CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

SWISS NGO DRR PLATFORM

Introduction – Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) / Humanitarian-Development Nexus

Swiss NGO DRR Platform Learning Event – Bern, 4 March 2019

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

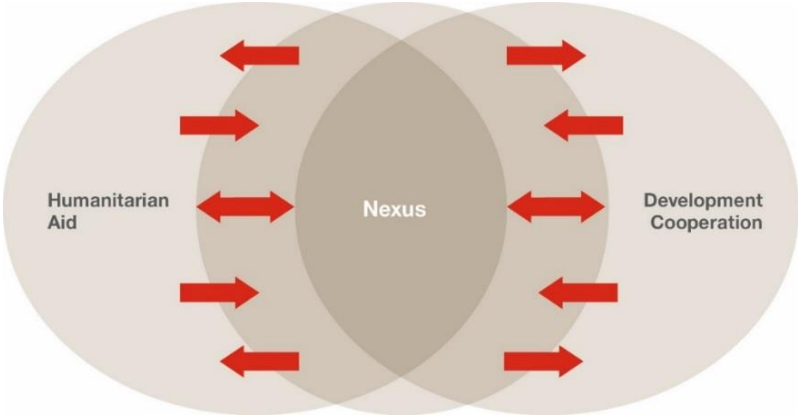
Outline

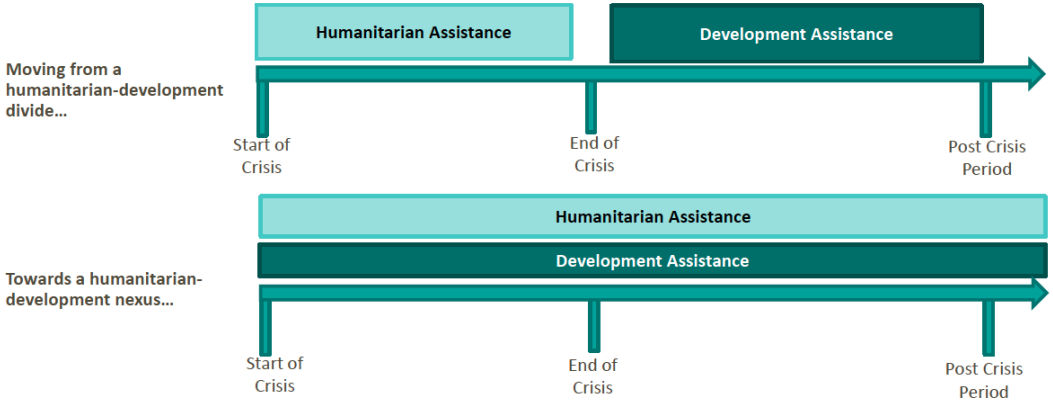
1. Why? Objectives of LRRD/Nexus
2. What? Evolution of approaches (I-IV from 1980 – today)
3. Where is LRRD/Nexus relevant?
4. Why now? Protracted crises as the norm
5. Inter-relations between different concepts

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

1. Why? Objectives of LRRD / Nexus

- Approach describes **relationship** between domains
- **Enhance collaboration** between domains humanitarian aid + development cooperation
- **Better linkages and synergies** between short-term relief + long-term development
- **Increase effectiveness:** coordination and streamlining between domains
- **Means to an end**: improve wellbeing, reduce vulnerability and risk, increase resilience





CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

2. What? Evolution of approaches I (1980s – 1990s)

- **1980s**: food security crises Africa – Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) appraoch emerges

- **1990s**: **EC communication** (1996) on LRRD: linear, sequential one-way transition

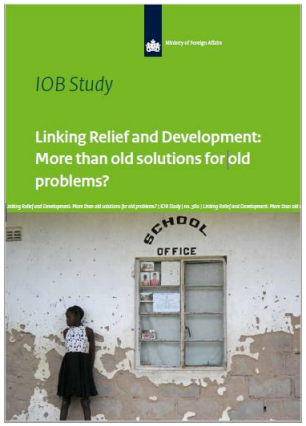
«Better development can reduce the need for emergency relief; better relief can contribute to development; better rehabilitation can ease the transition between the two»

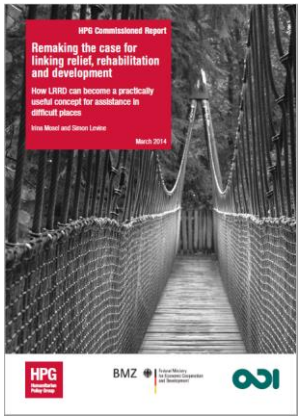
- **Continuum to Contiguum** – Shift to simultaneous application / working in different ways in different areas at the same time

- **2000s**: Commitment to LRRD: EC communication 2001, GHD principles 2003, Assessments South-East Asia Tsunami 2004, EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid 2007

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

2. What? Evolution of approaches II (2010s)





- **2010s:** Commitment to LRRD continues
  - 2013 IOB Study: Linking Relief + Development: More than old solutions for old problems
  - 2014 HPG Commissioned Report : «Remaking the case for LRRD»
  - 2015 GSDRC Report: “Relationship humanitarian and development aid»
- **2015 SDGs**, Agenda 2030: LRRD as groundwork for sustaibable development during humanitarian interventions; focus on crisis, fragility, leave no one behind
- **Resilience focus as a window of opportunity** : replacing vulnerability, LRRD as means of achieving goal of resilience, paradigm change in humanitarian financing towards longer term
- **Little change**: LRRD/Contiguum did not lead to substantial change in orgaizational structures, funding, and programming

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

2. What? Evolution of approaches III (WHS 2016)

- **23 May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Istanbul**: leave no one behind, donor Commitments to transcend humanitarian-development divide

- **Grand Bargain – Agenda for Humanity**: outcome document endorsed at WHS by major aid organisations and humanitarian donors. Includes 51 commitments categorized in 10 work streams.

- **Nexus work stream** (chairs UNDP & Denmark) *: "Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors"* - now closed and mainstreamed with the other 9 work streams

- **The New Way of Working (NWoW):** a method of working encouraging partnership between humanitarian, development and peace actors.

- Concept of "**collective outcomes**" ensures that humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time risks and vulnerabilities are being reduced over multiple years, based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors (H, D, P)

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

Learning Stream: Navigating the Nexus
Topic 1: The "nexus" explained

What is the Triple Nexus?

The "triple nexus" refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors. In the UN's "New Way of Working (NWoW)," these actors are expected to work towards collective outcomes over multiple years, when appropriate. The United Nations ongoing reform process envisions UN agencies working in humanitarian, development and peace realms be working together more "cohesively." The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each sector to reduce need, risk and vulnerability following the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

The NWoW was originally focused on removing the "unnecessary barriers" hindering the collaboration between humanitarian and development actors (a.k.a. the humanitarian-development divide or the "double nexus"). However, in his statement upon taking office in December 2016, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for "sustaining peace" to be considered "the third leg of the triangle."

Furthermore, 2016 has seen an increase in violent conflicts – the highest recorded in 30 years. This includes lower and middle-income countries, has placed an urgency on these conversations. For the past decades, both the humanitarian and development communities had avoided talking about violence due to concerns of securitizing the space, however, with the SDGs, this has taken a turn.

The concept of the "nexus" is not new. It has been proposed many times under many different names ("linking relief, rehabilitation and development"), humanitarian development nexus etc. Some actors have considered adding other elements in the nexus (like migration, human rights, security, stabilization, etc.) Since the concept's proposal, the international community has been struggling with how to operationalize it.

How has it changed the thinking?

There has been a shift in how the international community talks about violence and prevention – focusing more on equity and meaningful civil society participation and building cooperative behaviour. Reports such as the World Bank-UN "Pathways to Peace" suggest that economic growth is not the driver for peace in every context. There is movement towards harmonization and integration of practices.

Why is it different this time?

Right now, the discussion of the nexus is buoyed by its connection to central processes of the United Nations (UN) – the UN reform, the SDGs, the Grand Bargain and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This momentum is further evidenced by the involvement of the World Bank in the peace and development arena. These drivers increase the likelihood of this concept being implemented.

The Humanitarian-Development convergence:

Humanitarian and development actions converge around the need to prevent, prepare for and respond to crises, especially for the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. Multiannual approaches (Humanitarian Response Plan – the HRP) enable humanitarians to formulate their responses to protracted crises, but they also need to be complemented with development investments designed to meet the needs of the SDGs.

In Senegal humanitarian concerns have been incorporated into the UNDAF (The United Nations Development Assistance Framework) and there is no more a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This method allows humanitarian and development actors to build on joint planning and bridge the gap between these sectors. The humanitarian imperative has been integrated into a wider agenda and the UNDAF consultations and platforms do include NGOs.

2. What? Evolution of approaches IV (HDP Nexus)

- **2016 UNSG Guterres:** "**sustaining peace**" considered "third leg of the triangle"
- **2017 ICRC Head of Law and Policy Unit Hugo Slim :**
  - **Triple Nexus:** *"Humanitarian policy has gone from a double to a triple nexus. The triple nexus of humanitarian action, development and peace supersedes the earlier humanitarian-development nexus."*
  - **Peace**: *"What about the peace part of the nexus? The ICRC is not focused on peace-building or peace-making, but the way the ICRC works can create cross-line opportunities and political habits that can serve as resources for peace."*
- **2017 EU** Council conclusions on operationalizing the H-D Nexus: *Council recognizes links*
- **UN-World Bank** Hum-Dev-Peace Initiatie (HDPI) 4 pilot countries CAM, SOM, YEM, SUD

3. Where is LRRD/Nexus relevant?

- **Institutional structure**
  - Institutional setup: breaking down silos / UN reform
  - Permeable structures, staff flexibility, staff learning
- **Programme/project planning**
  - Joint humanitarian-development analysis and planning: joint context, needs, and risk assessments, joint strategy, scenario planning, operational frameworks, offices
  - Basically 3 Forms of Nexus projects:

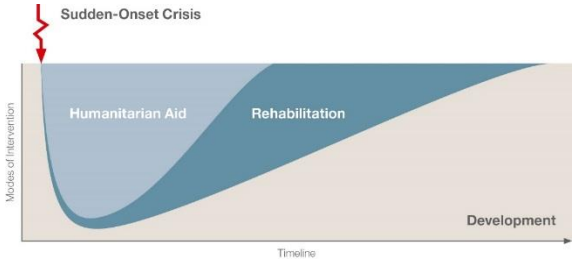
    a) sustainability in humanitarian aid projects,

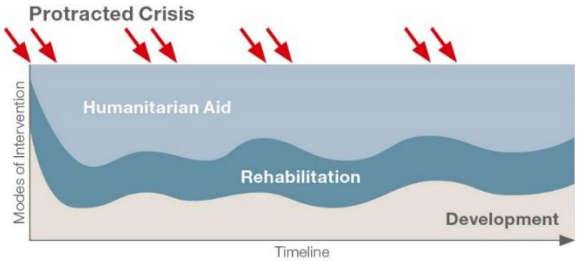
    b) preparedness in development projects,

    c) integrated programmes
- **Implementation**
  - Shared ressources, collaboration, coordination

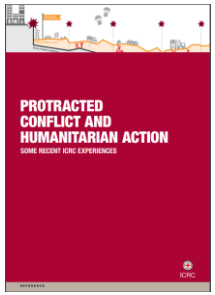
CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

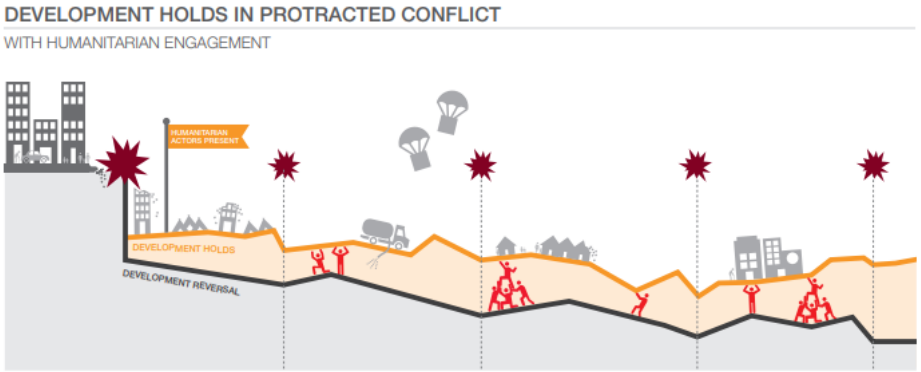
4. Why now? Protracted crisis as the norm

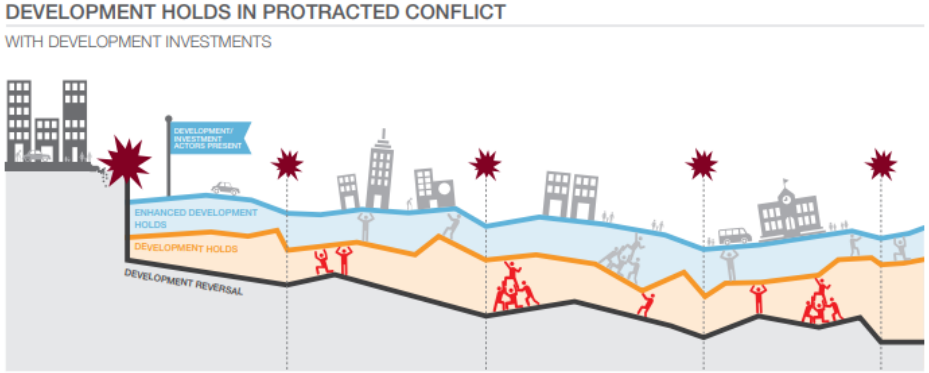




- Complex, resource-intense protracted crises
- GHO 2019: Average length of Crisis: nearly 10 years
- Syria and Yemen Crises: since 2011/2012
- ICRC study Protracted Conflict: Combined efforts secure development holds







CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

5. Inter-relations between different concepts

- **DRR**: relevance of LRRD/Nexus to DRR lies in the call for the integration of more DRR measures in development cooperation (DRR mainstreaming)
- **Humanitarian principles**: risk of eroding priciples by diluting separation line between hum and dev – hum aid might lose its protection from the neutrality principle, impartiality
- **Humanitrian financing / funding gap**: fragmented and compartmentalised financing, lack of flexibility in funding arrangements, gaps particularly for recovery activities
- **Localization:** local and longstanding partnership often created in development programmes allow for prompt responses in emergencies - activated quickly, established trust, credibility and experience facilitate the response

CARITAS Schweiz Suisse Svizzera Svizra

Doing the right thing

Leonard Hessling, Deputy Head of Humanitarian Aid Department / Senior Advisor Humanitarian Aid

—

Adligenswilerstrasse 15 Phone: 041 419 22 26 E-mail: lhessling@caritas.ch
P.O.Box, 6002 Luzern Mobile: 041 79 8783909 Internet: www.caritas.ch