



THE HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE NEXUS APPROACH

**Practical Guidance with Recommended Steps &
Examples from Country Food Security Clusters**

CONTENTS

1. Introduction: Target Audience and Purpose	2
2. Setting the Scene: Food Security, Drivers and the HDP Nexus	3
3. The FSC and the Nexus – Developing Tools to Strengthen HDPN Coordination.....	6
4. Operationalizing the HDP Nexus through Coordinated Action – Five Pilot Countries	7
5. The Four Key Phases and Country Examples.....	8
5.1. Mapping of HDP Actors and Activities.....	10
5.2. Joint Analysis of the Drivers of Hunger and Food Insecurity.....	16
5.3. Aligned, Complementary and Joint Response Planning.....	24
5.4. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning.....	34
RESOURCES	45
ABBREVIATIONS	48

1. Introduction: Target Audience and Purpose

"Humanitarian response, sustainable development and sustaining peace are three sides of the same triangle."

UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres, in 2016, on the idea of strong interlinkages across the 3 pillars.¹

In recent years, several initiatives have recognised the importance of bridging the divide between humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) actors and activities. This is especially relevant for food security. The food crises leading to acute food insecurity are generally protracted, and this means they rarely can be resolved/addressed by humanitarian response alone.

Target Audience: This document is intended a practical guidance to support Food Security Cluster Coordination Teams (CCs, IMOs and co-Coordinators) – with FSC members and CLA Representatives as a secondary target audience - who may want to further promote HDPN agenda at country level. At present, FSCs are at different level of engagement with the HDPN agenda, and some FSCs have not yet been engaged but may want to expand their role as “bridges” between humanitarian, development, peace building plans **including strengthening their linkages to development and peace actors’ existing coordination mechanisms.**

Purpose: This guidance will briefly explain the HDPN approach, the gFSC role and the role a country FSC can play to support the roll-out of different/various HDPN activities and initiatives - ranging from one-time light mapping exercises to more comprehensive coordination of the HDPN through food security graduation approaches. Building on the experiences from the countries supported by gFSC with a full or partial roll-out of the HDPN in the past two years, this document presents/outlines the four main steps/actions the FSC (i.e. the coordination team with cluster partners and in collaboration with development, peace actors and donors) – can undertake.

Country examples are used to illustrate, in practice, how such steps have been implemented and to flag, where possible, how HDPN activities relate to the regular work of FSC coordination teams and how they relate to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). The guidance outlines what resources (human and financial resources) may be required at country level depending on the type of HDP related activities.

FSC Role and Mandate within the HDPN: To what extent a country FSC may want to (or be able to) implement these steps will **depend on the country context**, FSC team **capacity and available resources**, Cluster Lead Agency (CLA) **support**, and on the general appetite for HDPN activities amongst partners, at **HCT and government level** and among **donors** – and not least amongst **development and peace actors**. The intent of this document is to **present the options and steps** an FSC team could take if the HCT/CLAs /government/donors actively are promoting HDPN and collective outcomes.

It is important to note that not all HCTs are going in the same direction in relation to the HDPN agenda – and **it is not the role (or mandate) of the FSC to push this agenda**. However, the steps, options and tools

¹ United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres making his remarks when taking his oath of office on December 12, 2016 (United Nations)

outlined in this document, are meant to help interested FSCs, if there are ongoing discussions around the HDP nexus at country level. The role of the FSC is to coordinate, link FSC partners with development and peace actors, bridge existing coordination platforms and generally aim to strengthen the coordination at national and local level to make sure HDP actors are not working in silos. It is not the intention to reinvent the wheel but rather build on what is already in place in country.

The FSC should support the process but always in line with approach taken by HCT / UNCT and (especially where national HDP plans are available) the government.

TIP: This document is complementary to other tools developed by the gFSC including the HDPN Activity Handbook and the technical guidance on mapping – see Annex 1 for details.

2. Setting the Scene: Food Security, Drivers and the HDP Nexus

Current Food Security Situation: After an initial positive trend, which saw the number of food insecure people decline globally by 167 million over a decade (SOFI, 2015), food insecurity is again on the rise. The 2022 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC, 2022) highlights an alarming deterioration of acute food insecurity during 2021.

Nearly 193 million people were in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 and above – see more on IPC in 6.7) or equivalent in 53 countries/territories where comparable data were available in 2021. This represents an increase of nearly 40 million people compared to the previous high reached in 2020 (reported in the GRFC, 2021).

The GRFC Mid-Year Update (2022) further reiterates that by September 2022 these numbers/figures increased again to between 201.4 and 205.1 million people, making 2022 the fourth consecutive year of rising levels of acute food insecurity.

Drivers of Food Insecurity: Food insecurity continues to be driven by multiple, integrated drivers that are often mutually reinforcing. *These drivers include:*

- **Conflict** remains the main driver of food crises, displacement, disruption of livelihoods and damaging economies. Conflicts have become increasingly complex and protracted - all countries with populations facing Catastrophe/IPC Phase 5 in 2022 (such as Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen) have protracted conflicts.
- **Severe weather extremes and climate-related shocks** (including drought and prolonged dry spells in many countries and extreme flooding in others) are becoming more intense and frequent. This results in crop and livestock losses, destroyed homes and displaced people.
- **Economic shocks** impact global supply chains, food prices, incomes, inflation and purchasing power. In recent times, these have been both pre-existing and COVID-19-related. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated containment measures disrupted the functioning of food systems and economies and exacerbated pre-existing structural drivers of food insecurity and vulnerability.
- These drivers have been compounded by the effects of the war in Ukraine on global food, energy and fertilizer prices and supplies.

TIP: The interaction between the **climate crisis and protracted crises** is increasingly severe. It undermines livelihoods, increases competition over natural resources and contributes to worsening levels of food security. [TF4]

Evidence shows that addressing food insecurity and hunger requires addressing systematic and multi-sectoral drivers. This is compounded by the fact that, at a time of increasing needs, there is a strong **trend of decreasing funding** in many contexts. Appeals for humanitarian assistance have risen sharply and in the span of 10 years, the global humanitarian overview (GHO) funding requirement increased from 9 billion in 2012 to over 40 billion in 2022. This leaves less money for tackling root causes and achieving sustainable development.

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)

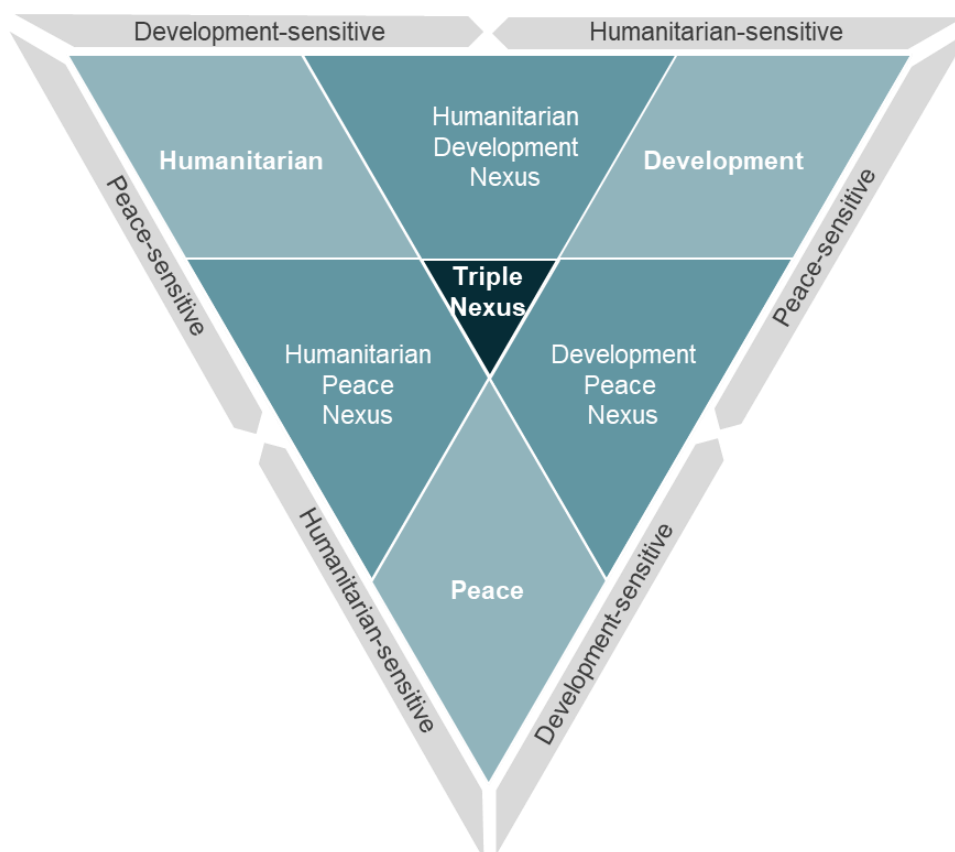
It is increasingly clear that **people’s lives are not siloed and neither are the challenges that affect them** – there is therefore a growing urgency to address multifaceted needs and vulnerabilities through integrated and coordinated multisectoral and multi-actor response.

Thinking around the HDP Nexus² is not new however, in recent years, the HDPN – and the idea of bridging the divide between humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) actors - has gained momentum (*see chapter 10 in the FSC Coordinator Handbook for more details*).

WHAT IS THE “HDPN APPROACH”?

The **HDPN is an approach** (or “a way of working”) where HDP and other actors, in protracted crises, join forces to diminish structural risks and address the needs of the affected population. It strives to make the most of the distinct capacities and expertise of HDP and other relevant actors to simultaneously address both immediate needs and the drivers and root causes of food and conflict, reduce chronic vulnerability and strengthen capacities to mitigate risks. It does not imply a merging of programmes or integration of HDP actors and actions, but better coordination, coherence and complementarity between them.

Figure 1. The Triple Nexus Approach



Most people in need of humanitarian assistance live in situations of **protracted crisis** - the average humanitarian crisis now lasts more than nine years. It is becoming increasingly clear that, in such complex and prolonged crises, short-term humanitarian interventions alone cannot address the effects and structural causes of food insecurity, conflict and

TIP: A **Protracted crisis** is defined as countries for which the UN has launched a coordinated appeal at least five years in a row.

² Throughout this practical guidance document the terms ‘Nexus’, ‘HDP Nexus’, ‘HDPN’ and ‘Triple Nexus’ are used interchangeably unless stated otherwise.

displacement. Building resilience in these settings through coordinated efforts by HDP actors is therefore of interest to all stakeholders.

Therefore, HDP actions all have a role to play to address protracted food crisis:

- Humanitarian response to save lives and protect people,
- Development assistance to address multi-dimensional structural challenges, and,
- Peace action to ensure that (conflict-prone) countries can sustain peace, *i.e.* prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.

This is why ensuring coherence, complementarity, and collaboration across the HDP nexus is so important in both **conflict-affected** and **protracted crisis contexts**: to reduce needs, vulnerabilities and risks, and address drivers and underlying causes of conflict over the long-term.

Collective Outcomes: In line with the HDP nexus approach, HDP actors must work in complementarity (through complementary, aligned and well-coordinated action) to achieve “collective outcomes” in order to reduce people’s complex and changing needs, risks and vulnerabilities.

Collective outcomes offer a **strategic tool** for HDP actors to agree on concrete and measurable results that they want to jointly achieve in a country over multiple years. They envision a common result, promote the connectivity and complementarity between plans and programmes.

There has been **progress** in relation to strengthening the HDP nexus, especially when considering the complexity and long-standing concerns around the risks that greater collaboration with development actors may pose to principled humanitarian action, humanitarian space and independence. However, the **ability to translate the ‘nexus’ from theory into practice, at scale, and at country level remains a challenge.**

TIPS ON COLLECTIVE OUTCOMES:

- ☑ For humanitarians (and thus for country FSCs), it is the RC/HC and the HCT who take lead on discussions to identify and implement “collective outcomes” at country level.
- ☑ *Read more about the HDP nexus and “collective outcomes” (including about the 2020 [Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#) developed by IASC) in the FSC Coordinator Handbook, chapter 10, section 10.2.*
- ☑ *For tips related to conflict specific contexts and what the FSC team should consider when working in conflict-affected countries, see 5.3.*

Resources

Resources

- For background information, this [Nexus Essentials](#) online course (developed by the Nexus Academy, a DAC-UN Dialogue initiative, 2022) provides a thorough introduction to Nexus approaches across the HDP pillars as well as many useful resources.
- IASC [Light Guidance on Collective Results](#) (IASC Results Group 4, 2020).
- See the [video](#) ‘Visualizing the P in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus’ (FAO, IOM 2020) for a quick overview of the HDP nexus.

Additional Resources:

- Main Global Network Against Food Crises [website](#) (EU, FAO, WFP).
- [DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#) (OECD, 2020).
- **IASC Results Group 4** has worked to strengthen links and synergies between humanitarian and development actions/programmes, with linkages to peace. See for example:
 - [A Mapping and Analysis of Tools and Guidance on the H-P Linkages in the HDP-Nexus](#) (IASC RG4, 2022), pp. 20-33 provides a comprehensive overview of relevant resources.
 - [IASC Mapping of Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus Approaches, Synthesis Report](#) (IASC, 2021).
 - [Issue paper: Exploring peace within the Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus](#) (IASC, 2020). For a quick overview of the content, see pp. 22-23 in [Key Operational IASC Guidance: Executive and Operational Summaries](#) (IASC 2022).

Note: From April 2022, Results Group 4 has transitioned to **IASC Task Force 4 - this Task Force plans to develop HDPN guidance tailored for country clusters in 2023.**

- For background information, see also the former **Grand Bargain Workstream 10**.
- **Issue paper: Exploring peace within the HDPN** (IASC, 2020).
- **Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030 – A how-to guide**. (FAO, 2022).
- **Development actors at the nexus: Lessons from crises in Bangladesh, Cameroon, and Somalia** (Development Initiatives, 2021).
- **Contribution to improving the Prospects for Peace** (WFP, 2019).
- **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF): Guidance** (United Nations Sustainable Development Group, 2019).

3. The FSC and the Nexus – Developing Tools to Strengthen HDPN Coordination

In 2018, the **Global Network Against Food Crisis** launched the Global Network Against Food Crisis Programme in 2018 with the gFSC supporting strengthening joint programming and response at country and regional levels.

Broader gFSC Objective: The overall objective is to build the FSC capacity to respond to food crises through strengthening the HDP nexus approach. To this end, the gFSC has worked to equip FSCs in **five pilot countries** with the human resources and tools required to enhance coordination among HDP partners by bridging existing development and peace coordination platforms, including strengthening coordination at sub-national level.

Developing Common Tools: The activities, products and tools being developed for these pilots can be used by FSCs in countries working towards operationalising of the nexus (while context specific, the approach is designed for areas identified as protracted food insecurity hotspots). The gFSC has developed **guidance** on how to improve synergy and alignment between humanitarian activities, resilience and peace efforts by strengthening coordination among HDP actors describing various options and delivery modalities to respond to different types of crises in order to effectively promote resilience, food security and nutrition.

In addition to this “practical guidance”, the tools developed by the gFSC include:

- **The HDPN Handbook of Activities:** FSC Coordinators can consult this handbook to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context.
- **Guidance on Mapping of HDP Activities and Actors** (in five countries): This provides step by step guidance on how to capture development and peace activities within the current humanitarian IM mapping at country level.
- Other products that might help country FSCs include **concept notes, TOR templates and various other templates** to support the introduction of the four steps described below.
See the [FSC website](#) – or contact the gFSC for details.

TIPS ON TERMINOLOGY:

Four key principles that are important to understand when talking about HDP coordination: Synergy, complementarity, convergence and coherence.

- ☑ **Synergetic interventions** can produce combined effects that are greater than the sum of their individual effects (the concept: 1+1=3).

Jointly launched by the European Union, FAO and WFP in 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), the **Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)** is a direct example of the WHS’s call for new approaches to tackle protracted and recurrent crises by bridging the divide between development and humanitarian partners while contributing to the global efforts on the SDG to End Hunger (SDG2).

The main aim was to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities associated with acute hunger; achieve food security and improved nutrition; and promote sustainable agriculture and food systems.

→ *See the [GNAFC website](#)*

→ *See the [gFSC specific website](#)*

- ☑ **Complementarity** implies that the actions of one sector completes those of another sector (or more sectors) thus enhancing mutual support and increased results.
- ☑ **Convergence** requires that different actors' interventions are aligned towards achieving a common goal.
- ☑ **Coherence** entails minimizing duplication and ensuring that the activities of one sector are not counterproductive for another.

4. Operationalizing the HDP Nexus through Coordinated Action – Five Pilot Countries

Over the past 2 years, several country FSCs - with support from the gFSC team in Rome - have taken steps towards operationalising the HDP nexus. This has been done in a way that matched the specific country context and appetite for such activities. Five countries – Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan – were selected³ to initiate activities aimed at moving beyond traditional humanitarian approaches and sector siloed coordination to sustainably address food crises.



At global level: A small team within the gFSC have been supporting 5 countries over past 2 years (for some countries, mainly during 2022).⁴

At national level: Capacities at national level have been reinforced through the provision of additional human resources to the pilot country FSCs (for example through dedicated IMO and HDP focal points to support the coordinated programming).

Chad Pilot: this approach was introduced in 2019 in Chad, and it is currently (2022) being implemented in four provinces. Here, WFP and FAO, with the relevant clusters (Nutrition, Food Security and WASH)– and supported by the gFSC – are leading an all-stakeholders’ inclusive exercise to overhaul the efforts around eradicating hunger (SDG2) by implementing a joint response plan (*see details on the “food security graduation approach” in 5.3*). This is done in close partnership with NGOs, CBOs (different groups: farmers associations, youth, women, etc.), local authorities, government technical ministries/entities and the donors (“donors HDPN task force”). The pilot objectives and activities are aligned with the collective HDPN outcomes for Chad and activities are in line with the IASC Light Guidance on Collective Results (*see above*).

Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan Pilots: During 2022, the gFSC has scaled up the “roll-out” of HDN related activities in other locations, using tools developed by the gFSC and with consideration of the context specific requirements. This has included supporting the food security clusters (and sectors) in Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan with a view to strengthen the coordination among HDP Actors.

Specific examples from these five countries are included in the below sections, which describe the four main steps which FSCs can apply to enhance HDP coordination at country level. Experiences from these countries are used to help explain how the “theory” of these key steps have been adapted and implemented in practise at country level.

³ The five countries were selected based on the following criteria: 1) Presence of HDP actors, 2) Protracted crisis, 3) Food Security Cluster already in place and functioning well and 5) Request from both CLAs and FSC partners.

⁴ The project will end in December 2022. There will be limited capacity following this point at gFSC level.

Resources

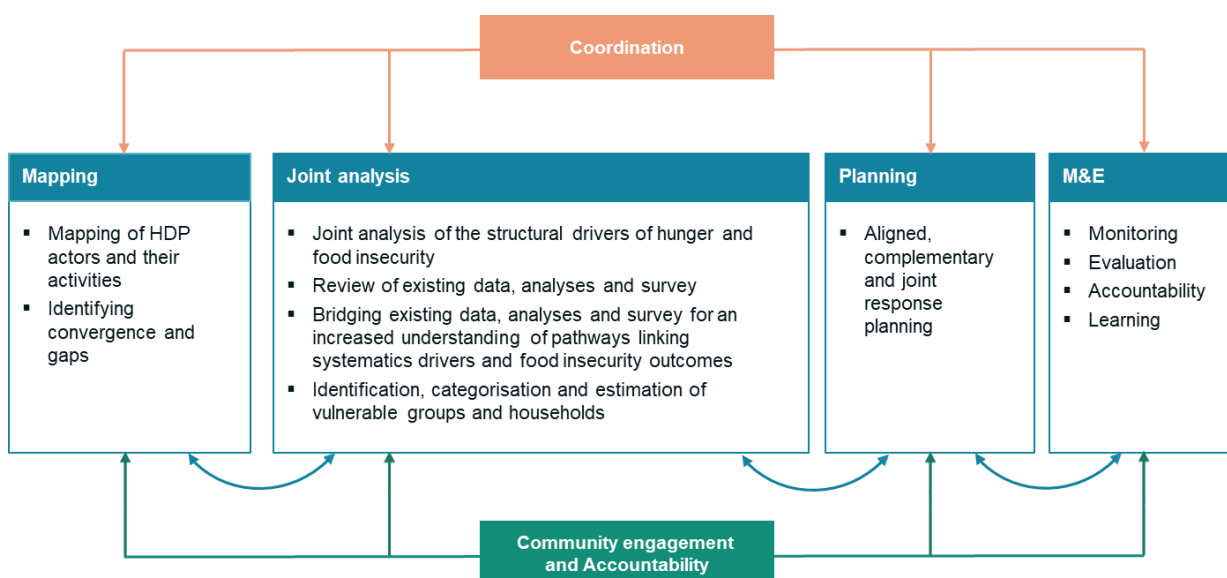
- For available material from the countries currently implementing HDP related activities, contact the gFSC. See also the [webpage](#) on the FSC website dedicated to the gFSC pilot on HDPN.
- For presentations from FSC teams Chad, Nigeria and South Sudan describing their HDPN related work, see the video from Day 3 (session 12) and the PPTs used from the gFSC Global Partners Meeting (November 2022) – find both video and PPTs on the [FSC website](#).

5. The Four Key Phases and Country Examples

Based on the experience at country level, there are generally four main steps, that FSCs interested in furthering the coordination between HDP actors / activities at country level can follow (see figure 2):

1. Mapping of HDP actors and activities;
2. Joint analysis of the structural drivers of hunger and food insecurity;
3. Aligned, complementary and joint response planning; and,
4. Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning.

Figure 2. Process in operationalizing the HDP Nexus in convergence areas



The “Why”, the “What” and the “How”

Under each step, this document will outline the objective (the “why”) and the key activities and how this could be done (the “what and the how”). As mentioned above, this is based on the experiences from the 5 pilot countries. Examples including and best practices of how this has been implemented, adapted and contextualised at country level are included.

How does this relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?

Under each step, this document also seeks to reflect on how that specific step – mapping, analysis, response planning, monitoring – may fit within the HPC schedule / timing of regular FSC activities and how it might relate to for example the HNO and HRP.

What are the Key Human Resources Required?

In addition, in all four sections, the key resources in terms of additional staffing (e.g. IMOs, statisticians or sub-national level HDPN Focal Points) and/or funding (for example for surveys and studies) have been flagged to facilitate possible discussions on this between the FSC team and the CLAs.

TIPS: The four steps will be country specific and can be adapted, mixed and matched!

- ☑ The four steps have to be in line with any national level activities (such as HCT set collective outcomes or other general HDP related initiatives) – however, they can be adapted (and simplified, if required) according to the specific country preference and context.
- ☑ It is important to emphasise that the four steps can be “mixed and matched” to fit the specific country requirements - *i.e.* according to the level of interest of the CLAs, FSC partners, of the HCT / OCHA / RC/HC, the FSC can introduce only one – or more – steps, in whichever order fits the context. Hence the order is not key nor fixed.
- ☑ The end result would ideally include all four steps, however this will depend on the country requirements and the FSC capacity to undertake such steps. The overall goal is that the cluster should be more HDP sensitive.

TIP: *These elements are essential, you can start with whichever piece in whichever order, but in the end all the elements should be included.*

In practical terms, this means that:

- ☑ Country FSCs can start with one step and then, if interest is generated (at HCT level, amongst HDP actors and at Government level) and results are achieved, additional steps can be introduced. The important point is to work towards bridging the existing gaps and strengthening existing HDP coordination platforms to build trust amongst HDP actors and to build on what is existing in country.
- ☑ The order of the steps can be adapted to the need and specific interest of the country e.g. some countries prioritise participatory learning where others focus on mapping. Some countries have started with the joint analysis, (Chad) where others started with the monitoring/evaluation (South Sudan).
- ☑ The specific step to introduce first will depend on actual opportunities in the countries, joint interests and capacity (*see more on resource requirement under each step: 5.1-5.4*) – and the approach should be contextualised to the country situation, OCHA/HCT initiatives etc.

OVERARCHING ISSUES & IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER FROM IASC

The IASC Task Force 4 on *Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace*⁵ flags the following as issues and implications to consider when implementing the HDPN at country level:

- ☑ It is important that humanitarian actions are reflective of their impact on and potential contribution to longer-term actions to reduce humanitarian need, and how they link with efforts across the Nexus to forge a sustainable peace.
- ☑ Conflict-sensitivity, localization, context specificity, rights-based approaches and sustainability, when put into action through targeted and complementary planning and programming across the Nexus, can become the building blocks for sustaining peace.

To increase interactions across the HDPN, there are a range of options to consider, including:

- ☑ Shared, joint or ‘joined-up’ context and conflict analyses across the Nexus
- ☑ Outcome-based planning, ideally based on collective outcomes
- ☑ Flexible, responsive and agile programming that can adapt to an evolving context
- ☑ Increasing understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities, activities and capacities and exchange of expertise by humanitarians, development and peace actors, and vice versa
- ☑ Scaling up capacity for context and conflict analysis, and incorporating conflict-sensitivity into programme design
- ☑ Advocating for financing across humanitarian, development and peace programming, while safeguarding financing to respond to immediate humanitarian needs as they arise

⁵ In early 2022, the IASC **Results Group 4 Humanitarian-Development Collaboration** transitioned to **IASC Task Force 4**. This Task Force focuses on supporting the understanding and implementing Humanitarian-Development collaboration and its linkages to peace, consistent with humanitarian principles. See more on the IASC Results Groups and Task Forces in the FSC Coordinator Handbook (gFSC, early 2023).

- ☑ Adherence to the ‘do no harm’ principle as well as Accountability to Affected Populations, the centrality of protection, ‘doing more good’ when possible, while responding to the local context and the voices and capacities of local people and communities.⁶

5.1. Mapping of HDP Actors and Activities

The “Why”

Country FSCs engage in regular 5W mapping exercises (Who is doing What, Where, When, for Whom) as part of the standard HPC IM requirements or during ad hoc exercises that might be required to improve the cluster response. HDPN mapping initiatives are based on the same overall objectives – to map out who is doing what where in which areas (geographical and assistance wise) to improve coordination.

Since FSCs already do 5Ws mapping of humanitarian actors, this section describes what an FSC team can do to go beyond humanitarian response and in order to have a holistic understanding of how HDP actors are working together towards a collective outcome e.g. SDG2.

Building on existing coordination mechanisms and tools, FSCs can enhance their work by strengthening coordination with relevant development and peace actors. One first step is to map these actors and their activities with the ultimate goal to strengthen synergies of HDP actions.

Objective: For the FSC, the overall objective is to identify ways to better address food insecurity across the HDPN. Mapping contributes to this.

The “What”

HDP mapping provides a way to gather data from a large number of actors from multiple sectors/clusters whilst also enhancing data analysis, exchanging information in a simple and secure manner, and monitoring the presence and gaps of actors.

FSC teams can map key HDP platforms, actors as well as activities that contribute to food security and nutrition. Through the development and regular update of HDPN informational products (dashboards and maps) this can help with identification of gaps and duplications and areas of potential convergence. *The idea is to:*

- **Map existing platforms used for coordination of HDP actors and interventions:**
 - To see how the bridge between clusters at country level and those existing platforms can be strengthened,
 - To see how collaboration and coordination can be further improved.
- **Map HDP actors and their activities:**
 - To identify gaps, duplications and areas of convergence with a view to improve the synergies between these actions
 - To improve the understanding of the current response and existing capacities (what are the opportunities to strengthen the already existing capacities and interventions?)

The “How”

Note – is there interest? This mapping exercise should be initiated when there is an established interest in doing so (among CLAs, partners and not least the HCT, ICCG and the Government). For example, if there are ongoing discussions, generally, in support of the HDPN and collective outcomes.

Overall FSC Team Roles

Depending on the country context, the **FSC Coordinator** will normally lead on the initial facilitation of the various activities, described below, and initial outreach / coordination with the different stakeholders.

The **FSC Information Management Officer** (IMO) however, will lead on practical and technical aspects of this exercise, ensuring an effective information management system (i.e. ensuring relevant FSC

⁶ See more on humanitarian principle, AAP in chapter 1 and on the centrality of protection (and other cross cutting dimensions) in chapter 5 in the FSC Coordinator Handbook.

information drawn from recent 5Ws-based data and information gathered and collated from other clusters, and relevant HDP actors).

In practical terms, the FSC team should consider the following:

■ **Identify / map out existing coordination platforms (i.e. key forums) that bring together multiple actors:**

These coordination platforms can vary depending on the context. In the majority of countries, the RC office, UNDP and/or World Bank play a leading (convening) role in relation to HDP coordination platforms. Relevant ministries may also play an active role (Ministry of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation in Chad⁷, Ministry of RRR⁸ in Nigeria, etc.). In certain countries, it could also be NGOs (for example in South Sudan the NGO “Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility” is active in bringing together humanitarian, peace and development actors whereas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo the consortium of HDP actors MAGNA plays a similar role).

- Contact OCHA for the humanitarian side and the Resident Coordinator’s office, UNDP, World Bank to look at development and peace actors.
- This step should consider other coordination forums such as Durable Solution Working Groups, sub-national or regional coordination mechanisms etc. In South Sudan for example, there is a nexus working group: the Partnership for Resilience and Recovery.
- It is useful to involve the ICCG to bring visibility and strengthen coordination overall.

TIP

☑ This step should help identify if this type of initiative will **bring added value** or whether it might **risk duplicate existing efforts**.

■ **Initiate the mapping of key HDP actors and activities contributing to food security and nutrition (building on the information above):**

- **Identify all relevant humanitarian actors:** From FSC partners (using the 5W) and from other clusters (looking closely at the activities that have a potential impact on nutrition – mostly within Nutrition, Health and WASH clusters, but it could be also Protection, including GBV, Mine Action, NFI) Cluster Coordinators and IMOs in the country could use ICCG and IMWG as a platform to communicate and get information from other clusters.
- **Identify all relevant development and peace actors:** Existing Development and Peace coordination actors such as World Bank, UNDP and relevant Government counterparts such as Ministry of RRR could help to provide a list of actors and their activities that contributes to address food insecurity. FAO and WFP, and FSC partners with dual mandates (working in both humanitarian and development areas) can also support with identification of relevant actors / activities.
- **Potential actors could also include:** Decentralized/local government authorities, traditional institutional authorities, civil society organizations (including women’s associations, local cooperatives, associations and organizations etc.), organized self-help communities, local and international NGOs (humanitarian actors, development actors, peacebuilding actors), UN agencies, private sector (if relevant).

TIP

☑ For FSC teams, cooperating with the development and peace actors could help contribute to cluster transition planning.
See more in the FSC Coordinator Handbook chapter 3, section 3.8.

See practical TIPS on how to identify what is relevant to map, on the Importance of Activity equivalence, on the classification of activities and on avoiding double reporting below.

■ **Ensure buy in from all relevant parties and make sure all parties understand the objective behind the mapping exercise:**

- As possible, it is recommended to involve all HDP local, national and international actors (including existing coordination platforms, and especially the ICCG and HCT on the humanitarian side and government, WB, UNDP, UN peacekeeping operations etc.) from the beginning and throughout the process to gain wider participation, buy in and engagement. This can take

⁷ Ministère de l’Economie, de la Planification du Développement et de la Coopération Internationale

⁸ Ministry For Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement

different forms depending on the specific context, capacity, resources and overall interest and priority given to collective outcomes.

- **Tip:** In some countries (e.g. Nigeria) the process was initiated with an **inception workshop** to ensure all actors were on the same page in relation to overall objectives, the planned steps and expected outcomes etc. This can be done before or after (to show and discuss the findings) the mapping exercise.
- Depending on the interest at country level, this might involve discussions on how to implement several of the four steps, i.e. planning for analysis and joint response planning on the back of the mapping activity, or simply prioritising one or two of the steps that fit the country requirements (*see above*).

■ **Collect the data (undertaking the actual mapping exercise):**

- For **humanitarian mapping**, FSC teams can use the **already existing 5W** of the sectors/clusters.
- For the **mapping of development and peace actors**, FSC teams can build on the **generic excel template** developed by the gFSC which can then be contextualised and adjusted to fit the specific country context and requirements.
- The **FSC Team will collect data on HDP activities that contribute to food security in order to identify:**
 - Existing (and planned) HDP interventions/activities and their specific coverage (including geographical area, target population and duration of activity).
 - Existing gaps (in terms of types of beneficiaries, geographical, sectoral, and financial – some include both actual/current as well as gaps based on planned activities).
 - Potential cases of duplication (areas, activities etc).
 - Time frames of implementation of each HDP activity area.
 - Implementing actors and donors (with due regard given to data safety and sensitivity – *see more on data protection, under 5.4*).

See practical TIPS on granularity of mapping below.

■ **Using the Mapping Results:**

- **Dashboards to visualise HDP Data:** The IMO (with support from the Coordinator, the gFSC IMO and the technical guidance on mapping) should clean the data, consolidate it into single dataset, analyse and organize the collected information and data on actors and interventions in interactive and static dashboards. **Such dashboards should, at a minimum:**
 - Include the location of HDP partners, projects and activities - by sector, HDP mapping activity area- and specific activity that contributes to food security, location (also by other indicators if relevant/available, depending on context). FSC teams can use the HDPN Activity Handbook for reference to identify key activity areas – see resources below.
 - Maps (generated with the help of ArcMap or QGIS) that clearly visualise the data collected at the agreed admin level
- **Facilitate Strategic Analysis:** With some analysis on the part of the FSC team, mapping can help identify strategic geographical areas and opportunities for complementarity, synergy and convergence (i.e. areas with overlapping interests) among actors. The mapping, and the dashboards can help the FSC team – and partners – clearly visualise and identify gaps and duplications as well as help with more strategic analysis to identify overall opportunities for synergy (in terms of geographical focus, beneficiaries' profile or specific assistance) and convergence of activities.
- **Overall Objective of Dashboards:** To facilitate coordination among HDPN actors, serve as an informational resource for effective programming and facilitate decision making related to funding allocation.

This process can also help the FSC and HDP partners by informing the focus of the food security analysis (*see details in 5.2*) and / or the strategic planning and targeting approach (*described in 5.3 and see Nigeria example below*).

OVERALL TIPS:

- ☑ **How to identify what is relevant to map:** It is country specific how FSC (with HPD partners) will identify the locations, projects and activities to be mapped – generally, it is prioritised geographical locations of need with specific focus on those (larger) projects where food security (or nutrition) was “identified as an expected outcome” or where the activities that could have potential input on food security and nutrition. This is why, at country level, access to services and infrastructures value chains activities, peacebuilding activities that could influence livelihoods and therefore food security, have been mapped as part of this exercise (e.g. Nigeria, Chad and South Sudan).
- ☑ **Classification of purely humanitarian activities vs purely development / peace activities:** A question that often arise during reporting or training sessions is on how FSC teams should classify which activities are purely humanitarian and which activities are development / peace. It is recommended to not distinguish them strictly, as they are closely interconnected. For data collection purposes, FSC teams could following this rule of thumb: if an activity is not reported in humanitarian 5W collection tool, the team can ask a partner to report it with the HDPN data collection tool. All activities will be reflected on the HDPN informational products without indicating which of them are humanitarian and which development or peace.
- ☑ **Avoid Double-Reporting:** The FSC should ensure **double reporting** for the partner organizations is avoided. If a partner submits regular / humanitarian 5W, the FSC should not ask them to submit again within the HDPN data collection (unless a partner conducts both humanitarian and development/peace activities – in such a case, the FSC should ask them to submit development/peace activities in the HDPN template).
- ☑ **Granularity of Mapping:** In 2022, the gFSC team has generally helped the pilot countries map HDPN activities at admin 2 level, however if partners express the need for better coordination, data can be collected at admin 3 level – *see the example from Nigeria (under “Country Examples”) on the added value of this higher level of granularity.* This higher level of granularity requires significantly more effort on the part of partners in terms of reporting and filling in the template.

How does HDP Mapping relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?**FSC Mapping:**

The FSC can build on relevant FSC information collected in recent 5Ws. Similarly, the analysis of gaps and duplications is similar to - and an extension of – the gap analysis commonly conducted within the cluster. *See more on gap analysis and FSC 5Ws in the FSC Coordinator Handbook, chapter 5 (5.15.1 and 5.15.2).*

Regularity and Timing of HDP Mapping:

Regular FSC dashboards and mapping based on the FSC (humanitarian) 5Ws follow the HPC timeline and is done quarterly or monthly (depending on the context). However, given the longer project cycles of most development and peace actions, it makes sense to aim to update the HDP mapping annually. The frequency of the update should be based on partners’ needs in data and their capacity to share the updated information. The timing will depend on what next steps the FSC may be planning to undertake (for example, is it to help inform the HNO/HRP or to develop a separate standalone HDPN appeal – *see more in 5.3 and below*).

HNO/HRP:

This type of mapping can support the preparatory work for the HNO and HRP – allowing for the FSC to identify key actors and activities for joint analysis and response convergence. This can then be reflected within the HNO and HRP – *explained further in 5.2 and 5.3.*

What are the Key Human Resources Required to undertake Step 1 on HDP Mapping

It is important for FSC Teams and CLAs alike to understand that the types of activities described above goes beyond the capacity of a normal FSC Team with one Coordinator and one IMO. To do this step well, resources are generally required. A **light approach** can be taken whereby national level FSC teams do a superficial mapping of actors and overall activities.

However, in order to do **proper HDP mapping** with dashboards and tools (and a higher level of granularity) that facilitate proper HDP analysis and strategic planning, **CLAs would need to recruit at least one national IMO dedicated to HDP mapping (or a FSC HDPN focal point).**

In addition, **funds may be required to cover trainings, workshops and other events related to the HDP mapping activities.**

This is how it has been done in:

- Chad (1 dedicated HDP IMO)
- Mali (1 dedicated FSC HDPN focal point did the collection and organisation of data and information)
- Nigeria (Cluster IMO did the mapping with support from gFSC IMOs)
- Somalia (1 dedicated FSC HDPN focal point did the collection and organisation of data and information)

Note: *Additional resources will be required for each of the four steps.*

Country Examples of HDPN Mapping

The **Nigeria** FSC followed the approach described above. The FSC team worked closely with relevant clusters as well as development and peace partners, to carry out a consultative process to identify and map existing institutions, actors, and actions, as well as ongoing food security and agriculture projects that operate along the HDP Nexus in the BAY states. Also, other activities with potential nutritional and food security outcomes were mapped, including climate actions, education, health, emergency preparedness, access to infrastructure, WASH, strengthened governance. This means, the team coordinated closely and collected relevant data from the following sectors: Food Security, Early Recovery and Livelihoods, CCCM-Shelter & NFI, Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH as part of the humanitarian actions, and also data and actions related to environment, governance, peace building and social cohesion

This approach has been replicated in other pilot countries. In 2022, in **Somalia**, the FSC team is undertaking a mapping exercise in key priority areas, with planned online workshops to improve coordination between actors not captured in the cluster process. Here, they aim to proceed to Step 2 – [see more in 5.2 below](#). In **Chad**, capacity building of partners on HDPN data collection tool was conducted in addition to the regular 5W training in different regions of the country seeing as the tools are quite similar, with the help of the RC office, UNDP, OCHA and World Bank. In **South Sudan** the mapping exercise was done by the Resident coordinator HDP focal Point.

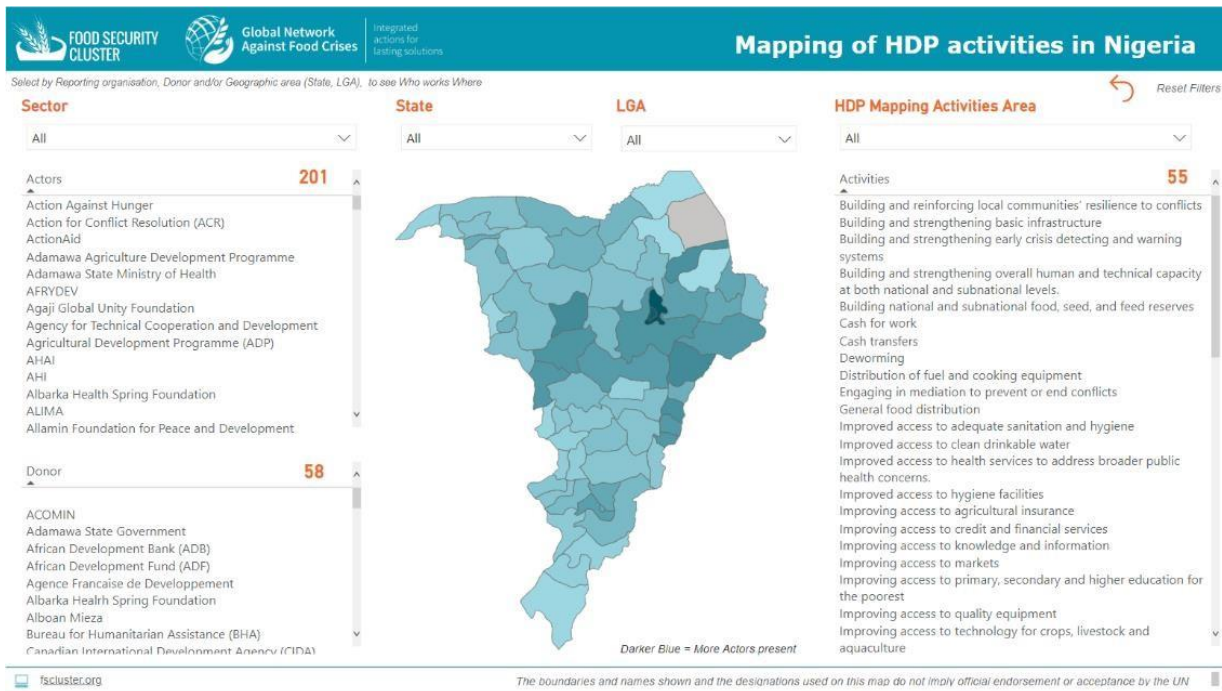
In **Nigeria**, the FSC worked with UNDP, World Bank and the relevant governmental platforms to collect data. The strengthened collaboration built through the mapping exercise, including the interactive dashboard and the coordination strengthening workshops, allowed the FSC team and HPD partners to move directly from **Step 1 Mapping to Step 3 Response Planning** (and appealing for funds) – [see more in 5.3 below](#).

Good Practice: As was done in Nigeria, it is good practice the FSC team initiates the process through dialogue with the Government to ensure buy-in at the national level. Following such initial consultations, workshops can be arranged with HDP partners and government officials – either to identify priorities, map actors and actions already in place before the actual mapping exercise or following the mapping exercise to discuss the results and agree on next steps. It is key to build on what is already existing in country - in Nigeria, the FSC Team built on the National Humanitarian Development Peace Framework 2022 – 2027 and State Sustainable Development Plan. These actions also strengthened already existing communication and coordination between actors that contributed in building trust among actors.

In Nigeria, an interactive mapping of HDP activities was produced to support better data visualization. The dashboard is available online [here](#) – see also screenshot below.

The Added Value of the HDP Mapping:

Serving to underline the value of the HDP mapping exercise, in one specific area of Nigeria, the initial mapping identified 80 HDP actors - seemingly indicating that, seen with a macro lens Local Governmental Area (LGA) (or less common, at Wards level) there might be a high potential of complementarity between HDP actors and actions. However, when the FSC redid the mapping (to support improved targeting) of the same area but with more granularity (this time looking at community / village level), it was found that there was 0 or 1 actor in each village. Whereas the initial mapping showed a high volume of HDP actors in an area, when looking more in-depth, it was clear that these HDP actors were not working with the same people or in the same villages. Instead, whilst completely avoiding duplication of geographical coverage between HDP actors this it also meant that there was no complementarity between HDP actions and no coordinated sequencing HDP activities.



This detailed level of mapping was an extensive and time-consuming exercise for the FSC Nigeria team (and HDP partners) however the end result provided new and significant information, which will help to inform the joint response plan and joint targeting approach (see more on this in 5.3).

It is expected that this granularity of data will become increasingly important as the push for HDP actors to move towards improved synergy and complementarity grows.

The HDP mapping performed by Nigeria FSC country team at the community level allowed to reveal gaps in complex package of assistance that included 17 types of activities (both lifesaving and resilience b) to be delivered at communities and household levels during the next three years. This analysis allowed to reveal gaps in specific types of activities which partners could use to plan their interventions, estimate funding needed to fill in these gaps and to enhance collaboration and synergy between HDP actors in order to implement the graduation approach.

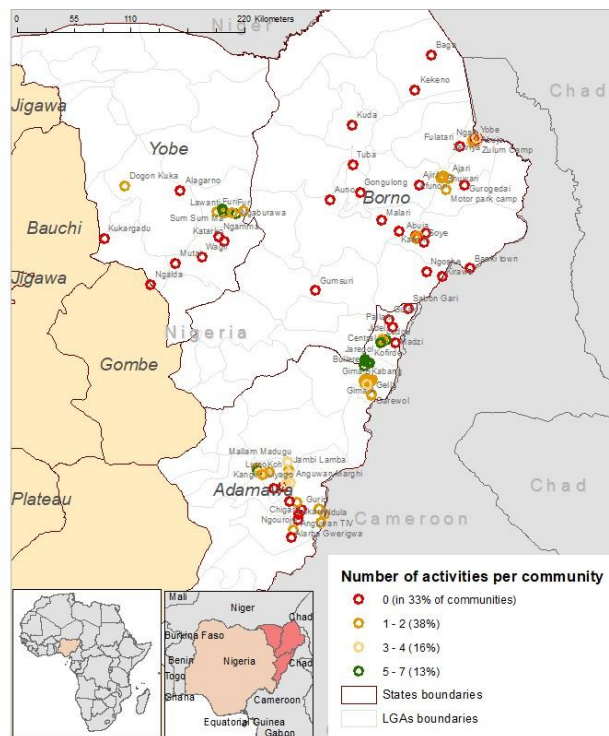
See the more granular map produced below.

Gap analysis. Mapping of ongoing and planned* activities in preselected communities in BAY states of Nigeria

In order to identify the pilot communities, the preliminary gap analysis was conducted at community level (for initial 140 communities). Implementation or confirmed funding to implement 17 types of activities were mapped:

- 9 activities at household level:
- access to micro credit
 - consolidation of resilience and shocks mitigation
 - distribution of non-food items
 - food assistance distribution
 - improved access to health services
 - livelihoods rehabilitation and protection
 - social protection
 - training
 - support to value chains.
- 8 activities at community level:
- education
 - improved access to health services
 - improved access to markets
 - improved access to water
 - nutrition
 - peaceful access to natural resources
 - social empowerment
 - strengthened governance.

* For activities at HH level, we took into account those planned for any duration during 2023 - 2025. For activities at community level, we took also into account those that were implemented at 2022, as the majority of these activities are durable solutions.



Support and Resources

Support at gFSC level: FSC teams interested in undertaking the type of HDP mapping described above (or a lighter version) can reach out to the gFSC for guidance tailored to the specific country requirements and capacity. A HDPN IMO at global level can provide support including contextualized HDP mapping tools.

Technical Guidance: For more details on the mapping tools, data collection and process, FSC Teams can consult the gFSC technical guidance on HDP mapping activities (gFSC, 2022) and contact the gFSC team for support.

Resources:

- **Guidance on Mapping of HDP Activities and Actors (in five countries)** (gFSC, 2022): This provides step by step guidance on how to capture development and peace activities within the current humanitarian IM mapping at country level. Find it [here](#).
- **Multisectoral Approaches to Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition** (gFSC, January 2023): FSC Coordinators can consult this guidance to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context – for mapping purposes, it can be helpful to match the country-specific activities of partners with those of the Handbook in order to make the HDP comparable across the countries. Find it [here](#).
- **The FSC Coordinator Handbook** (gFSC, early 2023): This provides overall information on mapping and gap analysis, see chapter 5 (section 5.15) – *a beta version for field testing will be available on the FSC website in early 2023*.
- For **available material** from the countries currently implementing HDP mapping, contact the gFSC.
- See also the **main webpage on the FSC website** dedicated to the gFSC pilot on HDPN and all associated products and tools.

5.2. Joint Analysis of the Drivers of Hunger and Food Insecurity

The “Why”

A key objective of the HDPN approach is to reduce the need for and length of humanitarian assistance by promoting sustainable solutions and by ensuring synergies among HDP interventions. However, this is only possible if HDP actors first develop a common understanding of the situation and needs. **Joint analysis is therefore often a key step in operationalising a HDPN approach at country level.**

Traditionally, HDP actors conduct assessments/studies and analysis with the purpose of informing their own programming. These are often conducted in silos and findings may not be shared broadly. While joint analysis such as IPC/CH exists, the analysis usually focuses more on immediate and underlying drivers and often overlook structural drivers (such as conflict, climate etc.) As a result, there is a vast amount of data and aggregated analysis with the same geographical focus but with limited overarching understanding connecting the findings in a way that can promote a more comprehensive response to the needs and vulnerabilities faced by the affected population.

Objective: By improving data sharing (at a minimum) and, if possible, by facilitating consultative processes for joint analysis, the FSC teams can help contribute towards developing an improved (more granular) common (or at least shared) **understanding of the structural drivers of vulnerability and food crises at local level**. This can, in turn, help strengthen the subsequent FSC (and/or ideally a joint HDP) response plan (*see 5.3*).

For the FSC, the overall objective is to **strengthen the cluster’s capacity to further understand and respond (better) to food crises by addressing the root causes.**

The “What”

Based on experience from the five countries (*see 14*), the point is to bring together and merge the existing data from a holistic angle to bring something new to the usual narrative on what the drivers of crisis are at country and subnational level. The depth of this analysis may vary pending resources, as described in the “How” section below.

The FSC (ideally working closely with relevant D and P actors) will look at the underlying structural factors and local root causes driving the crisis and the impact from a wider viewpoint. A joint analysis of available data would often aim to support the following:

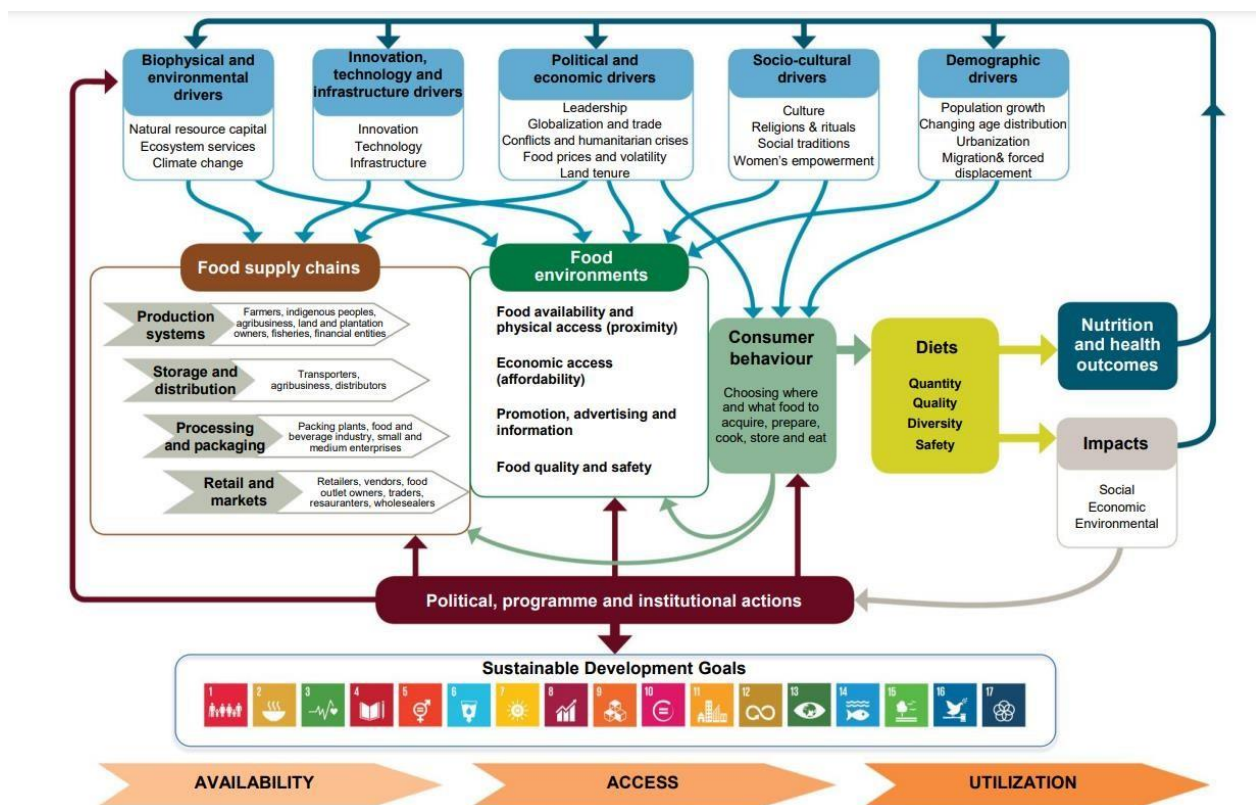
- **Understanding the multisectoral drivers of food insecurity:** It would look at what the political, conflict, climate, social, economic and environmental **pathways leading to food insecurity are.**

Analysis of drivers using the food systems framework: This is commonly done using the food system approach. *This approach is defined as:*

“the web of actors, processes, and interactions involved in growing, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of foods, from the provision of inputs and farmer training, to product packaging and marketing, to waste recycling. A holistic food systems lens is concerned with how these processes interact with one another, and with the environmental, social, political and economic context⁹. The food systems lens also brings to light reinforcing and balancing feedback loops, tensions between the different components and flows of food systems, and interactions that are cyclical, multi-layered and multi-scale.”¹⁰

See the below graphic from the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition¹¹ (HLPE), which offers a fairly detailed depiction of different dimensions of a food system. Literature have identified **five main categories of drivers of food system changes** that influence nutrition and diets: **1)** biophysical and environmental; **2)** innovation, technology and infrastructure; **3)** political and economic; **4)** socio-cultural; and **5)** demographic drivers.

Figure 3. Conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition



⁹ Ericksen, Polly & Stewart, B. & Dixon, Jane & David, Barling & Loring, Philip & Anderson, Molly & Ingram, John. (2010). The value of a food system approach. Food security and global environmental change. 25-45.

¹⁰ IPES-Food - the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems website: <https://www.ipes-food.org/>

¹¹ Source: **Conceptual framework of food systems for diets and nutrition**. Fanzo et al., 2017.

TIPS: Food Systems:

- ☑ **Why is this relevant for FSC teams?** Considering these aspects, can help identify pathways that may lead to food insecurity, and/or undermine the capacities of communities to respond/address/adapt to the crisis in a resilient, durable, conflict, climate sensitive and inclusive manner. FSC teams can advocate for a food systems analysis or systemic analysis of basic of the drivers ahead of the HNO/HRP formulation, in order to adapt the cluster responses plans.
- ☑ **Where to find additional data to understand food systems?** The [Food Systems Dashboard](#)¹² combines data from multiple sources to give users a complete view of food systems. Users can compare components of food systems across countries and regions. They can also identify and prioritize ways to sustainably improve diets and nutrition in their food systems.
- ☑ **Want to know more about food systems and the food system framework?** Find it [here](#).¹³

- **Understanding the impact of the protracted crisis and / or conflict and the needs:** It would reflect on the impact of the crisis on the affected population with focus on how and why different communities and population groups are differently affected.
 - This means developing a more granular understanding of how the crisis might affect different categories of people disproportionately according to displaced population vs. host community, gender, age, disabilities, socio-professional groups, geographic area of residence, ethnic group and religion (as relevant to the context).

For more information on cross cutting issues and food security, see the chapter 5, section 5.7 in the Coordinator Handbook – and for details on the overall FSC role in assessments and analysis – both FSC specific but also multi-sectoral – see chapter 6.

The “How”

There is no one-fits-all approach to “how” this step is implemented at country level and the FSC team should keep the following in mind:

- **Is there Interest?** A joint analysis process can be the next logical step after a mapping process (which would usually help to identify who should be part of the joint analysis – see 5.1). As with the mapping process, it relies on there being a clear interest from all key stakeholders (CLAs, partners and not least the ICCG/other clusters, HCT and the government and development and peace actors) in undertaking such an exercise. Without this, the results will be incomplete. The case for doing this exercise is therefore stronger when there is existing support of the HDPN and collective outcomes in the country.
- **Is there an advanced HDPN Agenda?** In other countries the HDPN agenda is quite advanced and there may already exist an agreed and common approach to joint analysis – see this example of the methodology for joint analysis in Cameroon. In such cases, the FSC team (and cluster partners) would take part in the associated joint analysis group and contribute to the joint work. The extent of the FSC’s participation should be discussed and agreed with the CLAs.
- **What is the capacity & resources?** The chosen approach will also depend on available capacity (including technical capacity among the partners) and resources. This can influence whether a light approach is taken initially (desk review), a more thorough joint secondary review (which may require a dedicated statistician) or whether partners might opt for an in-depth scientific analysis or study (which may also require the availability of dedicated funding). *See also “What are the Key Human Resources Required to undertake Step 2 on Joint Analysis” below.*

¹² <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/indicators/percent-of-the-population-who-cannot-afford-a-healthy-diet-at-52-percent-of-income-co-hd-headcount/map>

¹³ <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-food-systems>

■ *Which forum to undertake the joint analysis through - based on interest level?*

- **General Buy-In:** If there is a general buy-in across all HDP actors, it can be useful to set up a “**joint analysis group**”, which is inclusive of local experts and representatives of key actors identified among the HDP actors (and those intervening in the area of convergence who volunteered to be part of the joint analysis process). It is good practice to include gender focal point.
 - **Limited Buy-In:** If the FSC is trying to increase HDPN sensitivity but without a clear cross-sectoral interest and participation, a good starting point for this process can be existing technical working groups – often an FSC will have a “**needs assessment working groups**” (NAWG) whilst at inter-sector (ICCG) level, there is a dedicated **intersectoral “assessment and analysis working group”** (AAWG). Or even a partnership with scientific partners.
- **The process is context specific:** The process of the joint HDP analysis can vary according to the location and the context as well as the availability of human and financial resources.
- **Building on the HNO process:** During the HNO process, the FSC will take part in a secondary review process, which includes many of the steps outlined below – and which the FSC can therefore build on by adding an additional HDP layer on the analysis undertaking for the HNO. See more in the **2023 HNO – HRP Step by Step Guidance**, page 8 on “Secondary data review: Analyse trends, identify opportunities for joint analysis with development / peace actors, and identify data gaps”.

FSC Repository

It is good practice for country FSCs to keep a repository of all assessments (a standard database, which is regularly updated based on agreed key indicators) and a record of the data sources and calculations, i.e. how criteria for prioritization, figures and conclusions are reached.

This can assist the FSC team to, quickly, identify the FSC specific data available.

See CC Handbook chapter 6, section 6.2.2.

Overall FSC Team Roles

Depending on the country context and the specific agreed approach (light desk review, joint secondary analysis, in-depth scientific study), the **FSC Coordinator** would normally lead on the initial facilitation of the activities, described below, and initial outreach / coordination with the different stakeholders. He/she should actively support joint analysis working with the CLAs, FSC partners and development and peace actors, and national authorities and at ICCG level as relevant. Commonly, the Coordinator, with the IMO (*or partners*) will consolidate information and consult participating partners to define an agreed analysis. *Specifically, the Coordinator can consider the following:*

- Promote food systems analysis or research on environmental and conflict drivers’ impact on livelihoods specialization to strengthen evidence on the identification of specific vulnerable groups in order to improve targeting and programming.
- Improve the availability (through open access where appropriate) and quality of multi-sectoral data that capture nutrition, food composition, livelihoods, resilience, environment and conflict-related data for a holistic understanding of the crisis through the promotion of harmonized methods for data collection and joint data repositories (*see FSC Repository below in blue text box*).

The **FSC IMO** would support the process as needed, with a special focus on the IM (and more technical, data processing) related aspects of the exercise. He/she is commonly responsible for collecting, processing and compiling available datasets, and for mapping, data analysis and infographics.

At all points of the process, the FSC team should ensure CLAs are updated and in agreement with the approach.

In practical terms, the FSC team should consider the following:

- **Compile the evidence base (collect and collate):**
 - Work with humanitarian (including other nutrition, wash and health clusters) and development and peace actors (see mapping section above) to identify and collect existing data / assessments / analysis and surveys.
 - Organise the information in a systematic and structured manner to facilitate the review/analysis (by location, HDP area, theme, etc.). If possible, develop a repository platform to centralize food security related data.
 - **The following existing data sources should be considered:**

- Available FSC specific assessments and FSC partner assessments and household surveys;
- Available nutrition datasets (to understand the possible spatial disconnect between food insecurity and undernutrition that would indicate different pathways to be addressed)
- IPC (or Cadre Harmonisé) analysis;
- Other types of assessments / surveys: Multi Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs), Market assessments, EHAs, SMART surveys and humanitarian reports, as well as all studies (baseline surveys/evaluations) conducted by the organisations;
- Other types of data should be considered. The following data would be helpful to potentially monitor triggers of deterioration of food insecurity at local level and promote early action for examples:
 - Conflict records from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (**ACLED**), which collects real-time data on the locations, dates, actors, fatalities, and types of all reported political violence and protest events around the world;
 - Health facilities data for human diseases monitoring (WHO/UNICEF);
 - Animal disease outbreaks monitoring (ECTAD/FAO/WHO);
 - Seasonal and weather forecasts and historical records;
 - Satellite data, if available – for example climate and weather records for rainfall, temperature, surface water, demographic indicator on population clustering and migration, vegetation - see for example the **Vegetation Index** (to see decrease or increase since last year);
 - *For more on Early Warning Systems (including WFP's **Dataviz** and FAO's **GIEWS, Data in Emergencies Hub and ASIS**), see section 6.3.1 of the Coordinator Handbook.*

Note: The country HNO and JIAF should also be considered. Although these do not generate the information that would inform an HDP approach, their content on food security and cross sectoral linkages can help frame the joint analysis – *see also the “How does this relate with the HPC” text box.*

For more detail on these processes and types of assessments, see chapter 6 of the Coordinator Handbook, chapter 6.

- **Analyse Existing Data:** Review existing data and indicators on drivers (including food security data and indicators but also climate, conflict data / indicators etc.) and other information required to answer key questions related to the specific population groups, geographical areas, or other thematic issues (in case of a light exercise, a desk review type approach is commonly used).
 - Consult with relevant stakeholders to agree on the scope of joint analysis exercise.
 - Agree on how existing data can be used/triangulated in a way that goes beyond the usual and typical IPC/CH analysis, for example, more granular analysis might be useful to identify community level pockets of food insecurity and to adapt a more appropriate targeting strategy.
 - The aim is to identify new linkages or triggers for anticipatory action and bring new knowledge based on new analytical angles on existing data.
 - The analysis should be done through a small joint analysis group (or FSC or ICCG NAWG – this is based on the general interest at country level) with technical experts that can support the review and analysis of existing data.
 - The group should aim to reflect the knowledge, perspectives and priorities of at-risk and affected populations as well as of local HDP actors (including the identification of limitations and knowledge gaps). This could include qualitative methods such as joint participatory analysis and community consultation.
 - **Note:** It is not the FSC team that will spearhead the technical analysis (unless dedicated funding allows for the FSC to recruit a statistician to support the process)– the role is more one of facilitation, coordination and working closely with partners’ technical staff (including WFP RAM).
- **Identify and determine how to bridge critical information gaps:** If significant data and information gaps are identified, and if there is appetite and capacity, the joint analysis group (or NAWG etc.) should determine if and how these can be addressed.

- Depending on the specific information gaps and on what the planned next steps are (is the missing data necessary for a potential subsequent joint HDP response plan, and, if not dependent on existing partner capacity, is there adequate funding available for such an exercise, for example), it may be decided to conduct a joint follow-up assessment with HDP actors.
 - This is not currently the norm at country level given the current level of HDPN operationalization in most countries. However, should a specific HDP assessment take place, the FSC team should support the design and coordination, and involve FSC partners as much as possible.
 - The FSC team should ensure that indicators on the root drivers of food insecurity (such as access to services, access to land and pasture, resilience capacity (e.g. RIMA index)) are included in any follow up survey/assessment.
 - It is important to ensure CLAs are involved and that the ICCG (and if relevant, the HCT) is informed.
 - Due consideration should also be given to the timeline – is such a joint assessment in line with the FSC assessment calendar (including the timeline for the IPC analysis, the HNO etc.)?
 - According to the country context, this process should involve relevant HDP local, national and international actors through consultative processes throughout the entire process to gain wider participation, buy in and engagement. It should reflect local inputs and one common methodology should be agreed to.
 - Alternatively, areas where further in-depth data is needed, can be included in planned FSC (or inter-sectoral) assessments such as Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNAs) – *see more on this in chapter 6 (section 6.5.2) in the Coordinator Handbook*. The FSC coordinator should facilitate the inclusion of necessary indicators.
- **Joint Analysis Results:** Depending on the level of joint analysis (is it a light desk review of data to complement what is done for the HNO and to increase the level of HDP sensitivity within the FSC or a more in-depth process with dedicated resources) some of the key expected outputs would include:
- A repository of relevant and reliable information from various sources.
 - Evidence-based situation and needs analysis on local and structural drivers of chronic food insecurity and identifications of vulnerable groups.
 - It is important to build consensus on the findings – these should be agreed to within the joint analysis group (or similar group).
 - The FSC team should ensure CLAs endorsement of the findings (WFP RAM will be part of the analysis group but both CLAs should be informed and consulted).
 - It is good practice to present the finding to all relevant stakeholders (including the FSC, ICCG, HCT, UNDP, RC Office and key government counterparts etc), this includes the local authorities and key actors in the area of convergence for their inputs and review. It is recommended to do this through validation workshops.
- **Using the Joint Analysis Findings:** Key findings should be used to identify necessary responses and inform joint advocacy and resource mobilization initiatives to leverage coordinated action.
- This process can help inform the focus of the strategic planning and targeting approach of the FSC and HDP actors. It can provide key recommendations and identify priorities in the area of convergence and based on the appetite among HDP actors, these priorities can then be reflected in a joint response plan (*see 5.3*).
 - It can also help with developing tools to monitor the situation and anticipate further deterioration of the situation by looking at triggers of early warning (rainfall, conflict, changes in livelihoods specializations, vegetations etc.) to plan for early/ anticipatory action (*see more in 5.4*).
- **Regularity of Analysis:** Based on the need and capacity at country level, analysis should ideally be updated yearly, in line with key assessment data being updated (and in line with the FSC assessment calendar and the HPC schedule – *see chapter 6 in the Coordinator Handbook*).

When can it be helpful to undertake a scientific study?

As mentioned, some country FSCs may opt for a scientific study under “step 2” instead of the type of joint analysis explained above. If the technical capacity is available amongst cluster partners (including WFP RAM), the FSC can do this by itself. If not, FSCs can bring on board scientific/research partners to help

utilize existing data, which has not been fully exploited in current analysis systems (such as IPC analysis, HNO/ JIAF processes etc.).

A more scientific analysis (and secondary review) can be a good starting point for country FSCs if the CLAs, cluster partners and other clusters support the HDPN approach but there is some general reticence among other stakeholders. For example, if there is limited knowledge of the HDPN approach, or if there is general interest but it remains unclear how to practically start to introduce HDPN elements at country level. Whereas IPC analysis is based on longstanding assumptions of causality (for example, long-held assumptions about acute malnutrition moving synchronously with food insecurity and escalating during the lean season), bringing new scientific evidence which goes beyond these assumptions, can help break the traditional HDP silos and the agenda of one sector over the other. This can help strengthen the case for approaching the response to food insecurity from a wider (HDP) angle – and will generally allow for improved joint programming and targeting.

Across the five countries (*see 4*), it is becoming clear that this approach to create wider HDPN buy-in – bringing new information to the table - is working at country level. Teams in South Sudan, Chad, Mali, Somalia and Northeast Nigeria have all identified the need for a more granular understanding of the drivers of food insecurity and undernutrition/malnutrition (and their interrelationship).

A key lesson from the five countries: A key point emerging from these five countries is that the combination of the two separate processes i.e. a HDP mapping exercise (*described in 5.1*) and the introduction of new scientific advanced evidence, can help FSC teams to enhance the overall coordination with and among HDP actors. It can help all HDP actors to come together (for example during coordination workshops with key actors identified during the mapping exercises) and, based on scientific studies of drivers, will have a common understanding of the situation and of the linkages that brought them together.

How does this relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?

Timing: The coordinator should keep the FSC needs assessment plan/calendar in mind i.e. if FSC initiates HDPN situation analysis, the timing, if possible, should consider the schedule for FSC related assessments, the IPC process and the HNO - to ensure there is adequate data to build on and to ensure any findings can be incorporated into the HNO and HRP. On the other hand, a HDPN related analysis process could also help identify information gaps that could be considered in upcoming planned FSC related assessments or multi-sectoral assessments (MSNAs). Based on the appetite at country level, the FSC team could benefit from undertaking this type of secondary analysis during the preparation for the HNO (in place of the more limited secondary analysis which is outlined in HNO guidance) – as an expanded approach to analysing food security sector needs.

HNO: This type of joint analysis of food security drivers should both build on the relevant analysis undertaken as part previous HNOs and, in turn (depending on the timing), be reflected in the FSC inputs for the next HNO (the HNO analysis usually takes place in July-August). A joint analysis of FS drivers allows the FSC to (better) identify key needs – and with a HDP angle (rather than a purely humanitarian food security angle). The FSC should incorporate relevant key findings in the food security chapter and work to ensure these are properly reflected in the different components of the HNO (see for example the [2023 HNO Guidance](#) and the [2023 HNO – HRP Step by Step Guidance](#), page 8 on “Secondary data review: Analyse trends, identify opportunities for joint analysis with development / peace actors, and identify data gaps”).

HRP: Key findings should also be reflected in the FSC inputs for the HRP (work usually starts in September) – *see more on this under 5.3 on joint response planning*.

What are the Key Human Resources Required to undertake Step 2 on Joint Analysis

It is important for FSC Teams and CLAs alike to understand that the types of activities described above goes beyond the capacity of a normal FSC Team with one Coordinator and one IMO. To do this step well, resources are generally required.

National level FSC teams (with help from partners) can undertake a more superficial, **general and light exercise** i.e. a light desk review of data (for example using the [food systems dashboard](#)) to complement what is done for the HNO and to increase the level of HDP sensitivity within the FSC.

However, in order to do **proper joint analysis** (either in-depth secondary analysis, which may include a scientific study and/or specific follow up joint assessment with HDP partners) that facilitate appropriate strategic planning and subsequent monitoring, **CLAs would need to recruit dedicated staff to augment the FSC team capacity**. This includes **1 statistician** that will be able to merge and perform advanced statistical analyse secondary from data

extracted different sources. He/she should work in close collaboration with the gFSC to use the adapted methods. It is important to understand that this is not a one person job.

Additional funds may be required to cover trainings, workshops and other events related to the joint analysis activities (the workshops can often combine the focus on several of the 4 steps at one time – e.g. presenting mapping and discussing joint analysis during the same one day workshop etc.). It could also involve funding for a partnership with a university in case of a “scientific study” approach.

This is how it has been done in:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chad: 1 dedicated statistician + gFSC support + University collaboration ▪ Somalia: 1 dedicated statistician + gFSC support + University collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mali: 1 dedicated statistician + gFSC support ▪ South Sudan: in progress: 1 dedicated statistician + gFSC support + University collaboration |
|---|---|

Note: Additional resources will be required for each of the four steps.

Country Examples of HDPN Joint Analysis of the Drivers of Hunger and Food Insecurity

Bringing something new to the table – the case of Chad: The FSC and partners in Chad, have since 2020 been engaged in an inclusive effort to pilot and scale up initiatives that increase synergies within the HDP nexus. Multiple, joint tools are regularly used for the analysis of food insecurity and malnutrition, such as the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) and in the beginning, the FSC team and HDP partners (UNICEF, WFP, Government of Chad, Local NGO, INGOS and other cluster undertook a quick exercise / joint analysis of drivers building on the data available from, for example, the CH following the approach described above. The FSC organised workshops with relevant HDP actors to discuss drivers and undertook theory of change of causal pathways. However, it was found that more detailed and scientific analysis was required to properly whet the appetite of the key stakeholders – and also to properly identify the best response to food insecurity in the pilot areas (Kanem and Bahr el- Ghazal provinces).

To bring something new to the table, the FSC in Chad worked with all HDP actors working in the area (including UNICEF, WFP, Government of Chad, Local NGO, INGOS and other clusters and TUFTS UNIVERSITY to undertake a scientific study to improve the understanding of the complexity of drivers of malnutrition, food insecurity, how the two are linked and their spatial distribution in the pilot areas. The study (based on primary data, secondary data and interviews of local actors) broke with the usual siloed approach to drivers. It found a clear geographic clustering of food insecurity and malnutrition due to basic drivers of conflict, health and seasonal access to natural resources. The study was able to confirm that food insecurity and malnutrition were not affecting the same households and communities simultaneously (suggesting that there were different impact pathways).

Support and Resources

Support In country: The FSC team can lean on in-country resources including the technical CLA support units (e.g. WFP RAM) as well as technical experts from FSC partners (most FSC’s have a needs assessment working group or other technical working groups, which can provide support).

For more details on the overall role of the FSC coordination team in relation to joint assessments and analysis (and the link with IPC or CH processes), see chapter 6 in the Coordinator Handbook (chapter 9 provides guidance on the HNO process).

Support at gFSC level:

For support with joint analysis overall, and specifically with scientific studies as done in Chad and Somalia and currently in progress Nigeria, Mali and South Sudan, **FSC teams can reach out to the gFSC**. In case an FSC is interested in undertaking a scientific study, the gFSC team in Rome can support on the following:

- Advise on recommended steps;
- Concept note templates which countries can build on (for fundraising);
- Guidance on who to have partnerships with (the gFSC has standing partnerships with consultants and universities);
- Generic TOR are also available for staff that can do analysis.

Resources:

- Contact the gFSC for updates on the scientific studies from Chad, Somalia and Nigeria (or for other joint analysis products from the five countries). The gFSC can also share examples of ToRs for Analysis and Analysis Plans from different countries (e.g. South Sudan).
- [Understanding food systems drivers: A critical review of the literature](#), Global Food Security, Volume 23, 2019, Christophe Béné, Steven D. Prager, Harold A.E. Achicanoy, Patricia Alvarez Toro, Lea Lamotte, Camila Bonilla Cedrez, Brendan R. Mapes. See pp. 149-159.
- [Guide to Context Analysis Informing FAO Decision-Making – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts](#) (FAO, 2019) and [Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030](#) (FAO, 2022).
- Read about the Food Systems Framework on <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-food-systems>

5.3. Aligned, Complementary and Joint Response Planning

The “Why”

Traditionally, HDP actors prepare separate response plans that, according to respective mandates and roles, are meant to address different kinds of needs, separately. Despite evidence that conflict, shocks, unsustainable livelihoods, and food insecurity are linked, due to the lack of synchronization and incompatibility of operational and budgetary planning processes between HDP actors and within sectors, these actors have tended to overlook these dynamics and operate in silos.

In many protracted crises, with decreasing levels of funding, humanitarian assistance alone cannot provide sustainable or cost-effective solutions and this sector “siloes” coordination approach to coordination and is unable to address the root causes of food insecurity.

Objective: The main objective for the FSC is to strengthen coordination with HDP actors, at national and sub-national level, around response planning to strengthen the synergy and convergence between HDP actions. Building on the core objectives of the HRP (to coordinate action), the FSC should coordinate activities to cover identified gaps and avoid duplication but also to improve complementarity not only within humanitarian action but also with development and peace work. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure that **food crises are better addressed**. The coordination of HDP efforts can help improve the response to multi-sectoral interacting challenges and identify solutions that integrate considerations across sectors which **address** the effects and key drivers of food insecurity.

The “What”

Joint response planning implies bringing all relevant HDP actors together to agree on the needs and what should be done to address those in a way that is complementary. Based on the mapping of HDP actors and activities and on the identified needs, the FSC can undertake activities that follows a joint or aligned or, at a minimum, a strengthened and coordinated approach to response planning.

The “What” can differ from country to country: Depending on the country context, this can range from simply working to improve overall coordination with and involvement of development and peace actors at national and local level, to undertaking fully fledged joint programming among HDP actors based on the “food security graduation approach” (as done by FSCs in Chad and Nigeria) which leads to converging, integrated and complementary responses.

Similar to the HRP approach, the basic activities to implement an improved HDP approach to FSC response planning includes:

1. Identifying geographic priority areas based on the severity of needs and convergence of actions (as identified during the HDP mapping and joint analysis).
2. Build consensus on collective outcomes and theory of change (based on pathways identified in step 2).
3. Identifying the key gaps in the agreed priority area.

4. Based on gaps, building a response plan that respond to collective outcomes (coordinated with or done jointly with development and peace actors) with an aligned targeting approach that ensures complementarity.
5. Launching a joint appeal (either reflecting the HDP lens in the sector chapter and logical framework in the HRP or, like in Chad and Nigeria, launching a specific HDPN appeal for the joint response plan).

See more details on the HRP process and the FSC role in chapter 9 of the Coordinator Handbook.

The “How”

The specific approach should be adapted to the country specific requirements and the FSC team should keep the following in mind:

- **Is there interest? Different levels of HDP sensitive response planning:** The type of response plan that is appropriate (whether simply better coordinated with development and peace actors, or complimentary, aligned or joint) will be based on the overall joint understanding and support of the HDPN approach at country level:
 - If there is limited support and buy-in with the Government and relevant stakeholders, the FSC should, at a minimum, work towards improving the involvement of HDP actors in cluster response planning. This may include establishing inclusive and participatory dialogue with relevant stakeholders at national but especially sub-national level – including taking the time to develop a common language, views and attitudes towards integrated HDP nexus approaches.
 - If collective outcomes are prioritised at HCT level and in the HRP strategic objectives, the FSC sector response plan should reflect a strong HDPN focus.
 - If there is an even higher degree of support and buy-in among HDP actors, the government and donors, it may be possible for the FSC, with HPD actors, to jointly prepare a separate joint HDP response plan and appeal.
 - If the HDPN agenda is advanced, there may be country specific guidance developed to support integrated HDP response planning, which the FSC should align their response planning activities to (e.g. Cameroon is currently working on developing a methodological note for the design of nexus action planning).
- **The importance of HDP mapping:** An important entry point to ensuring both the “lighter version” of a better coordinated FSC response plan but especially for a fully-fledged joint HDP response plan, is to have proper mapping of HDP actors, actions (including development plans at national and sub-national levels) and coordination platforms. Without this initial step, it is difficult for the FSC to properly coordinate response planning and targeting. The ability to have a better coordinated response plan is increased in proportion with the level of granularity of available data (geographic locations) collected from HDP partners (as clearly illustrated by the example from Nigeria on the “added value of HDP mapping”, in 5.2). Granularity of data will become increasingly important as the push for HDP actors to move towards improved synergy and complementarity grows.
- **Build on what is already there:** The FSC should consider existing coordination, planning and implementation mechanisms and plans aside from the HRP including UNDAF, national development plans, government programmes, regional initiatives and agriculture investment plans, national development plans, government programmes, regional initiatives etc. (*see also the “How does this relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?” box*).

Overall FSC Team Roles

The overall role of the **FSC coordinator** can be seen as an extension of the role he/she plays in facilitating the HRP process and working on the development the cluster response plan. The coordinator would normally lead and facilitate the core activities, described below, and initial outreach to and coordination with the different stakeholders. It is critical that the coordinator ensures that the response plan objectives, activities and targets are prepared with, reviewed and approved by the CLAs and FSC (and, if relevant, development and peace) partners. It is also advisable to keep the ICCG, HCT and any other relevant forums (e.g. durable solutions working groups) informed or engaged, as appropriate.

For the **FSC IMO**, the same applies. He/she would support the process as needed, with a special focus on the IM and more technical aspects of response planning (including gap analyses), and is responsible for collecting, processing and compiling available data, and for mapping, data analysis and infographics.

Note: Please refer to chapter 9 (on the HPC) in the Coordinator Handbook which includes details on the role of the FSC coordinator within each step of the HRP process. This should be used as a basis for how the FSC should approach HDPN related response planning.

Capacity strengthening: The FSC team may have to work to strengthen partners' (and local actors') knowledge of and skills to effectively operationalize the HDP nexus. FSC Teams can contact the gFSC for support with capacity building material – for example, with organizing HDN actor workshops to discuss lessons learned, challenges and opportunity for joint planning.

In turn, the advanced approach to HDPN response planning, may require added capacity within the FSC team itself – this should be discussed with the CLAs in case they are pushing for a stronger HDPN approach – *see details on resources required (including a FSC HDP Nexus focal point at subnational level) in the “What are the Key Resources Required to undertake Step 3 on Joint Response Planning?” section below.*

Improved HPD coordination – do it early: The core focus for the FSC is to improve coordination between the different partners, platforms and response plans and bring together relevant HDP actors. The HDP mapping (5.1) will provide the tools to do this. Based on country experiences, the key is to **involve development and peace actors** (including those not usually part of the humanitarian coordination), in the FSC response planning to improve coordination and ultimately, complementarity between planned activities – and do so **at a very early stage**. Often this is done late in the planning process.

<p>Development Actors & Development Plans</p> <p>The main goal for the FSC is to try to <u>bridge the different platforms and plans</u> that already exist in terms of planning, including government development actions plans.</p> <p>Different levels of planning: In most countries, development actors are well organized at different levels – and in most cases, they will have development plans at each level (which is important if looking at specific areas of convergency between HDP actors). Typically, there will be a ministry of planning at national level, a provincial committee of action and at department level, a departmental committee of action that brings together all development actors, and a local committee of action at village level. Each with their own specific development plan.</p> <p>Often humanitarians work in similar areas but with limited consideration of these plans. There is a tendency to give less focus to geographical differences - and interventions at national level tend to overlook specific different dynamics at provincial and smaller territorial administration levels.</p> <p>The FSC should <u>work to bridge the sector’s actions with those at local level</u>. HDP mapping can help identify which entity is doing what - this will support the cluster in identifying how best to ensure synergy and complementarity with those development plans.</p>	<p>Peace Actors</p> <p>It is commonly more difficult grasp how peace actors are organized and what the relevant coordination platforms and plans may be. Generally, peace actors are less formally institutionalized in coordination processes.</p> <p>Local level coordination is key: Peace actors such as demining groups, NGOs, some UN agencies, are often present at <u>national level</u>.</p> <p>However, in addition to working with for example demining groups (clearing agricultural lands etc.), the FSC should work to improve the coordination with representatives of traditional peace building and mediation actors, who are commonly operating at <u>local level</u> – and far removed from the usual NGO/UN humanitarian coordination mechanisms. This could include mediators in very localized conflicts, for example between herders and farmers. The aim would be to see how the objectives of the FSC overlap with (or can be complemented by) those of traditional mechanisms for peace building and specific localized mediation processes.</p>
<p>The importance of localization</p> <p>Compared with humanitarian coordination mechanisms which operate at national level, often, for development and peace there are significant differences in terms of where the most important coordination takes place within a country. It is a key lesson from the five countries (4) that coordination to strengthen HDP related synergies often need to apply a more local angle. The following can help the FSC do this better:</p>	

- Prioritize localised approach to connect states coordination structures at local level, local communities, and local actors with localised planning.
- Define well-structured exit strategies and transition towards greater ownership and responsibility of local actors.

In order to undertake this level of localised coordination, it would be important with permanent capacity at local level. Ideally, a FSC HDPN focal point should be at subnational level (according to “priority areas” – and in some cases, directly linked with governmental structures (for example in Nigeria, the HDPN focal points are sitting under the local state ministries). Please refer to the section below on “resources required”.

In practical terms, the FSC team should consider the following:

When an FSC is working to increase HDP sensitivity or, in advanced cases, undertake joint HDP programming, the response planning process is similar to that of a standard HRP process. But with the added layer of development and peace actors being involved in some capacity.

It is based on 3/4/5W HDP mapping, the identified needs (whether based purely on available IPC or CH analysis or a more HDP focused approach which builds on the IPC and CH but with added layers of data, described in 5.2), the identified gaps in the areas of priority and agreement on how to cover these best in a way that aims to ensure complementarity and synergy.

Generally, in line with the HRP approach, the FSC team would undertake these key activities to implement an improved HDP approach to FSC response planning:

- **Identify geographical priority area for response plan:** The starting point is to identify the geographical focus area based on two overall criteria:
 1. **Severity of needs:** Based on the IPC and CH analysis (or the type of joint analysis described in 5.2) which defines the geographic areas of needs, food insecurity pockets/hot spots at community level, type of spatial and temporal vulnerabilities etc.
 2. **Convergence of HDP actions:** These should be identified through the HDP mapping exercise (5.1). The starting point would be those areas (of highest severity of needs) with the highest convergence of HDP action and where there is more need for coordination. Hence the aim is to identify strategic geographical areas and opportunities for complementarity, synergy and convergence (i.e. areas with overlapping interests) among actors.
- **Consultation on priority areas and building consensus on collective outcomes and theory of change:** The FSC team should ensure a consultation process with all key stakeholders to validate the priority areas as based on the IPC/CH (already a consensus process – or a joint analysis) and the HDN mapping (which all relevant actors have participated in). The purpose is to ensure they (including donors) agree to initiate strengthened coordination between HDP actors and coherence of their actions in those particular areas – and to what extent.
 - **Meeting or workshop:** This could be done through an ad hoc FSC meeting including development and peace actors (including other clusters, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, relevant government ministries and community representatives) or in a workshop format. It could be at national and local level - although FSCs will usually start the exercise at national level.
 - How the FSC plan to undertake this consultation will depend on the country, the resource availability (team capacity and financial resources) and configuration. It would commonly build on how the FSC work normally, with an added HDP layer.

Theory of Change

The theory of change of a response strategy describes the causal pathways: from outputs through to outcomes and impact, via intermediate states (or chains of results that come before the main outcome).

The theory of change further defines factors that can influence change along the major pathways leading to food insecurity.

For example conflict mitigation / demining which can lead to:

- Increased access to land for cultivation;
- Increased agricultural production;
- Increased incomes for HH;
- Increased access to food;
- Increased food consumption at HH level.

It can be beneficial to incorporate this approach into the cluster strategic/HRP logframe.

- Aside from agreeing on priority areas, it would provide an opportunity for HDP actors to reflect lessons learned from any existing HDP initiatives and coordination platforms and jointly agree on the best durable solution for food security outcomes and how to better align their action against a common theory of change (based on pathways identified in step 2, [see 5.2](#))
- **Gap analysis in area of focus:** Once agreement on the area of focus, collective outcomes and theory of change has been reached, the FSC team would work to identify the gaps – through triangulating the information available from mapping and analysis. The objective is to see what is planned in order to see the coherence and where sequencing between those existing platforms and plans can be strengthened.
- **Filling the gaps – response planning and targeting workshop:** The information on gaps would commonly be shared by the FSC team using a workshop format to involve all partners in discussions or through consolidated document filled by partners. Based on country experiences, commonly the workshop will allow all relevant HDP actors (and donors, based on the country context) to:
 - Jointly review the presented gaps.
 - Work jointly to build up a response plan (based on the gap analysis) with a sequencing of actions (*see text box*) between humanitarian, resilient development and peace action which aims to improve the convergence at local level - It is recommended to agree on the level of contribution of each actor based on mandate, comparative advantages, capacity – and not least level of interest in doing so.
 - Agree on a coordinated, aligned targeting approach (or joint, if an advanced HDPN approach is applied). Ultimately, the aim would be to see how to improve the coherence between HDP actions through a sequenced targeting strategy (*see more under the “food security graduation approach” below*).
- **Preparing the response plan:** Based on the joint consultation process, the FSC team would commonly prepare the narrative, logframes etc. to elaborate on the agreed response plan and targeting (whether aligned or joint).
 - This should be shared with the relevant stakeholders. It is important that the CLAs are informed, in agreement and have signed off on the approach. The same applies to government counterparts. Ideally, the process should be led by the government but with the FSC team providing the support – at a minimum, it is good practice to ensure that government counterparts agree with the proposed Cluster approach.
 - The final products should be finalized through a review process with partners, as is done during the traditional HRP process (*see chapter 9 of the Coordinator Handbook*).

Sequencing of HDP Actions

This refers to a coordinated and complementary sequencing of actions and should not be confused with “disjointed and separate sequencing of HDP phases” where there is no coordination or complementarity.

Rather, in this context, it means that all HDP actions should be synchronous - at the right time, for the right people and the right community. It is about how HDP actors work together in a better way. *See the food security graduation plan below.*

Outcome: What might a joint (aligned / complementary) response plan look like?

The response plan, based on a gap analysis in areas of priority and subsequent consultations, can take different forms depending on the appetite among HDP actors.

- Trying to increase synergy and complementarity (without it being a fully-fledged graduation plan):
 - If there is limited HDPN interest, the FSC can try to work bilaterally with other clusters as well as key development and peace actors to ensure some level of linkages, which will then be reflected in the FSC chapter and logical framework of the HRP.
 - If collective outcomes are agreed at HCT level, the HRP may require clusters to have a strong HDPN focus, and the FSC would ensure that collective outcomes were reflected in the sector objectives in a way that links with the FSC plans to improve synergy with HDP actors and actions.
- If there is a high level of HDP engagement, it might be a fully-fledged joint response plan (such as in Chad and Nigeria) with an aligned (Chad) or a joint (Nigeria) targeting approach.

Examples of HDP response planning: Below are examples of the both the HRP approach and the food security graduation approach (the latter is currently implemented by country FSCs in Chad and Nigeria)

Incorporating the HDP Nexus in the HRP

Based on the specific country requirements (do the CLAs and partners want to be more HDP sensitive in the FSC response plan – or is the HCT pushing for clusters to include the HDPN in the HRP?), the FSC team can adapt the above activities fit their specific context and undertake the level of HDP coordination that is available to them.

Based on that, FSCs can include strategic and sectoral objectives in the HRP, which reflect the HDPN approach.

Below are some examples of how FSCs have included the nexus in FSC logframe objectives:

- **Strategic objective 1:** By the end of 2023, the joint efforts of humanitarian and development actors will contribute to a reduction of at least 20% in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Specific strategic objective 1.1:** Effective collaboration and synergies between local, national, and international development and humanitarian actors strengthen the resilience of households and communities to shocks in priority geographical areas.
- **Sectoral objective SO.1.1:** Increase collective effectiveness in the fight against food insecurity by strengthening synergy between HDPN activities.
- **Sectoral objective SO.1.2:** The FSC aims to sustainably lift communities affected by acute food insecurity and promote livelihoods resilient to conflicts, shocks, and economic and climate stressors by creating synergy between humanitarian and development actors.
The above example is from the Haiti HRP.

Other examples for FSC related objectives with a HDP nexus focus:

- Support the development of value chains in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture to enhance food and nutrition security.
- Promote Development and sustainable management of natural resources for resilience and peace building
- Improve management and governance for the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Strengthen local governance and social and community cohesion around access to natural resources.
- Improve the productivity, valorization, and sustainability of agricultural and food systems.
- Promote youth and women’s empowerment in food systems.

Adding peace building actions in the HRP: Examples of objectives and outcomes:

- Strengthening regulatory frameworks and institutions to regulate the use of and rights to renewable natural resources more effectively
- Strengthening formal and informal conflict-management mechanisms
- Improving the productivity of natural resources to reduce scarcity
- Enhancing equitable and inclusive access to natural resources across community members and social groups
- Improved relationships and increased ability for joint problem-solving within and between communities

The Food Security Graduation Approach

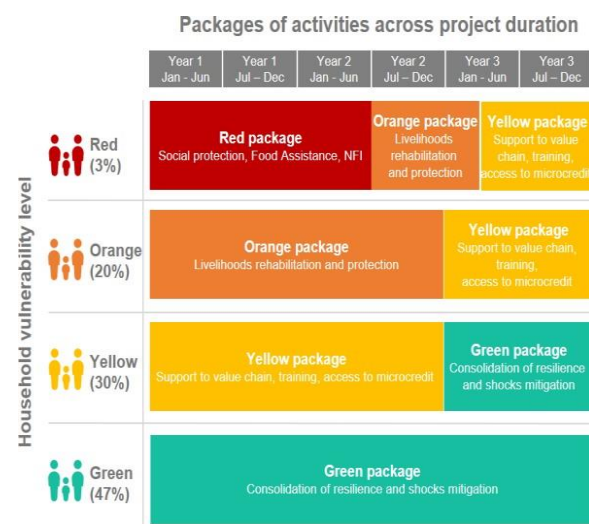
A joint HDP response plan – applying a joint (or aligned) targeting approach should make sure that, at local level, HDP actors collectively agree on separate but sequenced projects that will bring different packages at different times for the same community or households.

This should ensure that, for example, HHs benefiting from humanitarian food security assistance also benefit from resilience packages that improves their capacity and protect their livelihoods and ensures continuity after emergency action for transition to resilience and development. *This essentially means having a coherent targeting strategy that guarantees that a HH does not receive a goat instead of food voucher based on their needs and capacities at a certain time.*

Food Security Graduation Approach: One example is the (contextualized) **“food security graduation approach”** currently implemented by FSCs and HDP actors in Chad and about to be implemented in Nigeria which aims to **improve the sequencing and coordination of HDP actions**. This approach is a time-bound (spanning a 3-year period), sequenced set of interventions delivered at both the household (HH) and community level. The aim is to sustainably lift those HHs from protracted food insecurity towards self-sustainable livelihoods and avoid them falling back into a worse situation. Therefore, the food security approach aims to support pathways to successful transition from severe food insecurity to self-sustaining and remunerative livelihoods.

It includes four progressive packages of activities delivered jointly based on the household vulnerability categorization: red, orange, yellow, and green (based on IPC/CH and indicators such as resilience capacity, incomes, access to productive assets, health, empowerment).

The figure below shows the sequencing of packages:



In addition to packages at household level, activities at community level (access to services, conflict mitigation skills training etc.) would create an enabling and peaceful environment for HHs successful transition

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing constructive engagement between communities and local authorities, and more inclusive decision-making ▪ Maintaining the viability of agricultural livelihoods in situations of conflict and insecurity <p>Please contact the gFSC for more examples of HDPN focused objectives and related indicators.</p> <p>Note: Keep in mind that the response will be monitored based on the logframe (by using the 5W) and it is recommended to keep it simple!</p> <p><i>For overall guidance on the FSC logframe content and the role of the FSC team, see chapter 9 in the Coordinator Handbook.</i></p>	<p>FSC role: The FSC role, if a food security graduation approach is applied, is mainly in the coordination of partners, the facilitation of the response planning process and agreement on appropriate targeting and appropriate levels of monitoring (of process and impact – <i>see 5.4</i>). All implementation will be with FSC (including the CLAs) and HDP partners. Based on examples from Chad and Nigeria, the national Government may take the leadership role.</p> <p><i>FSC teams can consult the HDPN Activity Handbook to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context. Find it here.</i></p>
---	---

Outcome: Joint appeals, advocacy and resource mobilization:

- This will be based on the context specific requirements. It may be the case that the activities on the “humanitarian side” of the aligned / improved response will go into the **HRP** appeal (as described above, such as FSCs in Haiti, CAR and Yemen are doing for 2023¹⁴) – or if the country is advanced on the HDPN, it may go into a separate specific HDPN appeal, which covers a specific joint response plan and based on the food security graduation plan
 - **In case of a HRP appeal,** the FSC could bring out advocacy pieces to flag that the FSC is supporting the HDP nexus. *See a detailed overview of the FSC coordinator’s role in advocacy (chapter 7), resource mobilization (chapter 8 – see specifically section 8.2) and the HRP and all its different elements (chapter 9) of the Coordinator Handbook.*

Note: HRPs generally follow one year planning cycles. Although not currently the norm, in some countries where a stable crisis requires a sustained response, the HC/HCT have transitioned from an annual to a multi-year planning cycle. One advantage of having a multi-year strategy is that it may allow multi-annual funding to be aligned with the HRP or attract donors interested in providing longer term funding. Moreover, a multi-year strategy can be used to define common outcomes / collective goals with the development (and peace) partners. It also allows for a lighter process for the subsequent years.
 - **In case of a standalone HDPN appeal:** Such an approach would commonly (as seen in Chad and Nigeria) include bilateral discussions with donors or roundtable meetings in country. Some countries may have a HDP taskforce, which can be used as an entry point to discuss a joint response plan.
 - FSCs should work to identify funding gaps associated with a joint response plan and create an advocacy and fundraising plan/strategy accordingly. The gFSC (HDPN specialist) can provide support with advocacy material and–concept notes (to strengthen HDP coordination, not programming itself).
 - In Chad, discussions on a joint HDP response plan (using the graduation approach) started with the EU, with BHA coming on board later on.
 - In Nigeria, the HDP approach was “unpacked” – with multiples donors or mechanisms (including CERF, BHA) starting to fund some activities from the graduation approach and a joint analysis (a scientific study – *see 5.2*), whilst the FSC, with partners, are planning a round table with donors to present a concept note with the proposed approach to a food security graduation plan for gap funding.
- FSC partners can work to develop evidence-based and predictable short-, medium- and long-term financing arrangements that are flexible enough to allow the repurposing of available resources for a gradual and timely shift from emergency response to development or vice versa when the context requires it. The FSC can support advocacy efforts in this regard.

¹⁴ For updates, contact the gFSC team.

- FSC partners can also explore innovative sources of financing.
See more on advocacy (chapter 7) and resource mobilization (chapter 8) in the Coordinator Handbook.

Tips on Conflict Specific Contexts:

Although the HDPN approach can be implemented in protracted crises with no conflict, often conflict causes protracted crises. In conflict contexts, efforts to strengthen the nexus should ensure that food security programming does no harm and is 'conflict sensitive'. It is important to understand how aid interacts with conflict in order to mitigate unintended damaging effects and to influence conflicts positively wherever possible and the FSC team should take note of the following:

- ☑ **Conflict Sensitive Programming:** Although FSC teams do not deal with the programming/implementation side, they should be aware that interventions are never conflict neutral. The presence of activities and staffing, as well as the selection of beneficiaries impact the context, either positively or negatively, unintended or intended. Transfers of resources (e.g. food, training, cash, etc.) into a resource-scarce environment can represent power and wealth. These resources can become an element of conflict, causing harm to affected populations if not programmed in a conflict-sensitive manner. Conflict sensitivity is about managing or mitigating conflict drivers or triggers by taking existing conflict dynamics into account when designing, planning, and implementing (and closing) programmes and projects with the aim of having a positive impact on existing or potential conflict dynamics. *See more, pp. 13-14, Issue paper: Exploring peace within the HDPN (IASC, 2020).*
- ☑ **Context Specific Approach:** While in many contexts there are opportunities to advance collaboration between HDP actors, this (the scope for collaboration) might be limited in acute conflict situations by the need to abide by the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality, and thus ensure unhindered humanitarian access to people in need. Whatever the context, collaboration must take place in a manner that neither undermines adherence to the humanitarian principles of independence and impartiality nor exposes populations affected or humanitarian workers to greater risks. *See more on humanitarian principles, and the role of the FSC coordination team, in the Coordinator Handbook, chapter 1 (section.5.1).*
- ☑ **Working in Conflict-Affected Countries:** FSC teams should be cautious in case the government is part of a conflict - The HDPN approach often implies working closely with or through government-led systems (e.g. government social safety nets). This can entail certain risks (mostly related to the impartiality principle) in conflict-torn countries, and FSC teams should be careful to support its operationalization in a principled way. *See more on the coordination of humanitarian operations in complex emergencies with a military presence – and in particular on the FSC coordinator's role in such situations – in section 4.3.1 of the Coordinator Handbook.*

How does this relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?

Timing: In terms of the timing of the activities described in this section, the FSC team would ideally do this mid-year (depending on the timing of the IPC / CH) before HRP process in order to ensure improved coordination of the FSC response with development and peace actors. The FSC will commonly start the official HRP related work in August – however, clusters can benefit from starting preparations early (see chapter 9 in the Coordinator Handbook), and especially if development and peace actors are involved.

If a fully-fledged joint response plan (for example using the food security graduation approach) with a separate standalone HDPN appeal is planned, the timing can be more flexible. However, in some cases (such as Nigeria even with a joint HDP response plan, the humanitarian side of the activities may be included in the HRP (and repeated since the hunger graduation plan spans three years).

The FSC Role (Mandate) - whichever approach is taken at country level: The concrete actions related to the HDPN approach, should be embedded within the FSC work, the HPC and the HRP (in case of a HDPN appeal, this should be explained in the FSC chapter of the HRP). *FSC teams should keep the following in mind:*

- FSC work on joint response planning should not seek to reinvent the wheel, it should not duplicate but rather build on and add value to existing efforts.

- The FSC role (and mandate) is not to design new programmes. Rather “HDPN sensitive response planning” focusses more on how FSC teams and partners can bridge the gaps between HDP actors and strengthen the coordination, beyond humanitarian activities, at national and local level to ensure we are not working in silos.
- The overall aim is the maximization of linkages and strengthening the coordination and synergies between different HDP actors to improve sequencing and targeting of HDP activities.

HRP: As flagged above, pending the HCT preference (and that of the CLAs) – and especially if the HCT has identified collective outcomes, the HRP FSC chapter could incorporate HDP elements into the cluster response plan and reflect these clearly in the FSC chapter framework/logframe (based on which FSC partners should develop their responses). This means that FSC objectives, activities and indicators (outcome and outputs) should reflect the HDP approach (to the extent preferred at country level). *See examples in the above “Incorporating the HDP Nexus in the HRP”.*

Note: The **2023 HNO – HRP Step by Step Guidance** flags the need to link humanitarian action to risk management and the peace-development agenda. It notes that humanitarians should identify linkages with (or between) the following at the time of launching the HPC in each country: Emergency Response Plans, contingency, anticipatory action, Common Country Assessment (CCA)s, UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (**UNSDCF**), government, international financial institution plans, and other relevant development-oriented analysis and plans.

The FSC team should familiarise themselves with these. The guidance also notes that the CCA, UNSDCF and other possible plans should be referenced at the outset to pinpoint opportunities for:

- Sharing data and analysis with mutual benefits on the depth of the needs analysis, particularly causal analysis,
- Aligning the humanitarian response with other ongoing or planned responses to avoid duplication and identify areas/groups for whom development responses may be more appropriate.

What are the Key Resources Required to undertake Step 3 on Joint Response Planning?

It is important for FSC Teams and CLAs alike to understand that the types of activities described above goes beyond the capacity of a normal FSC Team. National level FSC teams can work to bilaterally to coordinate response plans with other clusters (*see Coordinator handbook chapter 4, section 4.3.3*) or work to bridge coordination with development and peace actors at national level. However, key aspects of HDP coordination often takes place at local level – and this is not possible with existing FSC team capacity.

Based on the experience from the five pilot countries, it is recommended have a dedicated (fulltime) **FSC HDPN focal point at subnational level**, who will be in charge of sub-national level coordination including:

- Organize regular meeting that brings together HDP actors (including local authority, civil society, local actor) to support coordination and coherence of HDP planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Coordinate the targeting approach at community and household level
- Support the Improvement of sequencing or time / space delivering of HDP actions
- Coordinate joint advocacy to HDP partners to covers any gaps identified
- Organize training and material to strengthen local capacity on coordination and project cycle implementation

If there are several priority areas, this may require more than one dedicated HDPN focal point)

Additional funds may be required to cover trainings, workshops and other events related to the joint analysis activities (the workshops can often combine the focus on several of the 4 steps at one time – e.g. discussing joint analysis and response planning during the same one day workshop etc.)

This is how it has been done in:

- Chad (1 dedicated FSC HDPN focal point)
- Nigeria (1 dedicated FSC HDPN focal point)

Note: *Additional resources will be required for each of the four steps.*

Country Examples of Joint Response Planning

Introducing the Food Security Graduation Model at Country Level – Examples from Chad and Nigeria:

In the pilot areas in Chad and Nigeria (Kanem and Bahr el-Ghazal provinces in Chad and in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in Nigeria), the FSCs (with gFSC support) have worked to improve the HDP coordination – since 2020 in Chad and since 2021 in Nigeria.

Through consultation processes at sub-national level (including multiple local stakeholders including FAO and WFP, UNICEF, sub-national government authorities, decentralized ministerial delegations, civil society organizations and representatives of informal institutions – and donors) consensus was reached on viable programme alignment possibilities that would enable convergence of respective efforts towards joint food security outcomes. During these consultations, stakeholders identified and validated activities under a joint response plan and a common household classification and joint (and aligned – see box) targeting methodology based on a harmonized framework.

In both **Chad and Nigeria**, the adopted methodology consisted in converging the efforts of multiple stakeholders towards joint food security graduation plans which are comprehensive, multifaceted, time-bound (3-5 years) and consist of (as described above) a sequenced set of interventions delivered at household level. The interventions were designed to sustainably lift people out of extreme poverty and avoid future falling back. They were organized by services and investments tailored around specific characteristics of household typology and level of vulnerability, paying particular attention to unique and evolving nature of needs.

In **Chad**, based on the scientific study of structural drivers of food insecurity described in 5.2, interventions implemented through the HDP nexus approach are being built, rather than retrofitted, for the purpose. It was originally envisaged to have a one-for-all targeting model based on the assumption of similarity in context, which was proven wrong by the scientific study (*see details on this study in 5.2*).

Key takeaway: A key message from the experience in both Chad and Nigeria, is the importance that should be placed on **local government taking a leadership role**. This will help ensure a sustainable outcome / ensure the sustainability of actions in the country.

Good practice: It is important to have a participatory process that involves communities (in the areas of priority), not only via complaint and feedback mechanisms, but all along the project cycle, to make sure activities are context sensitive. Based on country experiences, it is good practice to take stock (when applying a food security graduation approach

– but also in general), on whether planning is still appropriate. In **Chad** they plan to do this every 6 months – for example through workshops with relevant stakeholders, communities and also with donors. This will help check that the original consensus amongst stakeholder still exist and to course correct and adjust if it does not.

Example of aligned HDP targeting

In Chad, the FSC team observed that, on the left side of the map, there were no livestock or vegetation, and it was decided to start demining activities and provision of livestock fodder. However, when looking at villages on right side of the map, it was clear that animals had migrated there which had led to significant pressure on the natural resources in that part of Chad. The FSC and partners decided to have more focus on activities focused on animal health and also water point construction for animals. It was also agreed to engage traditional peace actors to support with mediation for conflict between herders and farmers.

Key message: A joint approach to targeting is not always about the graduation approach - it also about seeing the whole holistic problem and agree and who will do what and exactly where, based on the problem. The key is to ensure an aligned targeting approach – with the FSC working to align and improve on the current approach.

Support and Resources

Support at gFSC level: A HDPN focal point / specialist at global level can provide support to country FSCs – this includes support with capacity building material, HDP sensitive response planning (and advice on recommended steps) – either to be included in HRP or fully fledged joint programming and targeting.

Resources:

- **Multisectoral Approaches to Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition** (gFSC, January 2023): FSC Coordinators can consult this guidance to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context. Find it [here](#).
- See the **FSC Coordinator Handbook** (gFSC, early 2023) for detailed information on the HRP (chapter 9) and on the HDPN (chapter 10) – available on the FSC website in early 2023. Find it [here](#).
- For **available material** from the countries currently implementing joint HDP response planning and targeting, contact the gFSC.
- For examples of **country concept notes** which describe how the above might look at country level (including on the food security graduation approach), contact the gFSC.
- See also the **main webpage on the FSC website** dedicated to the gFSC pilot on HDPN and all associated products and tools.

5.4. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

The “Why”

Monitoring, evaluation, assessment and learning (MEAL) systems help HDP actors plan, measure and track their achievements, inform necessary programme or project adjustments, generate knowledge to enhance learning, and hold themselves accountable against respective commitments. However, like the analysis and response planning described in step 2 and 3, this is often done in silos.

FSC Objective: The main objective of an improved, better coordinated and if possible, joint approach to MEAL is to bridge all HDP data and knowledge available. It is not to reinvent but to build on what already exists at country level, working to incorporate development and peace data and knowledge, which could help provide a more comprehensive picture of food insecurity.

From a light to a more advanced approach to coordinated MEAL, this can help improve response planning and help strengthen the FSC capacity on Early Warning Systems (EWS) and anticipatory action (AA) - by looking at potential triggers of early warning (economic downturn, conflict, changes in livelihoods specializations, climate changes, including vegetation, rainfall, floods, drought etc.) to plan for early/anticipatory action.

The “What”

Because of the timeline of the HDP initiatives (for example the food security graduation approach runs for 3 years minimum – see 5.3), the development of this step (MEAL) is an area which the gFSC and the five pilot countries have the least experience with. Compared with step 1, 2 and 3, the “What” and the “How” for MEAL is therefore less advanced.

Different stakeholders, whether FSC partners or development and peace actors, all collect data and knowledge in all phases of the MEAL process. The main activity for the FSC however is to identify what knowledge and data is available and then work to bridge partners’ MEAL systems (from a HDP perspective):

- **Monitoring**, generally, focusses on collecting data with the purpose of tracking output (FSCs does this through 5Ws) and outcomes (which only rarely is done by FSCs).
- **Evaluation** is (it will respond to “are we effective in our coordination, do we miss any data or information to be more effective in our joint response planning.”)
- **Accountability** - this area mainly focuses on accountability systems (strengthening, streamlining and coordinating these amongst partners). *Accountability for the FSC is about AAP and local government.*
- **Learning** is about jointly building on experience and drawing lessons to improve the HDP approach in country, adapting it to better fit the specific requirements based on the input from affected communities, participating actors and the capacity in country.

The key is to do what is available to the FSC teams in order to **improve the coordination of the overall MEAL system** and to **work to bridge “each letter” or phase** from each partner in a way that links “monitoring” with “monitoring” and “evaluation” with “evaluation” etc. *How this can be done in practice,*

it explained further below, considering both the “light version” and advanced HDPN graduation types of approach.

The “How”

Note: “How” this step is implemented at country level will often vary significantly and the FSC team should keep the following in mind:

- **Build on what is already there:** The FSC should consider and build on what already exist ¹⁵ in a country. For MEAL, the real specificity is the **type of data and sources** to be considered – which includes development and peace related data. The main difference from the normal monitoring system is that here, the FSC may bring other type of indicators and other types of verification means and sources. In addition, the FSC will rarely look at **outcome monitoring** (this may be mentioned in the IPC or HNO but the FSC does not generally undertake outcome monitoring – see more below). This is the main specificity of the HDP MEAL system for coordination.
- **What is the capacity & resources?** The chosen approach to MEAL will depend on available capacity (including technical capacity among the partners) and resources. *See also “What are the Key Human Resources Required to undertake Step 4” below.*

Overall FSC Team Roles

As with the other “steps” described above, the overall role of the **FSC coordinator** can be seen as an extension of the role he/she plays within the HPC process in terms of for example monitoring, accountability (AAP) and learning (lessons learned). It is recommended to keep the ICCG, HCT and any other relevant forums (e.g. durable solutions working groups) informed or engaged, as appropriate.

For the **FSC IMO**, the same applies. He/she would support the process as needed, with a special focus on more technical aspects. He/she is commonly responsible for output monitoring (FSC 5Ws), for maintaining a repository of available data and information sources (see also 5.2). The IMO will support any data collecting, processing and compiling for mapping, data analysis and infographics.

In practical terms, the FSC team should consider the following:

Monitoring - Output Vs Outcome

When discussing monitoring (and evaluation) at cluster level within a HDP context, this most often refers to output monitoring and not outcome monitoring. Each approach requires a different methodology with different types of data collection. To clarify:

- **Output Monitoring: to monitor and evaluate the coherence of action (done through 5Ws).** This looks at what partners are doing (similar to what FSCs do with 5Ws but with an added layer of development and peace actors/actions –and building on the HDP mapping tools described in 5.1). The monitoring aspect focuses on reviewing this mapping every yearly or biannually to look if there are any changes and to see whether there is any coherent intervention between partners”
 - **Data Used:** Using data from partners through the FSC 5Ws (Who does What, Where (3Ws), When (4Ws), and to Whom (5Ws) – done mostly by FSC IMO.
- **Outcomes Monitoring – to monitor and evaluate the improvement of food security of communities.** This looks at impact of a response, *i.e.* “do we improve, altogether (through joint action), the food security and the income / livelihoods resilience capacity of the communities?”. However, although an effect might be observed, it is very difficult for the FSC to attribute such an effect to a specific action. For this reason, the FSC will rarely do any outcome monitoring, as it is complicated to get something technically correct at the response / system level (see more on the option of proxy indicators or heavy unified monitoring systems in the box below– the latter being what the FSC would aim to introduce (with HDP partners) in case of an advanced HDP approach such as implementing a food security graduation approach across all HDP pillars.
 - **Data Used:** Using data from communities and HHs themselves – done by M/E officers

¹⁵ (existing coordination mechanisms and plans including national development plans, government programmes, regional initiatives and agriculture investment plans, national development plans, government programmes, regional initiatives etc.).

See more on monitoring and the FSC 5Ws in the FSC Coordinator Handbook, chapter 5 (5.15.1 and 5.15.2) – and find details on monitoring output and outcomes as per HRP logframe in 9.5.2 in chapter 9.

From FSC Coordinator Handbook, section 9.5.2

Output Indicators:

Examples:

- # of people receiving food assistance by different modalities
- # of households reached with agriculture inputs and related trainings
- Quantity of seeds distributed by crop (cereal, tuber, legume, vegetable)

Gender indicators and AAP indicators - examples include:

- Establishment of complaints and feedback mechanism in projects implemented by FSC partners.
- Inclusion of SADD for key indicators. It is good practice (although not always easy) to break down all indicators by sex and age, and disability if possible.

Outcome Indicators

Examples: Improvement in Food Consumption Score (or Coping Strategy Index) over assistance period for targeted/assisted households.

Such outcome indicators are often requested but are difficult to have, however, FSC teams should consider the following options/solutions:

- Push back if the FSC will be unable to calculate these outcome indicators
- Find a **good proxy** using M&E data of major food security partners (e.g. in some cases, WFP M&E data could be used as a proxy for the sector).
- Put in place unified monitoring system for the sector (e.g. Whole of Syria). This requires significant work and resources but allows for clear reporting on, for example, the change in coping strategy or food consumption for all beneficiaries of all different partners.

Note: Remember not to confuse HRP outcome indicators with HNO monitoring indicators. HNO indicators such as % of population in IPC3+ monitor the overall population's needs whereas the FSC (under the HRP) monitors the response, thus the change made for reached beneficiaries only (via food security outcome indicators from partner HH surveys).

- **Why Go Beyond?** Especially for HDP, the idea is to go beyond immediate indicators of food insecurity – i.e. the focus would not only be on whether people have food or not, but to also include some indicators that will allow us to put some warning and root triggers on food insecurity. One purpose of outcome monitoring in a HDP situation is to push back and **look at root drivers to be able to anticipate the crisis**. A main difference with an emergency monitoring system and framework, is that it aims to look for root drivers and intersectoral linkages. For example, using the Food System Framework which is useful in flagging the root drivers of a crisis as well as indicators that are not close to the outcome (food security) but may also look at intermediate and root indicators of the crisis. HDP monitoring for the FSC should include indicators from other sectors that could indicate the possible outcomes for food security and nutrition, which may help the FSC better understand and follow the improvement or worsening of the situation.
- **Timing of the monitoring.** Once the root food insecurity drivers are identified, the system of indicators to monitor these drivers could be elaborated that would allow to monitor the progress. A monitoring plan based on joint analysis could be developed to ensure that the right indicators and timely monitoring are being followed. The monitoring of key drivers before the worsening of the situation could help to prevent, monitor and evaluate interventions. This type of monitoring should capture the period before worsening the food security situation, at the stage of the food insecurity drivers became active.
- **What can the FSC Team do?**

Examples of food insecurity drivers monitoring

- If it was identified that the main contributor to the crisis was poor vegetation, then the monitoring system should follow up on indicators regarding vegetation situation, including NDVI, rainfall, surface temperature etc.
- If it was revealed that the drivers of food insecurity were linked to conflict, and if the most food insecure areas are also the same that are most affected by conflict – then it would be reasonable to follow up on conflict-related indicators (for example, ACLED).

- For a **lighter HDP version**, FSCs can work to improve what is already there, building on the existing data that is available to the teams.
 FSCs can augment what they are already doing, build on HPC monitoring framework and then adding that extra layer. For example in Chad, the IMO was able to incorporate information on conflict and drought in FSC mapping on activities, partners and levels of food insecurity. It is therefore important that FSC teams (and IMOs in particular) are familiar with how to use it non-traditional data (such as the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index fluctuations or conflict-related data provided by ACLED).
- For a **more advanced HDP version** (food security graduation plan), the ideal plan would be to bridging partner monitoring systems in a consolidated one, putting all available data together from different partners, different sectors in order to have a better understanding of what is going on and of what could happen. This would allow the development of a more advanced model for **Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action (EWS/AA)**. **For example when partners, in addition to monitoring food insecurity**, could monitor such triggers as vegetation, changes in livelihoods specialisation of communities, conflict at community level. Such joint monitoring would allow to anticipate and look at the triggers and address those specific issues before observing aggravation if food security and malnutrition indicators.

The key coordination role of FSC team is to:

- Centralise all available data that could play a role in improving the current EWS (which is also ‘situation monitoring’’).
- Share key results deriving from this consolidated data this with selected partners to see if they can elaborate new models for EWS and AA.
- In case FSC in a country has capacities as dedicated IMO for HDPN or MEAL specialist, the FSC team could merge all the data together making a consolidated and harmonized dataset and perform a comprehensive analyse
- In case FSC in a country has limited capacities, the key purpose is to ensure they know that those data exist / where to find the data. Analysis of drivers might also require additional resources and skillsets, if not available the role of FSC would be to bring all HDP actors together and make sure they understand that the others are collecting that data related on drivers (e.g. on conflict or vegetation). If there is an interest in HDPN strengthening at country level, it would be helpful for actors to know that those data exist to take it into considerations for the HDP action plans development. This applies to both light and more advanced versions of HDP MEAL. The FSC should be also a platform in centralization of available data and information to make them available for partners who are willing to go beyond humanitarian actions, to link actors with each other for information and data sharing.
- Review what is collected and what is missing – and push for more convergence in terms of where partners are collecting data to be able to merge them together (in Chad this is done using GPS coding to improve coordination and granularity of data).

TIP: Conflict records from ACLED are very useful: they compile all small conflicts and security incidents all over the world – so it flags inter-community conflict for example). Therefore, the FSC can look at those data to bring the peace aspect into the HDP analysis.

If it is agreed to initiate outcome monitoring, then the role of the FSC is ideally to:

- Ensure monitoring data collection is complementary amongst partners – ensure that there is no duplication (since all partners have their own monitoring system, duplication of efforts often occurs);
- Bridge those monitoring to have complementary information from those partners also collecting the information (including for example data from ACLED, health systems, climate-related data).
- To push and bridge those different systems that are already there** but had been working in **silos**. For instance, in **IPC** this type of analysis is not commonly included - even though data

on underlying factor (conflict, livelihoods production system, value chains, access to services) in specific areas may be very useful for planning and targeting.

TIP: Bridging monitoring systems together could be possible, for example, using GPS coordinates, Unique ID for beneficiaries or using the same monitoring systems (as SCOPE). That would allow partner to share data on who is receiving what, avoiding duplication, increasing synergies and enabling sequencing for graduation package.

Setting up a Monitoring Plan: Based on the analysis and response planning steps, country FSCs, which have included a HDP related Specific Objective in the FSC logframe (or especially in case of an advanced HDP response plan such as a food security graduation plan), may want to come up with a monitoring approach which builds on the traditional cluster logframe. For FSC Logframe SOs that are more linked with resilience / development / peace, the FSC team may want to monitor the situation using data that is already collected using dev/peace partners. However, whereas humanitarian indicators are well known (dietary diversity etc.), it can be difficult to identify HDP indicators and to identify where to find those indicators (i.e. source of verification).

Below are Examples of HDP Monitoring Indicators and Sources:

Indicators:

Joint MEAL system including longitudinal follow up of household for evaluation of graduation

This approach will also include joint data collection to monitor the impact of activities on beneficiaries and observe the occurrence of households' graduation over time. To track this progress, four rounds of data collection are planned to be carried out every 12 months (namely at 0, 12, 24 and 36 months of the project).

Selected indicators would include (non-exhaustive list):

- Households' Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
- Food Consumption Score (FCS)
- Coping Strategy Index (CSI)
- MAFP
- Child and women nutritional status
- Household production and assets
- Households' incomes
- Women's workload and empowerment
- Reported conflicts (from ACLED)
- Access to safe water
- Access to justice services
- Access to health services
- Access to Markets
- NDVI

Recommended Steps – Meeting or Workshop: As with the other steps, this discussion could be initiated through an ad hoc FSC meeting with relevant partners (may include development and peace actors, other clusters, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, relevant government ministries) or in a workshop format. How the FSC plan to undertake this consultation will depend on the country, the resource availability (team capacity and financial resources) and configuration. It would commonly build on how the FSC work normally, with an added HDP layer.

■ **Key Focus:**

- Review and map what data and knowledge are available in terms of indicators and sources and pre-empt discussion on accountability and same with evaluation
- Merge data (if the cluster capacity is available) or bridge partner data systems.
- Reveal the gaps in data needed for HDP programming and coordination and discuss how partners can collect missing data

Note: The same approach applies to evaluation and accountability which can be covered in the same workshop. However, "learning" would commonly be in a separate and dedicated workshop.

Evaluation:

The evaluation part of MEAL – for coordination specifically - will commonly aim to evaluate:

- “are we effective in our coordination, do we miss any data or information to be more effective in our joint response planning.”
- “are we effective or not in how we are collaborating and how can it be improved?”
- “are we effective in our coordination”
- “do we miss any data or information to be more effective in our response planning”

This is furthermore the main objective of the learning part of MEAL, based on the evaluation.

Accountability:

The accountability part of MEAL – for coordination specifically - will commonly aim to ask:

- “are we responding to the local need (development and peace building perspective) with a HRP response”
- “are we doing any harm in terms of communications and accountability (duplicated efforts, creating confusion etc.), thus creating more burden for the populations”

The FSC team can consider the following actions:

- Review the tools used by partners to improve their accountability to populations and local government. This would include identifying existing: Complaint and feedback mechanisms
 - Instead of having duplicated processes (several feedback mechanisms) where multiple partners all do their own for one specific activity, the FSC could initiate a discussion on how to improve coordination to ensure better coherence - or agree on a joint mechanism.
 - In case if there is an interest from partners and available resources in FSC, it is reasonable also to coordinate more and strengthen the coherence between all those feedback and complaint mechanisms between partners creating one channel of communications with communities.
- Participatory design or M/E of the programme for FGDs with local communities or government to improve coordination among partners to have joint consultations communities for design/review of programming
- Ensure local actors are included/strengthened – build on existing local partners and local coordination structures - especially in a HDP perspective –strengthen their capacity.
- Develop and strengthen local actors’ capacities to develop and operate joint MEALs systems and tools.
- Clarify and build consensus on accountability mechanisms to ensure commitments are translated in implemented actions and measurable impacts. This can be achieved through consultative processes engaging partners and communities and setting up complaint and feedback mechanisms.
- Establish mechanisms to translate monitoring and evaluation to learning opportunities by generating evidence and documenting hands-on examples of innovation and experimentation, successful implementation of the nexus, negative or positive impacts etc. For example participatory impact assessment¹⁶ or participatory rural communication appraisal¹⁷ initiatives, or creating ad hoc triple knowledge hubs can serve the purpose.

Lessons learned on accountability from countries

Chad. Find a way how the FSC can deepen localization and coordinate at a local level, with local actors, communities and local authorities. Make sure that partners at national level are being accountable to what are really the needs and the priorities locally. Look at an actionable way forward to strengthen the channel of communication between all partners and those communities.

¹⁶ Catley A, Burns J, Abebe D, Suji O. 2013. Participatory Impact Assessment: A Design Guide. Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, Somerville available at https://fic.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/PIA-guide_revised-2014-3.pdf

¹⁷ Anyaegbunam C, Mefalopoulos P, Moetsabi T. 2004. Participatory Communication Appraisal. Starting with people. A Handbook. II Edition. Rome. Available at <https://www.fao.org/3/y5793e/y5793e.pdf>

Learning:

At cluster level, information is often exchanged however, there is not always a learning element attached to this exchange. The key focus for the FSC is to add this missing link, and to work to bring together learning from different partners - it is about the collective learning.

It is about reflecting on what we are doing (in terms of coordination and coherence for example), and whether it is working or not and collecting some feedback, at cluster level, from other actors - not as specific partners but as a community (i.e. from donors, partners, local government and communities). The point is to ask “how do we learn from what we are doing?” – also in terms of learnings on “how do we work together?”.

■ **Methodology - Separate session on learning:** Whereas the above areas of monitoring, evaluation and accountability often can be addressed / discussed simultaneously in one workshop, it is recommended to have a separate session on learning.

- In **South Sudan**, the FSLC conducted a participatory review and learning exercise to bring together the main HDP nexus actors, including community leaders, beneficiaries (by gender and socioeconomic groups), local actors, government representatives, private sector, donors, international and national NGOs, and UN agencies to build trust, identify, reflect on practical lessons learned, good practices, challenges, and opportunities in the operationalization of the HDP nexus. The purpose was also to look at the relevance/coherence, sustainability, and effectiveness of the operationalization of HDP nexus initiatives (*see more details in the examples below*).

- Building on the experience from South Sudan, country FSCs can initiate a similar exercise (building on HDP mapping of actors, activities and coordination platforms (*see details in 5.1*) by conducting workshops with relevant partners.

- In case of a more advanced process, like in South Sudan, the FSC can consider conducting individual interviews, focus groups discussions, community consultations workshops, stakeholder workshops at sub-national level and national level. The participants range from representatives of community groups, traditional authorities, private sector, government (national and subnational), NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and donor representatives of donors.

- FSCs can build on tools developed in South Sudan to support a participatory learning process. This includes a questionnaire to help the team evaluate how the current coordination of HDP actions and activities rate in terms of:

- 1) Relevance and complementary
- 2) Join effectiveness
- 3) Sustainability of the actions delivered by partners
- 4) Lessons learned, good practices, challenges, and opportunities

- Often partners conduct their own capacity building events on coordination. The FSC could coordinate these capacity building efforts of different actors to improve the synergy, avoid duplications and minimizing gaps in learning. The role of the FSC is to enhance the effective collaboration among HDP actors in terms of learning.

Specifically, the Coordinator can consider the following:

- Advocate for investment in participatory systems for the sharing of knowledge and best practices among stakeholders in the food system approach.

Lessons on learning from countries

South Sudan. Based on the feedback after numerous workshops at local level that had been organized by multiple partners, a need on strengthening coordination in the capacity building was identified. The workshops could be better coordinated and organized if we agree on what data we will each collect and what will be the channel for that data collection and how we use that knowledge that we will collect -- that is about how we monitor what we are doing and making sure we are accountable.

- Document and draw on the knowledge, experience and insights of individuals who are not usually regarded as members of the food security community – e.g. peace building actors, community leaders, chefs, market buyers, youth leaders, young entrepreneurs, mayors and local communities.
- Share the information on planned learning activities with all the network of HDP actors.

How does this relate with the HPC and usual FSC Work?

The HPC and Timing: The HDP approach (whether light or advanced) described here, is aligned with the HPC / IPC as it **builds on existing systems** with the FSC working to bridge and coordinate what partners are collecting in terms of data.

It may be helpful to keep the FSC needs assessment plan/calendar in mind i.e. if FSC initiates a stocktaking exercise to gain an overview of available data, this may help feed into the IPC process and the HNO – or be reflected (if there are key information gaps or duplications) in any planned food security assessments or MSNAs. – *See also 5.2 since many of the points flagged under joint analysis, are also relevant when talking about monitoring (and evaluation) for example.*

On the other hand, accountability issues are relevant throughout the HPC – although specific focus on this would be beneficial to discuss with partners leading up to the HRP process to ensure complementary (and avoid duplication) in sector (and cross-sector) accountability systems and feedback mechanisms.

Similarly, with learning exercises – these will often complement the ongoing work of the cluster at any point of the HPC although again, they may help shape and inform the HRP process – *see more on this under 5.3 on joint response planning.*

What are the Key Human Resources Required to undertake Step 4 on MEAL

As mentioned, the MEAL area is one that is still taking shape within the five pilot countries and there is thus less clear overviews of the specific resources required. However, it is clear that if a more “non-traditional” FSC approach is taken (i.e. looking at outcomes rather than outputs) and including data from development and peace actors, then such activities would be beyond the capacity of a normal FSC Team with one Coordinator and one IMO.

National level FSC teams (with help from partners) can undertake **light exercises** such an **assessment stocktaking exercise** to complement what is done for the HNO and to increase the level of HDP sensitivity within the FSC.

Similarly, **lessons learned** are already part of the FSC tasks and can be expanded to include development and peace actors however, to do the type of exercise undertaken in, for example, South Sudan, additional funds and human resources are required.

Therefore, to support proper HDP MEAL, **CLAs would need to recruit dedicated staff to augment the FSC team capacity.** This includes **1 MEAL or learning expert**

Additional funds may be required to cover trainings, workshops and other events related to the MEAL activities.

This is how it has been done in:

- Chad: 1 dedicated Survey MEAL specialist
- South Sudan: 1 FSC dedicated Learning expert

Note: *Additional resources will be required for each of the four steps.*

Country Examples of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Bridging data and information management systems: WFP’s SCOPE initiative

One of the critical challenges in successfully implementing the HDP coordination is accessing information on who is receiving what type of assistance from who and for how long. The SCOPE is WFP’s web-based application used to support beneficiary and transfer management operations throughout the entire programme intervention cycle. From the data management perspective, in order to effectively reach affected people in both humanitarian crisis and development contexts, the system allows to store individual and household data in a single organized repository facilitating access to and comprehensive view of people assisted. Stored information can include name, age, gender, household sizes and location but also biometric data such as photo, fingerprints and iris. The system is designed in a way to enable registering new data or importing data (including external databases, Excel documents or paper lists) from previous interventions. Offline registration is supported to enable data collection in remote locations, but connectivity is required at later stages to allow synchronization to the main platform. To ensure personal data protection, in accordance with UN and European Union Standards, data is stored on UN Information

Computer Centre servers. A number of card-based solutions linked to the system facilitate the delivery of assistance programmes by multiple actors who can create their “wallet” in the system and upload programme-specific e-vouchers to targeted registered beneficiaries.

While this system was not developed with the HDPN approach in mind, it is a good example of a tool that can be potentially applied for effective coordination and data sharing systems.

Lessons Learned:

With support from gFSC, the **FSLC in South Sudan** conducted a participatory review and learning exercise looking at five selected HDPN initiatives during 2022. The purpose was to:

- 1) Assess the extent and the nature of collaboration and coordination between actors at local and national levels including tangible efforts in promoting HDPN and maximizing the coherence, impact, and sustainability of programs across the different kinds of assistance;
- 2) Bring together practitioners and decision makers with shared interest of HDPN around the table to learn together and design a roadmap to support enhanced coordination amongst of the HDP nexus in South Sudan.

To date, the FSLC have mapped the actors and activities of the selected initiatives, conducted 26 individual interviews, seven focus groups discussions, two community consultations workshops, eight video interviews - and in December 2022, conducted a national level workshop with the objective to:

- Review lessons learned, opportunities and challenges that emerged from sub national consultations of partners
- Design a road map with practical recommendation on how to improve coordination between HDP actors

This participatory review process in South Sudan allowed the FSLC and HDP partners to identify the following key challenges and good practices for each of the four steps described in this document – plus for financing. **This provides a good overview of what FSCs may want to focus on during a learning process on HDP** (see the detail at the table below).

Challenges	Good practices / Opportunities
Bridging HDP Coordination Mechanisms and Platforms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Siloed coordination mechanism and platforms — Predominance of humanitarian action and Priority of funding of life saving activities I — Weak involvement, ownership and leadership by local structure, including government — Poor capacity building and leveraging of existing development and peace coordination mechanism and platforms — Too much meetings and workshops with a lot of repetitions — HR turn over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mapping of existing coordination mechanism and platforms of development and peace actors — Local coordination platform e.g area reference group (ARG) — HDP actions that include linkages with and strengthen existing local development plans — Resources allocation for dedicated coordination teams and activities. — Resources allocation for capacity building of local coordination structures and government and their activities
Joint Diagnosis of Drivers of the Crisis	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Siloed and fragmented studies and analysis — IPC and other analysis are focusing on immediate drivers and not looking at more structural roots of the crisis (conflict, climate etc.) — Analysis and donors and international partners driven, government, local actor and community are not enough involve in the process (only validation of results) — Poor sharing of data, competition, distrust between partners — Burden of data collection on communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Join conception of need assessment with HDP indicators and join data collection — Sharing of analysis, datasets and resources (i.e. IPC) — Participatory and inclusive approach : involvement of local government and discussion of results with communities and local actors
Joint Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Need to strengthen or update local and national development plans — Poor access to certain geographical area due to conflicts and floods and limited numbers of partners in certain remote areas — Need for technical support and innovative HDP programs to address roots drivers of protracted crisis (climate crisis, conflict ?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Support development and implementation of local development plan — Build programs based on available local learnings and scientific evidences — Support join advocacy and join appeal with HDP actors — Advocate for more flexible planning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Short term and poorly flexible planning and financing to address roots drivers of protracted crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Include HDP approach and sectorial objective the in humanitarian response plans (HRP)
Joint Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor MEAL capacity and resources, – Insufficient joint monitoring evaluation and supervision missions – Poor accountability and involvement of local actors, including communities, government and CSO . – Low involvement of community (restitution of survey, results and participatory monitoring) – Multiple accountability feedback mechanisms : communities are lost – Project based siloed MEAL systems – Need to strengthen joint platforms to promote join access to data and knowledge from local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Working in consortium, Collective Theory of change and outcomes – Join data collection, sharing of analysis, resources – Increase resources for join MEAL positions, and third-party monitoring evaluation and supervision mission in proposal – Sharing of databases and resources – Learning platform accessible for local actors
Financing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Siloed funding (H / D / P), and donor driven project – Humanitarian funding are short term less accessible from local actor and disconnect from local development plans – Humanitarian funding are less flexible and less predictable funding and disconnecting from D and P funding – Less investments on D and P coordination and communication positions, structures, activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – HDP Pool funds, RSRTF, HPF – Donors working groups (Area) – Consortium Area based programming and funding

Contact the gFSC for the final report on the participatory review process which sets out a plan to strengthen country and state levels collaboration and coordination between actors, including tangible efforts in promoting HDPN and maximizing the coherence, impact, and sustainability of programs across the different kinds of assistance coordination. See also [this video](#) on participatory learning exercise of HDP coordination in South Sudan.

Support and Resources

Support in country: The FSC team can lean on in-country resources including the technical CLA support units (e.g. WFP RAM) as well as technical experts from FSC partners (most FSC’s have a needs assessment working group or other technical working groups, which could be expanded to discuss MEAL related issues).

Support at gFSC level: For support with MEAL, **FSC teams can reach out to the gFSC**

OR // A HDPN focal point / specialist at global level can provide support to country FSCs – this includes support with TORs for participatory learning or review exercises

Resources:

- See also the [main webpage on the FSC website](#) dedicated to the gFSC pilot on HDPN and all associated products and tools. Contact the gFSC for additional material based on country experiences.
- See the **FSC Coordinator Handbook** (gFSC, 2023) for information on monitoring (section 5.15 and see description of FSC logframe and monitoring in 9.5.2, chapter 9), on AAP (see section 5.3, chapter 1) and on knowledge management and lessons learned (section 5.11, chapter 5) – available in early 2023.
- Contact the gFSC for updates on the scientific studies from Chad, Somalia and Nigeria (or for other joint analysis products from the five countries). The gFSC can also share examples of ToRs for Analysis and Analysis Plans from different countries (e.g. South Sudan).
- [Understanding food systems drivers: A critical review of the literature](#), Global Food Security, Volume 23, 2019, Christophe Béné, Steven D. Prager, Harold A.E. Achicanoy, Patricia Alvarez Toro, Lea Lamotte, Camila Bonilla Cedrez, Brendan R. Mapes. See pp. 149-159.

- [Guide to Context Analysis Informing FAO Decision-Making – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts](#) (FAO, 2019) and [Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030](#) (FAO, 2022).
- Read about the Food Systems Framework on <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-food-systems>

Data Protection and Data Sharing Agreements

Data responsibility is paramount as the humanitarian system collects and shares more data than ever before. The ways in which data is collected, shared and used can present challenges to the privacy and security of affected people - data can place already vulnerable people at greater risk of harm or exploitation, when not handled responsibly. In 2021, many countries started rolling out the IASC operational guidance by developing country-specific response-wide Information Sharing Protocols (ISP) to address gaps between global frameworks and their practical application in field operations. It is recommended that clusters, if necessary, develop their own ISPs.

The FSC team should promote data responsibility within the FSC and among FSC members, following the principles, key role and responsibility outlined in the gFSC guidance.

Data Protection - Resources & Guidance

- [IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action](#) (2021) – cluster level actions for data responsibility, pp. 22-24.
- The gFSC Field Guide to Data Sharing (gFSC, Placeholder, available end of 2022).
- FSC Checklist for Data Protection / Responsibility (gFSC, Placeholder, available end of 2022).

RESOURCES

gFSC Guidance:

- **Multi-sectoral approaches to enhancing food security and nutrition - Compendium of activities** (gFSC, 2023): FSC Coordinators can consult this guidance to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context – for mapping purposes, it can be helpful to match the country-specific activities of partners with those of the Handbook in order to make the HDP comparable across the countries. Find it [here](#).
- **The FSC Coordinator Handbook** (gFSC, placeholder, early 2023): This includes overall information on mapping and gap analysis (see section 5.15, chapter 5), on assessment and analysis (see chapter 6), on response planning (see more on the HRP in chapter 9) on monitoring (section 5.15 and see description of FSC logframe and monitoring in 9.5.2, chapter 9), on AAP (see section 5.3, chapter 1) and on knowledge management and lessons learned (section 5.11, chapter 5) – *a beta version of the handbook for field testing will be available on the [FSC website](#) in early 2023 TBC*
- **Guidance on Mapping of HDP Activities and Actors** (gFSC, 2022): This provides step by step guidance on how to capture development and peace activities within the current humanitarian IM mapping at country level. Find it [here](#).
- For **available material** from the countries currently implementing HDP mapping, contact the gFSC.
- See also the **main webpage on the FSC website** dedicated to the gFSC pilot on HDPN and all associated products and tools.

Overall Background on the HDPN:

Resources

- For background information, this [Nexus Essentials](#) online course (developed by the Nexus Academy, a DAC-UN Dialogue initiative, 2022) provides a thorough introduction to Nexus approaches across the HDP pillars as well as many useful resources.
- ☑ IASC [Light Guidance on Collective Results](#) (IASC Results Group 4, 2020). *Read more about the HDP nexus and “collective outcomes” (including about the 2020 Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes developed by IASC) in the FSC Coordinator Handbook, chapter 10, section 10.2.*
- See the [video](#) ‘Visualizing the P in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus’ (FAO, IOM 2020) for a quick overview of the HDP nexus.

Additional Resources:

- Main Global Network against Food Crises [website](#) (EU, FAO, WFP).
- [DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#) (OECD, 2020).
- **IASC Results Group 4** has worked to strengthen links and synergies between humanitarian and development actions/programmes, with linkages to peace. See for example:
 - [A Mapping and Analysis of Tools and Guidance on the H-P Linkages in the HDP-Nexus](#) (IASC RG4, 2022), pp. 20-33 provides a comprehensive overview of relevant resources.
 - [IASC Mapping of Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus Approaches, Synthesis Report](#) (IASC, 2021).
 - [Issue paper: Exploring peace within the Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus](#) (IASC, 2020). For a quick overview of the content, see pp. 22-23 in [Key Operational IASC Guidance: Executive and Operational Summaries](#) (IASC 2022).

Note: From April 2022, Results Group 4 has transitioned to **IASC Task Force 4 - this Task Force plans to develop HDPN guidance tailored for country clusters in 2023.**

- For background information, see also the former [Grand Bargain Workstream 10](#).
- [Issue paper: Exploring peace within the HDPN](#) (IASC, 2020).
- [Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030 – A how-to guide](#). (FAO, 2022).
- [Development actors at the nexus: Lessons from crises in Bangladesh, Cameroon, and Somalia](#) (Development Initiatives, 2021).
- [Contribution to improving the Prospects for Peace](#) (WFP, 2019).

- **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF): Guidance** (United Nations Sustainable Development Group, 2019).
- To understand the impact of the nexus from NGOs' side, see for example **The Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus** (Oxfam, 2019).
- For more on conflict sensitivity: See **Good Practice Note on Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace** (UNSDG, 2022).

Joint Analysis

- Contact the gFSC for updates on the scientific studies from Chad, Somalia and Nigeria (or for other joint analysis products from the five countries). The gFSC can also share examples of ToRs for Analysis and Analysis Plans from different countries (e.g. South Sudan).
- **Understanding food systems drivers: A critical review of the literature**, Global Food Security, Volume 23, 2019, Christophe Béné, Steven D. Prager, Harold A.E. Achicanoy, Patricia Alvarez Toro, Lea Lamotte, Camila Bonilla Cedrez, Brendan R. Mapes. See pp. 149-159.
- **Guide to Context Analysis Informing FAO Decision-Making – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts** (FAO, 2019) and **Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030** (FAO, 2022).
- Read about the Food Systems Framework on <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-food-systems>
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Joint Analysis in Nexus convergence areas - Methodological note** (Govt Cameroon, IOM, OCHA 2022)

Aligned, Complementary and Joint Response Planning

- **Multi-sectoral approaches to enhancing food security and nutrition - Compendium of activities** (gFSC, 2023): FSC Coordinators can consult this guidance to assess what type of activities may be the best combination of HDP response options in a given context. Find it [here](#).
- See the **FSC Coordinator Handbook** (gFSC, placeholder, early 2023) for detailed information on the HRP (chapter 9) and on the HDPN (chapter 10) – available on the FSC website in early 2023.
- For examples of **country concept notes** which describe how the above might look at country level (including on the food security graduation approach), contact the gFSC.

OTHER RESOURCES

- South Sudan: **Better Together? Prospects and Lessons for Improving Coordination and Collaboration between Humanitarians and Peacebuilders in South Sudan?** (CFRS, 2022)

IASC Guidance

- UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes: [UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes | IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org)
- IASC Mapping of Good Practice in the Implementation of the HDP Nexus approaches: [IASC Mapping of Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-Development Peace Nexus Approaches, Synthesis Report.pdf \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)
 - Note: The mapping is based on the nexus definition adopted in the [IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#) (see above).
- Exploring peace within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN), IASC: [iasc.peace_within_the_humanitarian-development-peace_nexus_hdnp.issue_paper.2020-10.pdf \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/peace_within_the_humanitarian-development-peace_nexus_hdnp.issue_paper.2020-10.pdf)
- A mapping and analysis of tools and guidance on the H-P linkages in the HDP-nexus – An Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 4 Working Paper [Mapping and analysis of Tools and Guidance Peace RG4.pdf \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)
- Review of Progress on Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda, May 2021 [Review of Progress Mainstreaming GEEWG into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda \(Report\).pdf \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)

- Key Messages on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus and its Links to Peace [Microsoft Word - Key Messages IASC HDN TT-UNDG 22 March 2019.docx \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)
- Draft. Analysis Paper: On the intersection between the New Way of Working and the Sustaining Peace Agenda [2._analysis_paper_intersection_of_nwow_and_s2._p.pdf \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)
- Podcast series: [Stream IASC RG4 music | Listen to songs, albums, playlists for free on SoundCloud](#)
- Webinar: [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) webinar - Humanitarian-Development Nexus: What is the new way of working? \(Part 1 and Part 2\)](#)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- FAO. 2018. Corporate framework to support sustainable peace in the context of Agenda 2030. <http://www.fao.org/3/I9311EN/i9311en.pdf>
- The Programme Clinic: designing conflict-sensitive interventions. Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts [The Programme Clinic: Designing conflict-sensitive interventions – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Facilitation guide \(fao.org\)](#)
- FAO. Development initiatives. NRC. Development actors at the nexus: lessons from crises in Bangladesh, Cameroon and Somalia [Development actors at the nexus: Lessons from crises in Bangladesh, Cameroon and Somalia, synthesis report \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)
- FAO. NRC. UNDP. 2020. Financing the Nexus: Gaps and opportunities from a field perspective. <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/financing-the-nexus-report/financing-the-nexus-report.pdf>
- FAO. 2021. Evaluation of FAO's contribution to the humanitarian–development–peace nexus 2014–2020. <https://www.fao.org/evaluation/evaluation-digest/evaluations-detail/en/c/1406966/>
- FAO. 2022. Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc1021en/>

WFP

- [WFP Minimum Standards for Conflict Sensitive Programming](#)
- [WFP and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#)
- [WFP's Nexus Approach in Palestine - 2021](#)
- [TRIPLE NEXUS: WFP'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE](#)

Committee on World Food Security

- FAO, IFAD & WFP. 2015. Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFSFFA). Rome. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bc852e.pdf>)

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Anticipatory Action
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CLA	Cluster Lead Agency
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSC	Food Security Cluster
gFSC	Global Food Security Cluster
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDPN	Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HPC	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
HPF	Humanitarian Pooled Fund
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IM	Information Management
IMO	Information Management Officer
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
JIAF	Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RC	Resident Coordinator
RSRTF	Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme