

What is the NEXUS anyway?

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What comes to mind when you hear the word NEXUS?

71 responses



1

The case for the HDP nexus

2

The evidence base

3

Key findings

4

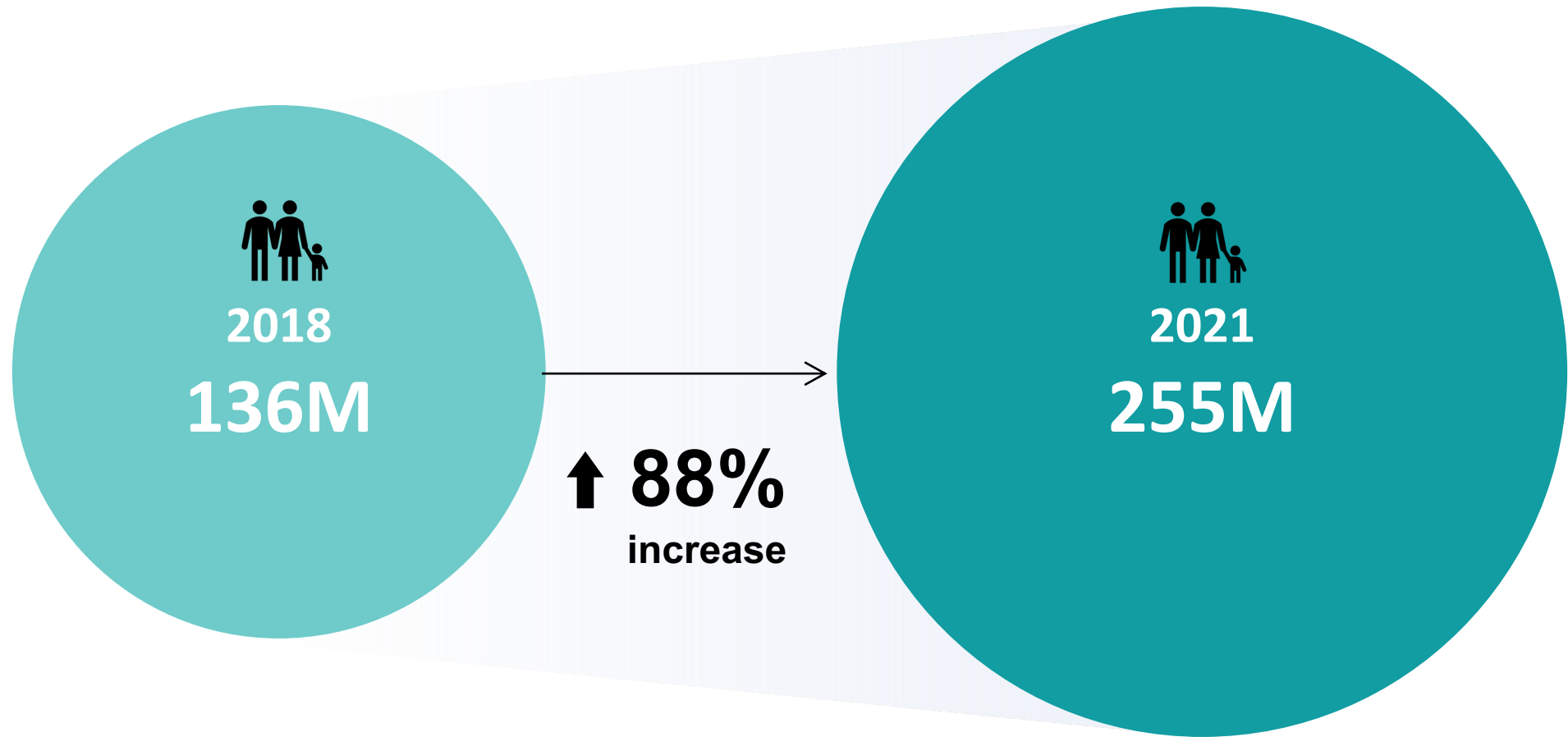
Critical issues moving forward

What is the HDP Nexus?

A term used to capture the interlinkages between the humanitarian, development and peace sectors.

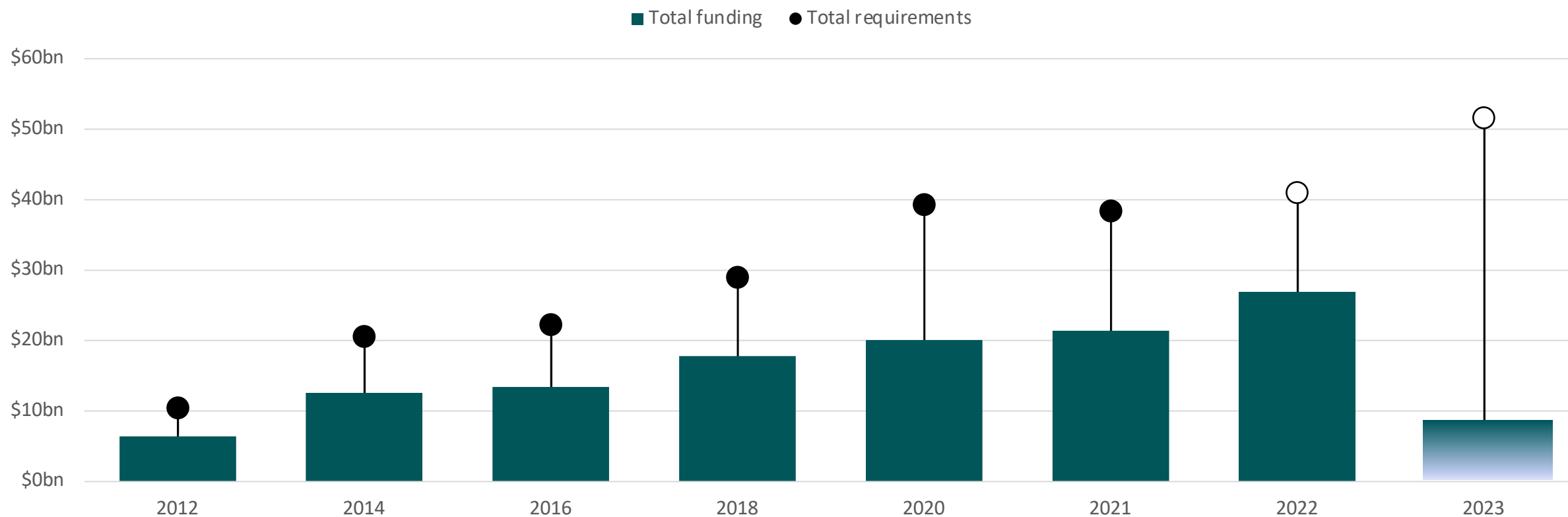
It builds a lot on existing concepts of DRR and resilience, while critically increasing the emphasis on peace.

More people in need...



... but funding didn't keep pace with requirements

Funding and unmet requirements, UN-coordinated appeals, 2012 - 2022



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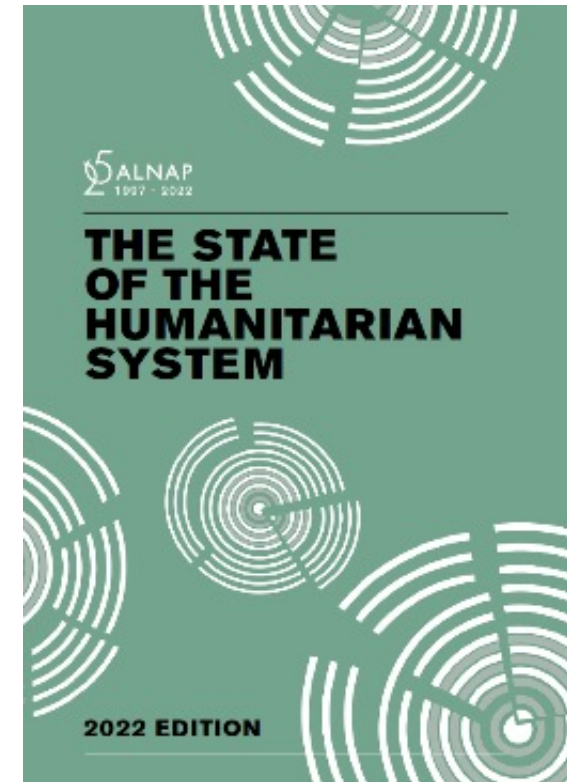
Key findings

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Critical issues moving forward

ALNAP's State of the Humanitarian System Report

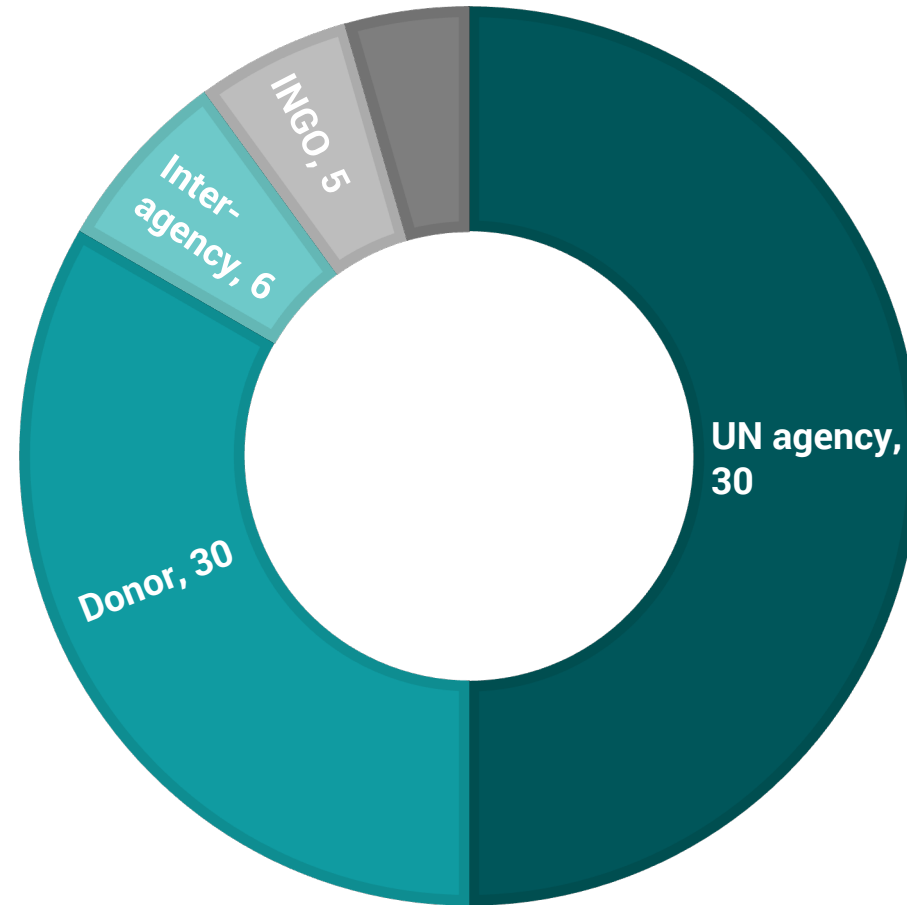
- **Flagship publication:** monitors the performance of the humanitarian system
- **Nexus section:** based on interviews & analysis of nexus implementation in 5 countries



ALNAP's recently published evaluation synthesis paper

- Reviewed **over 600 evaluations**
- Focused on **90 evaluations from 27 actors**
- **Peace** focus largely missing

Commissioners of 90 Nexus Evaluations



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Nexus progress – where are we now?

Progress made on commitments

- DAC triple nexus recommendation a step-change

But breadth of approaches causing confusion and funding remains problematic

- Practitioners said nexus progress was only 'fair' or 'poor'.
- Quality and quantity of funding was a barrier

1 | Lack of a common understanding

Definitions & interpretations of the nexus vary widely

A lack of theories of change

Staff need to be fit for fragility' - trilingualism'

Need for more operational focus:

- Better linked to org. mandates & partnerships
- Integrated into existing tools and analytical frameworks



2

Silos within organisations

Some significant examples of structural change & investment in staff capacity

- Several agencies/donors have reviewed or changed structure
- Investments in staff –academy & advisors

But for many, silos remain stubborn – entrenched by funding mechanisms

- 55% of DAC donor respondents felt unable to overcome silos

3 | Nexus financing

Funding mechanisms reflect silos and remain fragmented

- Funding silos are reflected in structures
- Gaps in funding across the H-D-P pillars: quality & quantity

In extremely fragile contexts, humanitarian aid continues to outstrip development assistance

- Humanitarian aid can be a 'curse' for the nexus

4 | Unpacking peace in the nexus

Peace is not clearly integrated yet - for many actors

- Conflict sensitivity and “do no harm” rarely included in evaluations
- “peace linkages” - often social cohesion
- Obstacles: Different timeframes, “cultures” and lack of trilingual staff

5 | The 'problem of problem states'

How to 'do development differently' in extremely fragile contexts?

- IASC guidance distinguishes by state willingness
- Renewed concerns about humanitarian principles & acceptance
- Integrating security concerns - 'No guns in the nexus?'
 - Examples: Mali, Afghanistan

6 | Coordination between actors

Positive country-level pilots

- In-country coordination in 10+ countries
- Collective outcomes more common & used for coordination

But continued coordination challenges

- Efforts largely humanitarian-led & ad hoc – peace sector poorly linked
- Duplicative coordination structures & efforts?

What is the nexus achieving?

Most evaluations do not focus on outcomes for affected populations

Collective outcomes are meant to provide direction, but.....

- mentioned in only 21 evaluations (23%)
- concerns about collective outcomes creating new, parallel processes
- Who is meant to monitor collective outcomes?

There is no evidence to date the HDP nexus is leading to better outcomes

Engaging the perspectives of local actors

Issues to explore:

- Limited funding and competition
- Greater coordination and common understanding
- More engagement in national level nexus planning
- Challenges to principles in some contexts

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Bottom-up approaches to the nexus

Few links between localisation & the nexus

- Only 4% of evaluations reflect local/national leadership. Only 2 mention “community ownership” in the nexus approaches
- Local actors can be a “nexus glue”

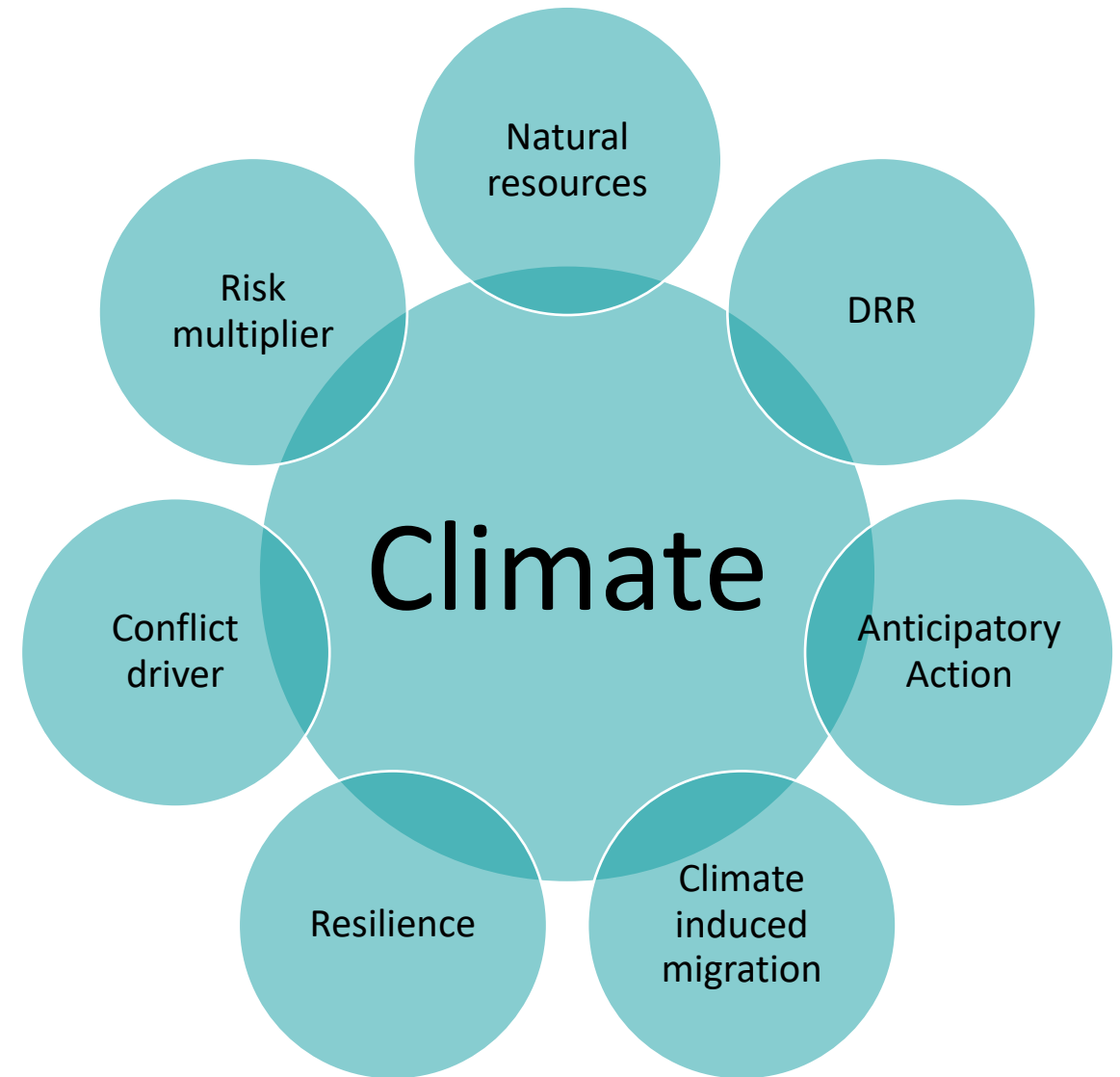
Shortfalls in integrating gender into nexus approaches

- Gender not mainstreamed into nexus approaches, planning & collective outcomes (IAHE, 2021)

Climate & the Nexus?

Climate is rarely a significant focus in “nexus” evaluations

- Climate is a meaningful element in only 6 evaluations
- Should the HDP nexus become the HDPC nexus?
- What actors are well places to lead on integrating climate into the nexus?



Strengthening evidence on the nexus

There is a lack of evidence on nexus outcomes

- Upcoming 5 year review on the OECD DAC Recommendation
 - Will it capture the views of affected communities & focus on outcomes?
- There is no commonly agreed results framework, no agreed set of indicators
- Approaches to evaluating the nexus
 - Organisations requesting advice on approaches & methodologies
- IASC Task Force 4 – Updating of mapping of good practices on the HDP Nexus

Will the nexus achieve its aims?

Is it to break self-imposed institutional & system silos?

- Evidence is mixed on progress.

Is it to “reduce humanitarian need” or address “root causes”?

- Clear evidence this is not happening, little focus on root causes.

Is it to provide a mechanism for coordination at country level for all actors?

- Evidence of some progress, with high potential.

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**WORKING ACROSS
THE HUMANITARIAN-
DEVELOPMENT-
PEACE NEXUS:
WHAT CAN WE LEARN
FROM EVALUATIONS?**

LEZLIE MORINIÈRE AND
SUSANNA MORRISON-MÉTOIS

Working across the Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus: What can we learn from evaluations? 5 December 2023



Discussion

Questions for group discussion

1. Which of the findings on the nexus presented resonate most with you?
2. What's stopping you adopting nexus approaches in your work?
3. Do you monitor the Nexus progress/ impact? How?

Thank you!