

Summary of the Panel Discussion on the Humanitarian Development Nexus

General takeaways

- No one-size fits all. It is important to learn from the lessons learnt and good practices.
- Local actor's involvement is vital for sustainability while recognizing that local actors are diverse.
- Ensuring humanitarian principles is essential while implementation differs by organizations.
- Protection should be a vital part of the H-DN focus.

For Donors

- Called to provide long term funding, advocacy to the host government for protection, qualified staffing, and better coordination utilizing existing mechanisms.

1 Introduction by the Moderator

This panel discussion was organized by the GHD H-D Nexus Workstream co-chairs (Denmark and Japan). The selections of panelists and attached questions posed to the panelists were prepared by the workstream. The outcome of this panel discussion will be used to identify the Workstream activities.

2 Statements by the GHD H-D Workstream Co-Chairs

(Amb. Danish) highlighted the importance of setting collective targets and responding to needs related to food security and health as an outcome of the Copenhagen meeting in March. He also emphasized the need to have good strategies, strong institutions and adequate funding.

(Amb. Japanese) shared key findings from her recent visit to Uganda where CRRF has been rolled out: the need to provide sustainable solutions through development and that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions.

3 Presentation Part I

(1) Presentations

(Mr. Hanatani (JICA)) highlighted the importance of putting local at the center, local evidence based planning, capacity building, and coherent policies throughout line ministries. JICA's mandate has been expanded while responding to the needs on the ground. He urged the humanitarian actors that the level of involvement of local actions in humanitarian assistance should be enhanced. And also emphasized that local is not uniform and there are different actors in the local situation.

(Mr. Felten (Germany)) highlighted nexus is not "mix us", it should mandate to avoid unhealthy competition and rivalries among different organisations. He also emphasized the importance of field piloting of the nexus and informed that Germany was about to start piloting the nexus in Somalia.

(Dr. Olatunbosom (Nigeria)) emphasized that humanitarian actors need to have a longer-term perspective while development actors need to consider a shorter-term approach. She highlighted the importance of local ownership and local capacity and tackling the root causes in order to prevent reoccurrence of crises.

(2) Q &A

(ICVA) highlighted importance of local and national actors, and respect for humanitarian principles. The speaker mentioned that even with a long-term mindset, humanitarian actors need to maintain the capacity to respond quickly. She introduced a new paper by the NGO Network: "The New Way of Working examined."

(ICRC) ICRC also emphasized that ICRC will remain neutral, independent and impartial actor exclusively engaged in humanitarian activities and that it is guided in its work by IHL which does not make a distinction between "relief" and "development" activities as such but instead focuses on the needs of those caught up in conflict. In a peacetime context, much of the work the ICRC carries out would be classified as development, but in

protracted conflicts, it is humanitarian work as it is necessary to protect the life, health and dignity of affected people. The ICRC outlined how ICRC works across the HDN (a combined, multiyear approach, multiyear financing, partnerships, securing development holds and remaining proximate to affected populations.)

(Mr. Felten) said where no sustainable approaches are possible we need to address humanitarian assistance even if it take 10 years, but, at the same time, to start development work as soon as developmental and sustainable approaches become possible.

(Amb. Danish) highlighted the need for more preventive diplomacy to address root causes.

4 Presentations Part II

(1) Presentations

(UNHCR) highlighted that an integrated donor approach can be enhanced by, for example, moving from annual cycles to multiyear cycles. The speaker also highlighted the need for increased advocacy on the part of donors toward hosting governments for a better protection environment. She emphasized local integration, lasting solutions and financial inclusiveness. She introduced host community access to credit by the Grameen Bank and Sweden as a way of innovative financing.

(WB) shared its experience of coordinating with UNHCR in strategic and operational capacities, including at country level. The speaker said that NWoW and the peace nexus support having data evidence and joint planning.

(DRC) said the gap between humanitarian and development aid is imposed on us (implementing agencies). The speaker shared the challenges often faced on the ground such as donor's different time frames and different priorities of locations. He emphasized that policy-supported visions and principles need to be in place. He called for donors to consider simplified funding processes and moving toward longer term funding.

(2) Discussion

(Nigeria) said security, diplomatic and humanitarian components are totally interlinked and intertwined.

The speaker emphasized the need for clearer coordination between UN agencies and international partners and called for all partners to remove themselves from domestic politics. She further stressed that data and evidence are extremely important to tackle donor's imposition on H-D divides She emphasized the need to start talking with communities and conduct participatory research among people in IDP camps or refugee camps.

(Amb. Danish) said there is a strong argument to move ODA towards the global public good, including refugee issues. He emphasized the need to have more qualified staff from a donor side but also on the agency side in order to increase staff and the quality of operations.

(ICRC) introduced a new funding mechanism called the Humanitarian Impact Bond as a way to invite non-traditional actors to invest in protracted crises.

(UNDP) introduced the UNDP's effort to bridge the divide by seconding someone to the CRRF Secretariat.

(UNHCR) emphasized the importance of communicating with a range of different actors. The speaker also highlighted the importance of close cooperation between multilateral actors, bilateral actors including donor governments.

5. Conclusion

(Amb. Danish) said our discussion today was focused on the multilateral humanitarian and development systems. He pointed out that most of ODA is not multilateral. On the bilateral side there is a huge difference between humanitarian and development; more than among UN agencies. He added that this is also one argument for having a distinction between the humanitarian and development sides.

(Amb. Japanese) looked forward to further discussion after we have gone back and digested what was discussed today.