

# HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE NEXUS

## POLICY 2023



Phales Sichibeka with her  
granddaughter in Magobbo village,  
Mazabuka district, Zambia

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<b>What is the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus?</b>	2
<b>Challenges in operationalising HDPN in the sector</b>	2
Top-down approach	2
Concern for principled humanitarian action	3
Funding	3
High and local level HPDN Nexus coordination mechanisms	3
<b>How does SHA currently measure up in Nexus programming?</b>	4
<b>The way forward - Operationalising the Nexus across SHA and our partners</b>	6
Localisation/Community led programming:	6
Integrated contextual analysis:	7
Resilience	7
Adaptive Management	8
Programme Quality	8
Funding	9
Collective Outcomes	9
<b>Conclusion</b>	10

# WHAT IS THE HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT & PEACE NEXUS (HDPN)?

The humanitarian, development, and peace Nexus (HDPN) is an operational framework that entails complementarity and coherence between emergency relief, development, and peacebuilding as well as coordination between all the relevant actors (for instance in developing joint context analyses, needs assessments, and common outcomes).

The idea is not new. The nexus is a continuation of long-running efforts in the humanitarian and development fields, such as ‘disaster risk reduction’ (DRR); ‘linking relief rehabilitation and development’ (LRRD); the ‘resilience agenda’; and the embedding of conflict sensitivity across responses. The focus of the international community has shifted towards resilience and conflict prevention to end the cycle of aid dependency or reduce the possibility of fragility and conflict in the first place. To achieve such goals, the international community has recognized that humanitarian and development actors and initiatives need to coordinate better and work more efficiently and under common visions and long-term plans, new funding mechanisms need to be created, and the approach to providing aid needs to change. UN-led initiatives for the “new ways of working” include collective outcomes, comparative advantages, and multi-year frameworks. Moreover, peace was added as a third pillar inherently tied to the success of the long-term sustainability and impact humanitarian and development assistance. Climate- and conflict-related risks often overlap or exacerbate each other, resulting in complex needs. For example, in areas of the Sahel, climate-related shocks have pushed pastoralists, who often have little power within state structures, to migrate earlier and for longer periods. This, combined with the difficulty of implementing conflict resolution mechanisms, is fuelling local-level conflicts over key natural resources that increasingly result in violence. Hence, the humanitarian-development-peace Nexus

is a framework that goes beyond a single programme and encompasses all these changes, with the aim of achieving better collaboration between actors, complementary and coherent responses, prevention, and changes in funding.

## CHALLENGES IN OPERATIONALISING HDPN IN THE SECTOR

Self Help Africa (SHA) is enthusiastic about the many opportunities the Nexus offers for greater and more sustainable impact, including addressing root causes of community needs, conflict, and inequity; promoting more equitable development; integrating social cohesion and self-reliance; stimulating investment in underserved sectors; strengthening CSOs and advancing local leadership in all phase of programming, all of which will then address community needs and reduce social tensions and promote peace.

While there is largely a consensus on its benefits, some significant challenges exist in operationalising the Triple Nexus approach:

### TOP-DOWN APPROACH

The HDPN approach can often be seen as a top-down movement, initiated, and driven by Organisation for Economic



Co-operation and Development OECD / Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the United Nations. This is in contrast to Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) like SHA which are more experienced in Resilience and DRR programme approaches, and which started more organically from community engagement, and work up rather than down. Due to the newness of HDPN concepts, there is very little guidance provided on what nexus programming best practices look like on the ground. However, SHA and other NGOs have a strong experience and evidence in resilience and DRR with the relevant practical knowledge that directly support the basic elements of the programme sections of Nexus.

The addition of peace to the original Nexus has also proved a challenge in understanding. For an International Non-governmental Organization (INGO) like SHA, peace mostly means integrating conflict sensitivity, for example by supporting social cohesion in communities, whereas government institutions or donors often interpret peace as conflict prevention and response, security, and stabilisation.

Considering that conflict is the main driver of both acute and chronic insecurity, SHA cannot ignore the need to engage in some form of peacebuilding, if we are to protect our long-term efforts from being undermined by conflict. However, it is important to recognise that when applying the Nexus approach, not all programmes or actors need to always address all pillars equally.

## **CONCERN FOR PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

Many organisations have been rather cautious about engaging with the HPDN. They are concerned that it might increase the instrumentalization of humanitarian action and contribute to a further shrinking of humanitarian space because – for example – it can attribute to state actors having a much more central role in

projects and programmes leaving some NGOs struggling to take a principled position due to risks to neutrality and impartiality in humanitarian action. SHA has always worked closely with state actors and sees their involvement in the Nexus approach as an opportunity rather than a challenge.

## **FUNDING**

To operationalise the Nexus across all programming, flexible funding is necessary as restricted funding would not cover the full spectrum of activities that the Nexus requires.

At present only a few donors<sup>1</sup> have begun shifting their thinking to a more long-term flexible funding model for integrated programming across the nexus and most lack the institutional tools and mechanisms to do so.

## **HIGH & LOCAL LEVEL HPDN NEXUS COORDINATION MECHANISMS**

A high-level coordination mechanism currently doesn't exist for the Nexus approach, yet it is essential to ensure uniform and systematic guidance and direction is given to all actors involved. The current somewhat fragmented discussion on how to apply the nexus approach is limiting its development and effectiveness.

Having a Nexus wide coordination mechanism will allow for opportunities, challenges and risks associated with the Nexus to be discussed and debated and the systematic collection of evidence related to application of the nexus.

More localised mechanisms can then be established in countries or regions, similar or as part of the cluster system, to allow local actors to feed into the community of practice.

# HOW DOES SELF HELP AFRICA MEASURE UP IN NEXUS PROGRAMMING

Through Self Help Africa's (SHA) new global strategy<sup>2</sup>, the organisation is committed to a holistic approach to reducing vulnerabilities to achieve resilience in increasingly complex circumstances, defined by growing conflicts and climate change. It specifically states that "We believe humanitarian aid; development programmes and peacebuilding are not linear processes and that they are all necessary at the same time. Our approach to the humanitarian, development, peace nexus therefore focuses on delivering context specific and conflict sensitive support to respond to the spectrum of humanitarian, peace, and development needs in communities".

As a development/humanitarian organisation, Self Help Africa looks at the HDP nexus through a strong resilience lens. Our stated approach already incorporates some key elements of the HDP approach.

1. SHA uses the **Sustainable Livelihoods Framework** as the basis for integrated community planning. Planning at all levels takes climate change into account, using current trends and future climate models to assess and mitigate risks in agriculture and enterprise. It also integrates climate risk assessments and responses into community-based planning.



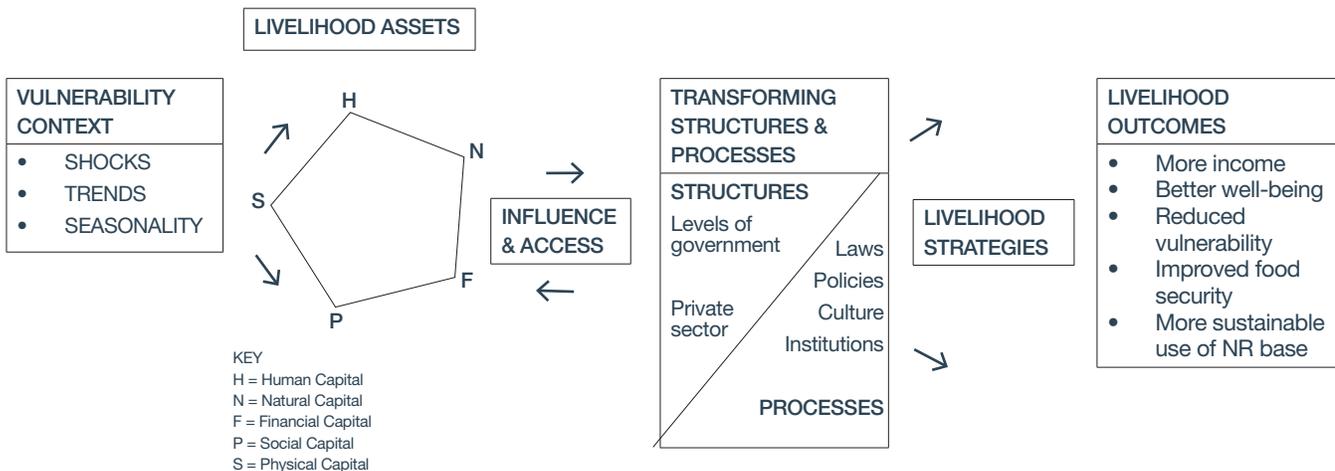
## Self Help Africa Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

For households and communities to thrive socially and economically, and be resilient to shocks and stresses, they require a core set of assets.

- **Human Assets:** training, education, government staff (teachers, nurses, agriculture officers), private sector staff (mechanics, builders, managers), nutrition and health status (stunting, SAM, GAM, anaemia), WASH and nutrition knowledge (software).
- **Natural Assets:** forests, rivers, fish, wildlife, soil, rangelands, minerals, ground water resources.

- **Financial Assets:** savings, loans, insurance, income generation, cash crops, livestock.
- **Social Assets:** leadership, community cohesion, trust, equality, mutual support, peace and security, culture,
- **Physical Assets:** roads, bridges, WASH hardware, school, and health centre buildings

Ideally these assets should be balanced, but most communities SHA works with will be deficient in one or more assets. By using our Sustainable Livelihoods Framework for project design Self Help Africa can identify the assets that need to be prioritised by the project. The Framework also considers external shocks and stresses, and the structures and process required to transform livelihoods.



2. SHA has a strong Resilience Programming Framework – defining our approach at enhancing the ability of vulnerable communities to overcome multiple threats to food and nutrition security and address the fragility of current food production systems.
3. SHA places particular focus on the role of women farmers and their wider communities, in Africa and elsewhere, as most factors perpetuating poverty and hindering economic development are rooted in gender inequality. We pay particular attention to Gender equality, equity, and inclusion towards increasing women’s decision-making power (voice, choice and control), which as well as their economic independence and partly through the conflict resolution lens is central to nexus thinking.
6. Many of our programmes are already implemented through local partners. SHA has a strong localisation approach, and this will be strengthened further with our new (upcoming) Localisation policy.
7. Our programmes are designed using a strong market systems approach that integrates resilience with a combined analysis of local immediate needs, strengths, root causes of poverty and social injustice, as well as power dynamics, fragility, and political economy. This approach is about the livelihoods of the people concerned (e.g., farmers), but also the community’s access to key products, services, etc.

### **Gender equality, equity & inclusion in Malawi BETTER Project**

In Malawi as part of the Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns (BETTER) the Self Help Africa Family Life Model was implemented which is an integrated approach articulating the relationship between the family aspirations and the necessary resources to meet them.

It transforms relationships within the household particularly looking at household workload, power, access to and control over resources and to contribute to a higher level of women’s and girl’s participation in decision-making at both the household and community level. This transformative approach was embedded into Farmer Field Schools, encouraging the household to be agents of change and transformation in their community and society by challenging traditional notions of gender roles and responsibilities.

A gender assessment tool is used alongside the Family Life Model to collect baseline data so that change can be measured. Key indicators measure women’s increased decision making capacity/agency (voice/choice) and increased financial independence (control). This model aims to create greater family and community harmony and ensure resources are shared for the wellbeing and benefit of all.

### **Market Systems approach in Bangladesh and Uganda**

In the Rohingya response in Bangladesh, SHA has used a market systems approach to rebuild and restore the livelihoods of host community members that have been impacted by the influx of refugees since 2017.

Job trainings based on new and evolving opportunities in the local market have been provided to thousands of men and women in Cox’s Bazar, including machine repair, tailoring, and food preparation. These efforts complement peace building efforts to also mitigate the social impacts of the influx on mental health for Rohingya and host community alike.

In Uganda, SHA has used a market systems approach to support farmer groups impacted by the refugee influx in the region. Combining new coordination capacity development and the introduction of land management practices used the Functional Land Management Approach which support sustainable livelihoods, SHA’s work aims to ensure economic resilience for host communities in the face of humanitarian crises.

4. Our Strategic Objective 3 of the new SHA Strategy (2023-2027) includes risk mapping in all projects and countries for likelihood of sudden and slow on-set crises, Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning Systems (EWS) into programmes with flexible programme design to respond rapidly to crises and the use of the Functional Landscape Approach to enable communities to mitigate landscape level risks.
5. We address the loss of natural resources and the effects it has on poverty and commit to ensure all interventions are climate resilient, designed with reference to climate trends and predictions.

# THE WAY FORWARD: OPERATIONALISING THE NEXUS ACROSS SHA & PARTNERS

As a development organization, Self Help Africa recognizes that humanitarian crises will likely increase across our areas of operation in the future. As such, we place the HDN at the core of our approach to achieving our strategic objectives. Faced with increased needs, limited resources, and the necessity to cut down costs, global organisations such as the UN and EU are already rolling out pilots and reforms to integrate humanitarian aid with development, to various degrees. SHA already has several examples where Nexus programming is happening in countries. However, we are considering going further to both improve our current programming approach and add additional skills and capacity to our staff and partners. This policy lays out the following guiding principles and activities which will form the basis of the Nexus Programming for Self Help Africa for the period of the current Strategic plan (2023-2027).

## LOCALISATION/COMMUNITY LED PROGRAMMING:

The approach of localisation has already been recognized by both humanitarian and development actors in the past few years. Considering it was one of the main commitments in the Grand Bargain, Self Help Africa aims to empower local partners such as civil society organisations, private sector companies, local governments etc using a strong bottom-up approach. We will encourage our local partners to take the lead in programme design and implementation. This does not only focus on empowering local organizations, but it should also aim to focus on strengthening the whole of local capacity that are meeting local needs and services and not simply individual organisations.

Localisation is one of the most transformative and impactful methods for achieving impact. Integrated programming should be designed to always be localised, locally defined, owned, and most of the time implemented by local actors. Localisation should not be siloed under one sector (WASH, Nutrition etc) nor should we try to look at it as either humanitarian or development but should be designed under a Nexus approach from the beginning.

### COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMMING IN BANGLADESH

Through our multi-stakeholder platforms and coordination with local civil society as well as public and private sector in Bangladesh, SHB is strengthening local capacity to respond to the growing impacts of the climate crisis including cyclones, flooding, and other disasters. SHA's technical capacity in disaster risk reduction and preparedness has provided new resource for local civil society and government structures alike which are often best positioned for action at all phases of the disaster life cycle. In recent years, this has expanded to include the formation of private sector emergency operation structures in urban areas which enable meaningful coordination between businesses and government to respond to natural disasters in a rapid and effective manner.

Local ownership and participation should give gives practical and feasible openings at all steps of the project cycle, especially for women. Communities should hold key positions in the analysis and design of programmes and projects. They will be the ones leading their own recovery and resilience. This is much more than simply implementing through local partners; a mutually beneficial relationship must be established with the communities we work with and involve them in every step of the way. Towards this aim, we are working towards transformational change of our partnership process in the following thematic areas:

- **Mutual Capacity Strengthening:** SHA draws from the expertise of our local partners in designing contextually relevant programming while also strengthening their technical and administrative capacity. We recognize a broad range of capabilities and capacities as essential for autonomous and adaptive functioning across the HDPN and support our partners in strengthening these areas while also learning from them to improve ourselves.
- **Investment in Local Partners:** Getting money into the hands of those responding to crises and leading their own development is an essential part of our community-led approach. ICR allocated to local partners is one avenue for this, as is carbon finance leveraged for organizational strengthening and leveraging of climate finance for those most affected by the changing climate and its impacts.
- **Direct Engagement:** SHA's direct implementation is an important part of its community-led approach, joining our partners in direct action and co-creation to solve the existential challenges of climate change, endemic poverty, and natural disasters. Our partnership with research institutions & government agencies supports this multi-level coordination and ensures access to actionable evidence for local partners.

We strongly believe that the role of women is crucial in this process. Therefore, we will support partners building their capacity around gender and inclusion, and target partners with women in leadership positions, arrange participation sessions that specifically target women and girls at suitable times and locations, etc.

### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Aim to strengthen the capacity of the whole of local capacity to meet local needs and services.
- Ensure local ownership of the whole process from design to evaluation.
- Ensure local communities and partners hold key positions in our programmes.
- Ensure the full participation of women and girls in the whole process, recognising the crucial role of women especially in conflict and crisis situations.

## INTEGRATED CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS:

This level of analysis is essential in guiding our design, implementation, and evaluation. It should make use of tools to get a strong understanding of local social, gender and power relations, dynamics causing conflict and the political economy. This kind of analysis cannot and should not be carried out by only one actor such as Self Help Africa. Therefore, we need to engage with other stakeholders in holistic, integrated contextual analyses at country level. If formal joint assessments and analyses are not possible, actively share information and findings to ensure a comprehensive map of vulnerabilities and interventions is produced and updated. Joint working with other actors is at the core of the Nexus.

Our programmes should be designed based not simply on immediate needs, but also on root causes analysis, gender analysis, and power analysis to strengthen our project choices and avoid doing harm by adding to the problems and tensions. There are different forms or frameworks of analysis available that can be relevant to the local context. Even in emergencies, rapid analysis tools are available to respond to new information as the programme develops.

### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Actively engage with other stakeholders in conducting integrated contextual/systems analysis
- Share information with all other actors to ensure a comprehensive picture of the situation is produced and maintained.
- Design all programmes based on all contextual analysis data and findings.
- Develop long-term plans with local government that covers both long-term development and resilience and response elements.
- Design programmes that are cognisant of how they can be coherent and connected, to reduce need, address root cause issues/strengthen systems, and place resilience at the centre.

## RESILIENCE:

Resilience is a major theme in Nexus programming, and it is also a major theme in Self Help Africa's programming. We work to build communities' capacities to anticipate, cope, adapt, and transform in the face of natural or man-made disasters including conflict. Building communities' and local actors' resilience against shocks and disasters is the main common denominator ground between the three sides of the Nexus: humanitarian assistance, development, and peace.

Disasters and humanitarian crises affect people differently. A person's resilience depends on many factors such as their economic well-being, education, gender, health, and age as these define their capacity to cope and adjust. Building communities' resilience is critical to minimise the impact of disasters and prevent future humanitarian crises. As such, SHA places importance on finding more sustainable solutions for these people.

Our Resilience programming framework is aimed at enhancing the ability of vulnerable communities to overcome multiple threats. At the heart of our Resilience Programming Framework are three integrated, complementary, and mutually reinforcing outcomes: a) food and economic resilience; b) ecological/climate resilience; and c) organisational resilience. Self Help Africa understands that individuals or communities do not need to simply adapt to change but they should be able to change and create a new, more robust, and better system.

### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Place Resilience at the centre of our global programming
- Use our Resilience programming framework to provide a holistic and integrated approach to implementing its programmes.
- Share our framework and knowledge with other actors.

### RESILIENCE IN WASH PROGRAMMING IN MALAWI

In Malawi, Self Help Africa work on development and Humanitarian WASH programmes. Whilst we work reactively across the country, responding to humanitarian need and programme opportunity, we also have two 'strategic focus' districts, where we seek to take a long-term programmatic approach to WASH. Thyolo district is one of these – an impoverished and climate disaster-prone district in Southern Malawi.

In Thyolo, in our development programming, we have taken a Systems Strengthening approach, where we have undertaken workshops to jointly assess (with government and other sector players) the systemic root cause barriers to sustainable universal WASH access in the district. We have co-developed workplans to strengthen the functional capacities of the local government, across issues of coordination, planning, finance, monitoring and have supported the district council to develop and launch a lifecycle costed District-wide Sector Investment Plan (DSIP) for WASH.

In our development programming, we have strengthened the government-led coordination at district level, the alignment of sector actors to the district-level plan and strengthened the linkage between the WASH actors in local and regional government. We were one of the first organisations in Malawi to integrate a section in the DSIP on disasters and resilience, aiming for some humanitarian-development connectedness in the plan. When disaster has struck Thyolo, such as the Cholera outbreak (2022) and Cyclone Freddy (March 2023), we have used these strengthened systems to ensure strong government-led response coordination and used our partnerships with the government and their decentralized officers, to integrate humanitarian response effectively and efficiently into our wider capacity building activities. We have also designed our response work in Thyolo carefully considering both how what we do, and how we do it, can be beneficial to our longer-term development work.



## **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT:**

Adaptive management can be defined as the ability of an organisation to respond to changes in its operating environment. This approach to management is at the centre of the triple Nexus, being able to respond to changes and new information swiftly to stay relevant and impactful. Adaptive management should be integrated throughout the organisation, focussing on learning, innovation, experimentation, flexibility, and responsiveness.

This approach deploys elements of human centred design (HCD) to ensure that our programming is demand driven, contextualised across the wide variety of areas we work in, and driven by those with the greatest stake in its success. HCD utilises an iterative process of empathising with all programmatic stakeholders, defining the roles and responsibilities in programmatic success, co-creation of ideas and knowledge, and the iterative prototyping & testing of solutions.

This process is best illustrated by SHA's Farmer Field School and Functional Landscape Approaches. Deployed in the context of our adaptive management approach, this ensures that our organisation can make rapid and meaningful decisions and adjustments in response to new information and changes in context. This may not simply be changing the goals or targets of a programme it can also be about changing the route that needs to be taken to reach those goals and targets.

The overarching aim of the triple nexus approach is to by-pass humanitarian and development divides to meet a variety of immediate humanitarian needs, while reducing long-term risk and vulnerability. Doing nexus work well – so that it is effective and relevant – will require greater flexibility in addressing different kinds of humanitarian, development, and peace-building problems, sometimes simultaneously, and often with greater speed. There must be flexibility in providing different support based on changes in vulnerability and needs. Ideally programmes should be able to track changes in real-time (or near real-time) and make rapid

adjustments to plans. Self Help Africa will enhance collaboration across the different sectors of the organisation, including by building a nexus working group within the country team to gather specialised input on humanitarian, development and peace elements when designing programmes or interventions.

### **SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:**

- Use integrated context analysis as a real time document that can be regularly updated and reviewed in partnership with other actors to guide the decision-making.
- Instil flexibility in its programmes by using adaptive plans that can respond to a shift in context.
- Review and update key policies and guidelines regularly to adapt to changing contexts.
- Look to redirect assistance, expand to include new target groups, or change activities and programmes depending on needs and risks.
- Be prepared to lengthen and shorten timeframes for different types of activities based on shifts in acute or more chronic needs.
- Be prepared to make changes to an original plan and intervention logic based on new information.

## **PROGRAMME QUALITY:**

To keep our programmes effective and relevant, strong MEAL systems are needed to facilitate learning and innovation. To implement Nexus programming, we will require strong programme quality and accountability, and an investment in learning and knowledge management. A good MEAL system is crucial to enable agile and flexible implementation, responsiveness, and relevance, as well as piloting and innovation.

Our teams should undertake learning and reflection as part of impact measurement. The ability to provide good MEAL information is required to constantly feed information to managers and their team to allow the use of adaptive management if required.

#### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Further invest in MEAL systems and processes across the organisation.
- Embed learning and reflection into all teams and encourage positive and constructive criticism of our approaches.
- Share MEAL results and data with other actors and engage in joint assessments, evaluations, learning and policy research.
- Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and metrics which will not only measure the effectiveness of the process but will also incorporate indicators for long-term impact assessment.

### SHA MEAL WITHIN THE TRIPLE NEXUS APPROACH

#### Key Drivers for our MEAL Work

- Demonstrating Impact
- Learning and knowledge creation
- Support for strategic and operational management
- Upward and downward accountability

#### Approach and Methodology

- M&E Advisory Support
- Participatory
- Results Based Management and Theory of Change
- Mixed method approach: adaptive management versus independent measuring
- Combined use of quantitative and qualitative information

#### Some Key Elements of our M&E System to support the triple Nexus Approach

- **Situational Analysis including the Livelihood Zoning (LHZ) approach:** The LHZ is used to understand the circumstances, income and livelihood strategies, and coping mechanisms of potential beneficiaries.
- When circumstances changing for the communities, we work with the Livelihood Zoning can help us making informed decisions to adapt our programming.
- **Data Collection:** For quantitative data collection we use handhelds and CommCare (ODK software). For qualitative data video, pictures, recordings, and minute taking. The use of handhelds and a new created role of Data Analyst has increased the turnover time from data collection in the field up to recommendations (displayed in dashboards) given to the Programme Managers. A clear improvement to support an adaptive management approach.
- **The Daily Questionnaire:** The daily questionnaire is a rural livelihood assessment; data will be collected on an ongoing (daily) basis. We are collecting data relevant for measuring resilience: the absorptive “stability” & the adaptive “flexibility” capacities of households which tells us (in advance) if households have the ability to cope when a shock or stress appears.
- SHA is also tracking the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) & The Coping Strategy Index (CSI). This will give us information when households (in case of a local shock or stress) start struggling to cope.

#### FUNDING:

The quality, predictability, and availability of funding for the different components of the nexus are hugely important in delivering programmes. Although it remains limited, several major development partners have rolled out new financing instruments that provide increased flexibility and responsiveness to programme funds in crisis-affected settings. However, a lot of these remain thematically restricted and managed from Donor headquarters and so do not always encourage country-level prioritisation and coordination.

The availability of flexible and strategic multi-year funding remains a challenge in properly driving the Nexus forward and most of the humanitarian funding remains short term. The longer term funding that is available remains result or pilot based rather than transformative. However, SHA sees the development of our own Nexus Programming as an opportunity to engage directly with donors to further the Nexus across our programmes and partners.

#### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Work with donors to obtain more flexible and predictable funding that allows for adaptive and anticipatory programming including for example crisis modifiers.
- Design programmes in conjunction with donors to address the nexus wherever possible.
- Engage with donors for funding of pilot Nexus programming.

#### COLLECTIVE OUTCOMES:

Collective outcomes (COs)<sup>3</sup> is central to the New Way of Working<sup>4</sup> which came out of the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016)<sup>5</sup>. Collective outcomes refer to collaboration between development and humanitarian actors in support of removing the current siloed thinking to reduce need and improve resilience and where short-term humanitarian action and medium- to long-term development programming are required simultaneously in areas of vulnerability.

To ensure a Collective outcome is effective they should have multi-year time frames that support “analysing, strategizing, and planning operations that build over several years to achieve context-specific targets. Collective outcomes should also be context specific and highlight the comparative advantage of the actors involved. In addition, COs should be needs based, measurable and wherever possible address the root causes of the situation.

#### SELF HELP AFRICA WILL:

- Work with all actors from across the nexus, based on their respective comparative advantages.
- Carry out Joint analysis that helps define context-specific collective outcomes and a shared problem statement that the collective outcome(s) aim to address.
- Engage in joint planning and coordination with all actors to build on the joint analysis and to further define the collective outcomes.

## CONCLUSION:

**The Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus** is not a rigid structure but is instead a way of thinking and engaging.

Self Help Africa and our partners are encouraged not to think of the Nexus as a “what” but instead think of it as a “how.”

The Nexus approach provides a huge opportunity to Self Help Africa and the sector where it operates to think differently and work more flexibly to address the root causes of need within the countries of operation.

Although the Nexus is still evolving in the minds of all actors, Self Help Africa is well positioned to both develop its own current Nexus programming and to also take a lead within the sector as a whole.



## FOOTNOTES AND REFERENCES:

1. <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/financing-the-nexus-report/financing-the-nexus-report.pdf>
2. <https://selfhelpafrica.org/ie/strategy2023-2027/>
3. <https://agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/resources/2018/Apr/OCHA%20Collective%20Outcomes%20April%202018.pdf>
4. <https://agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/20170228%20NWoW%2013%20high%20res.pdf>
5. [https://agendaforhumanity.org/resources/world-humanitarian-summit.html#qt-whs\\_main\\_menu#core-commitments](https://agendaforhumanity.org/resources/world-humanitarian-summit.html#qt-whs_main_menu#core-commitments)





Self Help Africa is the trading name of Gorta

**HEAD OFFICE**

Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 677 8880 | Email: [info@selfhelpafrica.org](mailto:info@selfhelpafrica.org)

[selfhelpafrica.org](http://selfhelpafrica.org)