

Thematic report on The Humanitarian - Development Nexus

22-10-2018

1. Background

CISU did undertake a monitoring visit to Kenya and monitored two specific DERF funded interventions. Alongside with the monitoring, the team also gathered learning from practical examples of different experiences in the area of Nexus between humanitarian and development interventions.

2. Objective

The learning objective besides the monitoring was to learn from experiences of Nexus between Humanitarian and Development work. Learning was gathered throughout the monitoring visit in general and through an experience sharing workshop in particular. To the workshop, a wide range of local partners to CISU funded interventions (both those with DERF and those with CSP funds) have been invited. Find more information about each participating organisation in the description of their work below.

Content of the workshop:

Crises of famine, displacement, conflicts or natural hazards like drought or floods are situations that can hit particular regions of Kenya. The protracted and interlinked nature of these crises requires comprehensive solutions and a constructive interplay between humanitarian and development efforts. This is what we call the Hum-Dev Nexus. As a consequence of our work in fragile situations, the humanitarian–development nexus is (re)emerging as a central aspect in international cooperation. But what does nexus mean in our work, and how do we understand the coherency of humanitarian and development work?

Workshop agenda

Time	Content
9:30 to 10:00	Welcome; Introduction to CISU and DERF; Introduction to the topic of Nexus
10:00 to 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participant 5 min presentation: a) your work and how it links to the humanitarian and to the development context; b) what are the challenges and opportunities you see in your work when in an humanitarian and in a development context? • Summarizing common points of interest
11:00 to 11:30	tea break
11:30 to 12:15	Group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember your challenges and opportunities of nexus (described earlier) and discuss shortly how the challenges can be overcome and how you can use the opportunities to strengthen the focus on nexus. • Localization: How can you in the context of nexus build local capacities (of communities, NGOs, CBOs), e.g. in a fragile context? • Resilience: How can you in the context of nexus increase resilience and put people less at risk to humanitarian crisis? • When disaster strikes: how to redirect ongoing interventions in case of an emergency, and how to go back to normal when the crisis is over?
12:15 to 12:30	Presentation of group work and discussion
12:30 to 1 PM	Plenum Discussion and summing up of lessons learnt

3. Observations on thematic issues

The monitoring team started with a 10 min presentation about The Hum – Dev Nexus before the participating organisations described their experiences with it. The presentation is attached to this report.

Experiences from participants:

Organization	Area of work (with nexus)	Experience with nexus
Plan International Kenya	Resilience program in 7 counties	Resilience as a bridge between hum-dev. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is focus Child protection is end goal for both development and emergency. When we do development, we build in resilience. Responses always include recovery and transitioning into development. Also done for youth. Works with children, schools and communities, e.g. risk mapping, skills training that can be used at home, e.g. micro irrigation in schools and then the children can be change agents at home. Communities: early warning systems, mapping, preparations for disaster, e.g. evacuation centres; “DRR is simply doing good development”. Plan has a contingency fund to start up work in emergencies. Advocacy towards the government to help the affected people. Humanitarian is new and growing area for Plan (manager hired in 2012).
Help Mission Development Service	Baringo and Nakuru counties, support to children and youth in school	Response to malaria, when it struck the area, with nets to 3600 families. Flooding: applied for DERF, but didn't receive it. But the support was needed, because the schools they work with were flooded. Currently Sexual and reproductive health project with CISU. Challenges: ignorance at the community (e.g. seeing malaria outbreak as a normal part of life; Poverty in the area – need for capacity building; Customs – some themes are taboo to talk about. Opportunities: youth in the area, who have been educated, are trying to improve.
Nature Kenya Environment conservation organization (started in 1909 but since 1990s working with development)	– focus in areas, where birds and other species needs to be protected. Advocacy and livelihood; only nature-based interventions	Ecosystem based, adaptation, resilience-building, Challenges: partner in a consortium in DRR, still sees a disconnect in fitting into the established framework, as people don't prioritise nature protection. Working with drought and floods, one experience with displaced people but handed it over to Red Cross, because it is not their area of expertise. Opportunities: good cooperation with the government.
KEWASNET Kenya Water & Sanitation Civil Society Network	Focus on WASH at policy level (country and county)	Focusing on advocacy, not emergency, but sees that there might be a link, because WASH is important in both, development and humanitarian work.
CESPAD (member of KEWASNET)	Arid regions, grass root organization	Worked in a sand harvesting area, the youth sells it, but that destroys the river banks and causes floods; it also creates conflicts between the youth and parents. Also hiv/aids is spreading with the lorry drivers. Therefore integrated response with focus on alternative livelihood, also bringing policy makers and communities together.
International Aid Services (IAS), Kenya	Inclusive education, both in development and emergency.	Bee-keeping, tree planting, agriculture development. Same area: resilience project focused on research on why the communities are not changing.

	Focus: farming project w seeds, irrigation and construction of dams	Some focus on resilience, but waiting to results of the Community exchange program: helps a lot to take people to other communities to see the good examples.
CIFAD (Local organization started by pastoralists)	Improvement of life for pastoralists in Masarbit	Education, human rights, women empowerment. Community Management Disaster Risk Reduction approaches are implemented. Marsabit faces drought, conflict over resources and ethic differences, flash floods. Participatory disaster risk assessments therefore done in all areas, where they are working, and when they show, that an area is moving towards disaster, then they Development work is done in anticipation of disaster happening at some point.
CARE International, Kenya	Activities in Dadaab (since 1982)	Focus to anchor emergency work in communities. Usually finds a way to link development and humanitarian in most of their programmes. Beneficiaries suffer from dependency syndrome and are waiting for the gov to fix everything. Cultural barriers are also making work difficult. See this more in emergency than in development.
MPIDO (Indigenous peoples network org)	Civic land rights original people based, now more climate change and indigenous affairs	Started from humanitarian, now more in development context. Climate change: arid and semi-arid counties, network of 40 organizations, MPIDO focus on capacity building and exposure to the national level, case studies and fact finding missions. Challenge: major humanitarian cases, where we could not intervene, e.g. climate change/scarcity based conflict between communities and pastoralists in 2017, try to works with member org. in the area and get involved with some humanitarian work. Nexus interests us, because we find climate change in every disaster response. We focus on resilience and refer to others when needed. Opportunity: the big network of organizations.
SOS Children's Villages, Kenya	Child focused organization	Strengthening families is one of the focus areas, part of the daily work now (before fundraising began, when the disaster had happened) Children at risk of losing parental care. SOS CV provides alternative care. Advocacy for childrens rights. Need for protection is huge, both in development and in emergency times. An emergency intervention in Masarbit developed into a development program. SOS and UNOCHA have created a network with Transparency International on how to respond in nexus, focus on communication needs of the communities, running for two years now, training people on CHSs and agree that they are both hum and dev. Invitation to more organizations.

Learning from group discussions:

Question 1: Remember your challenges and opportunities of nexus (described above) and discuss shortly how the **challenges can be overcome** and how you can **use the opportunities** to strengthen the focus on nexus.

- Avoid challenges by planning interventions driven by community needs and where communities are involved in identification of the needs (participatory approach). Creating community ownership.
- Challenges of accountability can be overcome with a robust complaint and feedback mechanism.
- The challenge of culture and tradition can be overcome by conducting awareness raising activities / behaviour change and by advocating for change.

- There are opportunities for strengthening nexus with the possibility for coordination among different actors / stakeholders.
- Engage in research based interventions.
- Applying the Core Humanitarian Standard both in hum and dev will improve the focus on Nexus.
- The devolution of powers in Kenya (from central to county governments) is an opportunity.
- When strengthening nexus, one can build on existing structures, both at national/ county level (county steering groups, clusters) and in the communities (community committees, local government like chiefs, extensionists, etc.)
- Existing networks provide an opportunity for learning / peer learning about nexus.

Question 2: Localization: How can you in the context of nexus build local capacities (of communities, NGOs, CBOs), e.g. in a fragile context?

- In the context of climate change, local capacities that needs to be build include improved local resource management (e.g. no of livestock in arid areas)
- Focus on child education (schools) in the context of conflict (e.g. peace building by joining ethnic groups in one school).
- Building local capacities by strengthening existing groups in the communities. E.g. equipping local water committees with technical skills. E.g. link up with existing loan and saving groups.
- Use the presence of local actors (by building their capacity to implement emergency activities and thereafter guarantee the nexus). Give technical support to local implementing partners (CBOs).
- Use the approach of local champions / persons of influence.
- Empower people affected by crisis / communities through civil education to claim their rights.

Question 3: Resilience: How can you in the context of nexus increase resilience and put people less at risk to humanitarian crisis?

- Supporting projects that focus on alternative livelihood (like those not depending on seasonal rains)
- Improving food storage capacities in “good times” helps when crisis hits.
- Communities’ diversification of income increases their resilience to climate change.
- Capacity building and awareness creation of environmental factors can help to avert disaster and build resilience.
- Sectoral disaster prevention and mitigation measures can be improved (health, water, livelihood, etc. For instance improved agricultural practices like “Smart Farming”)
- Improved accountability and governance in resilience programmes can ensure improved nexus.
- Government to take more responsibility to improve national social security systems, like school feeding programmes, hunger safety net programmes, cash to elderly and disabled people, etc)

Question 4: When disaster strikes: how to redirect ongoing interventions in case of an emergency, and how to go back to normal when the crisis is over?

- Community engagement needs to happen from the very beginning, when planning a development intervention and when redirecting ongoing activities in an emergency.
- Importance of continuously to review the situation and be able to take informed decisions.
- The existence of recovery strategies and budget lines is needed.
- Coordination (both in development and in emergencies) is key. Government play an important role.
- Go back to normal after crisis: Donor and implementer need to be flexible and allow modifying budget.

Concluding reflections and learning

- Kenya has experienced many different contexts of crisis, political conflicts, terror and instability, as well as climate change with drought, floods and other natural disasters. The agenda of Nexus is therefore highly relevant.
- A focus on nexus between humanitarian and development interventions seems to be important for all organisations that participated in the workshop. For development organisations the agenda of Nexus makes sense because they already are engaged in an area when crisis hits (contrary to some humanitarian actors, who need to “move in” to help).
- Large NGOs like CARE and Plan as well as some of the smaller NGOs working in disaster prone areas do already have a focus on linking humanitarian and development work in their programmes. For some of the smaller NGOs the discussion about nexus was completely new, but nevertheless still very relevant.
- There seems to be a growing focus on resilience building among the Kenyan NGOs, both as part of development interventions, especially concerning resilience against flooding and drought, and in humanitarian interventions, ie. by ensuring the rebuilding of houses and shelters are done in a more resilient way.
- From the field visit to the DERF intervention in Nyakach, Kisumu it stood out clear that Plan needs to think nexus in the sense that they are getting engaged in the discussion (with the communities, with authorities and with donors) on how to continue supporting the community after the end of the DERF project.
- From the monitoring visit to IAS Kenya it was learned that it creates added value to implement a DERF intervention with the same community where IAS already has ongoing activities (about inclusive education). This creates an opportunity to plan for nexus both in the short run and for long term changes.

4. Outputs and Dissemination

Outputs:

- The thematic report on Nexus will be shared within CISU, with participants who contributed to the content of the report, and with all other who shows interest in the agenda.
- CISUs internal working group on Nexus and the DERF team will discuss the report and decide on a way forward from here.

Dissemination:

- The report will be shared with participants in the workshop through e-mail.
- The report will also be uploaded for public review on CISUs website.

Annexes:

- ToR for the DERF monitoring visit to Kenya
- Attendance list of Nexus learning workshop
- CISU / DERF presentation about Nexus