LESSONS LEARNED FROM HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS REVIEWS IN MYANMAR, NIGER AND AFGHANISTAN

WHERE TO START?

Developing an understanding of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus among all stakeholders relevant to nutrition, including at the sub-national level.

Engaging in a nexus approach requires developing a shared understanding of the extra benefits that could be generated, identifying areas where efforts can converge or become aligned and what roles, responsibilities and principles this entails for each stakeholder.

The nutrition sector/cluster coordinators and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) government Focal Points, supported by the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), SUN secretariat and global SUN networks undertaking the following:

- Reaching out to the sub-national level coordinators and SUN Focal Points to disseminate information and to organize sessions at sub-national levels, while also to ensuring their inclusion and participation in training and workshops.
- Conducting information and training sessions on the HDN for nutrition actors.

WHAT TO DO?

Ensure sufficient safe space for humanitarian and development partners involved in nutrition to link up.

In countries where coordination mechanisms are more inclusive of all sectors and stakeholders across the so-called humanitarian and development divide, actors are more advanced in identifying shared objectives and developing aligned action plans. Humanitarian and development actors need space to meet and exchange.

For the nutrition sector/cluster coordinators and SUN government Focal Points:

- Create joint working sessions for humanitarian and development actors contributing to nutrition.

Support the implementation of national multi-sectoral plans of action for nutrition to better enhance preparedness for nutrition crises by prioritising, planning and involving humanitarian actors.

The multi-sectoral plans for nutrition should play a key role in building the nutrition resilience of vulnerable populations and reducing humanitarian needs. However, they are often underfunded so need to be prioritised based on geographical areas where nutritional needs are the greatest and where resilience building would be the most effective. This shared prioritisation across the humanitarian and development divide would also contribute to strengthen disaster preparedness and response.

For UNRC/HC:

- Promote intersectoral coordination and collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in line with global commitments made by the UN under the ‘New Way of Working’.

- Combine humanitarian and development experience and knowledge in developing aligned United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks and the humanitarian response plans at country level.

- To jointly advocate for greater alignment of development and humanitarian funding and resource allocation for more systematic multi-year financing of activities that strengthen resilience.

- To disseminate tools and lessons learnt on preparedness and early response.

The HDN for nutrition is characterized by:

- Understanding the extra benefits that the Humanitarian-Development Nexus could generate.
- A multi-year horizon acknowledging the persistent or recurring nature of crises.
- Greater alignment of development and humanitarian policies, plans, programmes and funding.
- Collective understanding of the needs and identification of common objectives.

- Strengthening capacities and systems at national and local levels.

What is the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) and how does it relate to nutrition?

The Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) frames the work of development and humanitarian actors, along with national and local counterparts. It is the point where efforts converge to prevent, prepare and address crises, particularly with regard to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. It balances short-term responses with long-term solutions, allowing humanitarian and development actions to be more complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Growing evidence shows that investing in nutrition security contributes to the fight against hunger and helps build peace, stability and development in human capital. Ensuring nutrition security for all is therefore a crucial yet complex feat, which requires various sectors and multiple actors to work together. Collaboration needs to be done through an integrated approach aimed at improving access to nutritious food and nutrition services, water, sanitation, health, and social protection services.

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