Session Advancing Nexus in MENA: Reflections on recommendations and on the way forward

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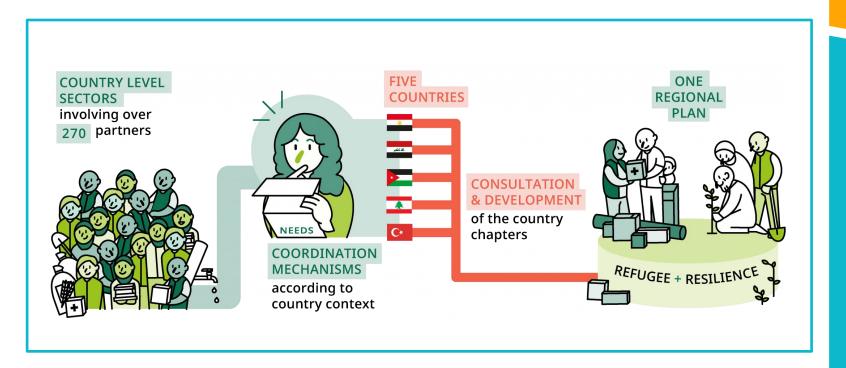


About the SRF

- The SRF connects two sub-regions (Europe and Arab States), informs responses to compounded crisis including through program innovation, knowledgegeneration and -sharing across countries, and strategic policy engagement.
- Since its creation in 2014, the SRF has been instrumental in supporting cross-learning and improved responses across and between UNDP at country, Hub, and Headquarters levels and 3RP partners (UN, Donors, I/NGOs, Private sector).
- In a protracted displacement context, SRF continues to advance the resilience for all approach, social cohesion and stability, and operationalize the nexus where possible

The SRF is a unique UNDP programme that is the first of its kind to respond to large scale forced displacement by coleading the Syria regional response with UNHCR and mainstreaming a resilience-based development approach.

About the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)



Reflections on recommendations of the ICVA Nexus paper & how to advance the HDP nexus in the context of the 3RP

- All countries have a long way to go to implement the HDP nexus. The 3RP is a
 unique coordination mechanism that is supporting this process, with opportunities
 for improvements too.
- Clear lessons along the following 3 key recommendations of the ICVA report:
- Use of consistent definitions and concepts on HDP coherence, common objectives and clarity in roles and responsibilities
- Working towards equitable and meaningful partnership and local leadership
- Quality and flexible multi-year funding
- Other key issues that are important to mention:
- More support on knowledge and tools on integrating HDP components
- Challenges in implementing the "peace component"
- Experience sharing on HDP nexus monitoring

How the 3RP is supporting common objectives and HDP coherence

- Working towards collective outcomes: Regional coherence through the Regional Strategic Overview (RSO), regional planning workshop, 4 Strategic Directions
- The 3RP evaluation concluded reviewing the conceptual framework: Presents a unique opportunity to shape how 3RP can better advance HDP nexus in the region

Evidence from 3RP M&E frameworks	Strategic Linkages to UNSDCFs	Mainstreaming SDGs in 3RP planning & monitoring processes
3RP partners adopted a core set of strategic directions, backed up by a dedicated monitoring framework (regional level)	Jordan: UNSDF 2018-2022 explicitly reflects on priorities set forth in the JRP	Jordan: JRP was the first to map its contribution to SDGs
M&E / Inter-Sector Frameworks are in place in Turkey & Lebanon, with multi-year objectives (country level)	Iraq: UNSDCF (2020-2024) foresees a better integration of humanitarian coordination mechanisms & the PWGs for the UNSDCF	Turkey: Piloted the UNDP-UNHCR SDG Appraisal Tool for Forced Displacement - deep-dive into critical areas of synergies between 3RP & SDGs
All sector working groups integrate outputs & activities under the humanitarian & resilience/development components	Turkey: UNSDCF mainstreams all 3RP activities across its different pillars	<u>Iraq:</u> 3RP actors have committed to further aligning the Iraq response plan with the SDGs

Working towards equitable and meaningful partnership and local leadership

	Fostering National Ownership & Leadership in 3RP Planning & Coordination	Joint Analysis	Joint Programming
Actions	 UNDP & UNHCR lead coordination at regional & country level Decentralization of regional coordination & planning processes around nationally driven response frameworks in 3RP countries National actors as principal responders within the 3RP, supported by UN agencies, I/NGOs & other partners 	Joint assessments by humanitarian and development actors at country and regional levels	3RP coordination framework created an enabling environment for joint programming to enhance synergies, complementarity & coherence between humanitarian & development action
Good Practices	 Regional feeds into the country level & vice versa Simplified & unified coordination mechanisms amongst the UN, CSOs, donors & the government Better alignment of the response with national development priorities in 3RP countries Use of national institutional capacities & systems needs & challenges in Jordan (country level) 	 Tension Monitoring System in Lebanon Analyzing trends in Livelihoods & Employment outcomes for refugee & host communities in Turkey Joint Vulnerability & Needs Assessments in Lebanon & Jordan 	 3RP planning workshop to align priorities across countries RSO to outline joint strategy of 270 partners Knowledge products & exchanges to disseminate best practices, including guidance notes

Quality and flexible multi-year funding

- Vital to support HDP nexus in the region, but challenging in practice
- 3RP positive examples of financing instruments that helped to advance the nexus and in terms of collective advocacy and fundraising efforts
- With ODA likely to remain the main source of financing for the Syria response, it is important that collective advocacy towards donors takes place for a more conducive environment towards the HDP nexus
- UNDP aims to further explore opportunities for engagement with IFIs and private sector to expand the pool of financing

The "P" of the nexus: Social Cohesion and Conflict-Sensitivity

• Different ways of advancing peacebuilding in the 3RP:

Promoting Peace through Education/ youth/ sports etc.	Engaging Syrian refugee & host populations in joint economic & social ventures	Conflict-sensitive programming	Identifying drivers of & monitoring community tensions
Jordan: UNICEF "Makani centers"	Jordan: UNDP "Skills Exchange of Vulnerable Host Communities & Syrian Refugees for Enhancing Livelihoods & Social Cohesion"	Lebanon: Promotion of conflict-sensitivity across LCRP response as part of 'social stability sector'	Turkey: UNHCR supported the Syrian Barometer initiative - analyzes social perceptions of Turkish citizens & Syrians
Lebanon: UNDP & UNHCR "Violence Free School Initiative"	<u>Lebanon</u> : UNDP "Lebanon Host Communities Support Project"		<u>Lebanon</u> : UNDP, UNHCR & other 3RP partners established a "Tensions Monitoring System"

Enhancing 3RP HDPN monitoring & reporting mechanisms

- Challenge to better monitor & document the contribution of the 3RP to the operationalization of the Nexus
- Working to enhance indicators to strengthen monitoring and reporting mechanisms on HDPN advancement at country and regional level, considering dimensions such as:
- Engagement of local stakeholders in response planning processes
- Alignment of programming behind collective outcomes linked to medium & long-term national priorities
- Level of use of gender & age markers + gender & conflict-sensitive analysis across humanitarian & resilience/development interventions

What priorities for advancing the HDP nexus?



- Articulate a clear vision for implementing the HDP nexus
- Conduct regular analysis to identify gaps & challenges to adapt programs that operationalize the HDPN at the country level
- Collective advocacy on a range of issues, including on financing instruments that enable the operationalization of the HDP nexus
- Exchanges and good practices on localization, and local and national actors' meaningful engagement, including among CSOs and authorities, and between countries (including learning from 3RP to other contexts and vice versa)
- Strengthen M&E for instance by building a common M&E framework outlining how sectors & partners contribute to common strategic objectives & outcomes

Thank you

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