Center for International Peace Operations

# Compendium of Good Practice of (Collaborative) HDP Nexus Implementation in Country Contexts

2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the New Way of Working at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, along with the subsequent conceptualisation of the so-called Triple Nexus between humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding. The objective was to provide an effective response to a distinct challenge: crises were becoming protracted, i.e. longer and more complex, while humanitarian action and development assistance remained largely separate, and peacebuilding activities in conflict affected contexts isolated. The long-standing approach of prioritising relief measures followed by developmental interventions, with peace as a separate concern, had proven to be ineffective in meeting the growing needs. The Nexus advocated for the concerted, coordinated efforts of actors involved in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding initiatives. This approach emphasised the leveraging of each actor's distinct strengths and comparative advantages to mitigate vulnerabilities and address the underlying causes of conflict.

Ten years after its establishment, the Nexus approach has gained widespread acceptance as a framework for addressing protracted crises through coordinated humanitarian action, development, and peacebuilding efforts. Interventions in numerous crisis-affected contexts have been characterised by increased common analysis, joined-up planning, and programme design. Furthermore, it has initiated and influenced policy reforms within the UN, OECD, World Bank, donor agencies, and implementing organisations.

Nevertheless, despite these successes, a number of challenges persist, such as the recognition of local actors and expertise, and their integration into programme design and planning, as well as decision-making power.

In times of globally shrinking donor budgets, the Nexus approach assumes particular significance in addressing the escalating needs arising from protracted crises. Many examples demonstrate that the HDP Nexus approach assists in the reduction of duplication, optimises the impact of constrained resources, and shifts investments from short-term responses toward sustainable, long-term outcomes. Nevertheless, publicly available documentation of successful and impactful Nexus implementation remains limited.

The Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) has therefore, in its capacity as coordinator of the German HDP Nexus Community of Practice (CoP)[1], established in 2024, engaged the members of the CoP and their partner organisations to compile selected good practices and concrete examples of Nexus projects and programmes.

The compendium provides a **comprehensive overview** of a wide range **of activities and contributions**, ranging from Afghanistan via East Africa, the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin to the Middle East and Ukraine. It offers **compelling narratives** and serves as a valuable resource for **evidence-based advocacy**, highlighting the efficacy of collaborative approaches across organisational boundaries. In times of constrained funding environments, the compendium shows that collaborative approaches are not only already established successful practice but also essential for achieving sustainable results.

The various contributions demonstrate the effectiveness of the Nexus approach in relation to several areas, including food security, WASH, social cohesion, anticipatory action, forced displacement, climate resilience, MHPSS and healthcare. For easy reference, the contributions are grouped according to the geographic regions of the Nexus projects.

ZIF would like to express its sincere appreciation[2] for the members of the German HDP Nexus CoP as well as their local partner organisations for their contributions.

[1] Since 2024, ZIF has been coordinating the German HDP Nexus Community of Practice (CoP). This consists of around 40 national expert and implementing organisations from the fields of humanitarian aid, development cooperation, and peacebuilding, as well as think tanks and representatives from the Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The CoP provides a platform for exchange, consultation, and mutual learning between the participating organisations on the implementation of the HDP Nexus and meets regularly twice a year. Depending on the thematic focus, representatives of international organisations or local partner organisations from the countries of operation also participate in the CoP meetings.
The CoP emerged from a series of workshops organised by ZIF at the end of 2023 on the implementation of the HDP Nexus in country contexts, which, among other things, developed a series of recommendations for (political) decision-makers.

[2] A big thank you goes to Hanna Eisen for her extensive editing and design work for the compendium.

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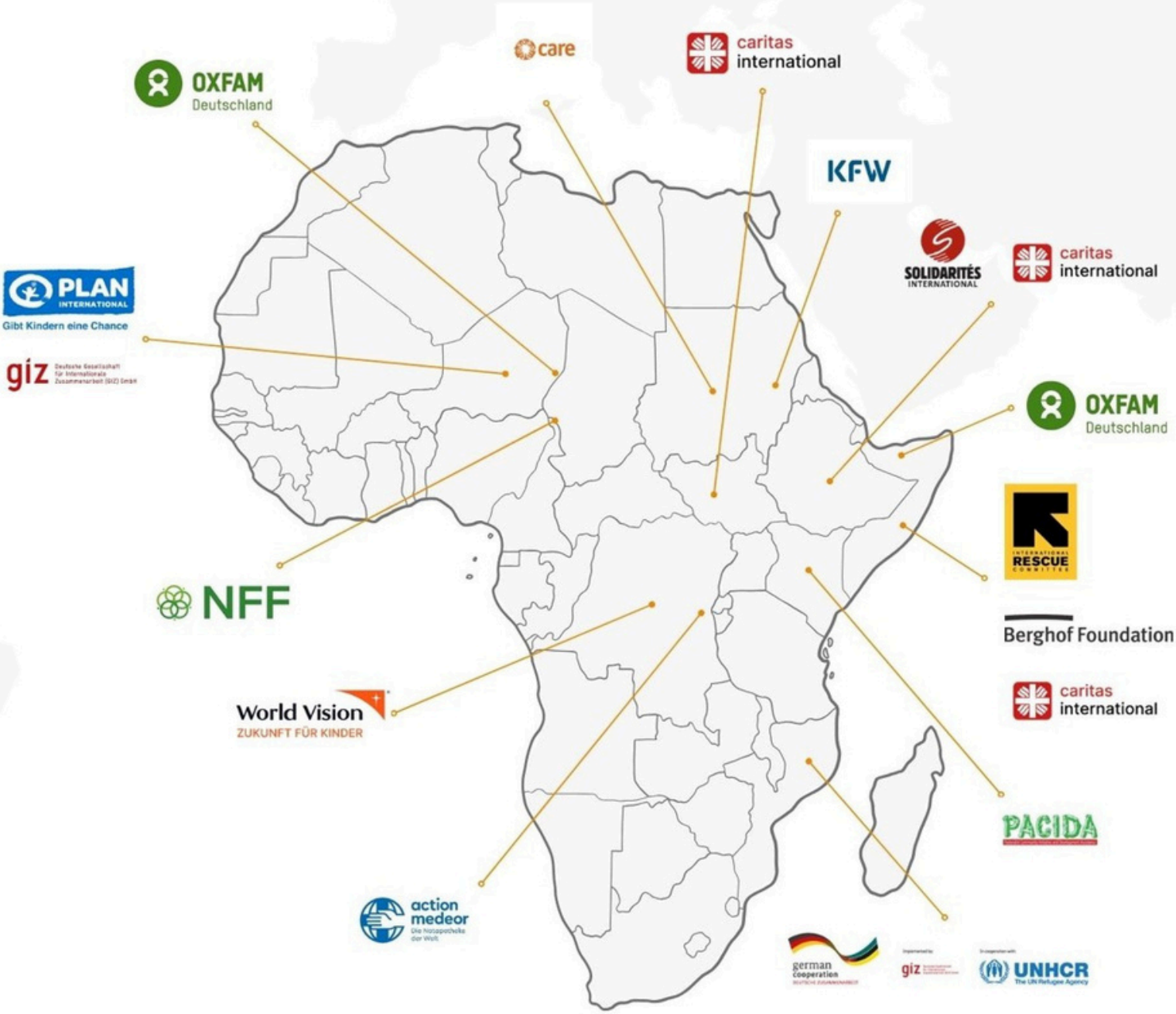
# AFRICA

5-year-old Amna collects water at a distribution point in Wadsharefey refugee camp in Kassala state.

© Foto: UNICEF/UNI851861/Saif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Gibt Kindern eine Chance
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OXFAM
Deutschland
RESCUE
NFF
Berghof Foundation
World Vision
ZUKUNFT FÜR KINDER
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PACIDA
action
medeor
german
cooperation
giz
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo | action medeor:** Enhancing Health, Food, and Nutrition Resilience via the HDP-Nexus, South Kivu Province

### Objective & Impact

The joint humanitarian and transition assistance interventions aim to reduce mortality and morbidity among refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities in seven health zones of South Kivu Province by improving access to preventive and curative health services, food and nutrition security, and WASH. Implemented between 2022 and 2026, the approach combines life-saving emergency response with efforts to strengthen resilience and essential health system capacities, thereby securing development impact in a highly volatile context.

### Key Actors

The projects have been implemented by the German Medical Aid Organisation action medeor e.V. in close partnership with our local implementing partner organisation AFPDE asbl, in collaboration with supported health care facilities, and in coordination with local authorities.

*Kick-off event for both projects associated with Nexus Chapeau. ©AFPDE/action medeor*

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

The Triple Nexus approach is operationalised through two projects: a humanitarian emergency response funded by the GFFO and a BMZ-funded transitional development assistance (TDA) project. Activities are deliberately aligned, in particular through complementary interventions against GBV and coordinated support to health care facilities. This includes the transfer of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases to the humanitarian project, while moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases are addressed through the TDA project. In tandem, the GFFO-funded project provides integrated medical and psychosocial care as well as legal counselling for survivors of GBV, while the TDA project fosters social cohesion among

different communities by promoting shared interests and strengthening local community structures. The use of synergies – such as joint advocacy, joint procurement processes, coordinated field missions, as well as shared use of data and analyses – enhances coherence, efficiency and learning across both funding streams.

**Success Factors**

First and foremost, a crucial factor is the interplay between short- and long-term activities. Other decisive success factors include strong local partnerships and the ability to jointly respond with flexible programming to external acute shocks while safeguarding long-term stabilisation and transformation objectives. During severe floods and landslides in 2023, the humanitarian project rapidly deployed mobile clinics and relief kits, while the TDA project focused on restoring destroyed agricultural and health infrastructure. This coordinated response mitigated long-term negative impacts and contributed to social cohesion across diverse socio-political groups.

**Scalability**

The approach is highly scalable within health systems in fragile and crisis-affected contexts, particularly where recurrent humanitarian shocks overlap with chronic development challenges and threaten development gains. Its successful transferability depends on strong local partnerships, flexible funding instruments and joint risk-informed planning.

*AFPDE and action medeor staff visiting a supported health care facility. ©AFPDE/action medeor*

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo | World Vision**: Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response (GECARR)

World Vision
ZUKUNFT FÜR KINDER

### Objective & Impact

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2016, rising tensions and risks of violence created an urgent need for evidence-based coordinated, anticipatory action. World Vision (WV) aimed to strengthen risk-informed decision-making and coherence across the humanitarian, development, and peace domains by conducting a rapid, inter-agency context analysis.

### Key Actors

Led by WV DRC, the initiative brought together its programme, security and advocacy teams alongside a diverse group of stakeholders including local communities, civil society organisations including NGOs, UN agencies, and international donors.

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

The rapid, inter-agency context analysis used the Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response (GECARR). 197 stakeholders across five regions (Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu, Katanga, and Gemena) contributed to interviews, focus groups, and a joint scenario-planning workshop that set out 3 scenarios for the next six to twelve months. This enabled a shared understanding of risks and a common evidence base for action around collective outcomes on anticipatory preparedness and risk reduction. Complementarity across the humanitarian-development-peace domains was strengthened and strong local participation ensured context relevance.

*World Vision in action in DRC. ©World Vision*

### Success Factors

Effectiveness was driven by the timely deployment, GECARR's ability to cope with high uncertainty, strong and multi-perspectival stakeholder participation, and buy-in from senior leadership. The "good enough" approach of the GECARR enabled rapid, actionable insights, while inter-agency collaboration strengthened ownership and uptake. The use of the findings across programme, security, and advocacy functions also enhanced coherence.

### Scalability

The analysis strengthened shared understandings of risk across the humanitarian-development-peace domains and informed coordinated preparedness efforts among multiple actors. As a result, various UN actors shifted to more inter-agency analysis in their contingency planning and shared their analysis with the wider community of actors to get feedback and encouraged NGOs to look at the potential impact of elections on their work, thereby aligning actors' responses and enhancing system-wide coherence. Given GECARR's adaptable and participatory design, it has been applied to other fragile contexts, provided timely deployment and sustained collaboration among diverse actors.

## **East Africa | KfW Development Bank:** Regional WASH Programme for Refugees, IDPs, and Host Communities ("R-WASH")

*Violence and armed conflicts, as well as severe droughts and famines, are causing many people in East Africa to be displaced within their own countries or to flee to neighbouring states. As the countries do not have the capacity to provide for all these people, many of them are cared for in large camps or settlement areas by the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR. Basic supplies, such as drinking water, are insufficient both in the camps and in the host communities. The increased pressure on limited resources can therefore also lead to conflicts over distribution.*

*UNICEF and UNHCR teams inspect the water station in Wadsharefey refugee camp in Kassala state. ©UNICEF/UNI851837/Saif*

**Objective & Impact**

The aim of the programme is to contribute to an improved, sustainable, inclusive, and integrated water and sanitation system for refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities. With the construction and expansion of the water supply infrastructure at the project sites as well as the setup and strengthening of local water utilities R-WASH contributes to an improvement of the supply situation of the host communities and refugee camps in selected towns. By strengthening local water infrastructure for communities affected by displacement, the need for water trucking through humanitarian actors in these settings is reduced. A remarkable impact on costs for water supply has already been achieved, reducing the water production cost by 92%.

**Key Actors**

- UNICEF & UNHCR as implementing organisations
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- KfW Development Bank
- Local and national water utilities / systems
- Host communities, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The HDP Nexus approach of the programme becomes specifically apparent in its support of coordination between humanitarian and development actors and the prioritization of locally led solutions. Simultaneously, water as a source of conflict among local communities is made accessible through locally managed systems. The takeover of state operators also relieves the budgets of humanitarian organisations such as UNHCR.

**Success Factors**

R-WASH supports the construction and expansion of drinking water supply and sanitation infrastructure at selected locations in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia. Extensive accompanying measures will help local water suppliers to ensure that operation and maintenance are as cost-effective and sustainable as possible, thereby securing the supply for both refugees and host communities.

*Storage tanks at the water station in Wadsharefey refugee camp in Kassala state.*
*©UNICEF/UNI851843/Saif*

**Scalability**

The setup of the programme reflects the ambition to build a scalable and replicable model. R-WASH continuously assesses possible extensions of the programme to further potential project sites mainly in the three project countries. In Kenya, the R-WASH approach has already been successfully replicated by World Bank with the K-WASH project.

## **Ethiopia | Deutscher Caritasverband e.V. (Caritas Germany):** Promoting Peace through Project Integration

### Objective & Impact

Caritas Germany's local partner in Ethiopia, the Meki Catholic Secretariat (MCS), is implementing the project "Promoting Peace through Project Integration". The project aims to address and reduce community-level conflicts across Central Ethiopia by integrating peacebuilding and social cohesion into existing development and humanitarian programming at the local level. The project provides preventative measures addressing a wide range of conflict dynamics, including religion-based tensions intersecting with ethnic divisions, disputes over natural resources, border-related disagreements, and conflicts between pastoralist and agriculturalist communities.

Through structured dialogue, mediation, and culturally grounded reconciliation processes, the initiative has contributed to a steady decline in the intensity of local conflicts. Safe spaces for dialogue have enabled grievances to be aired constructively, confrontations to be transformed into cooperation, and trust to be rebuilt. As a result, communities have strengthened their capacity to manage disputes peacefully, improved social cohesion, and created more stable conditions for long-term development.

### Key Actors

- Caritas Germany
- Local organisation MCS
- Wide range of community and institutional actors (including Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), youth initiatives, and indigenous groups)
- religious leaders from Christian and Muslim communities

*Hada Sinke (Oromo Traditional Women leaders), Meki, Ethiopia March 2026.* ©Caritas International

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Peacebuilding is deliberately linked with humanitarian assistance and development programming through a Triple Nexus approach. Rather than treating peace as a standalone activity, MCS embeds conflict sensitivity, dialogue, and reconciliation across sectors including food security, education, youth and women's empowerment, emergency response, water and sanitation, and health programming. Mainstreaming peace activities into the existing programme portfolio ensures that linkages are exploited and that development and humanitarian programmes are enhanced.

**Success Factors**

- A key success factor is strong local ownership, both through the presence of the local implementing organisation, as well as the community itself. Peace processes are most effective when communities themselves lead dialogue and reconciliation, supported rather than replaced by external actors.
- Youth and women play a particularly transformative role. Youth peace ambassadors trained by MCS act as mediators, for instance to reduce recruitment of young men into armed groups.
- Another decisive factor is the use of indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms. The Oromo Geda system, Shenacha council assemblies, and reconciliation rituals provide culturally legitimate pathways from retribution to restoration, supporting durable peace agreements.

**Scalability**

The MCS Peace Initiative demonstrates that peacebuilding activities can be integrated into development and humanitarian programmes with flexible donor support. Community-based dialogue, youth and women engagement, exclusion of polarizing political actors at critical stages, and reliance on indigenous governance systems offer a replicable model for similar settings.

By mainstreaming peace across sectors and strengthening local capacities, the initiative creates self-sustaining peace infrastructures that continue to function beyond individual projects.

*Aba Geda (Oromo traditional Men leaders), Meki, Ethiopia March 2026.* ©Caritas International

## **Ethiopia | Solidarités International:** From Trauma to Reintegration: Rebuilding Social Cohesion through an HDP Nexus Approach in Post-Conflict Tigray

*An integrated initiative combining humanitarian recovery, reintegration, and peacebuilding helped restore trust between communities and former combatants in Tigray Region in Ethiopia, demonstrating how coordinated action across sectors can accelerate recovery after conflict.*

**Objective & Impact**

Following the conflict in northern Ethiopia, communities in Tigray Region faced severe social fragmentation, trauma, and disrupted livelihoods. To support recovery and reconciliation, Solidarités International partnered with the Ethiopian Institute of Peace to implement an integrated initiative linking humanitarian recovery, development-oriented reintegration, and peacebuilding.

The project brought together former combatants, community representatives, and local leaders through trauma-healing and life-skills training, peacebuilding workshops, and facilitated community dialogue sessions aimed at rebuilding trust and strengthening social cohesion. Complementing these efforts, Solidarités International supported the economic reintegration of 170 vulnerable former combatants through income-generating activities and small business development, including business management training and start-up grants. In addition, 120 former combatants benefited from vocational skills training designed to facilitate sustainable employment and economic independence.

*Abala 2025/05, Trainees Introduction. ©Solidarités International*

**Key Actors**

- Implementing partners: Ethiopian Institute of Peace (EIP) for the peace building component and Médecins du Monde (MDM) for health activities
- former combatants, community representatives, and local leaders

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Humanitarian actors addressed urgent psychosocial and protection needs, development-oriented approaches focused on resilience and reintegration, and peacebuilding actors

facilitated dialogue and reconciliation processes. In parallel, Médecins du Monde strengthened access to primary healthcare, gender-based violence (GBV) response services, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in supported health facilities.

**Success Factors**

During the project period, 471 GBV survivors accessed case management services, while 650 vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits, and health workers benefited from training and mentorship to strengthen trauma-informed care and referral pathways for survivors. The involvement of local authorities and community leaders ensured strong local ownership and sustainability of the reconciliation and recovery process.

Overall, the integrated programme reached 59,385 people, significantly exceeding initial targets (150%) and contributing to trauma recovery, improved access to services, and strengthened pathways for social and economic reintegration.

**Scalability**

The intervention restored hope, social cohesion, and economic self-reliance for hundreds of former combatants and conflict-affected individuals, proving the model's effectiveness. Despite this success, thousands of former combatants and communities across Tigray remain trapped in unemployment, trauma, and social exclusion. The scale of reintegration and reconciliation needs far exceeds available support, leaving vast gaps across additional woredas and underserved populations. Scaling this proven model is urgently needed to prevent destabilization and transform fragile recovery into lasting peace. A scaled intervention would replicate core activities: peace and trauma resilience training for former combatants, community dialogue with local leaders, livelihood support through business training and start-up grants, vocational skills training, and continued integrated MHPSS, GBV response, and health services. Expanding this HDP Nexus approach is a necessary investment in resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable peace across post-conflict Tigray.

*Abala Group Photo. ©Solidarités International*

## Kenya | Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance & CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission/Christian Blind Mission e.V.: Institutionalising Anticipatory Action through Integrated Peacebuilding in Isiolo County

### Objective & Impact

Pastoralist Communities Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA), with support from CBM and in collaboration with county and national institutions, implements the programme *"Strengthening and Institutionalising Anticipatory Humanitarian Action"* in Isiolo County, Kenya. The initiative aims to strengthen preparedness and early response to climate-induced hazards, particularly drought and floods, while addressing resource-based tensions among pastoralist communities.

### Key Actors

The initiative is led by PACIDA in partnership with the County Government of Isiolo, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Kenya Red Cross, World Food Programme (WFP), and community institutions including peace committees, grazing committees, and organisations of persons with disabilities.

*Community representatives, local leaders, and peace actors gather in Garbatulla, Isiolo County, during a cross-county peace caravan that culminated in the signing of a peace accord between Isiolo, Meru and Garissa Counties. The event strengthened dialogue, cooperation on shared natural resources, and social cohesion ©PACIDA*

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

Coordination takes place through county-level mechanisms such as the County Steering Group and the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group. Humanitarian actors support anticipatory cash transfers and preparedness measures, development actors strengthen disaster risk management and early warning systems, while peace is supported through dialogue, peace events, policies and cooperation on shared natural resources.

### Success Factors

Key success factors include strong local leadership by PACIDA, institutionalisation of anticipatory action, and inclusive participation of women and persons with disabilities. The integration of indigenous knowledge with scientific climate forecasts strengthened early warning systems, while inclusive community engagement helped strengthen trust, coordination, and social cohesion.

*Dhekhow Mohmednur, a person with disabilities from Modogashe, Isiolo County was a proud participant in the Peace Caravan and was able to cover 17 kilometres of the walk. The event was co-supported by CBM, National Drought Management Authority and several NGOs from Garissa, Isiolo and Meru. ©PACIDA*

### Scalability

Institutionalising anticipatory action within local governance systems while linking it with peacebuilding structures and inclusive participation of persons with disabilities provides a scalable framework for strengthening resilience and sustaining peace in protracted crisis contexts.

## **Lake Chad Basin | Nexus Funding Facility:**
Nexus Funding Facility (NFF)

*The Lake Chad Basin remains one of the world's most complex protracted crisis contexts, where humanitarian needs, climate shocks, displacement, and livelihood pressures intersect across borders. Across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, more than 10 million[3] people require humanitarian assistance and nearly 3 million[4] remain displaced, underscoring the need for responses linking humanitarian relief with resilience and stabilization.*

*National Briefing Session Chad. ©NFF*

**Objective & Impact**

A major constraint undermining effective crisis response in such contexts is the fragmentation of humanitarian, development, and peace interventions across institutional silos.

Against this backdrop, the Nexus Funding Facility (NFF), launched by Germany in 2025, provides a catalytic financing platform to translate Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus commitments into coordinated action in the Lake Chad Basin. The facility encourages partners to design integrated programs linking humanitarian assistance, livelihood recovery and social cohesion, moving beyond isolated sectoral interventions.

The first funding cycle—focused on Cameroon and Chad—generated strong regional engagement, reflected in 72 consortium proposals submitted in response to the Call for Proposals. The strong participation of nationally rooted organisations and civil society actors illustrates the facility's emphasis on localisation and regional ownership of the Nexus approach.

**Key Actors**

- German Government (launching the Nexus Funding Facility, 2025)
- Regional NFF Board and Secretariat
- National Nexus Task Forces
- Nationally rooted organisations and civil society actors

[3] UN OCHA, Lake Chad Basin Humanitarian Snapshot, 2025
[4] UN OCHA / UNHCR, Lake Chad Basin Crisis – Displacement Overview, 2024–2025

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

During 2025, the facility moved from concept to operation. Governance arrangements were established, including a Regional NFF Board and Secretariat, while National Nexus Task Forces anchored coordination at country level. Through inclusive consultations and validation processes, stakeholders identified national Nexus priorities and anchored the initiative within existing coordination frameworks. The facility promotes coordinated action across humanitarian, development, and peace actors, encouraging integrated programming rather than siloed interventions.

**Success Factors**

The success of the initiative is rooted in several mutually reinforcing factors. First, strong regional ownership and political commitment from participating countries and regional institutions have enabled sustained cross-border coordination around shared stabilisation and recovery priorities. Second, the NFF has provided a flexible platform that brings together humanitarian, development, and peace actors around jointly identified priorities, helping reduce fragmentation and improve complementarity of interventions. Third, the focus on locally driven solutions and area-based approaches has strengthened community acceptance and responsiveness to context-specific needs. In addition, the engagement of Resident Coordinators, UN agencies, regional organisations, and donors has facilitated alignment between national priorities and regional strategies while supporting resource mobilisation and operational coherence.

*Validation workshop of the National Priorities in Cameroon, Maroua, Oct. 2025. ©NFF*

**Scalability**

The initiative presents strong potential for scalability due to its flexible and replicable Nexus architecture. The mechanisms established under the NFF can be expanded geographically and programmatically to additional high-priority areas affected by fragility, displacement, and climate-related pressures. Following the decision of the last NFF Board, the next funding cycle will focus on Nigeria, which offers an opportunity to deepen integrated regional responses in the Lake Chad Basin while strengthening cross-border coordination. The model's emphasis on joint planning, pooled financing, regional coordination, and locally anchored implementation provides a solid foundation for replication in other fragile contexts across West and Central Africa. Continued donor engagement and evidence of tangible field-level results will be critical to sustaining and scaling the approach further.

## Mozambique | UNHCR & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): Support to Forcibly Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Northern Mozambique Nexus Norte II (Nexus Norte)

### Objective & Impact

The overall objective of the project is to improve the living conditions of forcibly displaced persons and members of host communities, especially women and young people, in selected locations in Northern Mozambique by working along three fields of action: (1) Strengthening government-led coordination across the HDP-Nexus, (2) Increasing the incomes of target groups through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and other income-generating programmes, (3) fostering social cohesion and peace. So called HDP-Nexus Advisors, financed through the "*Refugee Inclusion Accelerator, RISE*" project, and seconded to Mozambique's Integrated Development Agency for the North (ADIN) are complementing the HDP-Nexus approach and foster the coordination capacities in the north of Mozambique.

### Key Actors

- Implemented jointly by GIZ and UNHCR
- Key partners, e.g. the Agência de Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte (ADIN)
- Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Government of Mozambique, local communities, and other stakeholders

*UNHCR IFPELAC in Pemba; plumbing training. ©UNHCR*

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

The design of the project translates global HDP Nexus approaches into practice in a displacement-affected context, leveraging the complementary mandates of GIZ and UNHCR through joint programming in northern Mozambique. The Nexus Norte project has applied the nexus approach to facilitate the shift from humanitarian aid towards sustainable government-led development initiatives and increasingly integrates the "p" in the HDP Nexus. This strategy requires ensuring that urgent humanitarian needs are being met while mid and longer-term local capacities are developed to build national and local ownership as well as resilience and self-reliance. Support to social cohesion and peace on several

levels, while addressing root causes of the conflict and fostering economic opportunities, provides a foundation for medium- to long-term development and a decrease in humanitarian needs. Strengthening state capacity, improving effective coordination between humanitarian, development, and peace interventions, enhancing intra-societal relations, and consulting with local populations is key to this transition.

**Success Factors**

The coordination of actors across all phases (conceptualisation, implementation, and joint learning) is the biggest success factor for the project. Strengthening constructive relations between GIZ and UNHCR is crucial to foster understanding of mandates, comparative advantages, and feedback. Joint planning initially seemed a burden due to constrained resources but paid off through short communication lines, shared motivation, and increased impact towards shared objectives.

The access of both organisations to different stakeholder networks (including bi- and multilateral, governmental and non-governmental partners) has proven a real asset, allowing the project to function as an intermediary that brings together information and approaches that might otherwise remain siloed.

**Scalability**

Joint project implementation by GIZ and UNHCR is not only taken to reality in Mozambique, but also in different country context such as Kenya, Mauretania and in the future also Ethiopia. Hence, the approach and way of working is scalable and applicable in many different contexts with different thematic foci in the commissioned projects.

*UNHCR World Refugee Day in Ngalane Refugee Site. ©UNHCR*

## **Niger | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ):** A Fountain for Peace: Collaboration between the Civil Peace Service (ZFD) and FREXUS

### Objective & Impact

In the Dosso region, climate change is exacerbating tensions between Fulani herders and Zarma farmers, as longer dry seasons, droughts, and irregular rainfall increasingly affect access to natural resources. Against this backdrop, two GIZ programmes – the ZFD and the FREXUS programme (Fragility and Nexus) – jointly implemented a project that combines dialogue processes with concrete infrastructure measures. A dialogue process was initiated among all relevant stakeholders, leading to the jointly developed idea of a shared well.

The project contributes to reducing tensions over natural resources while improving access to water for both farmers and herders. By linking dialogue with practical solutions, it supports peaceful coexistence and strengthens community resilience in a climate-affected context. Through the FREXUS programme, GIZ provided financial resources and technical expertise, while the ZFD programme supported the dialogue process and ensured a conflict-sensitive approach. The well was jointly inaugurated in 2022 and is now used and managed by farmers and herders according to mutually agreed-upon rules. Through the ZFD programme's long-term partnership, local stakeholders continue to receive support in the shared use of the resource and in addressing emerging conflicts.

### Key Actors

- Civil Peace Service (ZFD) and FREXUS programme of GIZ
- Partner organisations: FNEN Daddo and F.U.G.P.N Mooriben (Fédération des Unions des Groupements Paysan du Niger)
- State and municipal institutions, in particular land commissions, local authorities, and traditional authorities

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

The initiative was implemented as a joint effort by two programmes with different mandates. Local NGOs played a central role in mobilizing stakeholders and implementing the jointly agreed rules.

### Success Factors

Key success factors included the initial, in-depth conflict analysis, which provided a solid foundation for understanding conflict dynamics, stakeholder interests, and power relations. Equally important was the inclusive dialogue process that brought together different groups relying on natural resources such as farmers and pastoralists and enabled them to jointly identify solutions. The active involvement of local partner organisations was critical in mobilising stakeholders, facilitating trust-building, and ensuring continuity beyond the initial project phase.

Importantly, the combination of dialogue processes with a concrete, jointly managed infrastructure measure, the well, created a tangible incentive for cooperation. This practical

component not only reinforced the outcomes of the dialogue but also contributed to the sustainable and jointly governed use of the resource.

**Scalability**

The approach is particularly transferable to other contexts where climate change intensifies competition over natural resources and leads to tensions between different groups that depend on these resources (e.g. farmers and pastoralists).

The approach can also be transferred to other thematic areas, drawing on the experience gained in collaboration, joint analysis, planning, and monitoring.

## **Sahel | Oxfam Germany:** RECOSOC project: Strengthening Resilience and Social Cohesion in the border areas of Niger and Chad

**Objective & Impact**

The project was implemented by a consortium of international and national NGOs in nine municipalities across four regions of Chad (Kanem and Lac) and Niger (Agadez and Diffa). This project aimed to improve food and nutritional security and cohesion between host populations and forcibly displaced persons (IDPs and refugees) by strengthening livelihoods and social cohesion for non-violent management of community conflicts related to access to and control of natural resources. The project was implemented between December 2019 and February 2024.

**Key Actors**

- International and national NGOs: Oxfam, CARE, International Alert, Help, ARDEK, and HED-TAMAT
- Local communities and authorities

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The successful implementation was achieved using a strategy based on three components, one of which was a conflict-sensitive approach integrated into all activities. This approach was developed on the basis of a preliminary conflict analysis which was validated by local communities and authorities. The second component consisted of strengthening the capacity of key actors in conflict-sensitive approaches to ensure peaceful relations between different groups in society. Finally, the strategy of advocacy and influence on women's rights in conflict contexts, based on the United Nations Resolution 1325, was essential to ensure women's participation in peacebuilding. The advocacy strategy also aimed to ensure the participation of young people and internally displaced people in the prevention and management of conflicts related to the exploitation of natural resources. Training and awareness-raising activities with journalists and community radio stations made it possible to raise awareness about peace and peaceful coexistence among the population on a large scale.

**Success Factors**

- Importance of conflict analysis and proper identification of connectors i.e. institutions, individuals, and cultural values which, through their systems, connect or unite communities with each other as well as with authorities.
- Importance of designing customized training, tools, and support.
- Identification and involvement of the right influential actors at local and national level as a gateway to social cohesion.
- Training of local authorities (administrative, traditional and religious authorities and community structures) in conflict-sensitive approaches and peacebuilding.
- Involvement of national, regional, and local technical services.
- Participation of women and young people, as well as journalists and radio stations, as vectors of peaceful coexistence and non-violent communication.

*Hawoua Ali Kékéye is a livestock breeder who is facing drought. Due to the lack of water and pasture, Haoua has lost four cattle. The Lake Chad is one of the provinces of Chad most affected by the hazards of climate change. Because of climate change, conflict, and rising food prices, Chad, like the rest of the Sahel, is facing a severe food crisis. In the Liwa area, Oxfam is working through the European Union-funded project "Strengthening Resilience and Social Cohesion of Vulnerable Populations in the Cross-Border Regions of Niger and Chad (RECOSOC). ©Liga Nassandou/Oxfam*

**Scalability**

The conflict sensitivity approach and social cohesion programming is fully scalable and, at a minimum, readily reproducible across contexts. For Oxfam, integrating a conflict-sensitive approach is a minimum requirement in fragile and conflict-affected settings, as we recognise that humanitarian and development interventions can inadvertently cause harm if conflict dynamics are not adequately understood and addressed.

In this specific case, the conflict analysis conducted and the data collected made it possible to identify clear connectors and to design interventions that maximised positive outcomes while mitigating risks. This area of work requires specialised expertise and sustained technical support to programmes and operations at mission level in order to ensure quality, consistency, and impact at scale.

## **Sahel | Plan International:** The Plan International's Sahel Nexus Programme

*Hands-on training in the production of sustainable food products at the BMZ Youth Center in Ouallam, Niger, in 2022.*
*©Plan International*

### Objective & Impact

Plan International's Sahel Nexus Programme was financed jointly by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Chapeau Approach from November 2021 to December 2025. The 16,3 million Euro programme combined efforts to alleviate humanitarian needs and at the same time tackle development and peace challenges. The programme aimed to ensure that children, adolescents, and young people affected by the crisis in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have better access to adequate protection, health, and nutrition services, and benefit from complementary measures to strengthen their socio-economic resilience and the peaceful resolution of conflicts within their communities. Despite the challenging context in the Sahel region, the programme was able to impact the life of 107.140 beneficiaries through the different measures of the two programme components in a sustainable and significant way.

### Key Actors

- Donors: German Federal Foreign Office and BMZ
- Country offices of Plan International in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger
- Local implementing partners, regional authorities, and local women and youth organisations

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

Through the implication of the different actors, it was possible to break silos of purely humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding approaches and implicate local partners in

the three areas of implementation. Thus, working across projects and sectors became possible.

An added value of the Nexus approach was that the existence of the BMZ project, with its reconstruction interventions, facilitated the authorities' acceptance of GFFO's purely humanitarian activities. Furthermore, the exchanges between the conflict resolution committees (BMZ) and the child protection committees (GFFO) enabled the resolution of various concerns at the community level. Child protection cases identified and referred by the GFFO project's mobile units benefited from improved services thanks to the technical and financial support provided by the BMZ project. Moreover, the integration of peace focal points into youth learning centres has created a bridge between conflict resolution structures and youth actors, making awareness-raising more impactful.

*Activity with children in the Child Friendly Space of Ouahigouia established by the GFFO project, Burkina Faso, 2025. ©Plan International*

**Success Factors**

A major success factor for the programme was having partner organisations implement GFFO as well as BMZ activities because it led to an improved understanding of the connection between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding measures. The same applies to the implication of government representatives at regional and local levels. Having local advocates for the different thematic areas (e.g. peaceful conflict resolution, child protection, nutrition practices, etc.) such as religious leaders, youth and women representatives etc. helped to sensitize communities and increase acceptance.

**Scalability**

A very similar approach has been adapted in Plan International's Lake Chad Programme (financed by GFFO and BMZ) and is definitely scalable to other contexts as well. The people-centred approach has led to tangible results for the beneficiaries and improved coordination both at HQ, regional, and local levels.

## **Sahel | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit:** GIZ Sahel Resilience Strengthening (SARES)

### Objective & Impact

SARES operates in a context of protracted, overlapping crises with a community-based approach to address the interlinked drivers of fragility. Working with local authorities, committees, and customary actors, the project strengthens inclusive local governance, agricultural production, social cohesion, natural resource management, and conflict prevention. At the core of the approach are participatory community dialogues that enable communities to analyse risks, negotiate competing interests and agree on priority actions, leading to context-specific measures that address immediate tensions and build longer-term cohesion. By systematically linking dialogue to improvements in livelihoods and services, SARES reinforces trust and incentivizes cooperation. Moreover, social cohesion and conflict sensitivity are embedded as cross-cutting principles throughout all interventions.

By aligning interventions at the community level, the partnership generates layered resilience effects and contributes to more stable and cohesive local systems. So far, the Sahel Resilience Partnership (SRP) has reached over 6 million people: 3.6 million people supported in overcoming malnutrition (including 2 million children), 1 million smallholder farmers with strengthened livelihoods, and 300,000 people engaged in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities.

### Key Actors

The Sahel Resilience Strengthening (SARES) project is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

SARES constitutes GIZ's contribution to the SRP, a complementary BMZ-funded initiative jointly implemented by GIZ, UNICEF, and WFP. The SRP aims to strengthen the resilience of households and communities in the Sahel through an integrated, multi-sectoral approach that targets the same geographical areas and overlapping population groups, maximizing synergies and impact. Building on their comparative advantages, the three agencies deliver coordinated and mutually reinforcing interventions across the HDP Nexus: GIZ strengthens local governance, agricultural production, social cohesion, and conflict resolution; WFP rehabilitates productive natural resources, enhances food security, and supports school feeding; UNICEF improves access to basic social services, including education, health, and water. This complementarity simultaneously addresses humanitarian needs, structural vulnerabilities, and conflict drivers.

*Women coming together to strengthen social cohesion and foster peaceful coexistence in Niger. ©Natalie Naeser, GIZ*

**Success Factors**

A decisive factor has been strong BMZ leadership, incentivizing a shift beyond institutional silos, operationalised through a dedicated project output under SARES that ensures collaboration is resourced. A multi-level governance structure with partnership focal points at all levels facilitates continuous alignment, information flow, and joint decision-making. The partnership has a joint regional operational framework, adapted at the country level, which defines a complementary division of labour while allowing contextual flexibility. Crucially, coordination is embedded in day-to-day implementation: joint operational planning, synchronized field missions, and collaboration with shared local partners ensure that complementarity materializes at community level, rather than remaining conceptual. In addition, partnerships with local and international research institutions strengthen evidence generation, mutual learning, and a continuous refinement of the nexus approach. At the same time, the experience highlights that effective HDP Nexus implementation requires sustained investment in coordination capacities, a high degree of institutional commitment, and flexibility to align differing mandates, planning cycles, and operational modalities.

**Scalability**

By leveraging complementary funding, other donors could amplify the SRP's impact, fostering a resilient and sustainable future for the Sahel.

## Somalia | Berghof Foundation, RDE Somalia-funded Forging a Greener Peace for Hirshabelle State in Consortium with IOM Somalia & UNEP: From Fragmented to Integrated Impact Using Nexus Partnerships for Environmental Peacebuilding

*Rural CSAP validation, October 2024. ©Berghof Foundation*

**Objective & Impact**

Somalia is a key example of climate change acting as a threat multiplier. Communities, government, and organisations recognize the need for integrative solutions. Yet common practice remains siloed, which limits the ability to comprehensively understand how environmental degradation and adverse coping strategies drive displacement and tensions. One objective of Berghof's environmental peacebuilding approach is to demonstrate that nexus partnerships, where multidisciplinary partners deliberately align their engagement, can ensure systemic change that single-sector interventions cannot realistically achieve. Outcomes include the development of a community-owned Climate Security Action Plan (CSAP) to address urgent climate and environment-related risks by offering tailored action points that respond to social, infrastructural, ecological, and governance needs. Its implementation results in strategic and interdisciplinary interventions with tangible impact.

**Key Actors**

This nexus partnership in Jowhar District is implemented by Berghof Foundation, IOM, and UNEP with funding from Denmark. Similar approaches are implemented by Berghof across Hirshabelle and Galmudug States with funding from other donors. District and state officials serve as government stakeholders, while over 400 diverse community members participated in the development and validation of the CSAP.

**Degree and extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Berghof's CSAP has produced a detailed breakdown of the climate-conflict cycle and intervention roadmap, while UNEP provides technical advice. These contributions then inform and guide IOM's environmental and infrastructural interventions. Berghof's sustained dialogue processes in the districts further complement these interventions to shift from mere conflict-sensitivity to more integrated programming. Each partner's output is thus utilized as input for the next step. This rationale has created programming depths that no single organisation can achieve alone.

**Success Factors**

1) local ownership of the CSAP and its strategies. 2) sequenced, multidisciplinary design, and 3) increased trust through dialogue efforts and sustained engagement.

*"This plan came from our voices. We discussed, contributed, and saw our ideas reflected. It's not just for us, it's from us."*[5]

**Scalability**

This nexus partnership model is transferable. The CSAP methodology could be adapted to other fragile contexts. The sequential design enables strategic funding: modest investments in prioritised community action points build on prior partners' groundwork, rather than starting from zero. This leverages the strength of diverse partners and transforms fragmented engagement into integrated peace infrastructure.

*Berghof Foundations 'Sustained Dialogue, November 2025, Jowhar Hirshabelle.*
*©Berghof Foundation*

[5] Hamdi D., Youth committee member from Jowhar. Climate Security Action Plan Evaluation, May 2025

## **Somalia | Deutscher Caritasverband e.V. (Caritas Germany):** WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives

caritas international

### Objective & Impact

Caritas Germany's local partner Somalia WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives (WARDI) has been implementing a BMZ transitional aid project in Hiran and Lower Shabelle regions with the overarching objective of strengthening community resilience to humanitarian, environmental, social, and conflict-related shocks. The intervention focused on improving access to healthcare services, strengthening community governance and resource management, and enhancing economic inclusion, particularly for women.

The construction of shallow wells and rehabilitation of boreholes significantly improved access to safe drinking water, resulting in improved quality of life, a reported 50 percent reduction in waterborne diseases, and enhanced health outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Investments in community governance structures and women's skills development strengthened local leadership, fostered social cohesion, and contributed to economic gains. In particular, literacy, numeracy, and business skills training for women led to an increase in household incomes and expanded participation in Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC).

*Community elders explaining the importance of resilience-strengthening projects like boreholes and how they contribute to peacebuilding. ©Caritas Germany*

### Key Actors

- Caritas Germany
- Local organisation WARDI
- Local government authorities
- Community level: water management committees, Project Management and Infrastructure Committees (PMICs), elders, village leaders, women's groups, and broader community members

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Strong collaboration underpinned all interventions, with an emphasis on participatory and community-led approaches. They intensively involve local communities in site selection, beneficiary targeting, social cohesion activities, and joint participative monitoring, while engaging them in sustainable activities and training to ensure long-term sustainability.

The interventions explicitly align with an HDP nexus approach, addressing immediate survival, health, and livelihood needs. They strengthened local systems, governance capacity, and resilience. On the peace dimension, they reduced competition over scarce resources, strengthened social cohesion, and mitigated conflict risks.

**Success Factors**

A key success factor across all project activities was strong community ownership with early and continuous community engagement fostering trust, accountability, and acceptance. WARDI's long-standing presence enabled context-sensitive implementation, while strengthened committees and tailored training ensured communities could manage infrastructure and resources beyond the project period. Locally adapted approaches in women's training, with culturally appropriate, needs-based content were linked to daily economic realities, increasing participation and impact.

**Scalability**

The technical and institutional models applied across the interventions are considered highly scalable and transferable to other contexts with similar characteristics, while humanitarian and development needs in Somalia remain high and transitional aid projects provide a crucial line for communities in conflict-affected areas. Water point rehabilitation approaches and the capacity-building of water management committees can be replicated with relatively modest investment in other locations with similar geographic and geological characteristics.

Likewise, the PMIC and WMC model for community-led natural resource governance is transferable to other post-conflict and fragile contexts with comparable social structures, particularly where clan-based or community leadership systems are influential. The women's literacy, numeracy, and business skills training model can be scaled across Somalia and other contexts facing similar socio-economic and cultural barriers, provided that community consultations, transparent participant selection, and locally adapted training methodologies are maintained.

*Camels drinking water using the rehabilitated animal troughs.*
*©Caritas Germany*

## **Somalia | The International Rescue Committee (IRC):** Stabilisation to Resilience: A Collaborative HDP Nexus Approach in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, Southwest State

*The International Rescue Committee (IRC), in partnership with the Somali NGOs GREDO and Zamzam Foundation, implements a programme in an integrated Humanitarian-Development-Peace HDP Nexus approach across three districts in Somalia: Bula Burte, Dhusamareb (Guriel), and Dinsoor. The programme operates under two complementary funding streams: a GFFO-funded component (completed in June 2025) that reached 354,811 individuals through humanitarian assistance, and an ongoing BMZ-funded component (through end of 2026) targeting 5,950 people with training support and an additional 50,400 people across target locations through resilience support.*

*Dinsoor, Somalia. IRC client Amino Abdullahi waits to fill her bucket at a water kiosk rehabilitated with solar panels through IRC's partnership with GREDO and support from BMZ. ©Awale Abdikadir/IRC*

**Objective & Impact**

Dinsoor is a district affected by recurring cycles of conflict, displacement, and climate shocks. IRC and GREDO designed this programme to address the interlocking drivers of fragility by combining health services, livelihood support, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and peacebuilding with a single, sequenced HDP framework. Rather than treating humanitarian and development responses as separate tracks, the programme uses the stabilisation of emergency assistance as a foundation for longer-term resilience: GFFO funding first stabilised vulnerable and displaced households through essential services, enabling communities to then engage with BMZ-funded resilience activities, including climate-smart agriculture, savings and loans groups, start-up grants, and rehabilitated solar-powered water systems.

Early results show measurable progress across all three dimensions of the nexus. Communities report more consistent access to basic services. Peace committees have successfully mediated inter-clan disputes over land and water resources, developed community bylaws to manage resource-related conflicts and created forums for dialogue between displaced populations and host communities. Women's self-help groups have

begun generating income and building financial reserves, reducing household vulnerability to future shocks.

**Key Actors**

- IRC, Zamzam Foundation & Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO) as the main partner in Dinsoor
- Donors: German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Local authorities, community peace committees, women's groups, and natural resource management committees

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus) & Success Factors**

- Deliberate nexus sequencing: Explicit theory of change linking humanitarian and development funding; GFFO assistance reduces vulnerability and enables engagement in BMZ resilience programming, moving beyond co-location to integration.
- Community-led peace infrastructure: Peace and resource committees act as active actors, mediating disputes, drafting bylaws, and governing resources, embedding conflict prevention within communities.
- Climate-conflict nexus integration: Links climate shocks and conflict drivers through climate-smart agriculture, water infrastructure, and resource governance to reduce competition over scarce resources. Women's economic agency as a peace dividend: Women's groups and savings associations strengthen financial independence and participation in governance, addressing structural fragility.
- Local partnership at the core: Local partners lead implementation, ensuring legitimacy and trust, while IRC provides strategic, technical, and accountability support.

**Scalability**

The collaborative nexus approach offers a replicable framework for contexts facing conflict, climate vulnerability, and fragile governance. Its transferability rests on three features. First, the sequenced nexus logic uses humanitarian assistance to create the preconditions for resilience programming and can be adapted where funding streams are aligned, supporting a shift from parallel to integrated programming. Second, community-owned peace and governance structures are built from existing social capital rather than imported institutional models, making them more sustainable and cost-effective. Third, the IRC-GREDO partnership model, demonstrates how localisation can be operationalised without sacrificing accountability or quality.

*Dinsoor, Somalia. Animal health worker Mohamed Husien (right), trained by IRC and GREDO, supports local pastoralists to keep their livestock healthy.*

*©Awale Abdikadir/IRC*

## **Somaliland | Oxfam Germany:** Lessons from Integrated Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Work

**Objective & Impact**

Despite much of Somaliland enjoying decades of relative peace, stability and development, El Afweyn district has been the scene of violent clan conflict since 2015. As an area with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding needs, El Afweyn district was identified as a relevant context for Oxfam to test the HDP Nexus approach. Across several connected interventions, Oxfam projects in El Afweyn district, which focused on resilient livelihoods, and humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding approaches, attempted to transform factors contributing to fragility and conflict, while also meeting urgent humanitarian needs.

**Key Actors**

- Oxfam
- Peacebuilding committees (elders, women, religious leaders, government officials)
- Community members
- Village savings and loan associations (VSLA)

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Oxfam's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in this area focused on (i) improving water quality to meet the WASH needs of the most vulnerable people; (ii) desalination of turbid and salty water in Sool and Sanaag regions to facilitate access to drinkable water; and (iii) adopting a public-private partnership approach which was expected to enhance the sustainable availability of water sources in the context of water and pasture stress.

Community members mentioned that water points are regarded as an important element in sustaining peace and increasing food security because access to water has been a cause of conflict, particularly revenge killings and fighting between settled and nomadic communities over access to water for livestock.

Livelihood interventions together with the increase in water availability in El Midgan and Kal Sheik, have encouraged community members to adopt farming. The success of Oxfam-supported farms for both personal food production/consumption and increased income has inspired more people as those targeted by the project have increased their income due to the integrated project interventions. In addition, community members report that their disputes have subsided because farming has kept people busy, diverting them from getting involved in conflicts over livestock and revenge killings.

Through its support to village savings and loan associations (VSLA), Oxfam enhanced livelihood capacities and created opportunities and spaces for community members, particularly women, to participate in peacebuilding and humanitarian emergency response activities led by the community.

*In Ainabo (Sool), Aflax women's savings and loan group meets to review their records and discuss new business opportunities. The group is part of community initiatives supported through the Triple Nexus approach in Somalia to strengthen women's leadership, promote financial inclusion, and improve family livelihoods. ©Hassan Siyad/Oxfam*

**Success Factors**

- A conflict-sensitive approach that allowed projects to target the right people and understand the drivers of instability before implementation. The triple nexus approach, which enabled Oxfam to adopt a more agile system of programming, continuously learning how to navigate the complexity of clan dynamics and tribal politics in this district.
- Recognizing the multi-faceted benefits of combined activities, such as water point infrastructure investment alongside effective conflict-mitigation governance and management processes.
- Emphasizing the impact of VSLAs; community members would like to see these expanded, believing that more investment could help divert young people from engaging in violence and conflict by increasing their involvement in productive business and economic activities.
- Supporting greater investment in agriculture and water resources, which is particularly pertinent given the escalating drought situation.

**Scalability**

Communities have clearly articulated that combining work on livelihoods, conflict resolution, WASH, and humanitarian assistance has helped lay the groundwork for sustained peace in El Midgan and Kal Sheikh.

Looking ahead, the evidence from this review reinforces the applicability of the HDP nexus in the context of Somaliland/Somalia, with further investment and expansion recommended to address inter-connected challenges.

## South Sudan | Caritas Germany e.V.:
Localising the Humanitarian–Peace Nexus

caritas international

### Objective & Impact

Caritas Germany's local partners in South Sudan implement a humanitarian project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. In one of the four implementation areas, near the border with Sudan, the intervention was significantly affected by the ongoing conflict between Twic and Ngok Dinka communities, which restricted movement, raised the risk of looting of relief items and jeopardized longer-term activities such as the construction of water points. In 2025, discreetly facilitated local dialogue processes initiated by UN actors and continued by local organisations led to a cessation of hostilities and the restoration of safe access – a critical precondition for uninterrupted humanitarian delivery.

### Key Actors

The initial dialogue that secured the cessation of hostilities was facilitated by six external actors, including UNMISS and UNISFA, and focused on the armed youth of both communities. When these agencies were unable to continue accompanying the process, the momentum risked stalling. In response, community leaders themselves called for a follow-up women's dialogue to consolidate the fragile progress. This second phase was then taken forward by DETCRO and two local partner organisations from Caritas Germany, Bishop Gassis Relief and Rescue Foundation (BGRRF) and Peace Canal, which — working closely with representatives from both communities — were able to sustain and deepen the process at a moment when external engagement was no longer possible.

*Local organisations recognize the vital role women play in South Sudanese peace efforts*

*©Philipp Spalek, Caritas Germany*

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

Humanitarian assistance and peace efforts were deliberately linked. While the project ensured the provision of essential goods, local partners facilitated community-level dialogue to reestablish peace and safe access routes. Political and traditional elites were intentionally excluded during the initial phase to avoid polarisation and to build trust among those most directly affected by the conflict.

**Success Factors**

The decisive success factor was the ability of locally rooted peace actors to revive a stalled process and guide it forward. Building on the initial but unfinished youth-level engagement, BGRRF and Peace Canal together with DETCRO were able to re-enter the process at a critical moment, draw on their deep knowledge of community dynamics, and jointly with local stakeholders identify women as the strategically most credible group to carry the negotiations into a next phase. The next phase will involve traditional peace rituals conducted by spiritual and traditional leaders, which are essential in the South Sudanese context to socially anchor agreements and ensure their long-term validity.

**Scalability**

The experience demonstrates that humanitarian interventions in fragmented environments require complementary, locally led peace mechanisms to remain effective. The combination of community-based dialogue, the temporary exclusion of political actors, and the integration of culturally embedded rituals offers a transferable model for similar conflict-affected regions in South Sudan and other pastoralist settings.

*Local organisations recognize the vital role women play in South Sudanese peace efforts. ©Philipp Spalek, Caritas Germany*

## **Sudan | CARE Deutschland e.V.:** How Engaging Women in Emergencies Led to Sustained and Impactful Programming

### Objective & Impact

The project 'Emergency CASH Assistance for Vulnerable Woman headed Households' in Kassala, Sudan (October 2024 to August 2025), funded by GIZ, aimed to support 440 vulnerable women headed households in Kassala State through multi-purpose cash distributions to meet their basic needs while strengthening women's leadership and participation in emergency response and recovery. By the end of the project, 133 women strengthened their agency and managed to create 6 community initiatives that responded to local priorities such as WASH improvements, GBV awareness, and access to services, benefiting a total of 11,118 women, men, and children directly, while indirectly reaching thousands more.

### Key Actors

CARE International in Sudan was the key facilitator the Women Lead in Emergencies Groups were the main implementors, and the local partner "RIRA" was the key mobilizer and implementer for GBV awareness in the community. There are other key actors who were engaged to provide an enabling environment such as the community leaders (who are mostly men), and the Women Unit from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

CARE International in Sudan provided the overall guidance, monitoring, and enabling environment for women to lead and decide in their communities. CARE was also building the women's capacity on how to plan and manage their projects, and on leadership and listening skills. The women lead in emergencies groups are the main initiators, planners, and implementors of their initiatives. CARE's role was only to facilitate their meetings and to make sure they provide clear outcomes after each meeting. The project also engaged men and boys in several GBV awareness sessions by the local partner RIRA to mitigate any GBV risks due to women's participation. The women unit was leading the trainings and supported the project implementation overall.

### Success Factors

- The Rapid Gender Analysis – Power & Participation conducted at the beginning gave critical insights into barriers limiting women's participation in decision-making and emergency response.
- After 36 leadership and active listening sessions with women, the women lead two advocacy sessions with government and different non-governmental organisations to reflect on vulnerable communities' needs in emergencies and to advocate for responding to those needs. Collaboration with the Women Unit of Kassala's State Ministry of Social Welfare and the national NGO Rira strengthened GBV awareness and response. As a result, partners provided legal support to a GBV case that led to the prosecution of the perpetrator and support for health staff in the community clinic.
- The integrated Women Lead in Emergencies (WLiE) programming improved the effectiveness of cash assistance, with around 60% of women investing part of the support in longer-term solutions based on their context. Instead of spending all rounds

of cash distributed on food, they started to invest in income-generating activities, buying refrigerators for storage and hygiene materials.

- Localisation: local women lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of their initiatives that not only addressed the emergency needs but also the gender inequalities in participation for women.

*Woman from Tarawa speaking in advocacy session. © Foto: Care Deutschland*

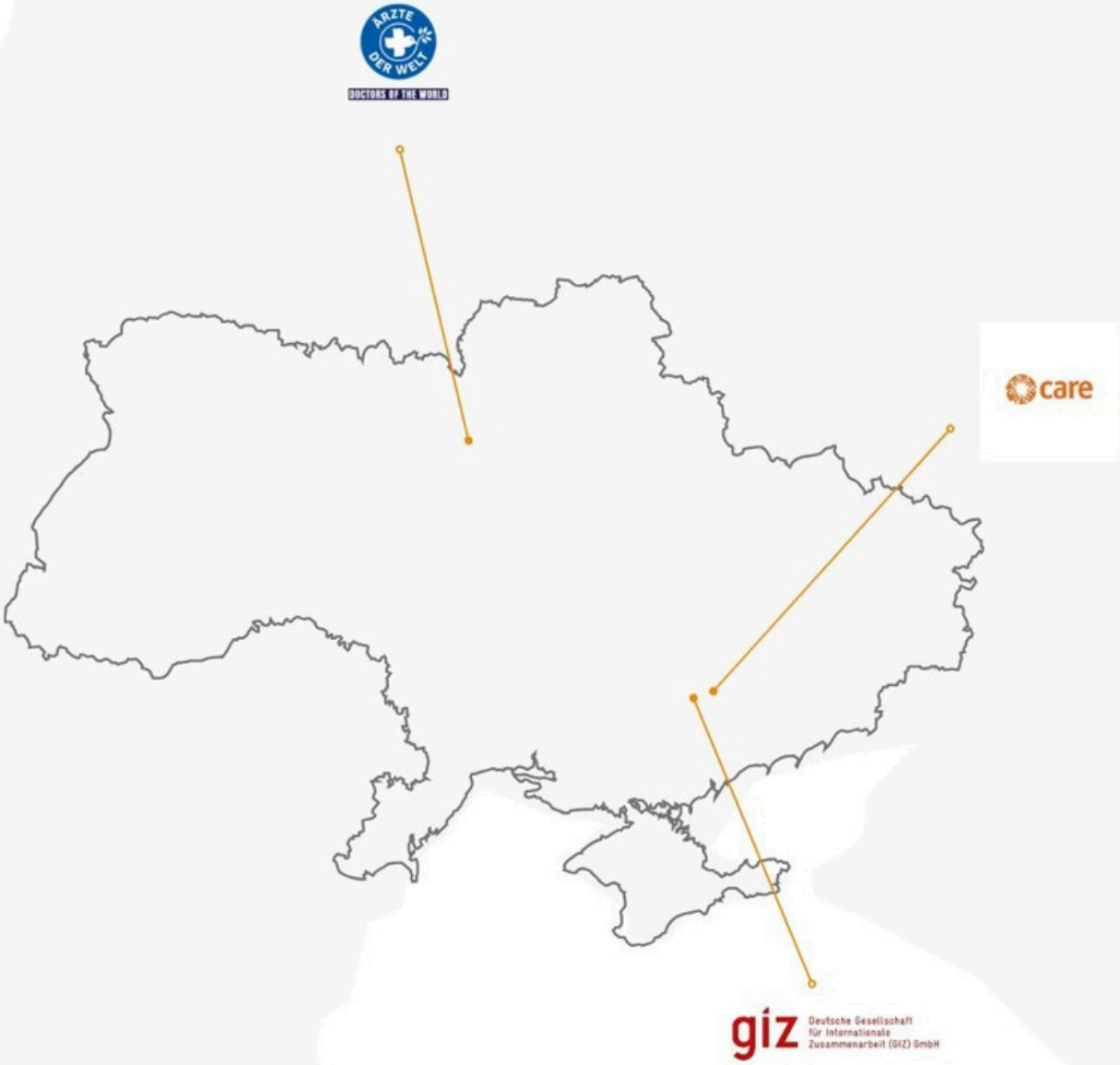
**Scalability**

The cash-plus-leadership model is scalable to other crisis contexts using WLiE tools to strengthen humanitarian response and community resilience.

# EASTERN EUROPE

BMZ project participants of livelihoods and PSS activities.

© Foto: Care Deutschland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## **Ukraine | Ärzte der Welt / Médecins du Monde (MdM) network:** Support to Healthcare Systems: MdM Programme

*Four years of massive scale war continue bringing destruction of the health infrastructure of Ukraine, draining medical human resource towards the frontline needs, and increasing the workload on the remaining specialists with massive people displacement from the frontline regions. All that takes a toll on the largely outdated and worn-out systems, mostly inherited from USSR, including not only aged material and knowledge base, but also huge distrust of the population, especially of older generations, in the system capabilities to treat them in an effective and dignified manner. Despite all the challenges, the Government of Ukraine continues running a reform, aimed at decentralisation, improving quality and accessibility of the services to the population.*

**Objective & Impact**

Holistic support to local healthcare systems, making them functional and effective, in a sustainable and inclusive way.

- Humanitarian: providing healthcare services to the vulnerable population until the local systems regain their capabilities.
- Development: supporting local healthcare facilities with equipment and training, allowing them to qualify for receiving the "package" funding from the National Healthcare Service, thus ensuring sustainability of the intervention.
- Peace: working in local communities, raising awareness of the patients' rights, connecting patients to the system, and restoring their trust in it.

**Key Actors**

The key actor is MdM, working through local Primary Medical and Sanitary Assistance Centres (PMSACs), with active involvement of the communities the PMSACs serve.

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

All the decisions on the support are agreed with local healthcare authorities. The feedback is constantly collected from the people of concern served by the programmes, analysed and integrated into the programme design.

*MdM delivering support to a primary healthcare centre in Ukraine, 2026. ©MdM*

**Success Factors**

- Relative robustness of the existing healthcare systems, with wide infrastructural network, and highly resilient and motivated staff (even though insufficient and outstretched).
- Willpower of the government to continue implementing the systemic reform.
- With the combined support of the HDP-Nexus approach by GFFO and BMZ, as well as the provision of funding for these measures, it is possible both to meet urgent needs and to invest in the sustainable capacity-building of local health systems.

**Scalability**

The initiative can be adapted to implementation in the contexts with alike local capacities and pro-active government in place, as an example, in post-socialist developing countries.

## **Ukraine | CARE Deutschland e.V.**: Bridging Humanitarian Response and Community Resilience: A Nexus Approach in Frontline Zaporizhzhia

*Four years into the full-scale invasion of Russia, many regions of Ukraine continue to face prolonged humanitarian needs, damaged infrastructure, and repeated disruptions to essential services. In frontline areas such as Zaporizhzhia oblast in south-eastern Ukraine, insecurity makes it difficult to separate emergency response from recovery.*

### Objective & Impact

The approach improves access to protection services while strengthening community resilience through mobile outreach, community hubs, targeted infrastructure support, and joint recovery planning. Protection centres, community hubs, and mobile teams serve as key entry points for psychosocial, legal, and GBV-related services. Mobile teams reach vulnerable populations in frontline and hard-to-reach communities, while static service points provide trusted spaces for support and longer-term engagement through women's and youth leadership groups, vocational training, and community initiatives.

Between 2024 and 2025, the projects reached a wide range of communities through both humanitarian assistance and system-strengthening measures. Referrals to specialized services and targeted cash assistance supported particularly vulnerable individuals. Capacity-building and community engagement activities strengthened local service provision through GBV training for specialists. Infrastructure support further complemented these efforts by improving living conditions through light repairs and equipment support to community institutions.

*BMZ project participants of livelihoods and PSS activities. ©Care Deutschland*

### Key Actors

CARE implements complementary BMZ and GFFO projects using a Nexus-Chapeau approach in partnership with eight local civil society organisations and multiple municipal service providers.

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The case illustrates several Nexus dynamics. Combining mobile outreach with static service points improves humanitarian access while creating entry points for longer-term recovery and empowerment. Complementary BMZ and GFFO interventions strengthen sustainability: GFFO supports immediate protection and psychosocial services, while BMZ investments in repairs, water solutions, and community resilience spaces help maintain access to services despite infrastructure disruptions. BMZ activities also support Hromada (municipal community)-level recovery planning, strengthening local decision-making and helping communities prioritize recovery investments.

**Success Factors & Scalability**

By supporting inclusive community hubs and women's initiatives, the projects promote participation, strengthen social cohesion, and create safer spaces for engagement. The approach shows strong potential for scalability, as the combination of mobile outreach, accessible hubs, and minimum infrastructure support can be replicated across other frontline communities.

*Training of trainers for Women Led groups in Mykhailo Lukashevo, Zaporizhzhia oblast.*

*©Care Deutschland*

## Ukraine | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ):

## EMPOWER: Operationalizing the Humanitarian–Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus through Localized Partnership and Risk-Sharing

*Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has exposed a structural gap in the humanitarian system: while local civil society organisations are often the first responders with sustained access to frontline communities, they face barriers in accessing international funding and managing large-scale programmes. Yet long-term recovery depends on strengthening locally anchored institutions to sustain services beyond emergency response.*

### Objectives & Impact

The "Strengthening Communities in War-Affected Regions in Ukraine through Localized Action" (EMPOWER) programme addresses this gap by operationalising localisation as a pathway for implementing the HDP Nexus. Rather than positioning local NGOs as subcontractors, EMPOWER places them as central actors in programme design and delivery, while international actors assume enabling, coordination, and risk-sharing roles.

The programme provides direct funding to small and mid-sized Ukrainian NGOs, enabling them to deliver multi-sectoral services while strengthening organisational capacities. By 2027, EMPOWER aims to reach over 130,000 vulnerable people across frontline and war-affected regions through a network of 60+ local NGO partners.

*Speech therapy sessions for children organised by the NGO "Social Fund" at an educational center for internally displaced children «MT-land» in Zaporizhzhia. ©GIZ*

**Key Actors**

- Implemented by GIZ
- Supported by DG ECHO and BMZ's Transitional Development Assistance (TDA)
- Local NGOs

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

A central pillar of the programme is the EMPOWER Partner Network, linking grassroots initiatives, mid-sized NGOs and experienced national organisations in a collaboration and peer-learning ecosystem. Capacity strengthening is embedded through a mentorship model, where experienced NGOs provide tailored support to smaller partners on financial management, monitoring and evaluation, safeguarding, and strategic planning.

**Success Factors**

EMPOWER also addresses a frequently overlooked dimension of localisation: equitable risk sharing and duty of care for local responders. Through its Emergency Fund, the programme provides rapid financial support to NGOs affected by security incidents, enabling them to restore operations and continue assistance in frontline contexts.

By combining flexible funding, mentorship, peer networking, and institutional risk-sharing, EMPOWER demonstrates how localisation can serve as an operational bridge between humanitarian response, institutional resilience, and locally led recovery processes.

**Scalability**

Building on GIZ's previous localisation experiences, EMPOWER demonstrates how flexible funding, mentorship, peer support, and risk-sharing can enable local actors to deliver effective responses even in high-risk contexts. This makes the model relevant beyond a single country context: it offers practical lessons for fragile and crisis-affected settings where locally led humanitarian response needs to connect with recovery, resilience, and institutional strengthening.

# MIDDLE EAST

SHELTERS Workshop facilitated by Rozana.

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cbm
christian blind mission
Berghof Foundation
german cooperation
implemented by:
CHARITÉ
CLALIT
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OXFAM
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NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

## **Iraq, Syria, Yemen | Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):** The Nabni Building for Peace (B4P) Facility

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

### Objective & Impact

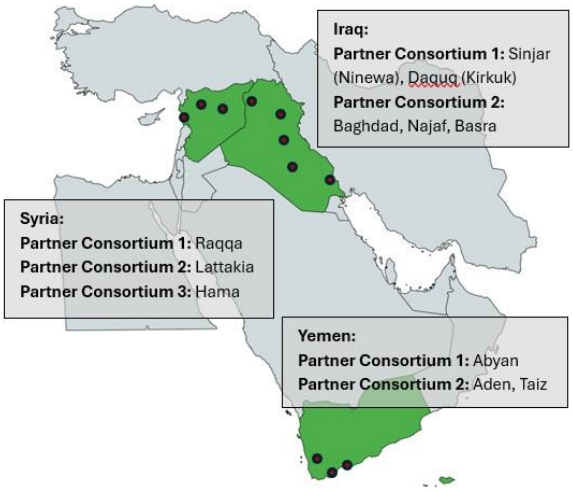
The Nabni (meaning 'we build' in Arabic) Building for Peace (B4P) Facility has been working since 2023 on developing replicable and scalable models for post-conflict recovery and reconstruction processes that are designed and led by local communities and local civil society organisations in the MENA region. The Facility is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the KfW Development Bank. Nabni is hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). The Facility Management Unit is based in Jordan, with partners operational across Iraq, Yemen and Syria.

The Facility focuses on two broad objectives. The first is applying the B4P approach to diverse post-conflict recovery and reconstruction settings to ensure more lasting positive outcomes. The second objective is to develop and implement an approach to equitable partnerships with local civil society actors who can work closely with conflict-impacted communities.

The setup and approach of the Facility offer significant learning for stakeholders (including donors) on peace-promoting post-conflict reconstruction approaches in a range of settings in the region, as well as in furthering localisation and being an enabler for local civil society.

### Key Actors

- Donors & facilitator: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Local communities and local civil society organisations in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria




Map showing partner project locations

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The Facility works with local civil society actors through co-designing interventions, accompanying and investing in them through the project implementation through technical assistance. It currently partners seven consortia (comprising 17 local CSOs). Total grant sizes range between 1.5 and 2.5 million Euro.

**Success Factors**

The B4P approach emphasizes and prioritizes the peace-promotion aspect of any intervention. It uses an analysis and understanding of localised conflict drivers and extensive stakeholder consultations to identify potential solutions. These solutions may be infrastructure, service delivery and restoration or livelihoods linked, while combining strongly with local duty bearers to strengthen accountability, governance, and the sustainability of interventions.

The approach of the Facility emphasises both the process as well as the outcomes – the how, alongside the what. This is done through the design of risk-commensurate processes, manuals and guidelines for local civil society partners. At the Facility level, a process of continuous adaptive management and feedback is in place. This involves periodic consultations and after-action reviews after key milestones, with the aim of identifying areas for improvement and making adaptations. The process also emphasises co-design and co-creation with partners, supporting them in a spirit of equitable partnership. Technical assistance, capacity sharing and exchanges are invested in to support the longer-term priorities of local civil society partners, which include organisational priorities that go beyond those linked to project delivery alone.

**Scalability**

The setup of the Facility reflects the ambition to build a scalable and replicable model. This is reflected in its operationalising and progressively building on learnings in each of the three countries it currently works in, as well as on an emphasis on learning and adaptive management.

## **Iraq | Berghof Foundation:** HDP Nexus in Action – Building Climate Resilience and Social Cohesion

Berghof Foundation

**Objective & Impact**

In Iraq, the Berghof Foundation (BF), in partnership with Peace Paradigms Organisation (PPO), applies an HDP approach that combines physical and social adaptation to climate risks. The objective is to address climate-related security challenges while strengthening social cohesion and governance. Working with communities, governmental actors, and international partners, the approach has:

- reduced tensions and strengthened conflict resolution;
- turned agreements into visible development dividends;
- strengthened community trust in authorities;
- provided incentives for sustained engagement; and
- increased resilience to climate-related security risks.

Concrete results include improved water access for 100 families in Kalar, strengthened coexistence and shared spaces in Al Zubair, and improved water management and agricultural conditions benefiting more than 800 people in Balad. Across these locations, the impact stems from linking dialogue processes with development investments, delivering tangible and lasting results in climate-stressed, conflict-affected contexts.

*Youth from IDP and host communities during a dialogue session in Al-Zubair (2024), discussing ways to promote the principles of the social pact and strengthen social cohesion. ©Berghof Foundation*

**Key Actors**

- local community representatives (including displaced and host communities)
- district and national governmental authorities
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Development partners and technical actors (e.g. water and infrastructure support)

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The dialogue processes bring together communities and authorities to jointly identify climate-security risks and agree on solutions. These agreements are then taken forward with international partners through coordinated planning and financing, complementary implementation across actors' mandates and continuous information sharing to ensure coherence, with agreements directly linked to development investments (e.g. water infrastructure or rehabilitation of shared spaces).

**Success Factors**

- Linking dialogue outcomes to tangible development results ("development dividends");
- Inclusive participation of communities, authorities, and partners in joint decision-making;
- Addressing immediate needs (e.g. water access) while tackling underlying conflict drivers;
- Building trust through sustained engagement and locally owned processes;
- Focusing on practical, shared priorities such as climate and resource management.

*Participants in a dialogue session in Kalar (2023), developing a water-sharing agreement to support equitable water management and conflict resolution over shared resources. ©Berghof Foundation*

**Scalability**

The approach shows strong potential for scalability and replication in other climate-stressed and conflict-affected settings. Its core model of combining inclusive dialogue with coordinated development action can be adapted to different local contexts and sectors.

## Israel | Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin: SHELTERS - Mental Health Support for Vulnerable Communities in a Protracted Crisis

Implemented by:

### Objective & Impact

The SHELTERS project (Supporting HEaLThcare Emergency ResponseS with Focus on Mental Health Services in Times of War and Crisis) improved access to mental health prevention, treatment, and care for populations most affected by the October 7, 2023 attacks and the ongoing conflict in Israel. It was funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and implemented by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin in 2025 under the auspices of Prof. Dr. Malek Bajbouj, Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at Charité.

The initiative addressed urgent humanitarian needs while helping to strengthen access to mental health support in a highly volatile context. Particular attention was given to vulnerable and underserved groups, including internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, women at risk of violence, and frontline healthcare workers exposed to prolonged stress and trauma.

*Technical exchange at Charité. Charité*

### Key Actors

- Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Clalit Health Services, Israel's largest healthcare provider
- local civil society organisations including Michal Sela Forum, Rozana, and IsraAID

The Charité implemented the SHELTERS project, providing overall project leadership as well as clinical and academic mental health expertise. Clalit delivered large-scale mental health outreach and treatment services through the national health system, including digital screening and referral tools. Local NGO partners addressed specific vulnerabilities, such as the support of women at risk of intimate partner violence through protection technologies and tailored support services and the establishment of community-based resilience activities and safe spaces in marginalised Bedouin communities.

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The multi-layered initiative demonstrated the value of coordinated humanitarian action that addresses urgent mental health needs while strengthening local capacities and community resilience in a protracted crisis. By providing accessible psychosocial support, supporting vulnerable populations, and fostering cooperation between healthcare professionals from diverse communities, the project contributed to stabilizing conflict-affected communities and creating conditions that may support longer-term recovery, dialogue, and peacebuilding.

**Success Factors**

The project's success was driven by Charité's coordination of a multi-actor partnership with Clalit Health Services and locally embedded civil society organisations. Charité provided the project framework, clinical and academic expertise in mental health, and overall implementation oversight, while local partners ensured community access and context-sensitive delivery. This enabled rapid, needs-based support for vulnerable groups while combining clinical expertise, community access, and contextual knowledge. The multi-actor approach strengthened mental health services, local resilience, and trust-building across communities.

*SHELTERS Workshop facilitated by Rozana. ©Charité*

**Scalability**

The approach focused on humanitarian service delivery rather than infrastructure development, while laying important groundwork for sustainable mental health support and social resilience. The model shows strong potential for adaptation in other conflict-affected settings where mental health needs are high and partnerships between local actors and health systems are essential for effective humanitarian response and long-term community resilience.

## Lebanon | Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities (LUPD) & CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission/Christian Blind Mission e.V.:

Strengthening Inclusive Livelihoods, Food Security and Social Cohesion through a HDP Nexus Approach

### Objective & Impact

The project combines livelihood, food security, social cohesion, and disability inclusion linking humanitarian support with longer-term economic opportunities. Results include improved access to employment through inclusive vocational training and livelihood pathways and community-based activities that strengthen peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities. For example, the *Access Kitchens* provide regular meals for households facing food insecurity while serving as training and cash-for-work spaces. By linking community kitchens with local agricultural production and to livelihood opportunities, it also strengthens local food systems and income opportunities for farmers and community members.

*Inclusive Access Kitchen brings together diverse community members to strengthen food security, economic resilience, and peaceful community interaction. ©CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission / Christian Blind Mission e.V.*

### Key Actors

The project is implemented by LUPD in partnership with CBM, with financial support from BMZ TDA.

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The initiative is implemented through close collaboration between local civil society (including organisations of persons with disabilities – OPDs), municipalities, humanitarian actors, development partners, and private sector stakeholders.

**Success Factors**

Key success factors include strong leadership by a local organisation (LUPD), disability-inclusive programming, and the Access Kitchen model, which simultaneously delivers humanitarian food support, livelihood opportunities, and inclusive community interaction.

*Hanaa', 49, prepares locally produced food in the Access Kitchen in Beqaa.*
*©CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission / Christian Blind Mission e.V.*

**Scalability**

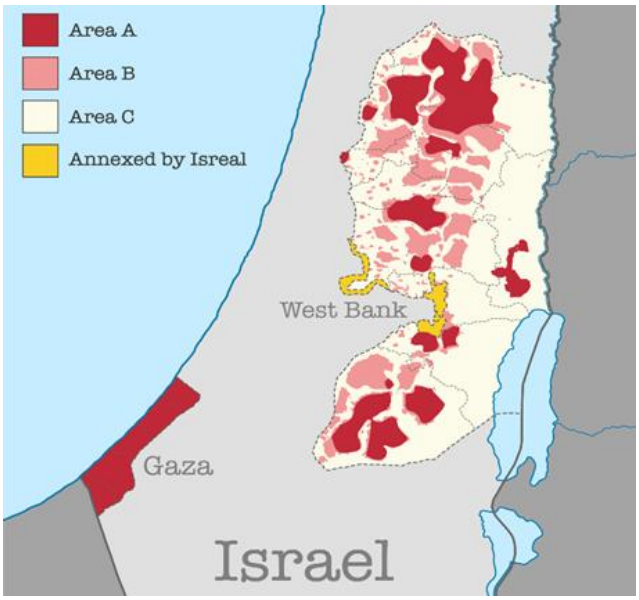
A key strength is its disability-inclusive design. The integrated Access Kitchen and inclusive livelihoods model offers potential for replication in other conflict-affected or displacement-affected contexts where food assistance, economic recovery, and social cohesion initiatives can be implemented simultaneously.

## **The Occupied Palestinian Territory | Oxfam Germany:** Balancing Multiple Programming Priorities

*Oxfam & Palestinian partner organisations: EU-funded project "Promotion of inclusive agricultural growth to ensure improved living standards and resilience of vulnerable communities in Area C of the West Bank" (February 2019 – May 2022)*

### Objective & Impact

The project aimed to increase income and protect land and water rights for small-scale farmers in Area C by linking agricultural development, access to water, land rights advocacy (peace), and humanitarian response. While the initial activities focused on development and peacebuilding, a contingency budget line enabled a humanitarian response to needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, through timely cash-for-work support, while ensuring external shocks did not reverse the progress made in broader development and peacebuilding. Results exceeded targets: agricultural value-added rose 36% (target: 15%), average income increased 20%, 45 landowners secured legal documentation, and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) adapted some of their laws around taxation as a result of advocacy.




*Map of the Westbank, Source: www.welcometopalestine.com*

### Key Actors

Oxfam (lead INGO) partnered with 3 Palestinian organisations: the Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC), the Palestinian Farmers' Union (PFU), and the Rural Women's Development Society. The EU funded the project and participated in governance. The Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) was engaged from design through implementation.

### Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)

Collaboration was structured through a steering committee (Oxfam, EU, partner directors, MoA) and a technical committee of implementers. Roles were assigned by expertise, and the three nexus pillars were deliberately interlocked: beneficiaries of agricultural activities were simultaneously covered under land protection and, when needed, humanitarian support.

**Success Factors**

Critical factors included Oxfam's and partners' long-term local presence, genuine co-design with Palestinian organisations, a holistic approach based on a deep understanding of the context, a three-year funding cycle that allowed for impactful advocacy work in a complex (legal) context and sustainable livelihoods, an embedded crisis modifier enabling flexible humanitarian response, and active MoA coordination. Multi-level stakeholder engagement (from community to international) kept all three pillars aligned.

**Scalability**

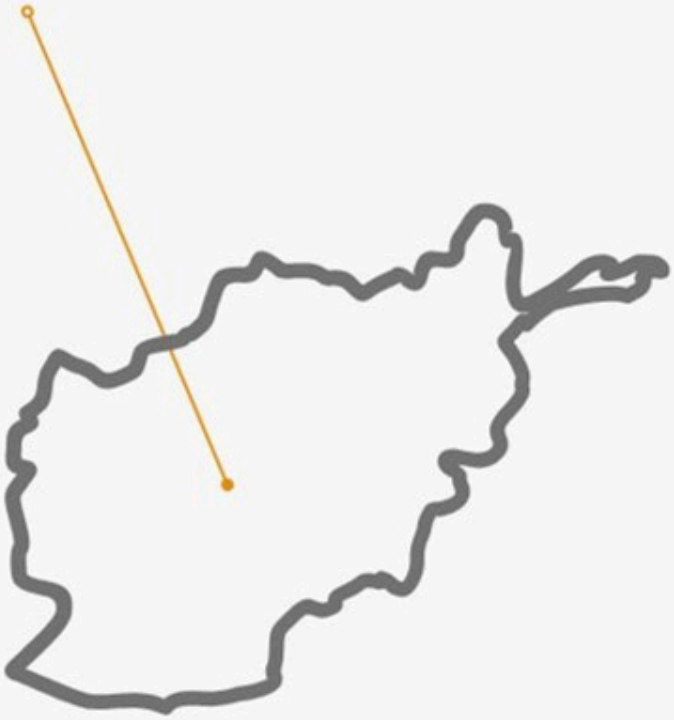
The West Bank in the OPT is a clear example of a context in which the lack of development opportunities increases the population's vulnerabilities, reduces their resilience and drives acute humanitarian needs, where an HDP Nexus approach can have a greater impact than a more traditional approach. This model can be applied to other protracted conflict settings where development gains are undermined by political instability. Key transferable elements are the crisis modifier mechanism, rights-based livelihood programming, and multi-layered coordination. Contextual adaptation is required, but the core principle – treating HDP pillars as mutually dependent – is broadly replicable.

© Foto: DKH

# SOUTH ASIA

300 returnee girls and women at 24 TVET centres in Shinwar, Rodat, and Behsud districts of Nangarhar province participating in practical training. They are currently learning to create traditional Afghan clothing as part of their hands-on skills development.

Diakonie
Katastrophenhilfe



## **Afghanistan | Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe:** Integrated HDP Nexus Project for Returnee Communities in Nangarhar

**Objective & Impact**

Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan has experienced a significant influx of Afghan returnees from Pakistan in recent years. According to IOM, more than 2 million[6] Afghans have returned to Afghanistan since September 2023, placing significant pressure on border provinces and local services. This integrated HDP Nexus project strengthens the resilience of vulnerable Afghan returnee households in Nangarhar province. It is being implemented from April 2025 to June 2026 and combined immediate humanitarian assistance with long-term livelihood recovery and community-based resilience building. The main objectives of the project are the addressal of urgent food security needs during the reintegration phase of returnee households and the enablement for self-advocacy through training of women and persons with disabilities. Additionally, community resilience and social cohesion are strengthened through DRR activities.

*Farmers receiving hands-on training in Climate-Smart Agriculture in Nangarhar province.*
*©DKH*

[6] https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2136498/UNHCR%20-%20IOM%20Flash%20Update%2080-v2.pdf

**Key Actors**

- Community World Service Asia (CWSA) (implementing partner)
- Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (supporting partner)
- Local authorities in Nangarhar province
- Community Development Councils (CDCs)
- Community leaders
- Joint coordination committee (participant selection, planning, oversight)
- Project participants: returnee households, farmers, women, and persons with disabilities

*300 returnee girls and women at 24 TVET centers in Shinwar, Rodat, and Behsud districts of Nangarhar province participating in practical training. They are currently learning to create traditional Afghan clothing as part of their hands-on skills development. ©DKH*

**Degree and Extent of Collaboration / Coordination (HDP Nexus)**

The food-security support represents the HDP nexus in practice, linking immediate humanitarian relief to longer term development by creating conditions for sustainable livelihood, skill training and community resilience. Development interventions focused on sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion. 300 farmers received Climate-Smart Agriculture training and agricultural inputs, improving productivity and adaptation to climate risks.

The project also integrated cross-cutting themes by promoting gender inclusion, disability inclusion, and climate resilience, ensuring that activities reached women, persons with disabilities, and supported climate-adaptive practice.

Implementation was community-driven and collaborative, involving local authorities, Community Development Councils (CDCs), and community leaders through a joint coordination committee responsible for project participants selection, planning, and oversight. This active involvement of the local stakeholders ensured that project activities reflected community priorities and enhanced the sustainability of outcome. The participatory approach enhanced transparency, social cohesion, and local ownership.

**Success Factors**

Early outcomes indicate improved household food security, increased agricultural productivity, and new economic opportunities for women-lead businesses alongside stronger community preparedness for disasters. Overall, 60% of project participants were women and 40% men, including persons with disabilities.

**Scalability**

This initiative demonstrates how integrated HDP Nexus programming can link emergency humanitarian assistance with longer-term development and resilience outcomes reducing duplication, maximising limited resources, and supporting sustainable reintegration. With strong local engagement and flexible design, the approach is highly replicable in other returnee hosting provinces and protracted crisis contexts.

*This publication has been edited by the Center for International Peace Operations, based on the contributions of the German HDP Community of Practice members. The contents of this work have been compiled with the utmost care. However, no liability is accepted for the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the information provided.*

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