

SPECIAL SESSION 11

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus as a transformative pathway for SDG progress in protracted crises, including COVID-19: Challenges and opportunities

Wednesday 31 March 2021, 11h45-13h15, Beirut time, Online

Background and objective

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) approach is based on the premise that addressing immediate needs and concomitantly investing in longer-term solutions that can tackle the root causes of conflicts and crises such as poverty, gender inequality, social exclusion, weak governance and accountability, as well as climate vulnerabilities, has a better chance of reducing the likelihood and impact of future crises, building resilience and sustaining peace.

Strengthening the Nexus in responses to the protracted humanitarian crises that affect the Arab Region is thus of utmost importance for preserving progress towards the SDGs. This has become even more critical now, given the additional layer of vulnerabilities generated by Covid-19 for people communities, businesses, and basic service providers in crisis affected countries.

However, much remains to be learned on what the Nexus means in practice and how to 'make it work for the SDGs'. The session, which is supported by the members of the regional Issue-Based Coalition on the HDPN, co-led by UNDP and IOM, aims to catalyze a dialogue and thinking on promising approaches, challenges, as well as opportunities for action to elevate the Nexus a key pathway to advance the 2030 Agenda in a post-Covid-19 context in the Arab region.

Questions to be addressed

1. How can the HDPN be effectively integrated in response frameworks for protracted crises – including Covid-19 - and linkages with national SDG/development plans strengthened?
2. How can humanitarian and development partners best work together to strengthen the capacities of national and local providers of critical SDG goods and services to build the resilience of crisis - affected populations and systems, particularly in the Covid-19 context?
3. How to ensure that humanitarian, recovery, peace-building and longer-term development interventions remain cognizant of and purposefully contribute to reducing gender inequalities and drivers of conflict?

Moderator

- **Ms Shaden Khallaf**, Senior Policy Advisor, Head of MENA Policy Unit, UNHCR

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi**, Regional Hub Manager, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP
- **Ms. Kristina Mejo**, Senior Regional Liaison and Policy Officer and Deputy Regional Director for the MENA Region, IOM

Panelists

- **Mr. Asad Yusuf**, Head of Donor Engagement Office, Somalia Crisis Recovery Project (SCRIP) Coordinator & Principal Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, Federal Republic of Somalia
- **Ms Lamis Al Iryani**, Head of Social Fund for Development Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Yemen
- **Dr. Elke Löbel**, Commissioner for Refugee Policy and Director for displacement and migration; crisis prevention and management, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Ms Yasmin Kayali**, co-founder and CCO of Basmeh & Zeitooneh, Lebanon

This Special Session will be organized over Zoom. Please register [here](#)

