

Observations of the GHD Co-Chairs from the workshop

“Greater Coherence across the Humanitarian- Development-Peace Nexus”

International Network on Conflict and Fragility, OCED Paris, November 8, 2017

Germany and Australia were invited as GHD Co-Chairs to participate in the one-day workshop on the “Nexus”. It was broadly applauded for bringing the humanitarian (including OCHA) and the development communities (including UNDP and the World Bank) together, although peace actors were not present at the meeting. Participating donors were mainly represented by their development experts.

At an abstract level, the unconditional humanitarian imperative to prioritize according to needs – and only needs, irrespective of any other consideration – continues to clash with a comprehensive SDG agenda that embodies a much larger set of objectives, including the cooperation with and ownership of national governments. However, participants agreed that there are a number of practical ways to better collaborate and complement each other in the field:

- Early action of peace and development actors from the first day can prevent further downward dynamics and save lives and much higher costs later on. A higher risk tolerance of development actors would be needed for this.
- The simple mapping of interventions can reveal gaps and unleash synergies.
- Bilateral development interventions should be informed by local coordination and ongoing multilateral efforts, rather than pursue planning in isolation.
- Collective outcomes and collective accountability require incentives which are currently not in place. Support for the SG’s UN reform can provide better incentives in this regard. Bilateral development funding can provide additional incentives, if conditioned on collective results.
- Local actors are part of the HCTs but not yet the UNCTs. In order to harmonize localization, UNCTs should be opened for local actors.
- Diplomacy and advocacy for humanitarian access, also in the context of development cooperation agreements, should be applied.

It was less clear how to bring the peace dimension into the Nexus; participants expressed very diverse views and there was no clarity on definitions.