populations in host areas through support for shock readiness and response, inclusive local development, conflict prevention by enhancing peaceful coexistence, and sustainable adaptation to climate changes. It focuses on minimizing factors contributing to community tensions, instability, and the risk of forced migrations, while strengthening resilience and peaceful cohabitation amid climatic hazards and conflicts. Local integration of refugees into host communities is facilitated through the development of economic opportunities.

Nexus Components

- ❖ **Development:** The programme transitions from immediate humanitarian responses to actions that build resilience against climatic hazards and conflicts, ensuring local integration of refugees and returnees in host communities through economic opportunities, sustainable infrastructure, and value chains connected to markets.
- ❖ **Humanitarian:** The programme addresses the immediate humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced populations and host communities to alleviate resource pressures, with rapid response capabilities for new refugees and returnees, and the establishment and strengthening of Early Warning Systems.
- ❖ **Peace:** Social cohesion and peaceful coexistence are supported through dialogue initiatives, peace sensitizations, environmental issues, and the scaling of transformative gender approaches. The programme also ensures logical links and synergies between the three areas.

Challenges

Implementing a graduation approach proved challenging as not all participants were consistently followed through this approach, and the compression of activities within a shortened timeframe did not allow for a sequential rollout of intervention logic steps. Additionally, relationships with donors have been strained as it is challenging to fund a Triple Nexus approach when donors do not want to calibrate and harmonize their financing and operational requirements among themselves.

Success

The redesigned programme structure and approach optimize beneficiary support through a common and adapted activity package, avoiding the slow starts, mitigating the risks of delays, and entanglement of activities with a better-distributed gradual approach over time. In Chad, we were able to sit down together with donors (EU, AFD, and ECHO) to develop and comment on the project proposal together, building a strong Triple Nexus approach.

Lessons Learned

The Triple Nexus approach was especially relevant in the context of eastern Chad, which is often perceived as a "bygone" crisis zone but remains in a state of prolonged crisis where humanitarian assistance is still crucial alongside development actions considering high conflict sensitivity. Efforts to establish peace component were initially limited, highlighting the need for more focused development of peace-related expertise and activities.

6. Niger - WHH Nexus Chapeau Projects - Emergency Support to Vulnerable Populations in the Sahel + NEXUS - Food Security and Adaptation to Climate Change in Niger

Context

Niger faces a multifaceted crisis characterized by structural challenges, including cereal deficits due to climate change, political instability, rapid population growth, and inter-community conflicts. These crises have resulted in significant food insecurity, with millions of people at risk, exacerbated by forced population movements and decreased funding for humanitarian responses.

Project summary

The WHH Nexus Chapeau Projects aimed to provide emergency support to vulnerable populations in the Sahel region addressing several needs like food security and adaptation to climate change in Niger. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with a total budget of 4.781.913 Euros for a duration of 36 months and an additional budget of 3.550.000 Euros for 41 months. The initiatives focused on enhancing food security, livelihoods, WASH, nutrition and peacebuilding efforts.



Nexus Components

- ❖ **Development:** The project aimed to increase and diversify agricultural production, enhance agro-pastoralists' knowledge and access to livestock services, and facilitate small producers' access to training and infrastructure for market linkages. Capacity-building activities were conducted to empower target communities to enhance resilience.

- ❖ **Humanitarian:** Immediate and effective food assistance, WASH interventions, and nutrition support were provided to the most vulnerable populations. These efforts aimed to ensure access to safe food, water, and sanitation facilities while preventing malnutrition among vulnerable groups.
- ❖ **Peace:** Efforts to strengthen peaceful coexistence included training community leaders in governance and social cohesion and organizing awareness campaigns on peaceful coexistence. Dialogue structures for non-violent conflict resolution were reinforced through training, the establishment of conflict prevention committees, and mediation initiatives.

Challenges

Security concerns, including shrinking humanitarian space and population displacements, posed significant challenges to project implementation. Collaboration with state technical partners and implementing partners also faced obstacles related to capacity, compliance, and activity uptake.

Successes

Project participants actively engaged in implementing activities and demonstrated ownership of project interventions. Technical departments and local authorities cooperated effectively in project implementation, strengthening WHH's presence in intervention areas and contributing to durable and sustainable outcomes.

Lessons learnt

Key lessons included the importance of strategic engagement with other actors, particularly in adopting Nexus approaches to address food systems strengthening. Collaboration with technical, local, and state authorities was identified as integral to the success of interventions in Niger. Discussion regarding the integration of Nexus approaches at the national level was deemed essential for defining strategy, fundraising and advocating for Niger's development

7. Partnership approaches for the implementation of HDP Nexus, the cases of Burkina Faso and Nepal:

Burkina Faso

Context

Burkina Faso has traditionally been a context with primarily development programming. However, since 2018, escalating insecurity has led to a pressing humanitarian crisis with over 2 million displaced individuals. Despite the presence of an active civil society, many organizations are not fully equipped to address these emergent challenges. Civil society organizations (CSOs) vary widely in capacity, with some high-capacity national partners and numerous local associations facing limited resources.

Approach

Concern Worldwide has responded by implementing a comprehensive partnership strategy aimed at addressing the interconnected challenges of humanitarian response, development, and peacebuilding. This strategy involves analysing CSOs operating in the country and engaging

partners at different levels: national partners with established systems but limited community acceptance, regional partners facing high demand from other international organizations, and local associations with deep community knowledge but low financial and administrative capacity. Recognizing the difficulty for CSOs to adapt to the new context, Concern Worldwide prioritizes identifying partners based on a balance of capacity and community-based knowledge. The organization emphasizes mutually beneficial partnerships over mere access, ensuring collaborations are meaningful and sustainable. Furthermore, Concern Worldwide continuously revises its approach to partners to provide tailored support, utilizing Partners Capacity Assessment tools to identify weaknesses and offer targeted training in logistics, administration, and financial procedures.

The strength of this approach relies not only on selecting partnerships that foster mutually beneficial relationships, where the capacity of the INGO complements that of local actors, but also on dedicating resources to this process and establishing a specialized Partnership Working Group.

Nepal

Context

Nepal's economy heavily relies on agriculture, tourism, and remittances, with agriculture being the primary livelihood source for 70% of the population. The country faces moderate to serious levels of hunger and ranks as the 4th most climate-vulnerable nation. Implementing the HDP Nexus in Nepal encounters several challenges. These include a shrinking humanitarian space and high sensitivity around Peacebuilding, often considered controversial due to the low political appetite to acknowledge existing conflicts. Moreover, there is a notable lack of understanding and experience in HDP Nexus programming among stakeholders. Most NGOs primarily focus on either Development or Humanitarian aid, hindering the implementation of programs that integrate all three pillars of the Nexus. The diverse capacity and skill sets required for HDP Nexus approaches necessitate significant investment, time, and strategic planning in partnership approaches

Approach

In delivering programming across the nexus spectrum, with a focus on Climate Change and Resilience Building, Food Security and Malnutrition, Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Green Skills and Enterprise Promotion, WHH ensures that 100% of projects are implemented through local and national partners. Some of these projects are led by local partners, while others receive support from WHH. WHH's approach emphasizes systems thinking to address development needs, disaster reduction and response, and the promotion of social cohesion. This approach is guided by principles of equity, inclusivity, resilience building, and sustainability. WHH programs are aligned with various global frameworks and national plans, including the SDGs, UNFCCC, and the Right to Food Act.