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

ICVA Regional Exchange on Trends and Priorities in MENA
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Lana Stade
Resilience and Solutions Specialist
UNDP-Sub-Regional Response Facility for the Syria Crisis
About the SRF

• The SRF connects **two sub-regions** (Europe and Arab States), **informs responses** to compounded crisis including through **program innovation, knowledge-generation 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 co-leading the Syria regional response with UNHCR and mainstreaming a resilience-based development approach.
About the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)

- COUNTRY LEVEL SECTORS involving over 270 partners
- NEEDS
- COORDINATION MECHANISMS according to country context
- FIVE COUNTRIES
- CONSULTATION & DEVELOPMENT of the country chapters
- ONE REGIONAL PLAN

REFUGEE + RESILIENCE
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:**
  o Use of consistent definitions and concepts on HDP coherence, common objectives and clarity in roles and responsibilities
  o Working towards equitable and meaningful partnership and local leadership
  o Quality and flexible multi-year funding

• **Other key issues that are important to mention:**
  o More support on knowledge and tools on integrating HDP components
  o Challenges in implementing the “peace component”
  o 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

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

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<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Fostering National Ownership &amp; Leadership in 3RP Planning &amp; Coordination</th>
<th>Joint Analysis</th>
<th>Joint Programming</th>
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<td>UNDP &amp; UNHCR lead coordination at regional &amp; country level</td>
<td>Joint assessments by humanitarian and development actors at country and regional levels</td>
<td>3RP coordination framework created an enabling environment for joint programming to enhance synergies, complementarity &amp; coherence between humanitarian &amp; development action</td>
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<td>Decentralization of regional coordination &amp; planning processes around <strong>nationally driven response frameworks</strong> in 3RP countries</td>
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<td>National actors as principal responders within the 3RP, supported by UN agencies, I/NGOs &amp; other partners</td>
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### 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:

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

**Ways Forward**

- **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

Contact information:
Lana Stade, lana.stade@undp.org