10ᵀᴴ ANNUAL UN-SPIDER CONFERENCE

TEAM: 'LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE UNPRECEDENTED PANDEMIC SITUATION''

- **Title**: *Use of Space-based technology to strengthen Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in the face of COVID-19 and multiple pre-existing risks*

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OUTLINE

- Reflection on the concept of Nexus (HDP-Nexus)

- Reflection on Space-based Technology

- Implications on programmes; funding; and policies

- Opportunities

- Conclusion

A: OVERVIEW ON NEXUS

A1. Various schools of thoughts on Nexus

❖ **A1**: Nexus ways of thinking requires system thinking: *Instead of looking at individual components or short-term quantitative outcomes, the systems thinking looks at feedbacks, connections and promote concerted actions and cooperation on a global scale across all sectors and across time and space.*

> (***High level discussion paper on Sahel crises, October 2020***)

❖ **A2: A *'nexus approach', 'nexus programming'** or 'the nexus' is understood as an approach or framework that considers both immediate and long-term needs of affected populations and enhances opportunities for peace. (**Oxfam, June 2019**)*

❖ **A3: Shifts within the aid system: …**putting the most vulnerable **people at the centre of the system** was a key principle of the **2016 WHS**. …... **'reach the furthest behind first' and 'leave no-one behind'**. This approach became known as the **'humanitarian-development nexus'**, before the peace pillar was added. **(WHS, 2016)**

B: WHY THE NEXUS

B1: Links humanitarian intervention with recovery and long-term sustainable development agendas.

B2: Emphasis on local leadership, linking policy and practice, and embedding a transformative approach to gender justice before, during and after crises – go beyond current measures

B3: Nexus approach and the associated **NWoW** should transform financing mechanisms, planning processes, technical thinking, implementation models and campaigning practices.

B4: Nexus focuses on putting affected **people at the centre**, prioritizing local knowledge and capacities, and – where possible and appropriate – working with local and national authorities.

C: UN-SPIDER

C1: UN-SPIDER mission statement: "*Ensures that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle*

C2: UN-SPIDER:

Aim:

   -**universal access** to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management;

   -**gateway** to space-based information for disaster management support;

   -**bridge** to connect the disaster management and space communities; and

   -**facilitator** of capacity building and institutional strengthening.

C3: The Sendai Framework for DRR **(2015-2030) re-echoed its mandates.**

D: UN-Spider's efforts that can strengthen HDP nexus

D1: Policy and Coordination

❖a) Updates on Disaster Management Plan/ related Contingency Plans

❖b) Policy interventions, those that creates a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

D2: Data status and availability

❖Create sharing mechanisms,

❖Data management needs - to provide uniform access to all humanitarian and developmental organizations.

❖Raising awareness on use of **open-source software** and **open data**

D3: Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

D4: Disaster Management Information System and integration of all information to support decisions

E: WHAT IS NEW WITH THE NEXUS?

E1: Changing the system to fit people's realities

- Number of conflicts and conflict-related deaths around the world have risen sharply.

- Similarly, climate-related shocks are becoming more intense and more frequent;

- On top of extreme weather and conflict-related shocks and stresses, people also experience human-induced injustices that restrict their rights, freedoms and development opportunities.

- Climate- and conflict-related risks often overlap/ exacerbate each other, resulting in complex needs

- These trends have (re-)exposed the link between people's immediate needs and pre-existing inequalities

- Significant progress is made on DRR, resilience and conflict-sensitive programming. Nonetheless, approaches that systematically include considerations around fragility, and the planning and funding frameworks that would support this, are not well established

E2: Recognizing the importance of peace

- WHS in (2016), included peace as the third component of the nexus.

- Peace in the nexus acknowledges the importance of conflict resolution and prevention in ending humanitarian needs, reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development

E3: **New Way of working** to support **implementation of nexus approaches**.

- **NWoW** originated from the WHS and meant to support the **implementation of nexus approaches**.

- Aims to ensure more appropriate and joined-up multi-year funding, more closely involving international financial institutions such as the World Bank.

F: GOAL FOR THE HDP NEXUS: SOLVING MULTIPLE CRISES

- **F1: The Objective of nexus is for humanitarian, development and peace actors to work together towards resilience - more than ever at this period of Covid-19 and other crises**.

    - recognition of the value of immediate life-saving humanitarian operations, while wherever possible avoiding fragmented projects and output-based programming.

    - Promote local leadership, governance and institution-building.

- **F2**: **Putting people at the centre and with space** for local and international civil society voices to influence strategic processes

G: What does a nexus approach look like?

- G1: Responding to the links between immediate and long-term needs is increasingly important during crises

H: IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMME DELIVERY

H1: Holistic and integrated contextual analysis:

- Need for a comprehensive and unified multi-sectoral assessment methodology at an organizational level to better understand root causes of vulnerability, fragility and inequality.

- The need for a mechanism to share, track and enhance knowledge across interventions that support the same population groups in areas of recurrent conflict and climate-related crises.

- Requires information-sharing, cross-fertilization of findings and the co-habitation of interventions, geographically, by organizations/departments delivering across the triple nexus, to build a holistic programme strategy based on high-quality analysis.

- Joint assessments, **tools and data** collection are important at an organizational level for multi-mandated organizations bringing together different teams, at a response level.

- Identifying ways of sharing analyses with donors and other stakeholders to build a shared vision, a more integrated and complementary approach, and strong accountability and feedback mechanisms

H2: Long-term country strategies vs project plans

- Shift from short-term projects of 6–12 months' duration to 3–5-year programme cycles, and ultimately 10- to 15-year goals that deliver across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum

- A shift from output-oriented thinking to outcome-based planning

H3: Investment in adaptive management

- Programmes need to be agile and responsive to changes in context.

- Requires bringing in new skills and leveraging existing knowledge and expertise for innovation; building unified monitoring systems; and applying learning in real time.

- Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning frameworks that assess programmes' impact on drivers of fragility and vulnerability over time will need to operate beyond project timeframes.

- Consistent and transparent engagement with donors and national stakeholders, who will need to be active partners in learning.

H4: Collaborating and capacity-sharing

- Nexus approach does require implementers to step out of their comfort zone and work across different disciplines.

- Multi-mandated organizations need to support capacity-sharing, cross-learning and upskilling to ensure that staff and partners can deliver.

- Principles, language and interests of technical teams need to be brought together for collaborative co-production, while not subsuming the distinct standalone benefits of each technical area.

- Adapting operational practice: business support functions need to work even more closely with programmes

- Management and operational practices need to be reviewed to support collaboration between teams, a shift in culture and mindsets, adapting business support processes for travel and cost recovery, joint workplans and changing who is included in strategy development meetings

H5: The 'how' is as important as the 'what'

- Across disciplines and finding require expanding technical knowledge and an increased emphasis on softer skills. Behaviors that need to be encouraged and developed include:

  - Consensus-building, brokering and the formation of (unusual) partnerships;

  - navigating and communicating complex ideas;

  - systems thinking; and facilitating co-creation spaces and dialogue that brings colleagues together;

- Improves coordination with other organizations and working in diverse coalitions.

I: WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A NEXUS APPROACH?

11: PROGRAMMES

Delivering better results:

- More scope for supporting the people who respond first to crises – the people affected, national and local administrations, and organizations

- A holistic approach can facilitate more consistent participation across all interventions.

12: Engaging with local and national structures

- Longer-term framework and common goals for the SDGs and national priority plans mean engaging with national and local capacities, resources and structures

- National and local institutions engagement enhances better preparedness and equipped to consult with communities and respond to their needs.

- Boost inclusive governance and strengthen an accountable social contract between parts of the state and its citizens; address long-term challenges, such as pre-existing inequalities,

- Working with national and local leadership reduces duplication and increase coherence among a diverse range of actors

13: Gender justice

- Potential to improve gender justice, although also a risk that progress will be undermined where gender and identity issues rank low on the national agenda.

- A longer-term approach with stakeholders allows more scope to address and enhances women and girls' capacities for responding to challenges.

- Holistic approach encourages response to women and girls' immediate and longer-term needs.

14: Early warning and early action

- Nexus approach provides opportunity to explore how EW/EA in relation to natural hazards and conflict prevention can be more fully implemented, both in terms of more effectively protecting and supporting communities, and in terms of reducing response costs.

J: FUNDING

- Adapting to funding frameworks to facilitate flexible multi-year programming.

- Funding needs to become more agile and adaptive in the face of changing contexts

- Grand Bargain committed to increase funding for local and national responders, DRR and early action, and decrease earmarked funding would encourage these changes.

K: POLICY

- Policy issues that severely impact people's lives are well addressed

- Promote more learning and reflection on how to work in a conflict-sensitive manner with national and local authorities when the latter are a party to a conflict.

- Greater potential for more sustained political engagement to ensure that the most vulnerable people can access aid, and that disagreements are brought to the peace table.

L: USEFUL REFLECTIONS:

Close Technological Gaps

- *'While various technologies have been developed, many people do not escape from disasters. This is despite risk maps and warning information becoming more precise, and the availability of smart phones and other devices'*
(Mikio Ishiwatari)

- "It has become appallingly obvious that technology has exceeded our humanity" *(Albert Einstein)*

- The **Human Family** will not enjoy **development** without **security;** and will not enjoy **security** without **developmen**t; and will not enjoy either without respect for **human rights (***Kofi Annan, UN SG***)**

- ***UN-Spider*** *has a greater space across the entire envelop of the HDP nexus especially on access to real time data; coordination; capacity building; policy, and EW/EA.*

M: CONCLUSION

- Nexus requires a holistic approach and system thinking; it requires time, space and advocacy for changing mindset for resilience. Make use of the current response to the Covid-19 and multiple crises to enhance resilience

- Responsibility of everyone including UN-Spider. But…as one wise person once expressed: '*When everything is everyone's business it then becomes nobody's business.*' Hence, critical for everyone to be onboard about HDP nexus to facilitate progress towards SDGs

- Nexus requires changes in programmes design; funding and policy to achieve the desire goal of the SG pursuit for working toward reducing needs.

- Nexus approach help delivers better services in all three pillars and strengthen resilience against future shocks and stresses

- Nexus strengthens the capacity of the affected region, build partnerships, and reduce duplications.

- Nexus goal should be pursued among humanitarians, developers and peace actors, and donors with a common agenda, ensuring that resources are made available to tackle a common course – responding to lifesaving needs; reducing vulnerability and the needs of all those left behind instead of quick fix in terms of meeting their needs during disasters.

- Covid-19 provides an opportunity to ensure our responses are linked to long term development agendas and in some cases peace.

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