MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
Danida

APPROACH NOTE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF "THE WORLD WE SHARE"

SECURING COHERENCE BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AID, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND PEACEBUILDING (THE HDP NEXUS)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

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This note is one of 12 notes developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark to ensure the implementation of the strategy for development cooperation "The World We Share"

1. Fighting Poverty and Inequality
2. Energy Transition and Emission Reductions in Developing Countries
3. Climate adaptation, Nature and Environment
4. Migration and a Fair and Humane Asylum system
5. Peacebuilding and Stabilisation
6. Job creation and Sustainable growth
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11. **Securing Coherence between Humanitarian aid, Development cooperation and Peacebuilding (the HDP Nexus)**
12. Agriculture and Food Systems – green transition and food security

Securing coherence between humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding (the HDP nexus)

1. Purpose of the note

This note aims to provide specific guidelines on how to implement Denmark's strategy for development cooperation "The World We Share", the Government's Priorities for Danish Development Cooperation 2021-2025 and the four-year plans. The two overall purposes of the note are:

- **To create consistency** between strategy, policy, planning and budgeting as a shared framework of reference for the implementation of "The World We Share" and its objectives.

- **To set the framework** for prioritising, selecting and deselecting in adherence to the principles of *Doing Development Differently*, which call for taking a holistic and adaptive approach.

The main target group for this note is employees at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for implementing "The World We Share". Furthermore, it may serve to inform external partners. The note will be available on the Aid Management Guidelines site as an internal guidance document. Specifically, the note is intended as a reference document in programming (including in Programme Committee meetings and on the Council for Development Policy (UPR), as well as in the monitoring (e.g. in appraisals and reviews), in the dialogue with partners, and in the work with international norms and standards.

In principle, the note will remain valid for the duration of "The World We Share", and will be revised as required in response to changing contexts and priorities. The political priorities in the Finance Act will always have primacy to this note. The note complements the other thematic How-to-Notes and should therefore be read together with the other notes.

2. Context

The humanitarian, Development and Peace nexus (the HDP nexus) describes the interconnection between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work. It gives rise to an HDP approach, which features prominently in Denmark's international cooperation, particularly in light of the growing focus on fragile countries and affected regions. **The HDP approach sets out to boost coordination, coherence and complementarity between actors across the fields of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding.** This is relevant due to the structural correlation between fragility and the risk of

crisis and conflict generating humanitarian emergencies and undermining development. In such contexts, there is a need for immediate, life-saving humanitarian relief, such as food and clean drinking water, development cooperation with a long-term perspective, such as support for improving national education systems, as well as peacebuilding interventions that address conflicts so as to enable societies to move towards stability and peace.

3. Our understanding of the HDP-nexus

Reflections on the HDP nexus are nothing new, but have gained noticeably in topicality in recent years. One manifestation of this is the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the HDP nexus, which, for the first time following an international agreement in 2019, affirms the approach as an element that donors must be measured on. The HDP approach underpins the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 17, which calls for a global partnership for sustainable development.

In Denmark, we have high ambitions of deploying and refining our HDP approach in order to create better and more sustainable results. **This note builds upon experiences of interventions in the intersection between humanitarian work and development cooperation (the H and the D), where Denmark is a pioneer.** This applies particularly to interconnected multiyear interventions addressing a series of the world's worst refugee and displacement crisis, e.g. in and around Syria, Somalia and Myanmar. In these places, the aim has been to boost the resilience of people and society by integrating humanitarian and development interventions. One example is the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP). This is a European multi-donor initiative with the purpose of supporting Syrian refugees and local host communities in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. This is to be achieved by boosting resilience and promoting more durable solutions for Syrian refugees and affected communities. Denmark has led the implementation of RDPP since the programme began in 2014. We have increasingly sought to include the peace element in implementation, for instance by addressing challenges regarding social cohesion and conflicts between refugees and host communities. Moreover, for several years, Denmark has worked to promote the HDP agenda in multilateral forums. This has taken place in cooperation with, for instance, the World Bank, which has been dedicating more attention to fragile contexts, as well as with civil-society partners (including Danish organisations that have entered into Strategic Partnership Agreements, SPAs, with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and increasingly also as part of country-specific and regional interventions. This note contains guidance for the benefit of such work, as well as to strengthen peacebuilding and conflict prevention (the P in HDP), seen as an important part of refining the approach.

The following definitions drawn up by OECD-DAC facilitate understanding of the key concepts involved.

The HDP approach seeks to make the most of the _comparative advantages_ pertaining to each of the three pillars (H, D, P) in the context at hand in order to: 1) reduce overall vulnerability and address unmet

needs, 2) tackle the root causes of conflicts, and 3) map out the risks in interventions and how to address them. **The HDP approach entails a change in mindset regarding analysis, programming and financing.** Among its aims is to focus more on localisation, prevention and building of resilience in the population and in society to deal with shocks caused by epidemics, drought, flooding, conflict, etc.

The HDP approach is not about merging activities, but rather about boosting consistency, complementarity and cooperation between the three pillars (H, D, P). One way to operationalise this interconnectedness is to take a *collective approach*. This includes coherent and complementary coordination, programming and financing of humanitarian, development and peace interventions that are based on shared analyses of contexts and conflicts.

H, D and P actors should seek to reach agreement on *collective outcomes*. These are shared and measurable outcomes that the various actors work towards by means of a joint effort within their separate mandates. They are normally defined for a 3-5-year period and integrated into joint response plans.

The challenges that the HDP approach seeks to address have, to a large extent, been created by us donors and our implementing partners. The people struck by crisis and conflict are not concerned with the HDP pillars. We are the ones who shaped the pillars that the HDP approach sets out to integrate so as to improve our endeavours in the field.

The pillars interact and should not be considered in isolation. For example, conflict often springs from insufficient or lop-sided development, in which groups become marginalised over time. Another example is that armed conflict often increases the need for humanitarian assistance, just as it may also complicate humanitarian access. Importantly, the point is to uphold **dignity and rights** for people regardless of the context in which they find themselves. Finally, it should be mentioned that the three pillars listed below paint a general picture, and that many organisations zigzag rather freely between the pillars.

The three pillars

The humanitarian pillar
Humanitarian interventions are implemented during and in the wake of crises, when the needs of affected populations exceed the ability or the willingness of responsible states to react. Humanitarian aid is based on international humanitarian law, ruled by humanitarian principles of independence, impartiality, neutrality and humanity. One of the chief comparative advantages of humanitarian aid is **the short time it takes to respond to urgent needs, its fast and flexible funding, and its adaptive programming. Another advantage is the advanced analytical toolbox and the well-established mechanisms to coordinate humanitarian aid.** Conversely, it must also be kept in mind that certain challenges tend to be posed by humanitarian aid, which is what the HDP approach seeks to address, including the fact that **humanitarian interventions are short-term, non-sustainable solutions with no effect on the underlying problems. Moreover, the donor-driven implementation that characterises humanitarian aid runs the risk of disempowering affected population groups,** to the extent they

are reduced to passive recipients. Finally, it may weaken the ownership of local and national authorities, when donors prioritise taking aid implementation into their own hands.

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Dilemma
Greater integration between the three pillars is not always tantamount to greater cooperation between humanitarian, development and peace actors, but often a result of **humanitarian actors moving into development and peace work.** This is not necessarily problematic, but as a donor, Denmark needs to zoom in on the *pros and cons of each of the three pillars*, making sure that the respective interventions are carried out by the actors best-placed to do so. Among the ways to ensure this are: 1) To insist that interventions are informed by context and conflict analyses. 2) To ensure that humanitarian actors have involved relevant partners with comparative advantages within D and P. 3) To demand that the HDP nexus be built into programme designs. 3) To conduct a dialogue with partners on how best to achieve the objectives defined by means of a collective approach.

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The development pillar
The multidimensional poverty concept and the rights-based approach lays the foundation for Denmark's development cooperation, which seeks to bring about conditions conducive to improving the lot of people living in poverty and oppression. By means of long-term development interventions and partnerships, some of which have been praised, for instance, in OECD peer reviews, Denmark has a solid starting point for a stronger HDP approach where local needs take centre stage. **The main comparative advantage of development work within the HDP nexus is the long-term nature of interventions, which, for instance, enables the organisations to forge strong relations to communities and local authorities**, thus boosting the local ownership and constituency of interventions in partner countries. The long-term character of programmes may also increase the likelihood of sustainability and durable impact. Finally, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning over longer periods may bring about innovation, flexibility and inputs to new programming.

Conversely, it needs to be kept in mind that a focus on structural problems may weaken the adaptiveness of development actors when humanitarian crises occur. Finally, it may give rise to dependence on, or attachment to, particular government-defined national development priorities. This poses a risk of bias in development cooperation, which, in some contexts, exacerbate the root causes of poverty.

The peace pillar

The peace pillar is understood as four overlapping components: 1) diplomacy, including political dialogue and mediation; 2) security; 3) stabilisation; and 4) peacebuilding, including long-term undertakings in the areas of civil peacebuilding, dialogue, reconciliation, social cohesion, etc.[1] **Engagements within the P pillar are often tied up with a political process,** since political solutions need to be found to address the root causes, declare ceasefires etc. The main comparative advantage of peace activities within the HDP approach is that P actors seek to be particularly flexible and risk-tolerant in their programming. It

Big P and small p

Practitioners' talk about the HDP nexus often divides the peace pillar into 'big P' and 'small p'. The idea is that the three first components, namely diplomacy, security and stabilisation, are characterised as big P, whereas peacebuilding is with a small p. However, it must be stressed the we do not find this dichotomy useful, since it suggests that small-p activities are a minor part of the HDP nexus, which is most certainly not the case.

should be noted that all three HDP pillars must obviously aim to be conflict-sensitive, but the P pillar may serve specifically as leverage to strengthen conflict-sensitive programming within all three pillars. Finally, local peace processes paint a clear and locally-informed picture of development needs, including education, health and inequality in the community concerned, as well as of the relation between such needs and the root causes of conflict.

Conversely, it must be kept in mind that lumping all P actors under the same pillar poses major challenges. This is a highly heterogeneous group with widely differing starting points, tools and interventions, from military to diplomatic undertakings, to locally based peacebuilding dialogues and social-cohesion projects. This fragmentation within the P pillar is manifested, for instance, in the fact

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[1] See the how-to note on "Peacebuilding and Stabilisation".

that, when it comes to the P pillar, there are no defined principles (equivalent to the humanitarian principles) or criteria (such as the DAC criteria).[2]

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Dilemma: HDP and the humanitarian principles

There is a risk that humanitarian principles become undermined by the political concerns that the P may bring with it. This may relate to, for instance, opening up for questioning the humanitarian actors' continued neutrality and independence, if they cooperate with P actors perceived as political. This runs the risk of complicating humanitarian access and weakening humanitarian actors' safety. Accordingly, some humanitarian actors do not wish to work within a context in which the P pillar is overly dominant. It applies particularly to situations where military interventions take place within the P pillar, or to peace negotiations, and to a lesser extent when P activities are civilian and carried out e.g. by the UN or NGOs.

In this regard, it must be kept in mind that the concept of 'stabilisation' can be polarising, since there is an understanding among humanitarian actors of stabilisation as undertakings involving military actors. As a result, many humanitarian actors will be wary of entering into cooperation with the presence of stabilisation actors, given concerns about politicisation. In order to address this issue, it is important that we, as donors, pay attention to these risks and enter into a dialogue with the various actors to map out specific worries and risks, and to find shared, context-specific solutions within the HDP approach.

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Thus, the fragmentation of the P pillar adds even more complexity to the HDP approach. **Even within the EU and UN, there is not always agreement on how to work with the P pillar.** Therefore, despite the best efforts of the OECD and others, it is difficult to establish a shared international understanding of the HDP nexus. This springs from the various understandings of what the P pillar contains, as per dilemma box #3. Another reason is that the H, D and P actors often fail to 'speak the same language', as described in the box below on 'trilingualism'. Moreover, the myriad ways in which the actors operate and are financed are not always conducive to cross-cutting cooperation. To enhance understanding of the HDP approach among donors, H, D and P actors, the OECD-DAC has, among other activities, organised a so-called Nexus Academy for civil-society organisations, UN organisations, donors, etc.

There is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to HDP, since it must always be adapted to the context at hand. The HDP approach calls for patience, humility and respect for the danger of causing more harm than good. **This is why the fundamental do-no-harm principle is always in force in our work.** This highlights the importance of a conflict-sensitive and context-based approach, in which cooperation with local actors and knowledge of local dynamics take centre stage. **The fundamental prerequisite for this is that interventions rest upon a thorough conflict analysis.**

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[2] Dilemmaboks#3: It should be noted that our definition of stabilisation is much wider than military undertakings. In the how-to note on "Peacebuilding and Stabilisation", we define stabilisation in this manner: *"Stabilisation refers to engagements in unstable and conflict-affected areas with the aim of creating room for sustainable peacebuilding."*

4. Our operations approach to the HDP nexus

This part of the note is structured just like the DAC Recommendation, which covers three overall themes: 1) coordination, which encompasses dialogue and analysis; 2) programming and learning; and 3) financing. The DAC Recommendation and the present note sketch out how to take a nexus approach. Figure 2 illustrates the 11 principles outlined in the DAC recommendation.

Figure 2: Illustration of the DAC Recommendation
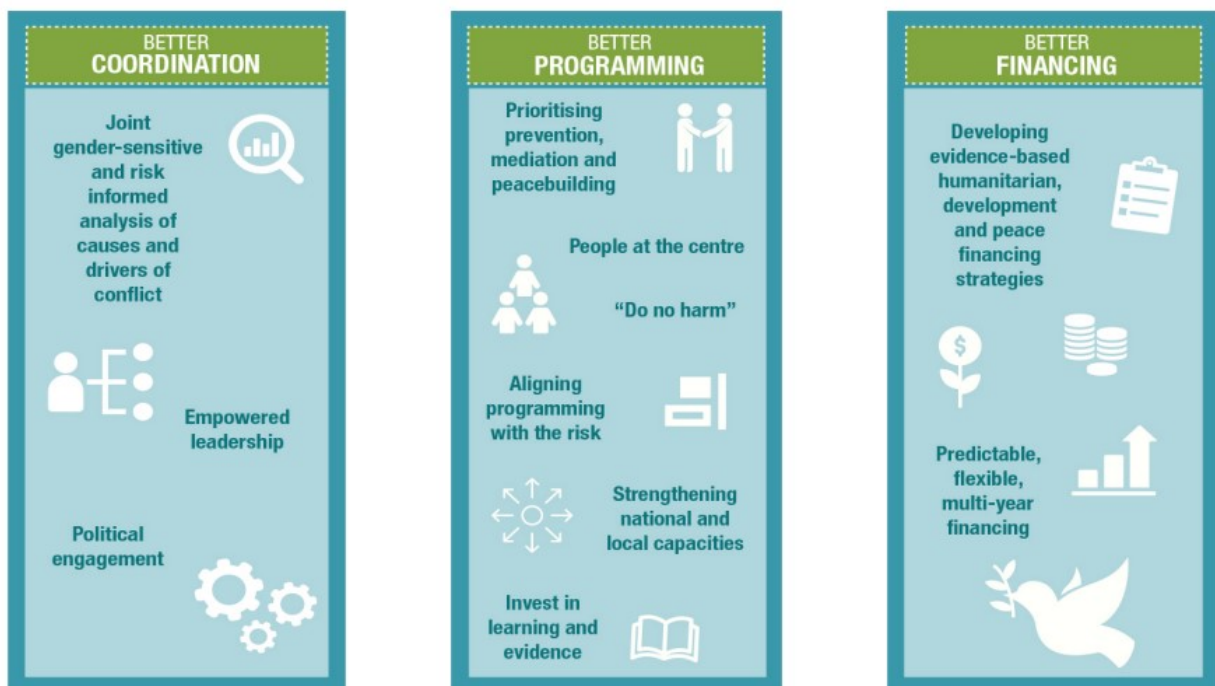
Courtesy of OECD/DAC.

Source: SIDA's Guidance Note on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

5. Coordination, dialogue and analysis

Coordination
Some partner countries have developed their own HDP plans, which can be a useful tool to highlight opportunities for synergy and cooperation. Thus, in Uganda, interventions are coordinated through the implementation of sector plans, which include refugees into, for instance, the Ugandan education and health systems, just as there is also a plan to promote refugees' abilities and opportunities for work and self-support. The plans issue specific guidelines for how development partners may carry out sustainable, multiyear, coordinated development programmes as part of the Ugandan refugee response, leaving humanitarian actors to focus more on meeting acute humanitarian needs.

In most fragile contexts, national coordination, as in the example from Uganda, is impossible due to the weakness of national structures. In such a case, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) plays a key role in promoting and implementing an HDP approach, given his/her coordinating mandate. In countries with UN peacekeeping or political missions, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) leads and coordinates at the country level across the HDP pillars. **However, it should be noted that the UN coordination mandate often fails to be fulfilled sufficiently by the individual missions, which highlights the importance of taking a context-specific approach.** Furthermore, it must be carefully considered whether cooperation across the pillars in a UN-led process is capable of upholding humanitarian principles. This applies particularly when the UN mandate is highly politicised.

Elsewhere, HDP interventions are coordinated by EU delegations. For example, in Libya, programmes under the EU Trust Fund for Africa, which Denmark contributes to, were coordinated by the EU delegation. At the meetings of the Steering Committee, several Libyan ministries were represented alongside the implementing partners, who were H, D and P actors working towards collective outcomes through a variety of interventions in keeping with their comparative advantages. These actors were organised in consortia, whose aims included strengthening coordination between implementing partners. Meetings always began with an update on the context analysis, which focused on how organised crime affected the conflict dynamics, and on ensuring conflict sensitivity in actual programming. Subsequently, the various interventions were evaluated and discussed with national authorities and civil-society actors so as to make sure that interventions were in tune with one another and brought about local impacts. One of the challenges of the EU Trust Fund and other EU instruments is that it is a cumbersome bureaucratic procedure to adjust and report on undertakings, depriving programmes of the necessary flexibility to adjust to changes in the local context. Denmark may play a role in addressing this by advocating for greater flexibility.

The World Bank and steering committees in multi-donor trust funds also play a crucial role in the coordination of HDP interventions. An example is the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), of which Denmark is a cofounder. It is led by the World Bank in close cooperation with the UNHCR, offering soft loans to middle-income countries with many refugees from Syria. The GDFF has helped boost coherence between the myriad interventions. Moreover, it has promoted coordination and national ownership across bilateral and multilateral interventions for refugees and vulnerable host communities in Jordan and Lebanon. The GCFF has recently expanded to Moldova, which has received many refugees from Ukraine. This is an example of how the World Bank may play an important coordinating and unifying role, which is underpinned by its massive financial clout and analytical capacity.

Finally, Denmark can promote improved coordination between other member states within Team Europe, i.e. between EU interventions and EU member states, as well as between EU countries and non-EU countries. This can take place in interaction with EU delegations and related forums at the country level, not least through the EU's so-called Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs). However, it is equally important to channel work through the EU representation directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen, and via the EU representation next to the EU institutions in

Brussels. A key document that Denmark may turn to and use to promote the HDP approach with EU partners is the European Council's conclusions on operationalising the HD nexus[3].

In the area of coordination, dialogue is a central tool for enhanced understanding and for promoting the HDP approach among the actors. In practice, dialogue between actors across the HDP nexus can be complicated by the separate coordination structures within which these actors perform their respective mandates.

Dialogue

Dialogue with local organisations and authorities, as well as between donors and implementing partners across the pillars, is a prerequisite for a successful HDP approach. Dialogue with local actors is important in all programming stages in order to ensure local ownership, solid analysis, relevant and effective programming, and mutual learning.

Similarly, Denmark has an important role to play in the dialogue with other donors and with major implementing partners across the pillars. **Denmark has, through its longstanding experience of flexible funding, a unique role and great credibility when it comes to advocating for more interconnected interventions, coordination, flexibility and predictability, as well as for flexible multiyear financing that enables long-term programming.** Accordingly, it is important that we make active use of our engagement in multilateral forums and in the EU in order to conduct such advocacy.

Particularly in regard to the UN agencies and the World Bank, it is important that Denmark pushes for strengthening the HDP approach. Indeed, this also applies to addressing deficient cooperation and even rivalry between UN agencies and major development actors, which poses a challenge to the HDP approach, as most recently observed in the crisis in Afghanistan under the Taliban. An obvious idea is to use the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' taskforces for multilateral organisations to make sure that our experiences (particularly those gained by our offices abroad) are fed into the multilateral policy dialogue. The World Bank cooperative undertakings with UN organisations are, in a growing number of cases, a main source of funding for UN organisations in numerous fragile contexts, such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Yemen.

Moreover, we may pursue the dialogue in other forums pertaining to our partnerships with, for instance the UN organisations, the UN secretariat and the funds to which we contribute, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Sustainable Development Goals Fund (the SDG Fund), Green Climate Fund (GCF), State- and Peacebuilding Fund (SPF) and the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Finally, we can use the UN Peacebuilding Commission (which Denmark is applying for membership of for the period 2023-24). The UN and OECD donor countries are also conducting a continuous dialogue on HDP, in which Denmark is actively involved. As an example, through the OECD-DAC's International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), we passed an outcome document on 17 May

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[3] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24010/nexus-st09383en17.pdf

2022, which stresses the importance of focusing more on HDP implementation, both among donors and a series of UN organisations.

In addition, it is relevant for Denmark to push for an HDP approach when engaging with the international financial institutions, as well as to continue to call for strengthened cooperation and coordination between the UN and the international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank.

Analysis

Example of how a combined analysis leads to shared objectives and joint interventions

The Al-Hol Camp in Syria is inhabited by about 60,000 refugees and internally displaced people from Iraq, Syria and third countries, many of whom have been affiliated with Islamic State. Living conditions in the camp have been described as a humanitarian disaster and a security threat in terms of potential recruitment for violent extremism. **A combined analysis of the situation from H, D and P perspectives has led to setting the shared goal of reducing the camp population, among other ways by reintegrating its Syrian and Iraqi residents, in particular, into their communities of origin.** This will both improve the humanitarian situation and lessen the risk of radicalisation. At the same time, the aim is to improve conditions in the camp in the short term. This has given rise to a wide array of initiatives, such as:
- Greater support for humanitarian actors.
- Material support for the communities to which the Syrian residents are due to return.
- Peaceful-coexistence projects centred on return to communities.
- Contributions to prevention of violent extremism.
- Improvement of security for the camp's residents through installation of street lighting.

The starting point for an HDP approach is that the actors arrive at a shared understanding of risks, needs, vulnerabilities, rights, resilience and root causes of crisis and conflict in the context at hand. Separating the analysis into humanitarian, development and conflict silos runs the risk of pointing the way in different directions, ending up with a variety of activities that fail to complement one another. Thus, for an HDP approach to become feasible, actors in a given context must be engaged in conducting a joint analysis of the root causes and structural drivers behind the conflict, as well as in using this analysis in their strategy development for programming within all three pillars. The conflict analysis is a key instrument, because it paves the way for both: 1) development of shared goals, or collective outcomes (for H, D and P); and 2) operationalisation of a conflict-sensitive approach for all three pillars.

The analysis should identify national and local capacities for crisis and risk management, including conflict resolution. In conflict-affected contexts, it is essential to understand how poverty makes people vulnerable to different types of risk which may push them deeper into poverty (see the approach note on fighting poverty). It is also important to analyse other aspects, including inequality, marginalisation of particular groups, the impact of organised crime on conflict dynamics, etc. To the extent possible, analyses should be carried out in cooperation with other relevant actors and be built upon existing analyses and data sources (e.g. from the EU, UN, World Bank, NGOs,

thinktanks, etc.[4]). Depending on the context, a joint analysis may make use of existing data sources, whether it be carried out by an embassy with a view to developing a bilateral country strategy, in relation to a UN Common Country Analysis or as a Humanitarian Needs Overview. Moreover, Denmark has partnerships with a series of organisations and thinktanks, including the International Crisis Group, Adelphi and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue which may provide auxiliary inputs to context and conflict analyses. Finally, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has developed an analytical tool – the Fragility Risk and Resilience Analysis Tool (FRRAT) – which may feed into the analysis as a bilateral programming tool[5].

6. Programming and learning

Denmark is an agile partner, which enables an innovative and smooth approach to partnerships. It even turns Denmark into a leader on HDP-nexus cooperation, since this is best achieved through direct engagement with local partners, including from civil society.

> ## The HDP approach in the formulation stage
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> 1. Map out existing engagements in the geographical area concerned.
> 2. Carry out a thorough conflict analysis, ideally in cooperation with other actors. See section on *analysis.*
> 3. Find out whether collective outcomes have been formulated among other actors as regards the geographical area:
> > If YES: In case these collective outcomes already exist, integrate them into your theory of change.
> > If NO: In case they do not exist, explore the scope for formulating them with other instruments/actors, possibly through multi-donor trust funds or in cooperation with the UN's RC.
> 3. Rethink the favourable and adverse effects that potential interventions may have on the conflict dynamics.
> 4. Assess whether the intervention can be strengthened by adding elements from or linking up to other instruments/actors in humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work.
> 5. Identify points of action for an improved HDP approach.

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[4] Good resources include the OECD report on implementation of the HDP recommendations (Interim Progress Review) and the IASC's catalogue with practical examples ([Mapping Good Practice](#)).
5 Fragility Risk and Resilience Analysis Tool (um.dk).

Denmark's approach to development cooperation is, in many ways, already in keeping with the principles for HDP programming in the DAC Recommendation. This applies, for instance, to the rights-based approach, which fosters gender equality (including the agenda 'Women, Peace and Security');

Trilingualism

A prerequisite for a successful HDP approach is that actors pertaining to the various pillars 'speak the same language' and understand how the other pillars operate. The actors involved cooperate under different conditions, with different mandates and perceptions of means and ends. **It can be hard for actors to change their mindset and approach, and to harmonise longstanding processes and timetables with those of other actors.** This makes it important to boost 'trilingualism' and understanding between actors across the three pillars. This should also be pursued at the organisational level, which calls for senior management to show a strong commitment. It can be done, for instance, by encouraging actors to move between the three pillars in their career path, or by helping H, D and P actors to gain more knowledge of each other's fields. Indeed, this is one of the main purposes of the OECD-DAC Nexus Academy, as mentioned above.

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a focus on interventions being locally based, both during planning and implementation, on conflict sensitivity and on capacity building of national and local institutions, etc. However, there are several internal processes, in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may usefully expand the HDP approach. One such case is the formulation of new country-level strategic frameworks, in which P actors can become more involved. Another is the country taskforces, into which P actors engaged in the context at hand may also become increasingly integrated. H actors have also yet to become systematically included in the development of new peace and stabilisation programmes. Finally, it is important to express, at the organisational level, a strong commitment to strengthening the HDP nexus, not merely in words, but also by turning commitments into operational guidance and by building the staff's capacity and 'trilingualism' (see box).

Learning
Denmark should encourage the development of learning mechanisms among partners through the funding of data collection and opinion polls in order to measure impact and thus enhance learning and achieve a shared understanding of the context, ideally alongside other donors and national actors. Joint data collection, opinion polls and monitoring mechanisms will serve to procure new information that can feed into evidence-based learning and updating of the analytical foundation for programming. Collected data should be shared as needed with relevant stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability. Shared data collection and follow-up are also useful to identify best practices, which can create a knowledge base and foster learning about the HDP approach. Denmark can play an important role in this by contributing positive hands-on examples of the HDP approach, e.g. by engaging with the UN's Resident Coordinators at the country level, within EU circles, and in other donor cooperation, particularly in regions where this can be well substantiated by the width of Danish commitments. This will help draw attention to the positive results.

Furthermore, it is important that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to support projects that promote learning and exchange of experiences regarding the HDP approach internally and among

partner organisations. The HDP-nexus work of Global Focus[6] is an example worth highlighting as an important platform for learning internally as well as among partners. Finally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the writing of notes and the realisation of cross-cutting evaluations of HDP-nexus implementation in order to promote learning internally and among partners.

Financing

The OECD-DAC recommends that financing be evidence-based, flexible, predictable and multiyear for humanitarian, development as well as peacebuilding interventions. Its Recommendation suggests a problem with the way in which activities within each of the three pillars are being financed. The process for releasing development funds is rather extensive, particularly the preparation process. Conversely, humanitarian funds are generally approved quickly and flexibly. In Denmark, we are on the right path, not least through *Doing Development Differently* and an enhanced use of interdisciplinary taskforces, but we may still ask ourselves whether we are sufficiently attentive and accommodating towards other actors. It should be added that the use of flexible financing also depends on the partner's capacity for flexible programming, including capacity and resources to adjust to new conditions. **Denmark should prioritise partners with the capacity to adjust programming as the context evolves,** and who have shown persistent dedication to strengthening local capacity and ownership.

In fragile and conflict-affected countries, development cooperation should also explore financing opportunities that complement humanitarian aid in order to address different dimensions of the crisis, for instance by increasing and adapting development funding when a crisis occurs. This serves to increase flexibility for humanitarian and especially for development actors. In other contexts, development assistance may prevent the risk of crisis, and hence the need for humanitarian aid. In numerous sudden disasters and in certain enduring refugee crises, this can be done sequentially, so that development aid takes over as humanitarian activities are phased out.

We are able to promote cooperation through our financing

To enable a more coordinated approach, partner organisations should be encouraged to cooperate with one another and, to the extent possible, also to enter into consortia and joint programming. In principle, NGOs forming a consortium have closer coordination, while trust-fund modalities can ensure that support is channelled in a coordinated fashion through the partners best placed to reach the areas where the needs are greatest. Multi-donor trust funds are particularly well-suited to ensure a solid HDP approach with everyone having a place at the table. The UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is a good example of a funding instrument that encourages an HDP approach by calling for joint analysis and programming within consortia. However, it must be stressed that HDP synergy is not necessarily boosted merely by placing the money in a trust fund. Cooperation may work in many ways, and joint programming or consortium models are not a universal remedy. In all cases, it is important to conduct a close dialogue with the partners present in each country and context in order to arrive at the cooperation modalities most conducive to maximising synergy

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[6] www.globaltfokus.dk/fokusomraader/humanitaert-udviklingsmaessigt-og-fredsopbyggende-arbejde

More information on the HDP nexus

The importance of the HDP nexus has also hit home among many of our partners. Accordingly, the EU, the World Bank, UN organisations and many civil-society organisations have drawn up multiple guidelines and other auxiliary tools, which, along with the present note, may assist in the practical rollout of the HDP approach. Thus, the WFP focuses on fleshing out the HDP nexus in its country programmes and is engaged in getting its results framework to measure how food aid contributes specifically to stabilisation and better conditions for lasting peace. With the UN Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)[7] from 2018, the UNHCR has established a solid framework for taking an HDP approach to forced displacement. Moreover, the IOM is dedicated to operationalising the HDP nexus. Finally, there is inspiration and more to learn about operationalisation of the HDP nexus in guidance notes drawn up by USAID, EEAS, SIDA and others[8].

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[7] UNHCR - The Global Compact on Refugees.

[8] For instance, useful guidelines have been drawn up by Care, ICRC, Danish Refugee Council, UNFPA, UNDP, IASC and others. See, for instance: IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Issue Paper. Exploring Peace within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN), October 2020; UNFPA. UNFPA's work to address the Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus, October 2020; EEAS-Commission service note on the peace element of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; Guidance Note for SIDA Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus, 2020.