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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 9 September 2021
To: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)

Subject: The importance of triple nexus in era of climate changes: challenges in
food aid and water supply
- presentation by Oxfam

Following the informal COHAFA videoconference of 9 September, delegations will find in Annex presentation made by Oxfam⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

¹ Oxfam International EU Advocacy Office, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 46856801604-90.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Transforming the systems that contribute to fragility and humanitarian crises – Oxfam and the triple nexus

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Deputy Humanitarian Director

9-10 September 2021



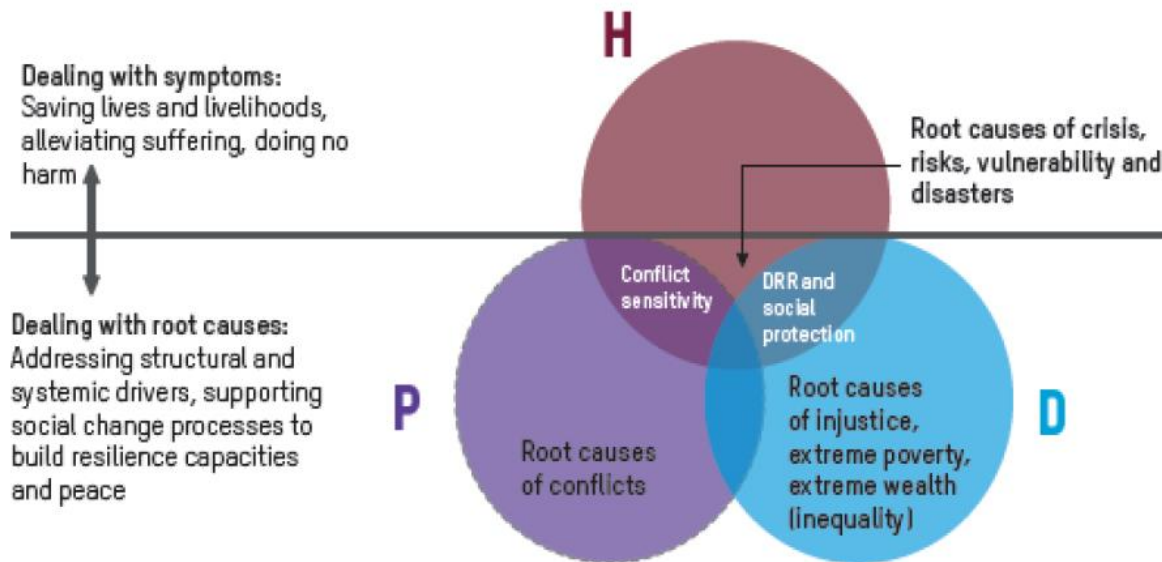
OXFAM

The why and the how

- Conflicts and climate-related shocks are becoming more frequent and intense, driving and exacerbating poverty, inequality, and vulnerability – Sahel, Horn of Africa.
- Current model of humanitarian solutions to complex socio-political problems has its limitations.
- Humanitarian aid, development and peacebuilding are needed at the same time.
- The triple nexus looks at synergies and common goals across emergency response and longer-term social change processes in development, as well as enhancing opportunities for peace so that individuals can fully enjoy human rights.

Oxfam's approach to the triple nexus

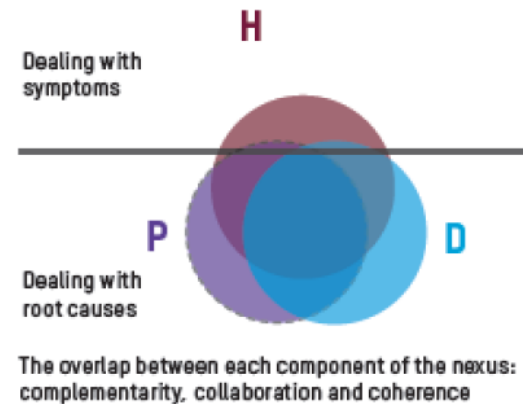
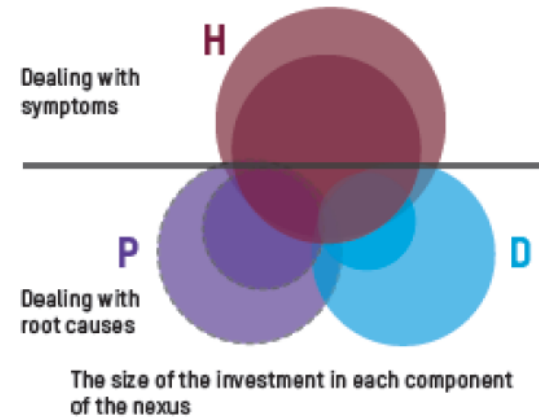
Enhanced Humanitarian Action: Rights, resilience and response in fragile states, protracted crises and conflict



As a multi-mandated organization, Oxfam links the humanitarian and development sectors and contributes to peace when necessary and possible

Oxfam's approach to the triple nexus

- Context is key: joint analysis, conflict analysis, collaboration with different actors;
- “Size” of the three circles and “overlap” needs to be based on country context, Oxfam and partner added-value, and entry points;
- Because of protracted crises and recurring climate shocks, poverty/inequality in conflict/fragile contexts, the aid system needs to move to a nexus approach across all contexts.



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The debate on the nexus

- Outstanding “dilemmas” on the HDP nexus: competing values, approaches and ways of working (short vs long term; centralized vs devolved; cluster system vs natl dev plans).
- Extensive consultations, programmatic experiences and lessons learnt to find solutions.
- Upholding humanitarian principles; working with states and govt authorities; allocating and balancing different programmatic priorities; defining peacebuilding.
- For each dilemma, positions managing such kind of tension in protracted/fragile contexts.
- To adopt a do no harm, conflict sensitivity and safe programming at a minimum.

Working with States – challenge

- All pillars assume engagement with states and govt authorities to a different extent.
- Development: state-led processes; humanitarian action : intl coordination; peace: negotiations and agreements.
- Repeated cycles of emergency response weaken or bypass national systems to prepare and mitigate future crises undermining development goals.
- Enhancing national and international systems of anticipatory action and financing can help mitigate impact of food insecurity crises, preventing IPC5 hunger.

Working with states - methodology

- Principled humanitarian action, which is independent of military, security and political interests.
- Relationship with states and government departments is nuanced: each entity has its priorities, incentives and interests. Finding the optimal collaboration.
- To assess risks and benefits of engaging with government at different levels in different capacities: technical support, policy advice, improving systems and services.

The practice : enhancing systems

- In Turkana, Western Kenya, recurring droughts have led Oxfam to shift from digging boreholes towards systems strengthening. Local leadership, sustainability and long-term development.
- Pre-paid water points (ATMs) to ensure access to water and accountability of local govt service provision.
- Technical support to Water Management Dept: better maintenance of water points, rapid response when faults occur.

Key reflections

- Entrenched and persistent inequalities mean the poorest, most marginalized people are hardest hit by climatic shocks.
- The climate crisis exacerbates needs and vulnerabilities; nexus approach can support national and local authorities to map drivers of inequalities and risk factors, and act on them.
- Innovative and outcome-based programming more feasible with adequate financing, currently very limited.
- In some settings (e.g. South Sudan), humanitarian programmes have contributed to reduce tensions around resources, contributing to peacebuilding at very local level.
- Flexing from development to humanitarian response: ensuring principled humanitarian action with your local stakeholders (e.g. Tigray crisis, Ethiopian govt initially denying access allegedly because of insecurity).