

**Good Humanitarian Donorship**  
**Humanitarian-Development Nexus Work Stream**  
Co-chairs: Denmark & Japan

**Concept Note**

31 March 2017

**Background**

Humanitarian crises have become increasingly complex, protracted, and likely to be caused by conflict. As the scope of the SDGs increased over the original MDGs, so did the scale in terms of who would be counted. The inclusion of crisis setting in the reach and evaluation of the goals is probably the most significant aspect of the post-2015. Thus, recognition has grown in the international community that a better coherence between humanitarian and development efforts must be ensured in order to address better to “Leave No One Behind”. This has recently led to a number of initiatives involving several key stakeholders.

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 called for “a new way of working” to address the drivers of crises. A Commitment to Action was signed by eight United Nations entities (UNOCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO) and endorsed by the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM). Japan and the Solutions Alliance, a partnership of states and organizations established to provide collaborative responses to displacement and contribute to durable solutions, presented five principles for strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus. While preparing The New Way of Working it became evident that the humanitarian - development discussion must reach outside the humanitarian community, capitals and HQs and that the connection is to be made at country level. To enhance the humanitarian-development nexus on the ground, and to move from policy to operationalization, development actors such as WB and bilateral actors at country level, must be involved in the process. As many of the most interesting ideas and initiatives come from elsewhere, a UN focused process must be avoided and allow the inclusion of other initiatives such as UNDP in New York, who will be able to provide substantial inputs from the platform being developed for the Grand Bargain work stream. GHD initiatives must be linked to other humanitarian-development relevant initiatives and to Solutions Alliance, CRRF, UN-WB HPI, OECD and EU-initiatives.

The following are some examples of the numerous initiatives that have been making a significant impact on the implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus since the WHS.

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) together with the UN Working Group on Transitions (UNWGT) has developed a Plan of Action for operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. This Plan of Action includes specified reviewing and engaging activities by a select number of country teams supported by the IASC and UNWGT through the development of guidance materials for joint analysis (context/conflict, vulnerability and risk analysis).
- Building on the UN/WBG Partnership Framework for Crisis and Post-Crisis Situations, the UN and the WBG are exploring tools to achieve collective outcomes across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus by supporting operationalization at country level, driven by ground realities.

- Within the Grand Bargain between humanitarian donors and organizations, a work stream on the nexus, co-chaired by UNDP and Denmark, will launch a Knowledge-Sharing Platform consolidating best-practices.

The Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative of currently 42 humanitarian donor countries committed to advancing coherence and effectiveness of donor action has included in its network deliberations a work stream on the nexus. This Concept Note sets out the objective, activities, and expected outcomes of the work stream in 2017 and 2018.

### **Objective**

To develop a foundation for the discussion among GHD member states on the humanitarian and development nexus, to disseminate key messages to the on-going international process, and to enhance the humanitarian-development nexus on the ground through sharing practical recommendations.

### **Activities (Please see ANNEX”Timetable”)**

(1) Build a “common ground” based on the following outcomes, among others, in WHS follow-up documents

- The Solutions Alliance/Japan *Five Principles*
- The findings in the IASC/UNWGT *Summary Report and Roadmap for Future Action*
- The OCHA/UNDP/UNHCR/UNICEF/WFP/WBG think piece, *After the World Humanitarian Summit*
- *The Peace Promise*—an agreement of 30 international organizations and civil society organizations launched at the World Humanitarian Summit

(2) Arrange, in Geneva, a GHD facilitated workshop for presenting “common ground” as well as reviewing best humanitarian-development practices of key stakeholders from the field, UN organizations, civil society, countries confronted with humanitarian challenges, and donor countries and to select targeted countries and prepare questionnaires in order to conduct case studies on “common ground”

(3) Conduct case studies on “common ground”

(4) Produce GHD key messages on the humanitarian-development nexus to be shared with other concurrent initiatives

(5) Building on GHD key messages, produce operational recommendations

### **Expected deliverables**

- Brief paper on “common ground” will be produced.
- Key messages with practical recommendation will be produced.

### **Expected outcome**

Consolidated GHD experiences and recommendations towards ensuring better coherence between humanitarian and development efforts - not just to meet needs, but to reduce risk, vulnerability and overall level of needs.