

Sweden invests in enhancing synergies across humanitarian, development and peace efforts, so called HDP nexus. The aim is to support an effective overall assistance in fragile and conflict affected contexts that contributes to preventing conflicts, strengthening resilience and reducing humanitarian needs. This brief gives an overview of how Sida works with HDP synergies in the 30 largest humanitarian crises, based on the Humanitarian Crises Analysis (HCAs) 2025 and identifies opportunities for maximizing aid impact in these contexts.

1. BACKGROUND

Sida supports both humanitarian and development, including peace-building efforts, in a number of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts (FCAS) and is actively engaged in strengthening collaboration and synergies across humanitarian, development and peace actions, so called HDP nexus.¹ The aim of a nexus approach is to support a more effective overall assistance in FCAS to prevent conflict, strengthen communities' resilience to crises and reduce humanitarian needs.

HDP nexus is a priority for Sweden and Sida. The Government's Aid Agenda² commits to increase collaboration and synergies across HDP efforts in order to prevent and reduce the risk of protracted humanitarian crises". (Box 1). Sida's Operational Strategy 2024-2026 stresses that "Sida should harness synergies between humanitarian, development and peace-building contributions. Such synergies shall prevent conflict, strengthen communities' resilience to crises and reduce humanitarian needs".³ Further, most bilateral, regional and global strategies also include to harness HDP synergies.

Box 1: HDP synergies/nexus in the Swedish Government's Aid agenda

To reduce humanitarian needs, Sweden intends to:

- Work to develop – and ensure compliance with – international policy on collaboration and synergies between humanitarian assistance, development assistance and peacebuilding, so as to prevent and reduce the risk of protracted humanitarian crises.
- Promote peace efforts, including conflict prevention and stabilisation, in order to reduce conflicts that drive increased humanitarian needs.
- Push for development actors, including the World Bank and regional development banks, to further strengthen their presence and engagement and maintain basic services in FCAS where humanitarian crises are occurring.
- Work to build resilience, not least in protracted humanitarian crises, through development-funded climate adaptation in vulnerable communities.
- Strengthen efforts so that development finance can be increasingly used for anticipatory action in climate-related humanitarian crises.

Guided by the OECD DAC recommendation and Sida's guidance note on the HDP nexus⁴, this brief analyzes how Sida works with HDP synergies and identifies opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS. The brief is primarily intended for Sida's humanitarian and development staff working at various strategy levels and thematic areas.

The brief departs from the draft Humanitarian Crisis Analyses (HCA) for 2025, prepared by the Humanitarian Department, together with foreign missions. It includes a section on HDP synergies/nexus in addition to analyzing humanitarian needs and allocating humanitarian assistance and is therefore a useful tool for monitoring nexus efforts.

For 2025 Sida has prepared HCAs for 30 FCAS (Box 2), covering the majority of the world's 305 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, the majority of people living in extreme poverty as well as the majority of the world's forcibly displaced.⁵ Half of the HCAs are in Africa.

Box 2: Humanitarian Crisis Analyses (HCAs) for 2025⁶

Humanitarian crises with largest and most severe needs:

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Burkina Faso
- 4) Cameroon
- 5) Chad
- 6) Central African Republic (CAR)
- 7) Colombia
- 8) DR Congo (DRC)
- 9) Ethiopia
- 10) Haiti
- 11) Lebanon
- 12) Mali
- 13) Mozambique
- 14) Myanmar
- 15) Niger
- 16) Nigeria

- 17) Pakistan
- 18) Palestine
- 19) Somalia
- 20) South Sudan
- 21) Sudan
- 22) Syria
- 23) Ukraine
- 24) Venezuela
- 25) Yemen

Humanitarian crises where humanitarian assistance will be phased out 2025:

- 26) El Salvador
- 27) Guatemala
- 28) Honduras
- 29) Kenya
- 30) Uganda

The brief focuses on:

- 1) Nexus approaches: why and where.
- 2) HDP synergies in contexts with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows.
- 3) HDP synergies in contexts without bilateral strategies/regional country windows. Annex 1 looks at how Sida's thematic priority areas for development cooperation consider HDP synergies.

2. NEXUS APPROACHES: WHY AND WHERE

WHY ARE HDP SYNERGIES CRITICAL?

HCAs stress that many of the 30 contexts analyzed are affected by a combination of interlinked factors, such as protracted conflicts, increased and intensified climate related events (such as floods, droughts and cyclones), political and socio-economic crises and structural development challenges, that lead to protracted crises and displacement, with both emerging and chronic needs. HCAs also show that, in many contexts, there is limited capacity to deal with these crises.

Most HCAs stress the importance of development and peace efforts in these contexts, complementing humanitarian assistance to address drivers of conflict and crises (rather than just symptoms), to build resilience, prevent crises and reduce humanitarian dependency. Further, HCAs in a number of contexts, also stress that despite large needs, humanitarian funding is reduced.

IN-COUNTRY HDP NEXUS APPROACHES

The starting point for a nexus approach is a joined-up HDP analysis. HCAs show that in-country HDP analysis and plans are joined-up in a number of contexts, allowing for a shared understanding of risks, needs, vulnerability and drivers of conflict. For example:

- In some countries (**Somalia, Colombia, Cameroon and Guatemala**), Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Some HRPs (**Colombia and Venezuela**) cover a two-year period, which aims to facilitate the planning of interventions that could lead to a more sustainable impact.
- In few contexts (**Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and DRC**) Collective Outcomes⁷ have been developed.
- In some countries, joint or linked HDP strategies have been developed. In **Bangladesh**, a nexus strategy for climate-related disasters as a humanitarian preparedness and response strategy was prepared in support of the National Plan of Disaster Management and complementing the UNSDCF. Also, in **Afghanistan**, the UN Strategic Framework is a key strategic document to address

sustainably the large scale basic human needs and to reduce the medium and long-term humanitarian caseload.

HCAs also show that in-country nexus approaches are being operationalized in a number of contexts, including through specific structures and area based approaches. For example:

- In **DRC**, there is a nexus coordination structure, led by the government, including provincial groups, a nexus core team as well as a nexus donor group and geographical areas of HDP convergence (area based approaches).
- In **Colombia**, the Local Coordination Team engages HDP actors in joint analysis, implementation and dialogue to respond to urgent needs while advancing medium and long-term solutions for communities.
- In **Afghanistan** and **Ethiopia**, area based approaches have been developed.
- In **Uganda** there is the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework architecture.
- In **Cameroon** and **Chad** there are nexus task forces and convergence areas for piloting the nexus approach.

HCAs show that the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General's (RC/HC/DSRSG)⁸ leadership is important to promote and implement a HDP nexus approach. For example:

- In **Afghanistan**, the RC/HC/DSRSG leadership has played a paramount role in bringing actors together and strengthening an area based approach,
- In **Ukraine**, the RC/HC has committed to strengthen nexus coordination and created a new donor coordination structure that will integrate nexus coordination.
- Some HCAs also include challenges with operationalizing a nexus approach, for example, in **Ethiopia** where the RC/HC faces challenges to keep momentum for a decentralized and area-based nexus coordination to break the current aid silos. Current programming in **Ethiopia** is risk averse and resistant to change and disconnects Addis Abeba from the field, due to systematic inefficiencies on who is doing what, where and how in the development and peace-building sectors.
- In **Colombia**, HDP efforts could be strengthened, particularly in design, implementation and evaluation of intended impact as well as political dialogue among HDP actors for complementarity of resources.

WHERE SIDA WORKS WITH HDP SYNERGIES

HDP nexus approaches are context-specific and can occur at various levels, both internally at Sida and with other stakeholders. HCAs show that internal HDP synergies occur mainly between the humanitarian strategy and bilateral development strategies/regional country windows, where available, which is the case in 16 out of 30 FCAS (Box 2 – **in bold**).

This is a reduction from 20 contexts in 2024, due to the Swedish Government's decisions to phase out bilateral development strategies for Burkina Faso (Box 3), Mali and South Sudan in 2024 and the regional country window for Yemen in 2025, where extensive collaboration across nexus was undertaken.⁹

In the remaining 14 crises contexts without bilateral strategies/regional country windows (Box 2 – *in italics*), HDP synergies with the humanitarian strategy are limited to regional and global development strategies or other stakeholders.

Box 3: HCA for Burkina Faso

"The phasing out of bilateral development support undermined Sweden's longer term commitment to resilience building and to combat root causes of conflict and displacement and had negative consequences for humanitarian work".

3. HDP SYNERGIES IN CONTEXTS WITH BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES/ REGIONAL COUNTRY WINDOWS

In the 16 HCA contexts with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows (Box 4), internal HDP synergies can occur between the humanitarian strategy and the development strategies at bilateral, regional and global levels ("layering funding"). However, HCAs show that HDP synergies occur mainly between the humanitarian strategy and the bilateral development strategy/regional country windows.

Box 4: 16 HCA contexts with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows

- 13 crises contexts with bilateral development strategies: **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Ukraine**. Humanitarian assistance in **Guatemala, Kenya and Uganda**, will be phased out in 2025.
- 3 "country windows" within regional strategies: **Syria and Lebanon** in the **Syria** crises strategy and **Palestine** in the Regional MENA strategy.

ENHANCED COORDINATION ACROSS HDP EFFORTS

One of three key areas in the DAC recommendation is to better coordinate across the nexus, which includes joined-up analysis, empowered leadership for nexus coordination and political engagement.

Joined-up internal HDP analysis

As indicated earlier, joined-up analysis is the basis for a nexus approach. HCAs indicate that there is close internal coordination across humanitarian and development teams (including peace-building efforts) in Sida and the foreign missions in a number of contexts and that mutually reinforcing HDP efforts often are based on joint internal analysis and planning. For example:

- On **Syria** and **Lebanon**, the humanitarian and development teams cooperate continuously for example through joint analysis, risk management, field monitoring and follow-up.
- On **Myanmar**, humanitarian and development teams have close collaboration and regular dialogue regarding operational and contextual challenges, thereby contributing to enhanced complementarity and synergies between HDP work and thus more effectively and integrated approach.

It is noted that there are no references to Sida's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Analysis in the HCAs.

Empowered leadership for nexus coordination

DAC recommendation calls for appropriate resources to empower leadership for cost-effective coordination across HDP architecture. For example, Sida supports the RC Office (RCO) with additional resources to boost HDP nexus coordination in **DRC** and provides support to a Forum for International NGOs for an integrated approach and complementarity between HDP efforts among NGO actors.

HCAs also show that in few contexts Sweden is actively engaged in donor coordination across HDP efforts. For example, in **DRC**, Sweden co-chairs the triple nexus donor coordination group together with Belgium, in **Ethiopia**, Sweden is a member of the Nexus Accelerator Working Group and in **Ukraine**, Sweden will co-lead two donor coordination working groups in the area of environment and climate and gender equality that will integrate nexus coordination.

Few HCAs show how Sweden promotes and work in complementarity across HDP with other donors, including with European Union and within Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs). For example, in **DRC**, Swedish support is complemented by ECHO/INTPA. Further convergence of initiatives with EU to reduce humanitarian needs in Ituri, will be promoted when co-chairing the TEI on Peace and Security in 2025. In **Ethiopia**, Sweden also works with EU and other donors within TEI on HDP nexus.

Political engagement and other tools to prevent crises, resolve conflicts and build peace

The DAC recommendation calls for utilizing political engagement and other tools at all levels to prevent crises, resolve conflicts and build peace. HCAs in few contexts report that Sida has developed a common HDP position or messaging together with the political side and/or Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) to promote a team Sweden approach across different fora, engagement and activities in order to prevent crises, resolve conflicts and build peace. For example:

- In **Bangladesh**, Sweden has been involved in political dialogue and advocacy at both national and regional levels to allow for more development actors to engage in the Rohingya response which is heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance. Also, Sweden actively participated in the development of a pledge at the Global Refugee Forum.
- In **Colombia**, as one of the accompanying countries in the peace dialogue, Sweden plays a strategic political role which is tightly complemented with financial and technical support from the bilateral development portfolio and with the FBA, with the aim to contribute to the de-escalation of the conflict and peacebuilding, which thus would contribute to reduce humanitarian needs. Further, in **Lebanon**, a joint dialogue plan is being considered.

Key messages and opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS

1. Bilateral development strategies/regional country windows in FCAS are crucial to be able to work proactively with HDP synergies/nexus and to simultaneously address and reduce needs, address drivers of conflicts and strengthen resilience.
2. There are opportunities to further support in-country nexus approaches and coordination across HDP, including within EU/TEIs as well as to engage with the political side and other tools to prevent crises, resolve conflicts and build peace.
3. Joined-up analysis and strategies are points of departure for nexus approaches. New regional and country analyses and Development Offers (DOs) provide opportunities to more systematically include humanitarian analysis and assistance in FCAS.

ENHANCED PROGRAMMING WITHIN HDP

To better programme within the nexus, the DAC recommendation calls for prioritizing prevention, mediation, peace-building and resilience-building, putting people at the center, strengthening national and local capacities, ensuring that the activities are conflict-sensitive and risk-informed and investing in learning.

Focus on conflict prevention, peace-building, recovery and resilience

HCAs show that many bilateral development strategies/regional country windows have a strong focus on conflict prevention, peace-building, recovery and resilience with a view to reduce the risk of violent conflicts, disasters and crises that generate humanitarian needs and undermines development.

Focus on peace-building, conflict prevention and root causes of conflict: HCAs mention that 7/16 bilateral strategies/regional country windows (**Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Sudan and Somalia**) have a strong focus on peacebuilding, conflict prevention or addressing root causes of conflict (See Box 5 on next page).

For example, in **Colombia**, the strategy prioritizes peace-building and the implementation of the 2016 peace accord as well as promotion of human rights and protection of human rights defenders and social leaders, addressing the structural causes of armed conflict. In **DRC**, the strategy focuses on addressing root causes of conflict, in **Ethiopia** it provides development resources for peace-building and in **Mozambique** it includes a results area on peaceful and inclusive societies. In **Somalia**, there is a focus on state-building, in **Sudan**, the strategy aims at reducing conflict, safeguarding rights to reduce protection risks.

Further, some HCAs demonstrate how teams are thinking and acting **across borders**, recognizing that drivers of humanitarian crises cut across borders. This is the case for example in **Colombia**, where the HCA stresses that the crisis in Venezuela is impacting Colombia's peacebuilding and stabilization efforts.

Focus on recovery and resilience-building: HCAs show that at least 9/16 bilateral development strategies/regional country windows focus on strengthening resilience to crises resilience to crises (**Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine**) (See Box 5 on next page).

For example, in **Colombia** and **Sudan**, there is a focus on strengthening resilience towards climate change and sustainable management of natural resources and in **Uganda**, it is about building resilience in refugee hosting areas. In **Myanmar, Syria/Lebanon** and **Somalia** there is focus on building local or community resilience, in **Syria**, of the **Syrian** population and refugees and vulnerable groups in neighboring countries. In **Ethiopia**, development resources are provided for resilience-building and recovery.

Box 5: Examples of focus on resilience, peace-building, conflict prevention and address root causes of conflict

In **Bangladesh**, the strategy has the ambition to address the Rohingya crises throughout the strategy areas.

In **Colombia**, the bilateral development strategy prioritizes peace-building and the implementation of the 2016 peace accord as well as promotion of human rights and protection of human rights defenders and social leaders, addressing the structural causes of armed conflict.

In **DRC**, the bilateral development strategy focuses on reducing humanitarian needs through building resilience and addressing root causes of conflict.

In **Ethiopia**, the bilateral development strategy includes a resolute nexus approach, providing development resources for peace-building, recovery and resilience-building in order to phase out earlier humanitarian assistance and reduce crisis risks in areas with chronic and protracted needs.

In **Mozambique**, the bilateral development strategy includes a results-area for peaceful and inclusive societies and has a strong focus on integrating a nexus approach.

In **Somalia**, the strategy includes resilience-building and complements humanitarian action across different sectors.

In **Sudan**, the bilateral development strategy allow for complementary interventions aimed at reducing conflict, safeguarding rights to reduce protection risks and resilience oriented projects in natural resource management.

The **Syria-crises strategy**, including Lebanon focuses on increasing local resilience of Syrian population and of refugees and vulnerable groups in neighboring countries, thus it can be characterized as a nexus strategy.

In **Uganda**, the strategy has a strong focus on building resilience in refugee hosting areas.

In **Ukraine**, the strategy for reconstruction and reform cooperation aims among others to strengthen resilience, including complementing humanitarian activities and promoting synergies while ensuring a principles humanitarian approach.

Reducing humanitarian needs and dependency: HCAs show that a number of development strategies have an explicit focus on reducing humanitarian needs/dependency (**Ethiopia, DRC**) (Box 5). In DRC, the strategy focuses on reducing humanitarian needs through building resilience and addressing root causes of conflict. In **Ethiopia**, the strategy aims at phasing out earlier humanitarian assistance and reducing crisis risks in areas with chronic and protracted needs. In **Bangladesh**, the ambition is to address the Rohingya crises throughout the strategy areas.

Integrating a nexus approach: HCAs show that a number of bilateral development strategies/regional country windows integrate a nexus approach in the implementation (Box 5). For example, the **Syria Crises strategy**, including **Lebanon**, can be characterized as a “nexus strategy” in its own right as it bridges humanitarian assistance and longer-term development support. In **Mozambique**, the bilateral development strategy has a strong focus on integrating a nexus approach and in **Ethiopia**, the bilateral development strategy

includes a “resolute nexus approach”, providing development resources for peace-building, recovery and resilience-building in order to phase out earlier humanitarian aid and reduce crises risks in areas with chronic and protracted needs. In **Myanmar**, development cooperation is carried out at the intersection between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation and development cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening and complementing the humanitarian strategy. Also, the HCA in **Ukraine**, noted that HDP synergies will be promoted, while ensuring a principled humanitarian response.

Further, in contexts expecting new bilateral development strategies, such as **Kenya, Uganda and Afghanistan**, HCAs stressed that it was important to take into account nexus programming in their operationalization. In **Afghanistan**, it was particularly recommended to explore how nexus programming could further enhance strategic thinking on the partner portfolio, making the best use of limited resources available to reach those furthest behind.

Focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, including forcibly displaced people

HCAs in many contexts point to a focus on or inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable, including forcibly displaced people such as refugees and Internally Displaced Populations, IDPs, in development assistance. There is also an increased focus of development and peace efforts towards specific geographical areas, where humanitarian, development and peace efforts converge. This is the case in **Bangladesh, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Syria, Somalia and Uganda** (See Box 6 on next page).

Conflict sensitive risk-informed programming

The DAC recommendation calls for ensuring that activities do no harm and are conflict sensitive. Only one HCA (**Myanmar**) mentions conflict sensitivity, stressing that Sida requires its strategic humanitarian partners to implement conflict sensitive programming and develop solid do-no-harm analyses.

Another key principle is to design development and peacebuilding programs so that they are flexible and adaptable to future risks and incentivizes partners to remain present in FCAS, supporting opportunities for early warning and risk monitoring. HCAs show that in some contexts (**Mozambique, Ethiopia, DRC, Somalia and Bangladesh**) there is a focus on early warning/early/ anticipatory action and risk monitoring (See Annex 1).

Box 6: Focus on the poorest and most vulnerable

In **DRC** there is a focus on geographical areas of convergence (Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika) from where the peacekeeping mission was disengaged. In **Mozambique** there is a focus on conflict and displacement-affected Cabo Delgado and disaster affected Beira corridor where there are IDPs due to climate change and a large number of recently demobilised ex-combatants.

In **Bangladesh**, there is focus on Rohingya refugees and host communities and in **Uganda** on refugees and refugee hosting areas. In the **Syria** crises strategy, including **Lebanon**, focus is on Syrian population and on refugees and vulnerable groups in neighboring countries. In **Kenya** focus lies on Dadaab and rural and pastoral communities in the Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties.

In **Ethiopia** there is a focus on areas with chronic and protracted needs and to include IDPs and conflict affected farmers and pastoralists in development support. In **Somalia**, it is about the inclusion of IDPs.

Strengthen national and local capacities

The DAC recommendation calls for donors to strengthen national and local capacities by investing in partners capacity to stay and deliver, to better analyze the context and manage risks, including prioritizing funding to local organizations and incentivizing international actors, with capabilities to work across HDP actions, to invest in local capacities and ensure that whenever possible local actors are an integral part of the response with the ultimate goal to end dependency on humanitarian assistance by fostering self-reliance and resilience.

Some HCAs show that Sida supports the strengthening of national and local partners' capacity. For example, in **Bangladesh**, the embassy supports locally-led adaptation efforts centered around integrating community driven solutions into local development planning processes and strengthening both communities and local authorities. In **Myanmar**, there are good opportunities for synergies to strengthen the localization agenda, which can increase the availability of humanitarian assistance in parts of the country that are hard to reach. Also in **DRC**, increasing efforts are made towards localized responses, enabling resilience, community participation and durable solutions.

Learning and evidence across HDP actions:

The DAC recommendation calls for investing in learning and evidence across HDP actions. There is limited mention about such actions in the HCAs.

Key messages and opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS

4. Many bilateral strategies/regional country windows have strong focus on resilience and peace-building as well as the poorest and most vulnerable, creating opportunities for HDP synergies.
5. There are opportunities to build on these efforts in DOs and to further increase focus on strengthening national and local capacities across HDP and to ensure conflict sensitive and risk informed programming.
6. HCAs recommends to consider nexus programming when operationalizing new bilateral strategies in Uganda, Kenya and Afghanistan.
7. There are opportunities to invest in learning and evidence across HDP actions and actors in specific contexts.

ENHANCED FINANCING ACROSS HDP

To enhance financing across HDP, the DAC recommendation calls for increased use of predictable, flexible, multi-year financing and development of HDP financing strategies at global, regional and local levels with effective layering and sequencing of the most appropriate funds.

Predictable, flexible and multi-year financing is required from both humanitarian and development funding streams (including peace and climate efforts) to be able, together with other stakeholders, to find the right balance to effectively deal with and reduce peoples' needs, risks and vulnerabilities, strengthen their resilience and address root causes of conflict.

Dual mandated organizations and flexible humanitarian funding

HCAs in many contexts (**Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, Ethiopia, DRC, Palestine, Uganda**) show that organizations working with both humanitarian and development efforts (dual mandated organizations) play an important role in many FCAS in order to strengthen the link between humanitarian and development efforts to build resilience, address crisis and conflict drivers and reduce needs.

HCAs include 11 humanitarian partners that work with both humanitarian and development efforts, including UNICEF, WFP, FAO and UNHCR from the UN side and Action Against Hunger (AAH), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children, Oxfam and Swedish Red Cross on the NGO-side.

HCAs also show that some of the above-mentioned NGOs receive programbased humanitarian funding (PBA), which means that funding is earmarked at the country program level, allowing among others for flexibility to respond and scale up response to unforeseen crises. Also, in some contexts, these organizations receive multi-year humanitarian funding that can allow for increased synergies with longer-term actors and more effective support in crises contexts.

HCAAs show that there is multi-year humanitarian support in 9/16 contexts with bilateral development support/regional country windows. For example: in **Syria** with Islamic Relief, NRC and SRC, in **Ethiopia** with AAH, IRC and NRC and in **Lebanon** with AAH and SRC. Further, there is multi-year humanitarian support with AAH in **Colombia, DRC** and **Somalia**, with NRC in **Mozambique** and with IRC in **Myanmar**.

HCAAs also show that in many contexts, dual mandated organizations are supported from both humanitarian and development strategies, allowing for responsiveness, adaptability to emerging needs, whilst offering a continuum of support for longer-term efforts (Box 7).

Box 7: Examples of contexts where dual mandated organizations are supported from both humanitarian and development strategies

In Bangladesh :	WFP, FAO and UNICEF
In DRC :	UNICEF and WFP
In Ethiopia :	UNICEF, DRC, AAH and IRC
In Mozambique :	UNICEF, WFP, NRC and AAH
In Somalia :	AAH, NRC and FAO
In Sudan :	DRC and UNICEF
In Kenya :	DRC

Finally, HCAAs also show that there are dual or triple mandated organizations supported through development strategies that are not humanitarian partners such as for example International Organization for Migration (IOM) in **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mozambique** and Mercy Corps in **Ethiopia**.

Multi-year, flexible and innovative development funding (bilateral and regional country windows)

HCAAs show that opportunities for synergies across HDP efforts differ, depending on the size and length of the bilateral development strategy/regional country window. Internally there are broadly three types of contexts:

- Contexts with substantive bilateral development or regional country window funding in these contexts and limited humanitarian support (**Bangladesh, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda and Ukraine**)
- Contexts where humanitarian and bilateral development or regional country window funding are at approximately the same level (**Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia and Syria**).
- Contexts where humanitarian assistance by-passes bilateral development or regional country window funding by far (for example **Sudan, Myanmar and Palestine**).

Further, some HCAAs (such as in Guatemala) noted that a reduction in regional country window support limits opportunities for effective HDP synergies. Also,

the length of the development strategy is important to allow for longer-term and complementary approaches with humanitarian assistance. HCAAs show that in some countries, bilateral development strategies have been extended for twelve months, sometimes more than once (for example **Somalia and Sudan**), which has limited long term approaches and led to less predictable development funding in FCAS.

HCAAs show that there are a number of funding tools allowing for flexible and complementary development funding in these contexts, including Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), joint UN programs, UN country-programs or thematic funding, resilience consortia, Crisis Modifiers and guarantees.

Multi-Partner Trust Funds: There is support to MPTFs in a number of contexts, including:

- In **Colombia**: the humanitarian UN Country-Based Pooled Fund is expected to work in synergy with the UN MPTF for Sustainable Peace in support of HDP efforts.
- In **Ethiopia**: there is a major Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and peace-building effort through a UNDP basket fund.
- In **Kenya**: the social protection support is channeled through the UN MPTF. It supports the Government's ambition to develop social security during the lifecycle and an adaptive component strengthening resilience in the drought affected regions in the north.
- In **Afghanistan**: The Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and on the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund are key initiatives to promote a nexus approach in Afghanistan.
- In **Somalia**: The MPTF covers areas such as state-building, resilience and agriculture, water and sanitation.

UN Country programs or thematic funding: Sida supports flexible program-based or thematic funding in a number of contexts, for example:

- In **DRC**, there is support to the country programs of UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPAs allowing for responsiveness and adaptability to emerging needs while offering a continuum of support for long-term effects.
- In **Sudan**, there is support to country programs of UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women. Focusing on the institutional strengthening of WASH services through support to UNICEF has helped resolve local water supply to reduce cholera outbreaks throughout the country. Support will also have opportunities to complement humanitarian partners protection efforts.

- In **Mozambique**, there is support to the country program of OHCHR primary for their work in the conflict and crisis affected Cabo Delgado.
- In **Ethiopia**, UNICEF receives development funding for adaptive and child-sensitive social protection that in the past few years added IDPs and host communities as target groups. The program complements the flagship Productive Social Safety Program (PSNP) that provide social protection to 10 million persons who are among the poorest.

Joint UN Programs: HCAs show that there is support to joint UN programs with a nexus approach, in a number of contexts, including:

- In **Ethiopia**, Sweden co-funds the joint UN program with IOM-FAO-UN-Habitat for piloting durable solutions for IDPs in Somalia and Oromia regions, to be replicated at scale in other displacement affected regions.
- In **Mozambique**, Sweden supports three joint UN programs: one with UNICEF/WFP in Cabo Delgado, which will work on peacebuilding through a multisectoral approach (education, protection, livelihoods, food-security and climate adaptation), one with UN-Habitat/IOM in Niassa which aims at preventing conflict and one with UNICEF/ILO on social protection that partly targets IDPs in Nampula and Cabo Delgado, building on and complementing humanitarian programming.
- In **Uganda**, Sweden supports an innovative joint UN program with WFP and UNICEF in the area of social protection that includes refugees which has besides cash transfers in the first 1000 days, so called Nutricash, contributed to both increasing their birth registration and access to health support. It builds on cash-based interventions, recognizing the multiplier effect of cash on local economic development.
- In **Bangladesh**, Sweden supports an interagency effort – Safe Plus 2- including UNHCR, IOM, WFP and FAO”.

Resilience Consortia: HCAs show that Sida supports **NGO consortia** with dual mandated organizations in a number of contexts, for example:

- In **Ethiopia**: two NGO consortia, one with Mercy Corps, DRC and First Consulting and the other with AAH, IRC and DRC, aimed at building resilience of conflict and disaster affected populations.
- In **Sudan**: NGO consortia, led by DRC working with IDPs to improve their resilience and establish durable solutions in the war affected Darfur.

- In **Somalia**: two NGO consortia, together with other donors: the Somali Resilience Program (SomRep) and Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS), aimed at strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable households and provide direct linkages to humanitarian support, both in sectors and implementing partners.
- In **Mozambique**: an NGO consortia with AAH and NRC in conflict affected Cabo Delgado, aimed at reducing dependency on food aid and working to increase livelihoods opportunities.

Crises modifiers¹⁰: HCAs show that **Crisis Modifiers** are used in a number of contexts to build in flexibility in development programs. For example, in **Ethiopia**, there is a robust portfolio of contributions with built-in flexibility for contingencies and crisis modifiers. In **Somalia**, the two resilience consortia include crises modifiers and in **Mozambique**, Sida has included mechanisms that allow for flexible early/anticipatory action in agreements. To date, two crisis modifiers have been activated through the Red Cross and IFDC¹¹ programs and additional funds were being prepared for IFDC and Oxfam, to mitigate the effects of El Nino and reduce humanitarian needs.

Mobilizing resources: HCAs show that in only few contexts, resources have been mobilized in FCAS, complementing humanitarian support, particularly in areas with large displacements, such as in **Kenya**, with a guarantee in Dadaab, supporting lending to small businesses in the refugee camps aimed at addressing household vulnerability and reducing humanitarian needs. In **DRC**, there are efforts to expand access to credit and livelihoods to displaced populations in Tanganyika. In **Uganda**, there is support to UNCDF to test innovative methods of lending for refugees.

HCAs show that there are a number of development programs in the 16 countries with bilateral development support/regional country windows, that are linked to and complement humanitarian efforts, in order to maximize overall support towards building resilience, addressing drivers of conflicts and reducing needs.

Complementary regional and global development contributions

In countries with bilateral strategies/regional country window, regional and global strategies provide opportunities to complement both humanitarian and in-country development efforts and to “layer” humanitarian and development funding at various levels. Here the bilateral strategies/regional country windows can act as an anchor for HDP synergies with other development strategies.

HDP synergies with regional strategies: In contexts with bilateral strategies/regional country windows, only 3/16 HCAs refer to on-going regional programs that are linked to humanitarian programs. For example:

- In **Colombia**, the regional strategy for Latin America, brings enhanced opportunities for HDP nexus and reduced humanitarian needs. Specifically, it aims to strengthen migration management to guarantee the rights of migrants, refugees and IDPs and to improve conditions for their socio-economic inclusion in host societies. It is expected that this work, both from the bilateral and regional strategies, will continue through 2025 and through nexus analysis when engaging in new contributions.
- In **Guatemala**, HDP synergies with the regional strategy for Latin America remains limited since 2025 is the last year of the strategy. Nonetheless, regional projects on sustainable use of natural resources and climate change adaptation in Central America enhance environmental resilience. Support provided to the Red Cross Regional Network on Migration as well as Foundation Avina to promote the rights of migrants in South and Central America.
- In **Kenya**, there are synergies with the regional strategy for Africa in the area of migration statistics.

Further, some HCAs stress that there may be opportunities for increased HDP collaboration with regional strategies, for example, in **Uganda** with the regional SRHR strategy in Africa and in **Syria** and **Lebanon** with the new regional strategy for the Middle East and North Africa.

HDP synergies with global development strategies: Only 4/16 HCAs in contexts with bilateral strategies/regional country windows refer to on-going global programs that create synergies with humanitarian programs. For example:

- In **Myanmar**, through the Global Strategy for Peace and Stability, Geneva Call has been promoting respect for International Humanitarian Law by armed groups and de facto authorities and informed both international and national NGOs of the importance of engaging with ethnic armed organizations on improving humanitarian access as well as raising protection concerns. Peace-building actors thus play a vital role in improving humanitarian space.
- In **Mozambique**, through the Global Strategy for Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, there are links through the support to the UN DRR program, working on the improvement of early warning systems.
- In **Uganda**, through the Global Strategy for Sustainable Economic Development, there are

synergies with the support to ILO, which undertook a study on the financial system on refugee receiving areas, laying the ground for further work on guarantees.

However, HCAs in a number of contexts stress that there may be further opportunities for HDP synergies with new global strategies. These include for example the new Global Strategies on Migration, Returns and Voluntary Repatriation (**DRC and Uganda**), on Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, as well as on Peace and Stability (**DRC**). It can be concluded that HDP synergies between the humanitarian strategy and regional (except for country windows) and global strategies are limited. There are opportunities to increase layering of funding in these contexts.

Key messages and opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS

8. Dual mandated organizations play a key role in nexus approaches and both humanitarian and development financing mechanisms allow for flexibility in implementation.
9. In contexts with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows, there are a number of development funding tools available, allowing for flexible and complementary funding.
10. Crises modifiers are used in development cooperation in a number of contexts and could be further explored.
11. DOs constitute an opportunity to build on and further strengthen on-going nexus approaches in FCAS with bilateral strategies/regional country windows. They constitute an "anchor" around which regional and global development funding can be "layered".
12. Opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS include increasing support through new global development strategies to these contexts.

4. HDP SYNERGIES IN CONTEXTS WITHOUT BILATERAL STRATEGIES/REGIONAL COUNTRY WINDOWS

In the 14 HCA contexts without bilateral strategies or regional country windows (Box 8), HDP synergies can only occur internally between the humanitarian strategy and regional and global development strategies to address drivers of conflict and build resilience.

Box 8: 14 HCA contexts without bilateral development strategies/regional country windows

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, CAR, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen.

HDP synergies with regional development strategies

HCAs show that in many of these contexts, there are references to HDP synergies with regional strategies (10/14). See example on the next page:

In **Africa**: In **Mali, Burkina Faso** and **South Sudan** where bilateral development support was phased out in 2024, there had been close synergies between humanitarian, bilateral and regional development strategies.¹²

HCAAs show that there are interventions **in the regional development strategy for Africa** that complement humanitarian assistance in these contexts as well as the broader Sahel. For example:

- The UNDPs Sahel resilience program in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger** and **Nigeria**, which is aimed at supporting regional organisations with improving risk-informed development, analysis in Sahel and to respond to climate induced shocks and stressors through increased resilience.
- The SNVs program on Peaceful cross-border pastoralism in the Sahel, addressing tensions between pastoralists and farmers in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger**.
- The UNDP Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) which operate in the Lake Chad Basin to which Sweden plans to extend its support (**Chad, Niger** and **Nigeria** and **Cameroon**). The project is currently suspended in Niger due to the geopolitical situation.
- The Renewable Energy agreement with UNOPS to construct mini-grids in the Liptako-Gourma Region.
- The Global Transformation of Forests for People and Climate project with FAO, with the aim to build the capacity of ECOWAS and its member states on forest data management and improving community participation in forest management.
- The IGAD's peace and security department in implementing the peace and security strategy, which includes following-up on peace agreements in **South Sudan**. Specific interventions at Yida Refugee Camp aim to facilitate transitional justice and reconciliation. Additionally, **South Sudan** benefits from the IGAD refugee management program, which supports the development of a national durable solutions strategy for the displaced population.

Also, there are **interventions in the Regional Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Africa** that complements humanitarian efforts:

- Support to IRC aimed at increasing access and reproductive health and rights in **Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon** and **Niger**, targeting refugees, IDPs and populations affected by humanitarian crises.

In **Latin America**: although this is the last year of the regional strategy for Latin America, there are some opportunities for HDP synergies in **Honduras** and **El Salvador** through supporting sustainable use of natural resources and climate change adaptation in

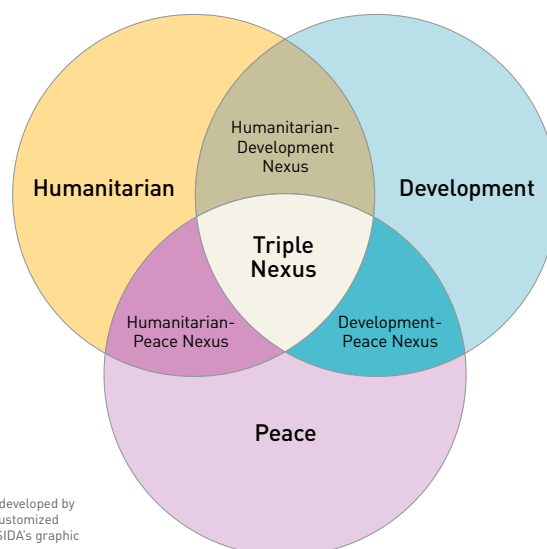
Central America to enhance environmental resilience. Specific projects include the Red Cross Regional Network on Migration for a project on humanitarian diplomacy to promote rights of migrants in Central America, as well as a contribution to Fondation AVINA to strengthen migrants participation in policy dialogue. In **Venezuela**, there are potential opportunities to explore and promote synergies with the regional strategy on social cohesion and peace-building.

HDP synergies with global development strategies

HDP synergies with global development strategies in these contexts it is extremely limited. In one HCA (**Yemen**), there is a reference to a global strategy (for Peace and Stability) in relation to contributions with UNDP, UNWOMEN and Women International League for Peace and Freedom. Further, some HCAs stress that there may be opportunities for HDP synergies with global strategies, such as the Strategies on Migration, Returns and Voluntary Repatriation (**Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad**), for Environment, Climate and Biodiversity (**Burkina Faso, Mali**) and for Peace and Stability (**Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad**). Also in few HCAs, for example in **CAR**, it is encouraged to link humanitarian interventions with peace and development programs of other actors.

Key messages and opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS

13. In countries without bilateral development strategies/ regional country windows, HDP synergies occur to a more limited extent and mainly through regional strategies.
14. There are opportunities within the continued regional or global strategies to build on experiences with the bilateral development support in **Mali** and **Burkina Faso** with a focus on reducing needs, building resilience and preventing conflict.
15. Opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS include increasing support through new global development strategies to these contexts.



ANNEX 1: HDP SYNERGIES IN THEMATIC AREAS

HDP synergies can occur in different thematic areas, depending on the context and development strategies. HCAs show that Sida works with HDP synergies in all thematic priority areas for development cooperation¹³, but to varying degrees. They also show that many development programs in these contexts are multisectoral, i.e. covering different thematic areas, as this is essential to build resilience to often overlapping challenges, to address interconnected needs and to support holistic systems strengthening. This section shows how Sida works with strengthening synergies in the thematic priority areas for development cooperation as well as in the area of conflict prevention and peace-building in the 30 FCAS.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES/LIVELIHOODS/JOB CREATION AND HDP NEXUS

Economic opportunities, livelihoods and job creation are key areas for HDP synergies in FCAS, complementing humanitarian support, to build resilience, to address drivers of conflict and crises and to reduce humanitarian needs. This include to increase access to finance and markets and increase agricultural production of crises affected communities such as smallholder farmers, particularly women and increasing access to Social Protection (SP) in FCAS, making SP systems more shock-responsive and adaptive and including the poorest and most vulnerable such as refugees and IDPs.

In 10/16 contexts with bilateral strategies/regional country windows, HCAs stress that Sida supports development programs in this area, complementing humanitarian assistance. For example:

- To increase access to finance, Sida supports for example, in Dadaab, **Kenya**, a guarantee with DRC, which allows for lending to small businesses in the refugee camps aimed at addressing households vulnerability and reducing humanitarian needs. In **DRC**, Sida supports efforts to expand access to credit and livelihoods to displaced populations in Tanganyika and in **Ethiopia** to increase access to markets, jobs and loans for youth as well as supporting private sector.
- In **Bangladesh**, Sida supports green skills development for Rohingya refugees and affected host communities through the SAFE Plus 2 program with UNHCR, WFP, IOM, FAO and empowers Rohingya and host community women through leadership, learning and livelihoods by UN Women. They also explore further synergies through on-going development contributions in the area as providing support to livelihoods and skills development creates meaningful engagement for the communities and mitigates the risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms.
- In **DRC**, Sida supports a joint program with WFP and FAO to increase small holder farmers agricultural production in Kasai, Kasai Central and Tanganyika provinces. In the drought affected areas of **Mozambique**, Sida supports increased agricultural production and economic resilience through the NGO consortia IFDC. In **Sudan**, Sida supports improved agricultural productivity in the Red Sea State through the NGO Welthungerhilfe and in **Somalia** there is support to FAO Building resilience in Middle Shabelle (BRIMS) for increased agriculture productivity in the riverain areas to improve food-security and resilience towards drought and floods. In **Syria**, interventions in the energy sector may have ripple effect on the water sector, which in turn positively affects farming, food security and livelihoods.
- Sida supports multisectoral resilience and peace-building programs that include livelihoods components in a number of contexts. For example, in **Mozambique**, there is NGO consortia with AAH/ NRC in conflict affected Cabo Delgado, aimed at reducing dependency on food aid and working to increase livelihoods opportunities. There is also a peace-building program with a multisectoral approach, including livelihoods and food-security to address underlying causes of conflict. In **Ethiopia**, Sida supports two NGO consortias, aimed at building resilience of conflict and disaster affected populations. In **Ukraine**, there is a strong focus on inclusive economic development with support to the Partnership Fund for Resilient Ukraine strengthening community resilience and to World Bank MDTF on Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform.
- Further, evidence show that it is more cost and impact effective to work more preventative ahead of shocks to protect rural livelihoods which saves lives. This has resulted in increased focus on resilience and anticipatory action among both humanitarian and development donors in some contexts, such as Somalia¹⁴ where Sida also supports two NGO resilience consortias, SomReP and BRCIS, that include livelihoods components.
- In **Ethiopia**, Sida supports a program on durable solutions for IDPs, including livelihoods support in Somali and Oromia regions with IOM, FAO and UN-Habitat. In the war affected Darfur in **Sudan**, there is also support for improving the resilience of IDPs and addressing durable solutions, including livelihoods components, through a NGO consortia, led by DRC.
- Some HCAs (such as **DRC**) also point to the need to integrate resilience and livelihoods aspects into

humanitarian work for crises affected communities to avoid further escalation.

- Sida also supports the link between humanitarian cash and SP in a number of contexts. For example, in **Uganda**, there is an innovative SP program with WFP/UNICEF that includes refugees and builds on cash-based interventions, recognizing the multiplier effect of cash on local economic development. Also within the area of mobilizing capital, support to UNCDF has tested innovative methods of lending for refugees. Sida will explore ways of frontloading development funding into refugee hosting areas with particular focus on SP, financial inclusion, employment and livelihood opportunities and explore new funding modalities including the role of private sector engagement in refugee hosting areas and in what ways the guarantee instrument could be utilized in refugee hosting areas. In **Ethiopia**, Sida reinforces the work of the Government/World Bank's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). In **Kenya**, Sida supports SP efforts with UNICEF and WFP providing cash to vulnerable households and development of SP policies. In **Mozambique**, Sida supports a joint UN program on child and gender sensitive SP, including crises affected people in the northern part. Some HCAs show that there are opportunities for nexus approaches in this area in **Guatemala** and **Kenya** (MDTF).

HCAs show that there is limited regional and global support to FCAS in the area. Of the 30 HCAs, there is only one reference to the global strategy related to ILO in **Uganda**, which undertook a study on financial systems in refugee receiving areas, laying the ground for further work on guarantees. As a result, there are opportunities to strengthen HDP synergies at various levels in this area, particularly through increasing guarantees in FCAS and ensuring that the new global strategy complements and strengthens on-going nexus efforts.

CLIMATE ACTION AND HDP NEXUS

HCAs show that many FCAS are at the frontline of the climate crises and among the least resourced to cope with and adapt to shocks and stressors. Fragility and conflict increase peoples vulnerability and exposure to climate hazards and impede coping capacity and adaptation options. Climate change adversely affects lives and livelihoods, exacerbates humanitarian needs and constitutes a significant and growing challenge to stability.

In a number of contexts, Sida supports efforts assisting the most vulnerable communities to prevent, deal with, recover from and adapt to the effects of climate

change in FCAS, complementing humanitarian assistance, in a number of contexts with bilateral strategies/regional country windows. For example:

- In the area of preparedness and prevention, Sida supports Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in **Bangladesh** within the support to UN Women with a focus on the Rohingya response, in **Somalia**, Sida supports UNDP to strengthen DRR capacity of local authorities and in the **DRC** there is support to strengthen Government Disaster Management capacity through UNDP.
- There is also an increased focus in the humanitarian and development systems on early warning and early/anticipatory action (AA) to help save lives, mitigate suffering and lower the cost of responding to humanitarian consequences to climate shocks. Accordingly, Sida supports development-financed AA for example in **Ethiopia**, through consortia with AAH/NRC aimed at reducing dependency on food aid and working to increase livelihoods opportunities. In **Mozambique**, Sida has included a mechanism that allow for flexible early action/AA to some of its development agreements, a so called crisis modifier. Two crisis modifiers have been activated (Red Cross and IFDC) and additional funds are being prepared (IFDC and Oxfam), to mitigate the effects of El Nino and reduce humanitarian needs. In **Bangladesh**, Sida supports the Government's priorities for climate adaptation and mitigation through National Action Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions.
- Sida also supports environmental restoration and resilience, complementing humanitarian efforts, for example in **Bangladesh** through green skills development for Rohingya refugees and affected host communities (SAFER plus 2 program), which is an interagency effort with UNHCR, IOM WFP, FAO, based on the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas to decrease deforestation and support environmental rehabilitation. It is a concrete example of nexus financing and has yielded positive impact at many levels.
- Sida supports protection and sustainable use of natural resources, complementing humanitarian efforts. For example, in **Colombia** the bilateral strategy encompasses efforts to reduce impacts of and strengthen resilience towards climate change, as well as strengthen sustainable management of natural resources. In **Sudan**, the strategy portfolio includes interventions complementing humanitarian programs through resilience-oriented projects on natural resource management. Sida also provide support in the area of sustainable agriculture (see section on economic opportunities).

- Regarding building climate smart infrastructure and resilient food, water and energy systems, there is in **Somalia** an example of a successful link to humanitarian support through the FAO Building Resilience in Middle Shabelle (BRIMS) program, which initially focused on water and flood management for increased agricultural production among the riverine areas to improve food security and resilience to floods and drought. Additional support was given for recovery in the aftermath of El Nino and strengthened weather data collection by **Somalia** Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), which informs the humanitarian response. There is also support for off grid energy solutions in the northern crises affected areas in **Mozambique**.
- Sida also supports multisectoral resilience programs in many contexts. For example, in **Ethiopia**, Sida supports two NGO consortia with dual mandated organizations aimed at building resilience of conflict and disaster affected populations, one with Mercy Corps, DRC and Firs Consulting and the other with AAH, IRC and DRC. Similarly in **Somalia**, there is support to two NGO consortia together with other donors: SomReP and BRCIS with the aim to strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable households and provide direct linkage to humanitarian support. Further, Sida supports the strengthening of shock responsive SP and inclusive SP systems (see section on livelihoods).
- Sida also supports locally-led adaptation efforts centered around integrating community driven solutions into local development planning processes and strengthening both communities and local authorities (**Bangladesh**).

There is HDP synergies with regional support in the area through the regional strategy for Africa, supporting regional organizations with improving risk-informed analysis and response to climate induced shocks in Sahel, including in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Nigeria** and **Mali** and though the regional Latin America strategy in the area of sustainable use of natural resources and climate change adaptation in Central America (**Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala**). Further, the new Middle East and North Africa strategy may present considerable opportunities for HDP synergies in **Syria** and **Lebanon**.

HDP synergies with global support in the area are limited. HCAs mentions two programs in the Global Strategy for Environment, Climate and Biodiversity related to the Early Warning 4 All Initiative in Mozambique and **Somalia**. Further, HCAs for **DRC, Burkina Faso** and **Mali** stress that there are further opportunities for HDP synergies with the new global strategy in this area.

Further, a recurring point raised during HCA discussions was that global efforts to build climate resilience in FCAS are insufficient. For example, in **Afghanistan** – one of the world’s most vulnerable countries to climate change, climate funding remain locked since the Taliban takeover. If climate adaptation is not scaled up, **Afghanistan** will remain hugely vulnerable to continuous shocks that will give rise to deepening vulnerabilities and an endless cycle of humanitarian emergencies and needs. There are large opportunities to promote increased access of global climate funds in extremely climate vulnerable and conflict affected contexts.

MIGRATION AND HDP NEXUS

HCAs show that the 30 FCAS host the majority of the world’s forcibly displaced people, both IDPs and refugees, that substantive humanitarian assistance is allocated to respond to their life-saving needs and that there is a large need for complementary development and peace-building efforts.

HCAs also show how Sida, particularly in the 16 contexts with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows, works alongside humanitarian assistance in both IDP and refugee situations to address drivers of forced displacement, support durable solutions and prevent further displacement.

For example, due to the strong focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, including IDPs and refugees in development efforts, there are development programs, complementing humanitarian efforts, in 7 IDP contexts such as **Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Palestine, Somalia** and **Sudan** and in 4 refugee contexts such as **Bangladesh, Kenya, Lebanon** and **Uganda**.

- In IDP contexts, Sida supports specific durable solutions programs in the conflict affected Darfur in **Sudan** (consortia, led by DRC) and in **Somalia** and Oromia regions in **Ethiopia** (IOM-FAO-UN-Habitat joint program). Sida also supports development programs that include IDPs in for example **Ethiopia** (two consortia that build resilience of conflict and crises affected people), in **Afghanistan** (Special Trust Fund and the Reconstruction Fund), in **Somalia** (BRCIS and Somrep consortias), in **Mozambique** (UNICEF on social protection, IPAS on SRHR, OHCHR on human rights, SNV on off grid energy solutions and AAH/NRC on food-security and livelihoods and WFP/UNICEF on peace-building in a multi-sectoral approach). Further, in **Palestine**, there is both humanitarian and development support to the West Bank Protection Consortia (led by NRC) to prevent forcible displacement and in **DRC** there is support for increased access to financing and livelihoods opportunities for IDPs in Tanganyika, which has contributed to the return of 130 000 IDPs.

- **In protracted refugee contexts**, Sida supports development programs for durable solutions and inclusion of refugees, complementing humanitarian support. For example, in **Uganda**, bilateral development support has a strong focus on resilience-building in refugee hosting areas for both refugees and host communities. The majority of the programs have been implemented in these areas, including innovative support on social protection with WFP/UNICEF, including refugees, and innovative lending methods for refugees with UNCDF. The new bilateral strategy, will continue to explore ways of frontloading development funding into refugee hosting areas, with particular focus on social protection, financial inclusion, employment and livelihoods opportunities, health systems strengthening, environment as well as GBV and SRHR, building on humanitarian support by working with double mandated organizations. In **Bangladesh**, Sweden use a HDP nexus approach to support the Rohingya crises. Current development support to Cox's Bazar address cooking fuel needs, environmental restoration and resilience through green skills development for refugees and affected host communities through SAFER Plus 2 program (with UNHCR, IOM, WFP and FAO), empowering Rohingya and host community women through leadership, learning and livelihoods by UN Women as well as quality health services through WHO. Further synergies with humanitarian efforts in the area of economic development are being further explored. In **Kenya**, the bilateral development strategy supports an innovative guarantee for refugees and host communities in Dadaab, implemented by DRC, which supports lending to small businesses in the refugee camps. As the new strategy will have an objective related to migration/forced displacement on strengthened capacity for host communities to integrate refugees and IDPs, there may be opportunities to increase development engagement in the area.
- Further, in **Lebanon**, many dual mandated organizations are supported working both with life-saving and long-term durable solutions. One example is the complementarity of the resilience support to market systems development with humanitarian assistance on food security. A support is also being prepared to UNHCR through the resilience strategy for more sustainable interventions for refugee inclusion, complementing humanitarian protection efforts. It is noted that any intervention that target Lebanese people and Syrian refugees has the potential to enhance social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, fostering a positive protection environment. Further, in **Colombia**, given that the crises in **Venezuela**, there are strong links with the humanitarian strategy,

particularly related to addressing the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

There is also HDP synergies with regional strategies, for example the regional strategy for Africa in **Kenya** related to migration statistics and in **South Sudan** related to refugee management capacity. The regional strategy for Latin America brings enhanced opportunities for HDP nexus and reduced humanitarian needs in **Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador** through support to the rights of migrants and refugees. There is support to the Red Cross Regional Network on Migration and to Foundation AVINA contributing to promote the rights of migrants in Northern South America and Central America.

Finally, HCAs in a number of contexts, including in **Burkina Faso, Chad, DRC, Mali and Uganda**, point to further opportunities for HDP synergies and complementary funding through the Global Strategy on Migration, Returns and Voluntary Repatriation.

BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING HEALTH AND SRHR AND HDP NEXUS

Basic social services, including health and SRHR are key areas for HDP synergies in FCAS, complementing humanitarian support, to build resilience and reduce humanitarian needs. Often humanitarian multisectoral contributions also include health. HCAs show that there are a number of contexts with bilateral development or regional country windows that focus on basic social services, particularly health and SRHR, complementing humanitarian support. For example:

- In **Myanmar**, with widespread and escalating conflict, development cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening and complementing the humanitarian support for a more effective integrated approach. This is particularly true for the health portfolio in the bilateral development cooperation as these contributions largely focus on enhancing access to lifesaving healthcare services in conflict affected areas.
- Also, in **Bangladesh**, the bilateral development strategy has the ambition to address the Rohingya crises, including in the area of health and sexual reproductive rights. Current support to Cox's Bazar builds resilience through upholding quality health services through WHO.
- In **Somalia**, Sida supports, through bilateral development strategy, a large scale health and SRHR project with Save the Children.
- In **Uganda**, a majority of contributions within the bilateral strategy have been implemented in refugee hosting areas, including innovative support in the area of social protection that includes refugees, also contributing to their increased access to health support. Sida will continue to front-load

development funding into refugee hosting areas, with particular focus on social protection, health systems strengthening and SRHR.

- In **Mozambique**, Sida supports a multisectoral intervention with UNICEF in the conflict-affected Cabo Delgado, complementing humanitarian support and there an intervention with Ipas on SRHR, partly targeting IDPs in Nampula.
- In **Ukraine**, some of Sida's development initiatives are closely tied to the humanitarian response, such as supporting the Ukraine Red Cross Society's early recovery efforts in frontline oblasts, which focuses on mental health and psychosocial support as well as water and sanitation (WASH) services.
- In **Sudan**, Sida supports institutional strengthening of WASH services through partnership with UNICEF, which has helped resolve local water supply to reduce cholera outbreaks throughout the country. In **Somalia**, Sida also supports WASH within the World Bank support.

On HDP synergies with regional and global strategies, there is support to IRC within the regional SRHR strategy for Africa, aimed at increasing access to reproductive health and rights in four countries of **Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Niger**, targeting refugees, IDPs and populations affected by humanitarian crises. Further, the HCA for **Uganda** stresses that there are opportunities for further collaboration with the Regional SRHR strategy for Africa. There are no reference to any HDP synergies with global strategies in the area.

HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND HDP NEXUS

Tackling exclusion and promoting gender equality are key areas for HDP synergies in FCAS to build resilience, address underlying causes of conflict and crises and reduce needs. HCAs show that there are efforts to that regard in a number of contexts with bilateral development strategies or regional country windows, building on and complementing humanitarian. For example:

- The **Syria** crises strategy, including **Lebanon**, focuses on promotion of freedom and fighting oppression, including rule of law, accountability, gender equality, human rights and prevention of violent extremism.
- In the protracted protection crises in **Palestine**, the new regional strategy with a country window on Palestine focuses on governance, democracy and accountability and includes a support to the West Bank Protection Consortium, through NRC, enabling synergies with the humanitarian strategy.

- In **Sudan**, Sida focuses on humanitarian-development synergies in areas such as protection and human rights, aligning humanitarian priorities. The bilateral strategy has a focus on safeguarding rights to reducing protection risks including conflict-related sexual violence and violations against children in armed conflict. With development support to UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, there will be opportunities to complement humanitarian partners protection efforts.
- In **Ethiopia**, there is bilateral development support for rehabilitation of GBV survivors and in **Guatemala**, there may be further nexus opportunities within the area of child protection.
- In **Mozambique**, there is support to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prevent violations and strengthen protection of human rights. Further, the multisector peace-building support with UNICEF/WFP in Cabo Delgado, includes a protection component, building on humanitarian programming.
- In **Bangladesh**, Sida addresses the Rohingya crisis in the area of democracy, human rights, rule of law and gender equality and current development support in Cox's Bazar empowers Rohingya and host community women through leadership, learning and livelihoods by UN Women.
- In **Colombia**, the bilateral development strategy prioritizes promotion of human rights and protection of human rights defenders and social leaders.

According to HCA, HDP synergies with regional and global strategies in the area are limited. One HCA, in **Colombia**, stresses that the link to the regional strategy for Latin America brings enhanced opportunities for HDP nexus and reduced humanitarian needs. Specifically, it aims to strengthen migration management to guarantee the rights of migrants, refugees and IDPs and to improve conditions for their socio-economic inclusion in host communities. This work will continue from both strategies and through nexus analysis when engaging with new contributions.

PEACE IN THE HDP NEXUS¹⁵

As indicated earlier, HCAs show that there is a focus on conflict prevention, peace-building and addressing the underlying causes of conflict, particularly with bilateral development strategies/regional country windows, complementing humanitarian efforts, resulting in a number of programs. For example:

- In **Ethiopia**, Sida supports a major DDR and peace-building effort through the UNDP basket fund.
- In **Mozambique**, Sida supports a program applying a triple resilience approach through the NGO IFDC, which will include recently demobilized ex-combatants as target group. Sida also supports

a program on peace-building in a multisectoral approach with UNICEF/WFP in Cabo Delgado and a program on conflict prevention with IOM/UNHABITAT in Niassa, building on humanitarian programs.

- In **Ukraine**, Sida supports mine action with Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB), UNDP and DRC - vital for delivering humanitarian aid and facilitating recovery.
- The HCA for **Lebanon** notes that any intervention targeting both Lebanese people and Syrian refugees has the potential to enhance social cohesion and peaceful social co-existence.
- The HCA for **Myanmar** stresses that Sida do require its strategic humanitarian partners to implement conflict sensitive programming and develop solid do no harm analyses.

In this area there are also HDP synergies at the regional level with the regional strategy for Africa, including the SNVs program on Peaceful Cross-border Pastoralism in **Sahel**, addressing tensions between pastoralists and farmers, the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) in **Lake Chad Basin** and support to IGAD's Peace and security department related to the peace agreements in **South Sudan**.

Similarly, at the global level, there are HDP synergies with the strategy for Peace and Stability, including in **Myanmar**, with Geneva Call, promoting respect for International Humanitarian Law by armed groups and de facto authorities and in **Yemen** related to contributions with UNDP, UNWOMEN and Women International League for Peace and Freedom.

Key messages and opportunities for maximizing aid impact in FCAS

16. HDP synergies are considered in all Sida's thematic priority areas to a varying degree.
17. HDP synergies with global development strategies are extremely limited. There are opportunities to increase support to FCAS through new global thematic strategies, building on and complementing current nexus approaches.
18. Opportunities include to support increased access to climate funding, particularly climate adaptation, in FCAS, through for example global climate funds.
19. Opportunities include to further mobilize resources in FCAS and to build on and learn from on-going efforts, particularly in the area of guarantees.
20. Opportunities include to continue monitor Sida's work on strengthening HDP synergies in FCAS on a yearly basis with the assistance of the new helpdesk.

Endnotes

- 1 "Nexus" refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actions. "Nexus approach" refers to the aim of strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each pillar – to the extent of their relevance in the specific context- in order to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict. DAC recommendation on HDP nexus, page 6. [643.en.pdf](#)
- 2 The Swedish Government's Aid Agenda - Development Assistance for a New Era, p. 25. [development-assistance-for-a-new-era--freedom-empowerment-and-sustainable-growth-brochure.pdf \[government.se\]](#).
- 3 Sida's Operational Strategy 2024-2026: 3.1 External objectives, page 12. Is expanded under Goal I.1, p. 6. Improved results through better synergies between strategies at various levels: "Collaboration and synergies between HDP, a so called HDP nexus approach, is strengthened to make overall assistance more effective and to prevent and reduce the length of humanitarian crisis". [Sida's operational strategy 2024-2026](#).
- 4 DAC recommendation on HDP Nexus, OECD DAC 2019. [https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf](#), Guidance Note for Sida : HDP Nexus: [Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus | Sida](#)
- 5 IRC Emergency Watchlist 2025: "A World out of balance", IRC, [2025 Emergency Watchlist | International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#).
- 6 Countries marked in bold have a bilateral development strategy or regional country window and countries marked in italics lacks such strategies.
- 7 Collective Outcomes refer to a commonly agreed measureable result or impact enhanced by the combined effort of different actors, within the respective mandates, to address and reduce peoples' unmet needs, risks and vulnerability, increasing their resilience and addressing the root causes of conflicts. DAC recommendation on the HDP nexus, page 6, [https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf](#).
- 8 UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) who usually also is the Resident Coordinator (RC) for UN Development Cooperation and the Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in Peace-keeping Missions, where available.
- 9 Collecting experiences of HDP nexus practices in three development cooperation 'phase-out' countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, & South Sudan, Sida Helpdesk on Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance, August 2024, [Enheten för tematik och lärande 1 och 2 - samla erfarenheter 3 - All Documents](#)
- 10 A Crisis Modifier is a financing mechanism included in development programs allowing organizations to act early on early warning signals that risk develop into a shock or crisis in the area of the project. Through CM, the organization can prevent a major crisis from developing and prevent humanitarian needs from arising by directly deploying efforts that strengthen the capacity to handle the emerging crisis.
- 11 International Fertilizer Development Center
- 12 Collecting experiences of HDP nexus practices in three development cooperation 'phase-out' countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, & South Sudan, Sida Helpdesk on Human Security and Humanitarian Assistance, August 2024, [Enheten för tematik och lärande 1 och 2 - samla erfarenheter 3 - All Documents](#)
- 13 Combating poverty through job creation, trade and education, improved health for the most vulnerable, promoting freedom and fighting oppression, increased and more effective climate aid, strengthened women's and girls' freedom and empowerment and strengthened synergies between development assistance and migration policies.
- 14 In Afghanistan, FAO estimates that every dollar to protect rural livelihoods saves around 7 USD in humanitarian assistance. In Somalia, FAO estimates that every dollar spent to protect rural livelihoods saves around 10 USD in humanitarian food assistance.
- 15 Understanding the peace dimension of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus – A Technical Note, Sida, July 2024. [Understanding the peace dimension of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus - A Technical Note](#)

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