

The Reality of Aid – Asia Pacific and CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness Working Group on Conflict and Fragility in partnership with the DAC-CSO Reference Group Thematic Working Group on Peace & Security

invite you to contribute to the

Research Project: POLICY RESEARCH ON THE DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRIPLE NEXUS APPROACH IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED, FRAGILE STATES

Background

According to the States of Fragility Report 2020, members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation - Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC), the group of the world's leading donors, provided USD 60.3 billion Official Development Assistance (ODA) to conflict-affected, fragile states in 2018. This is USD 14 billion less than the previous year. Moreover, only 4% of this was spent on conflict prevention and 13% was for peacebuilding.

These small percentages merely gave inadequate measures which barely address the underlying factors that enable situations of conflict and fragility. For instance, the US cut its contribution to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees while continuing to supply the occupying state, Israel, billions of military aid annually. Instead of lifting countries from their state of fragility, aid has been used to encourage dependence and at times as a weapon of war itself.

In such cases, humanitarian efforts do not facilitate, or even run counter to, peace and development goals, when in fact these three objectives lay along the same continuum. In the absence of a coherent aid framework, conflict-affected, fragile states continue to be impoverished, ill-prepared for disasters, prone to militarisation, and vulnerable to forced displacement.

The notion of a “nexus” was conceptualized by the international aid community to address the gaps among various elements such as relief, rehabilitation, development, etc. and eventually evolved into the “triple nexus” approach, which focuses on the interlinkages across humanitarian, development, and peace actors and the interventions they ought to deliver.

The OECD said that in order to solve long-term issues, development actors need to address all dimensions of fragility - the economic, political, societal, environmental, and security dimensions - with special focus on economic and livelihood and social protection. In line with this position, the DAC approved in February 2019 the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Recommendation¹ to encourage donor governments to support programs addressing conflict and fragility. According to the OECD, “This recommendation requires a shared approach that prioritizes prevention always, development wherever possible and humanitarian action when necessary.”

The Recommendation (see Sections III and V) suggests that adherents should provide mechanisms to incentivise International Finance Institutions (IFIs) and the private sector in order to support governments and multilateral institutions to successfully achieve the goals of the triple nexus through the right kind or mix of development financing. However, CONCORD's AidWatch 2019 reported that “more than 77% of private finance mobilized by ODA went to middle-income countries”, underscoring the drive for profit of the private sector.

¹ <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf>

The COVID-19 pandemic, while it has increased the need for development assistance, has also exposed the inherent contradictions within the global aid structure. It is precisely the dominance of the private sector in public services and their consequent inaccessibility to the majority that worsens a humanitarian crisis when a catastrophe occurs. The emphasis on the role of profit-oriented entities in the triple nexus does not provide sufficient, durable solutions to humanitarian crises.

Donor and partner governments are also accountable. The EU, for example, has specific interest on migration and security issues. As a result, there are severe risks of diverting financing from priorities vital for reducing poverty, while strengthening EU relations with governments who violate human rights and repress their citizens. Such interest “brings severe risks of funding being directed to militia or security sector actors involved in border patrol” (AidWatch 2019). In the context of the present pandemic, it is the empowerment of state security forces to accelerate land-grabs, demolitions, dispossessions, and passage of repressive national security laws that have impacts more devastating than the disease itself.

Notwithstanding the DAC Recommendation, the triple nexus approach to financing, planning, and programming is expected to be consistent with the international humanitarian law and human rights laws and norms. Further, in its practical application, it is expected to adhere to development effectiveness principles: country ownership over the development process; inclusive partnerships; a focus on results; and transparency and mutual accountability among partners.

Given this worsening context in crisis situations and the urgent need to respond through monitoring and analysis which can be used for CSOs’ policy and advocacy initiatives, the RoA-AP and CPDE, in partnership with the DAC-CSO Reference Group TWG on Peace & Security embark on a research project with the question: **“How is the triple nexus approach aligned with development effectiveness principles in addressing conflict and fragility?”**

Research Objective

The research aims to 1) map the general design and characteristics of nexus programs delivered in conflict areas and the decision-making process by which these programs are implemented; and 2) illustrate how the development effectiveness principles are relevant to the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace) approach.

The findings from the research shall inform the engagement of RoA-AP, CPDE, and the DAC-CSO TWG on Peace & Security, as well as of the broader civil society, with relevant development actors and policy arenas that discuss the importance of the triple nexus approach in addressing conflict and fragility.

In order to achieve the research objective, the case studies shall:

- Identify the gaps, in quantity and quality, of aid allocated to humanitarian, development, and peace programs by DAC members and partners to conflict-affected, fragile states;
- Evaluate the development effectiveness of nexus programs with respect to the ability of humanitarian aid to respond to the immediate needs of the people and while recognizing the need to address the root causes of conflict and fragility through development, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention programs;
- Analyze the silos across the humanitarian-development-peace pillars in designing and implementing programs for conflict-affected, fragile states;
- Explore how the Nexus Recommendation and other nexus frameworks can contribute in the delivery of a rights-based sustainable development in conflict-affected, fragile states;
- Provide and expound on the best practices, gaps, and challenges in delivering localised and contextualised programs using the nexus approach; and

- Produce policy recommendations addressed to the governments of the country of study (or intergovernmental organizations for regional case studies), and/or to other relevant multi-stakeholder platforms.

The components of this research project include:

1. Political Overview (10-15 pages)
2. Regional, National or Sectoral Case Studies (7-10 pages each)
3. CSO Recommendations (3-5 pages)

Research Guidelines

The following thematic areas may be considered for the regional, national or sectoral case studies:

- Climate emergency in conflict, fragile situations
- Gendered impacts of conflict and fragility
- Food insecurity and access to resources of production in conflict situations (land, water, seeds)
- Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Access to quality education
- Shrinking civic spaces and human rights violations
- Securitisation of aid and militarisation of communities
- Corporate capture of development
- Forced displacement and the refugee crisis
- Other emerging issues related to COVID-19

The following are the global regions and sectors that the research intends to cover:

Global Regions

1. Africa
2. Latin America and the Caribbean
3. West Asia and North Africa
4. South Asia
5. Central Asia
6. Southeast Asia
7. Pacific

Sectors

1. Women and children
2. Youth
3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities
4. Peasants and rural communities
5. Migrants and refugees

Additionally, research subjects that have not been covered in previous, similar research or have not much available literature yet shall be prioritized. **Ongoing research may be submitted as well.**

If interested, email the following to roaap_secretariat@realityofaid.org (for REGIONS/COUNTRIES) and cpde.wgcf@gmail.com (for SECTORS):

Contributor	
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Organization	
Thematic Area/s	
Scope (Regional, National or Sectoral)	
Abstract (max. of 200 words)	

Selected contributors will be duly compensated for their submissions.

Technical Specs:

1. Format
 - .doc or .docx
 - Byline (contributor and organization) after Title
 - Times New Roman
 - Font Size 11
 - Page Number at the bottom right
 - Page Size A4
2. Pages
 - 7-10 pages, excluding References
 - Footnotes
3. Graphs or Photos (if any)
 - .jpg or .png
4. Bionote (max. of 100 words)

Timeline:

November 2, 2020	Call for Case Studies
November 30, 2020	Deadline of Abstracts
December 4, 2020	Selection of Contributors Signing of Service Agreements
March 1, 2021	Deadline of Submissions
March - May 2021	Editing and Layout
June or July 2021	Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Launch