EVENT REPORT

11-12 February 2021

THE TRIPLE NEXUS

IN WASH

HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE

WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene

SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL

unicef

GERMAN WASH NETWORK

Supported by

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DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE

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Event Background and Introduction

As humanitarians, development and peace actors, we are failing to uphold the right to water and sanitation in fragile settings. 1.8 billion people and over three-quarters of the world's extreme poor live in fragile settings, and the numbers are expecting to increase.[1] Just 1 in 10 countries are on track to achieve universal access to basic sanitation, while coverage is actually decreasing in 9 countries.[2] Humanitarian crisis are more frequent, effecting more people and lasting longer. According to OCHA, the trend for short-term appeals over multiple years is worsening: the average humanitarian appeal lasted nine years in 2018 compared with five years in 2014.[3]

According to the OECD, some 57 countries/territories globally are regarded as fragile settings, of which 38 are Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) country partners[4] and 28 are Global WASH Cluster (GWC) priority countries for 2021. Fragile countries represent a significant footprint for each platform, more than 50% of SWA country partners and almost 100% of GWC priority counties globally. So what is a fragile setting? While definitions vary, one of the most commonly used is from the OECD: "Fragility is defined as the combination of exposure to risk and insufficient coping capacity of the state, system and/or communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks.' These risks originate from a broad range of themes such as security, social, political, economic, environmental, disease etc.[5] And fragility often extends past the OECD list into middle income economies such as Philippines that is exposed to pockets of insurgency in the south. And other middle-income economies that host large refugee populations such as Turkey that has recently hosted up to 4.3 million refugees and Bangladesh that currently hosts more than a million Rohingya.

The siloed approach taken by humanitarian, development and peace sectors in fragile contexts is not fit for purpose. To emphasise the need for change, one of the first priorities for the current UN Secretary General, was to stress the alarming situation in fragile contexts and the need to align not only humanitarian and development sectors but also peace sectors. This is "to support affected communities, address structural and economic impacts and help prevent a new spiral of fragility and instability."[6]

In response to the SG's call to action, Governments, the UN, banks, donors and NGOs have issued policy, strategy and technical briefs on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The WASH Sector has also made significant progress on the subject of the Nexus (see Annex 2).

To match global policy, there is a growing collaboration in fragile, disaster-prone and climate-change affected countries to implement WASH across humanitarian, development and peace sectors. Recently, successful examples of applying the Nexus approach include by the Government and the UN in Burkina Faso, and by Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda through the UNHCR Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

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[1] OECD States of Fragility report 2018
[2] JMP Global Database 2019
[3] UNICEF 2019, Water Under Fire Vol 1: Emergencies, development and peace in fragile contexts.
[4] SWA 2021, Found at Governments | Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
[5] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, States of Fragility 2016, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2016, p. 22.).
[6] UN 2016, Secretary-General-designate António Guterres' remarks to the General Assembly on taking the oath of office, found at Secretary-General-designate António Guterres' remarks to the General Assembly on taking the oath of office | United Nations Secretary-General

Event Rationale

To further enable this trend of aligning humanitarian, development and peace sectors, the Global WASH Cluster (GWC) and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Partnership began to shape a collaboration. About a year ago, the GWC, SWA, UNICEF, the IFRC and the German WASH Network (GWN) convened the Event "Building Resilient WASH Systems in Fragile States", which took place at UNHCR in Geneva. For the first time, development and humanitarian actors met with equal participation. At the meeting, the GWC and SWA began discussing possible future collaboration.

Similarly, the SWA Strategic Framework 2020-30 "All, Always and Everywhere", makes reference to the need to collaborate with humanitarian actors. The framework highlights the need to provide additional support to fragile countries that are "off track" to meet the sustainable development goals, aligning closely with the principle of "leave no one behind, " and their vision of "Water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere."

In 2020, the GWC published the humanitarian WASH Sector's Road Map 2020-2025, placing the humanitarian-development nexus as a part of the core strategy.   Under the umbrella of the humanitarian WASH Sector's Road Map 2020-2025 and in alignment with the SWA's Strategic Framework 2020-2030, SWA, GWC, UNICEF and the German WASH Network collaborated to establish and lead a partner consortia[7] dedicated to the initiative '3.5 Triple Nexus' based on the results of the Geneva event. As articulated in the strategy's Implementation Plan, *"Operationalizing the Triple Nexus[8] ensures the sustainability of WASH investments, contributing to strengthening the WASH Sector Resilience, thus paving the road for advancing the sustainable development goals, while enabling a more timely, predictable, high quality and cost-effective humanitarian response in times of crisis.*

An implementation plan has been validated, with input from the broader sector. The initiative aims to create an enabling ecosystem which uses synergies and strengthens coordination, collaboration and learning across the development and humanitarian WASH sectors. This includes the creation of a shared vision, the formalisation of cross-partnership collaboration, high level advocacy for WASH sector reform and the development of a 'Joint Operational Framework' (JOF), useful to practitioners at all levels. Globally, the JOF should outline a harmonized way of working for the humanitarian-development WASH sectors. At the national level they seek to formalise sector-wide systematic coordination and facilitate institutionalisation and leadership.

The GWN is consciously committed to the nexus topic since 2011. Highlights include the 2014 publication "Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development in the WASH sector" and several dialogue events that were convened at different World Water Weeks with the aim of bringing together humanitarian and development actors and strengthening their complementarity. UNICEF has worked on nexus challenge for decades, and in 2019 published a global call to action, as part of a report series, "Water Under Fire: emergencies, development and peace in fragile contexts" a seminal publication that demonstrated, through tangible examples, how the WASH triple nexus can be operationalized.

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[7] These organisations include SWA, GWC, German WASH Network, UNICEF, IFRC, BHA, IMC, IOM, PAH, Save the Children, Solidarities International, UNHCR, WHH, ICRC, Arche Nova

[8] The "triple nexus" refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding and envisions stronger collaboration and coordination among actors. The concept seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each sector to reduce need, risk and vulnerability following the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit / Agenda of Humanity and in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

Event Objectives

The main goal of the meeting was to establish a consolidated vision for the Triple Nexus across the humanitarian and development WASH sectors, outline the JOF and its action plan and agree on next steps. The meeting attempted to strike a balance between political dialogue, working time on process objectives and sufficient exchange for mutual learning.

Learning Objectives

1) Building a common understanding for the importance and the concept of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (Triple Nexus or HDPN)
2) Aligning definitions, terminology and perspectives between sectors
3) Sharing experiences and case studies from different contexts

Process Objectives

1) To bring together key SWA and GWC partners to launch Triple Nexus initiative
2) To outline the JOF and develop a plan of action
3) One year after Geneva: to take stock on the current initiatives and their progress
4) To identify current challenges and bottlenecks as well as opportunities and solutions to overcome them.

Methodology of Write Up

The narrative in the following sections summarise all sessions of the two-day event. The results of the workshop sessions are reported from the perspective of the group facilitators. The event was held on the meeting platform, Zoom with up to 100 participants (s. Annex 3) and included interactive group work (via breakouts rooms) using collaborative online whiteboards. The full event gallery with all whiteboards can be visited by clicking the following picture:
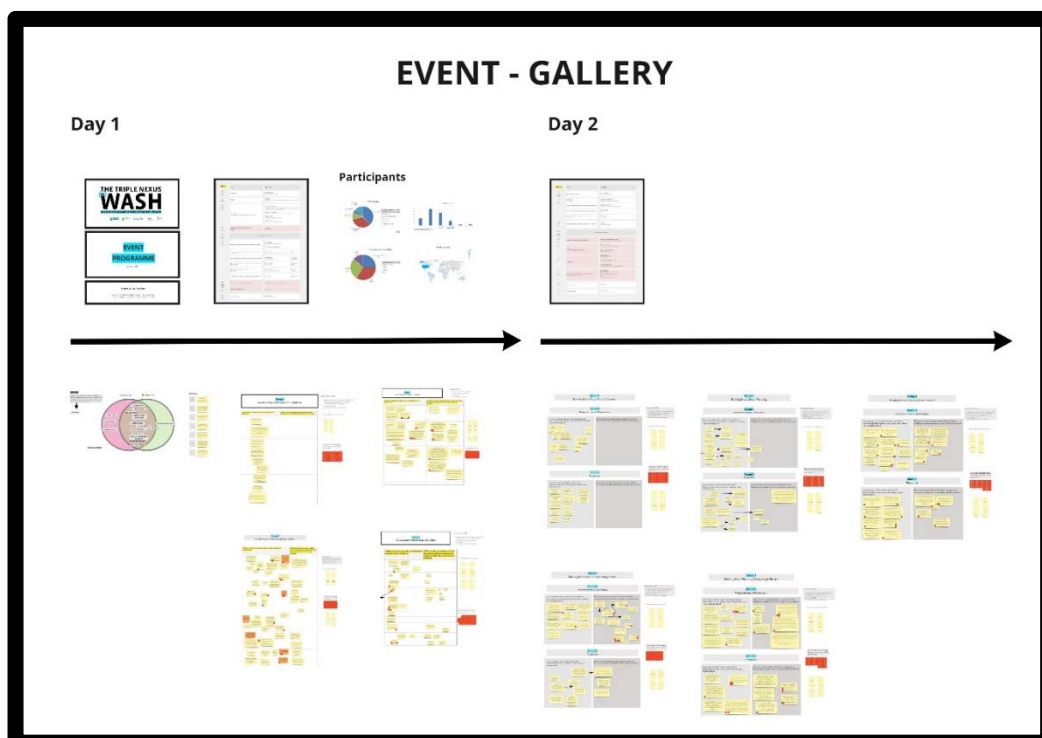
It is also possible to access the video recording to look up individual panel discussions and the reporting back from the groups. The group discussions in breakouts were not recorded:

- Recording Day 1
- Recording Day 2
- Opening Panel (on Youtube)

Introduction

Thilo Panzerbieter
Chair - German WASH Network

In September 2019, the first meeting where an equal number of WASH humanitarian and development actors met to discuss the humanitarian and development. With five times more registered than attended in the last meeting, the WASH Sector will move forward discussions to develop a JOF. In this learning and working event, the inclusion of the peace sector and how it relates to the WASH Sector in fragile contexts is a new and important element.

Welcome Remarks

Pit Koehler
Head of Division 'Multilateral Policy on Humanitarian Assistance' German Federal Foreign Office

In fragile contexts, humanitarian assistance cannot do the job alone. It is imperative that we both adopt a cross sectoral approach and a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. WASH has become a growing strategic priority within the German Government. In 2020, the government issued 171 million Euro across 159 projects, growing from 55 million euros in 2019.

The WASH sector is severely underfunded. The situation is particularly dire and gaps are getting even bigger. The WASH sector needs to attract new sources of funding and use it efficiently. It will need to increase the coordination among partners, praising the foresight of the GWN, UNICEF, SWA and GWC for convening this meeting.

Improving the right to water and sanitation through the Triple Nexus approach makes most sense in fragile contexts. In these contexts, the WASH sector needs to work in a coherent and collaborative actor. For example, after crisis, hand over to development needs a smooth transfer while ensuring the humanitarian principles are upheld. Development partners need to engage from the beginning of a crisis but this is still not happening, and the UN system led by the Humanitarian Coordinator/ Resident Coordinator needs to strongly enable this interaction. The peace sector is also crucial. The political process driving stability and humanitarian principles must coexist.

The Federal Ministry was incredibly supportive of the focus on operationalization, as the 3 sectors are currently from this. The Federal Ministry demonstrated that it has moved towards bridging funding siloes creating a "Joint Chapeau" document to transfer funds across humanitarian and development streams to a single agency that can demonstrate collective outcomes across humanitarian and development.

Opening Panel: Framing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Kelly-Ann Naylor
Facilitator: Associate Director of WASH, UNICEF

Humanitarian crisis have been more frequent, effecting more people and lasting longer. An increasing number of people are living in fragile and conflict affected settings. 1.8 billion people, of which 670 million are children, live in this setting. One third are children. It's also home to three quarters of the world's extremely poor. To achieve the rights to water and sanitation, we need to ensure sustainable development solutions. A recent analysis of JMP data, people living in fragile contexts are over 8 times more likely to lack basic drinking water services compared to the rest of the world. Only 1 in 10 countries were on track to meet sanitation SDGs.

UNICEF released the Water Under Fire campaign to not only highlight the challenge of WASH In fragile settings but also to show positive examples of how water can be part of the solution to the triple nexus and how it can be a way to demonstrate how to operationalize it.

Hon Prof. Danilo Türk
Lead Political Advisor - Geneva Water Hub (formerly: Chair of UN High Level on Water and Peace & President of Slovenia)

There are two priorities for moving forward on the WASH nexus agenda. The first is to build and sustain political will. Political will needs to be generated from the start. WASH is a minimum, but this needs to be brought to the political level, where there are many competing water agendas across water resources, agriculture, environment etc. In fragile societies, fragility is a governance issue and is expressed as the absence of services, of which water is a key part. Water contributes to all of the other sectors. For example, in the Sahel – water and the triple nexus is essential for both survival and peace and development in the region. This requires a good understanding of local institutions, communities etc. Recently, the security council adopted a comprehensive strategy for the Sahel and west Africa. It is important to figure out how to fit the agenda of WASH and the triple nexus into these globally significant discussions and documents and start a dialogue with the highest rank of leaders.

Secondly, in highly fragile contexts where there is armed conflict, the triple nexus must be discussed with military commanders. Protection of WASH services from armed conflict is essential. Many armed conflict leaders know this, and it is often respected. However, the necessary conceptual and legal framework for protection of water and sanitation infrastructure in armed conflict needs to be introduced into discussions and operationalised.

Catarina de Albuquerque
Chief Executive Officer - SWA

SWA's mission is to build a world through our partners where the rights to water and sanitation are realized for all and everywhere. We must work where almost two billion people are living in fragile contexts. Developing political will is the most important. Build and strengthening systems – the policies, and the enabling environment. This must be in place at country level to build resilience and sustainable systems. This is at the heart of the nexus.

There are 71 country partners in global south, showing an immense interest to work across this nexus. However, the problems are often political, and we must go a little more upstream to address political problems. The WASH Sector need to link financing on the nexus with SWA's high level Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs), and this is where SWA can leverage their support.

Water and sanitation are often fragmented across competing sectors such as WASH, water resources, climate, energy etc. To move forward on this agenda, the WASH sector will need to work on collaboration across these sectors, while not diluting the importance of the WASH Sector.

Monica Ramos
Coordinator - GWC

Humanitarian crises are reaching a peak, they are more protracted, and humanitarians are overstretched and struggling to adapt. The WASH sector needs to change the way the humanitarian and development partners work. This will require more flexibility and willingness to change what and how we are currently doing things.

The WASH sector needs to become resilient, and risk informed, especially in fragile contexts. To achieve high quality and effective results, the WASH Sector needs to look at new partnerships and investment, to look at how we can work with financing institutions and private sector.

The WASH sector needs to position itself in global discussions, acknowledging and working with its intersecting sectors, in a united front on the triple nexus. This is a call to action.

Finding Common ground and terminology

The purpose of the exercise was to review a set of principles that are core to each of the humanitarian, development and peace sectors and determine which of these principles is unique and which are shared.
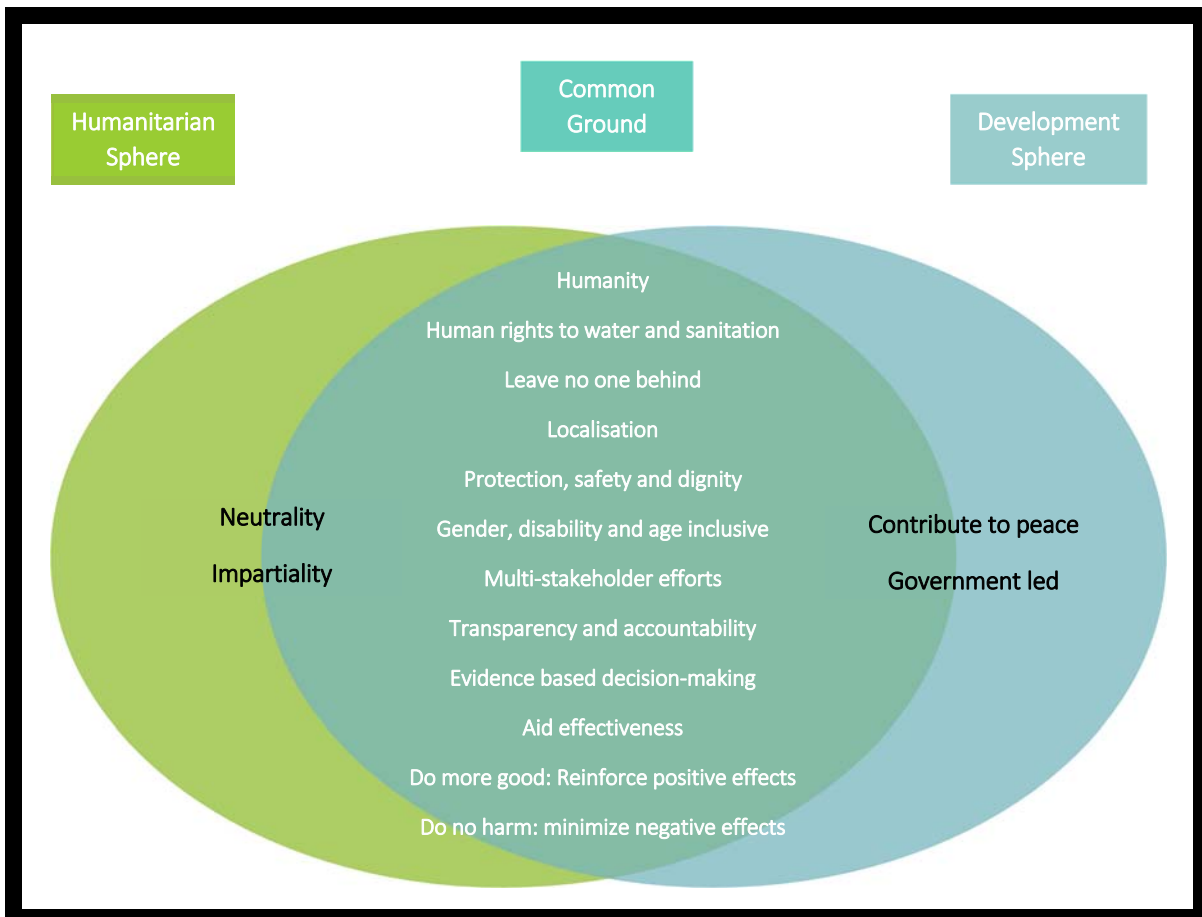

Fig 1: Example of one group's placement of key principles on the humanitarian-development spectrum (note that it was a subjective exercise).

The exercise clearly demonstrated that most principles are shared between humanitarian and development sectors. Those that are not always shared, are some humanitarian principles such as impartiality, neutrality and independence. For example, political interference can lead to inequitable distribution of aid. On the development side, principles such as "peace building" were regarded as more exclusively development, although some participants commented that there may be opportunities to peace building in protracted crisis settings. While all sectors need to respect circumstances where key principles may prevent collaboration, there is significant common ground across the majority of principles for collaboration across the sectors.

Another recurrent theme during the event was the need for developing a common terminology across all sectors that is essential in ensuring that we are enabling collaboration through effective

communication. New key terms that are important to understand as part of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach are as follows (A complete working list of terms and definitions for the learning event are in Annex 1):

Nexus approach/New Ways of Working: refers to the aim of strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each pillar – to the extent of their relevance in the specific context – in order to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict.

Collective outcome: refers to a commonly agreed measurable result or impact enhanced by the combined effort of different actors, within their respective mandates, to address and reduce people's unmet needs, risks and vulnerabilities, increasing their resilience and addressing the root causes of conflict.

Comparative advantage: refers to the demonstrated capacity and expertise (not limited solely to a mandate) of one individual, group or institution to meet needs.[9]

Deep Dive: "New Ways of Working" across the WASH Triple Nexus

Francis Bwalya

Facilitator, Permanent Mission of Zambia, Geneva

The purpose of session was to look at how we can build partnerships to strengthen the WASH sector in the context of recurrent disasters or crises such as natural disaster, pandemic, political, economic or man-made.   To represent a diverse group of actors from the WASH sector, the panel was made up of representatives from Government, Private sector, Civil society, Research & Learning and a financing institution.

Government

Peter Mahal

Director General, Ministry of Electricity, Dams, Irrigation and Water Resource of South Sudan

In South Sudan, coordination is split between humanitarian and development platforms. These coordination bodies were established prior to 2013. The WASH Sector Steering committee is the development body and the WASH Cluster under the leadership of OCHA is the humanitarian coordination mechanism. Humanitarian and development groups must make concerted efforts to share information and coordinate. The capacity of the government is insufficient to lead the WASH Cluster but it is of central importance that they can. Humanitarian sector is called upon to build the capacity of the government to lead the coordination of the WASH Cluster, as a better long term solution for South Sudan.

Highlights from the government groupwork include:

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[9] OECD 2021, DAC Recommendations on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

- The need to create a single coordination platform encompassing all the components of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in both Development and Humanitarian contexts and led by government.
- The importance of addressing the underlying drivers of conflict to reduce fragility, increase resilience and minimize risk to investment.
- Responsibility for the WASH sector cuts across multiple ministries and levels of government: joint stakeholder planning should include all relevant ministries/levels across humanitarian and development areas of work.
- Government can facilitate the early action of the development sector during humanitarian crisis, so they can guide the response towards sustainable development, where appropriate.
- Revise national strategies and policies to cover the context of crisis, to enable partnerships and cooperation among the Humanitarian-Development-Peace actors .

Private Sector

Perry Rivera
Chief Operating Officer, Manila Water

Private sector companies like Manila Water were established out of the privatisation push from Philippines government, two decades ago. As an archipelago of islands, the Philippines is prone to natural disaster, and there are pockets of insecurity. For the private sector to flourish, the Government needs to provide stability through basic law and order. The primary role of the private sector is to 1. build trust with government and other stakeholders, 2. build empathy with the affected community, and 3. establish connections across multiple stakeholders as the delivery of water is part of an interconnected ecosystem, especially in urban environments. While water utilities will compete during times of stability, during disaster the competition turns to collaboration among utilities. If the private sector is able to operate securely within a crisis, they will be able to build the required infrastructure and service delivery models, which can then form the basis of moving towards economies of scale to enable a sustainable business model.

Highlights from the Private Sector groupwork include:
- Strengthening the regulatory framework to empower utilities to operate in fragile contexts. In these contexts, often times utilities are operating in a legal framework vacuum.
- De-risking private sector work in fragile settings. In order to empower utilities, they need a framework to assist them to take a risk managed approach to financing.
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for the protection of water and sanitation services and infrastructure in war zones. In the context of the triple nexus in war zone, humanitarians need to concentrate on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), development partners should concentrate on opportunities for sustainable development, and the peace element should be left to high level diplomats.

External Support Agencies (ESA)[10]

Dominick De Waal

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[10] External Support Agencies (ESA) as defined by SWA include bilateral donors, multilateral organizations, foundations, financing institutions and external agencies that support countries' work in the attainment of SWA's objectives

Senior Economist, Global Water Practice, World Bank

Basic financial analysis is essential. The primary sources of finance under any conditions are comprised of taxes, tariffs and transfers (overseas development aid). Any financial innovations are designed to bring future revenue into the present. However, the minimum requirement to be financially viable to receive a loan is to demonstrate that the utility can bring in sufficient revenue to pay for the loan. The minimum requirement for financial viability is the ability of a utility to demonstrate it can bring in sufficient revenue to cover its Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs.

Pre-crisis risk analysis and allocation is necessary to establish a successful Public Private Partnership (PPP). Using an analysis of how WASH services are financed during pre-crisis, projections can be made on how the service will operate when exposed to future crisis, and therefore determine risk.

The case study in Somaliland shows how a pre-crisis risk analysis could have identified the need for a fuel subsidy to keep the Hargesia water utility, a PPP, operating during crisis. This utility is one of the few service providers that can cover its O&M costs in an extremely fragile context, most likely as the business model was developed in a context where government services were almost non-existent. However, during a large and protracted crisis, the fuel cost rose alarmingly, and the utility could not cover its O&M costs. The World Bank intervened by requesting an emergency fuel tariff to the national Somaliland government, which helped the utility continue to operate. This emergency intervention may have been averted if a crisis fuel subsidy was in place prior to the crisis.

Highlights from the External Support Agency groupwork include:
- Developing aa common vision for a WASH collective outcome based on context. For example, it might not be achieving sustainable development goals but stemming SDG losses etc. Resilience was regarded as an essential element of a collective outcome.
- While acknowledging donors have made progress on providing flexible and multiyear funding to both humanitarians and development, there still needs to be more progress by donors. Also, from the recipient agencies, more collaboration is required to reconcile different timelines for humanitarian and development agencies as well as provide better strategies/proposals for multi-year funding and try to address organisational structural issues to do this.
- Developing an incremental approach for partnership across the triple nexus. For example, the recent discussions by the WASH sector in Burkina Faso on the triple nexus approach include 5 or 6 steps, starting with geographic converse and leading to a more mature collaboration, step by step.

Civil Society Organisations

Gidon Bromberg
Director, EcoPeace Middle East

If the WASH Sector is going to contribute to peace building then we must influence political will, as demonstrated by a case study from the lower Jordan River that services Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. For the delivery of WASH services to be a platform for peace building, the WASH sector needs to speak to the self-interests of each side in a manner that advances mutual gains to create win-win situations for all sides of the conflict. This case study demonstrated that from the outset strategies are needed to promote both a bottom- up and a top-down approach.

The bottom-up approach included mobilising youth, their parents and religious leaders, to successfully advocate to the town mayors on both sides of the conflict that they needed to work together for the

rehabilitation of the lower Jordan River, as the demise of the river through pollution and water diversion was at the expense of livelihood opportunities for each side, highlighting that under present policies they were all losers. The top-down approach concentrated on using a joint team of researchers made up of experts from each of the conflict affected parties to create a master plan for the rehabilitation of the river. This approach significantly mitigated the real or perceived bias of the technical inputs and developed trust in the master plan.

The combination of community mobilisation and trusted technical inputs provided a platform to convene decision makers from all sides to commit to parallel investments that could create the win-win paradigm shift. Within a decade of advocacy, over a US 100 million was invested in the building of wastewater sewage treatment plants in Jordan, Israel and Palestine, removing large quantities of sewage that were otherwise directly and indirectly polluting the river. Since 2014, 9 million cubic meters (mcm) of water are being released down the lower Jordan River annually, with a commitment to increase fresh water flow to 60 mcm annually. Further, Jordan and Israel created for the first time a new committee focused on joint efforts for river rehabilitation. Though more progress is still being advocated, the case study demonstrates that WASH programmes do not only provide development and humanitarian outcomes, they can also see real peace dividends.

Highlights from the Civil Society Organisation's groupwork include:
- Developing and joint analysis, planning and coordination as the most important contribution to the triple nexus moving forward
- Importance of ensuring CSO legitimacy by local governance structures to:
  - ensure CSOs can support government to build political will to improve WASH collective outcomes in fragile contexts
  - to ensure CSOs can support overall advocacy and programming in this area.

Research and Learning

Annette Huber-Lee
Senior Scientist, Stockholm Environment Institute

The key gaps in research and learning for the WASH sector in fragile contexts include evidence-based knowledge on how to transition between humanitarian and development, lack of knowledge of lack of the planning process across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and a lack of understand between the links in the nexus. Capacity for gender equity and poverty considerations are under researched.

The WASH sector needs to invest in applied research that links humanitarian, development and peace, to understand what is working and what is not. Most alarming is that there are only very limited examples within fragile settings. The triple nexus research and learning agenda will need to carefully consider the capacity for gender equity and poverty, and improve joint analysis and planning.

Highlights from the Research and Learning's (R&L) groupwork include:
- Linking humanitarian, development and peace systemic analysis at the country level and use that to identify research and learning to build linkages across these sectors and to use it to identity learning gaps.
- Ensuring R&L is a standing agenda in the WASH Cluster/WASH sector meetings in fragile contexts.
- Jointly hosting a learning series in partnership between SWA and the GWC to try to build concepts of resilience and sustainability in fragile contexts.

- Increasing the time frames for funding of WASH in fragile contexts R&L to adequately reflect the long-term nature of the required interventions across humanitarian, development and peace.

Peace Panel

Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari

Executive Director, Center for Water Security and Cooperation

The purpose of the panel was to discuss the role of WASH programming in contributing to conflict prevention and to addressing the root causes and structural drivers of conflict. Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari chaired the discussion, and also took the opportunity to highlight recommendations from her own organisation, which include:

- Domestic WASH laws must go beyond identifying a human right to water and sanitation.
- Strong domestic and local WASH laws that actualize access to water and sanitation are critical for building a domestic commitment to WASH. This commitment to WASH strengthens communities and builds peace within and between communities.
- WASH and water security laws are interconnected. Water resource stewardship is critical to ensuring access to water broadly as well as actualizing the human right to water and sanitation.

Michael Talhami

Senior Advisor, Water and Habitat, ICRC

The key highlights include:
- Actors engaged in humanitarian crises are subject to humanitarian principles - including humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence - and to International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Through respect for IHL by parties to the conflict and strict adherence to humanitarian principles by humanitarian actors operating on the ground, safe access to civilians can be ensured.
- IHL mitigates human suffering by limiting the effects of war on people and poverty. Therefore, most humanitarian actors work on conflict management rather than resolution. Humanitarian action can help create a more conducive environment for peace to take hold. Humanitarian actors can also exacerbate conflict through their interventions if they are not careful.
- Development and peace actors need to understand the importance of humanitarian principles and not undermine them in order for humanitarian action to reach civilians.

Anna Azaryeva Valente

Team Lead Fragility and Peacebuilding, UNICEF

The key highlights include:
- There are multiple ways through which water relates to conflict and peace. Water can be a direct source of conflict or exacerbate an existing conflict; examples of this can be found in Iraq, Mali and the Ukraine. From the peacebuilding perspective, entry points include protection of WASH in armed conflicts, managing natural resources, and building peace.

- WASH interventions can bring groups in conflict together and build peace; examples can be found in South Sudan, Somalia, and Lebanon. WASH actors should engage with development and humanitarian actors to achieve peace outcomes.
- WASH actors should analyze the interaction between water, conflict and peace at the local, national and transnational levels in order for WASH actors to be more sensitive to the impact of WASH interventions on conflicts.

Mara Tignino
Senior Legal Advisor, Geneva Water Hub

The key highlights include:
- Protection of WASH infrastructure needs to be tackled in transboundary water negotiations, for example in the context of negotiations on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
- The implementation of a human-rights based approach should be ensured in the management of transboundary water resources, for example in the context of the Chad lake, Senegal, Niger and Dniester rivers.
- SDG 6 can only be achieved through a holistic perspective: access to water and sanitation services is only one component of it. The WASH community should reinforce its role in achieving other targets, including the target 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation.
- The Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure (GLP) may help the WASH community to tackle the protection of water during and after armed conflicts in a comprehensive manner including through transboundary water cooperation.

Joint Operating Framework

Tim Grieve
Independent Consultant

A brief desktop study along with more than 20 interviews was undertaken across high level humanitarian, development and peace actors in or intersecting with the WASH sector led to the following insights on the development of a JOF for the WASH sector across the humanitarian, development and peace sectors. The key principles of the WASH humanitarian, development and peace approach is to ensure the rights to water and sanitation in fragile contexts (and those related to natural disaster and climate change) by reducing needs, risk and vulnerabilities and "leave no one behind." Specifically, the overall collective outcome for the WASH Sector can be expressed as

Based on the comparative advantage of each sector and partner, ensuring the right to water and sanitation in fragile contexts by collaborating across humanitarian, development and peace sectors:

    a)   *to strengthen resilience of the WASH Sector,*
    b)   *accelerate sustainable development and*
    c)   *foster opportunities to sustain and/or support peace building, where appropriate.*

Overall opportunities of moving the agenda of the WASH triple nexus:

- There is an opportunity for **development actors to be engaged early on** in an emergency to lead to sustainable outcomes.

- **Prevention is urgently needed to shift the focus** of government, service providers and communities away from responding to crises to addressing / mitigating risks before they have materialised.
- **Long term preparedness approaches**, for both development and humanitarian actors, are necessary to build capacity of government, service providers and communities to more effectively respond to emergencies without external assistance.
- **Humanitarian actors, especially in protracted crisis settings, reduce risk** in very fragile communities by building trust, **creating an incentive for sustainable development actors to engage**.

What are the lessons learned for a successful nexus approach?

- **Localisation and capacity development are key** both at government and community levels to develop long term resilience capabilities. And along with local capacity, international capacity needs strengthening. If we can lay the global policy groundwork for coordinating local capacity building across preparedness (humanitarian) and prevention (development), then we can move forward with implementation on the ground. Capacity development needs long term programming, at least 3 year and maybe up to 10 years in challenging contexts.
- **National and local government ownership is key** to delivering long term gains, as was stressed in yesterday's discussions.
- The WASH sector needs to **look beyond the WASH sector** for opportunities to collaborate and solve WASH related sustainable outcomes– to climate, water resources, energy etc.
- **Information systems** need to be built on agreed standards across humanitarian and development and to help move earlier and more rapidly to sustainable development.
- **The water sector is a low hanging fruit** as a means of addressing social grievances and contributing to peace. The WASH Sector can develop creative ways of using water as platform for peace initiatives.
- **Joint Context/conflict analysis is essential** so that a "do no harm" approach is applied as a minimum throughout all approaches to the nexus and also to provide the opportunity to build trust with the community. Other important analysis includes are towards providing environmental safeguards.

What are the challenges?

- **Triple Nexus terminology is not well understood**, especially at the country level. The WASH sector needs to develop a common terminology across all the sectors (See Annex 1).
- **Linking with Development actors early has some challenges**: Not long after the Rohingya Crisis began, in early 2018, the Asian Development Bank intervened. The WASH Cluster and the ADB began coordinating from the outset. However, by 2019 the ADB ceased coordinating with the WASH Cluster, instead working directly with the government in an opaque manner. As a result, the government became less responsive to the WASH Cluster.
- **The water sector is fragmented.** The WASH sector needs to think beyond WASH and include WRM, transboundary related issues to address the nexus. **WASH coordination systems do not support the Nexus approach.** In general WASH sector coordination is weak, especially on the development side.
- **State ownership to protect and safeguard water access is weak** and is not supported by national laws, and often leadership of international community can lead to the state passing on its core responsibility. However, it is preferable for government to lead but not in all contexts, especially where aid is politicised or perceived to be.
- **Conflict resolution requires significant compromise**. This can jeopardise the perception of agencies to be independent when delivering aid or in long term programming. For example, in recent years, the Mali UN Peace keeping force, MINUSMA undertook humanitarian needs

assessments. However, the assessments were compromised by the short-term security agenda of MINUSMA. As a result, some communities in need were not identified for assistance, which lead to negative community perception of the aid sector.

- The underlying hypothesis of the nexus is that the population and the state are on the same side but in the most fragile contexts this is not the case. **Peacebuilding is better suited for development,** it can cause conflict during emergency response or protracted crisis.

How can we overcome these challenges?

- Before launching the Triple Nexus approach, the WASH sector needs to reflect on the result of breaking down the siloes. If we break down the silos, will we **build back something better** such as the case studies in Uganda and Burkina Faso demonstrate or will we build back something potentially worse such in in the Mali example, where aid was politicized.
- The WASH sector needs to build processes to facilitate finding common ground and accommodating differences. This process could include an assessment of **organizational mandates, priorities and comparative advantage**, when deciding on roles and responsibilities.
- Agree and **use a common terminology** (See Annex 1)**.**
- Jointly analyse context and conflict prior to planning to ensure a minimum "do no harm approach", and look for opportunities to build peace.
- **Develop accountability and transparent systems** between partners and the community, service providers and policy makers that build trust
- Develop a **phased incremental approach** to partnership, similar to the case study from Burkina Faso, that will assist in building trust between partners overtime.
- **Leverage political will and use existing country mechanisms** to move forward with the Nexus, where appropriate, such as using the recent case study in Uganda that deployed the Comprehensive Refugee and Response Framework (CRRF) to accommodate the long term needs of refugees.

The WASH Triple Nexus Joint Operating Framework should include:

- **A concise operational outlay of no more than 10-15 pages that can be applied across multiple fragile contexts both small and large.**
- Clearly defined **roles and responsibilities** across the different stakeholders and take into consideration the operationalisation and coordination of the approach
- A commonly agreed working terminology across sectors of the approach
- L**inks beyond the WASH sector (Water Resource Management (WRM), climate, energy etc.)**.
- The JOF should also **talk to in country processes** such as broader humanitarian-development-peace processes and related international architecture.
- JOF needs a monitoring and mutual accountability component ensure trust across the partnership and to all stakeholders. Practical metrics need to be added such as giving timeframes for humanitarian action to encourage movement towards development.
- **Use the SWA building blocks** as part of the JOF to bring ownership across the Sector and governments, as they are a part of a widely accepted framework. This was also agreed in the 2019 Learning and Working event, as described above.

Developing the JOF using the SWA Building Blocks

Highlights of the groupwork that developed the WASH Sector JOF using the 5 SWA Building Blocks were presented by the group facilitators.[11] This included:

Sector Strategy and Policy

Omar El Hattab

Senior Advisor Emergencies, WASH Section, UNICEF

Key highlights include:

- Sector policies and strategies need to be comprehensive and support advancing resilient WASH Sectors that are able to absorb shocks, continue delivering during shocks and recover/adapt swiftly afterwards. An all hazard approach to resilience would be important for advancing resilience. Embarking on a Global WASH Sector Resilience Index would be useful for informing sector decisions and guiding investments.
- Policies and strategies need to be broad enough, flexible and evidence based. These can be complemented by operational documents to address operational details that attend to emerging needs. Evidence and data need to be maintained at an impartial repository. Policies should also build on existing structures and encourage multi-sectorality.
- Policies and strategies need to be developed in a consultative manner that involves all stakeholders and need to ensure complementarity with related sectors' policies and strategies and take into considerations social, cultural, etc boundary conditions

Institutional Arrangements

Monica Ramos

Coordinator – GWC

Key highlights include:

- Create a framework that identifies and brings together all key and influencing actors around one common agenda. This specifically includes national/local government and authorities, technical line ministries, civil society, academia, human rights groups, end users etc.
- Resilience of WASH infrastructure needs to be a key feature of interventions supported by development actors.
- International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the core humanitarian principles are key in conflict and fragile settings, and requires capacity building across all actors with respect to role, responsibility and accountability. The capacity building should also extend to including parties directly involved in the conflict (e.g. military). Create a mechanism to systematically track and report IHL violations related to attacks on water infrastructure with the Security Council.

Financing

Guy Hutton

Senior Advisor, WASH Section, UNICEF

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[11] Note that the SWA Building Blocks are positioned with the SWA Collaborative Behaviours, which assist in the operationalisation and will be further developed in the Joint Operating Framework

- De-risking the delivery of WASH services in fragile contexts is fundamental to ensure financial flows into fragile contexts. Along with the pre-crisis de-risking assessment that was recommended in the groupwork on the first day, the following other de-risking activities were most notable in Yemen as part of the unprecedented cholera in 2017, which included:
  o The long-term presence of international actors on the ground such as UNICEF and ICRC provided a demonstrated track record, a trust built with communities and a system to monitor the delivery of WASH services
  o Social and environmental assessments were undertaken by implementing partners.
  o Prior to the crisis, the World Bank and GIZ had built the capacity of the WASH service providers to operate successfully with revenue streams that were somewhat independent from the drain into the war effort, although they were ultimately overwhelmed as the war become protracted.
  o Both World Bank and KfW provided a greater level of flexibility to inject 100s of millions of USD dollars into the response
  o Prior to conflict, can assist in de-risking for International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Band and KfW. The response to the cholera outbreak in 2017, where the banks mobilised 100s of millions of USD to support the response in a rapid manner, also demonstrates a greater flexibility by IFIs.

- To allow better flows, build up staff capacity to undertake pre-crisis risk assessments along with capacity to undertake environmental and social assessments that are relevant to fragile contexts. This needs to follow the localisation agenda.
- Moderate level of ambition of financing in fragile contexts. For example, in Yemen recently, given the protracted crisis, KfW looked at shorter- and medium-term programmes rather than long term infrastructure programmes. The French Development Agency (FDA)'s approach was to develop modes programmes under 1 million USD, study the key elements of success and then use these to promote and secure funding for upscaling the programmes.
- UNICEF has development two practical tools that will assist in increasing financial flows. The first is a WASH Return on Investment (ROI) tool that can be simply applied at the beginning of crisis to estimate the return on investment of investing early in long term solutions, including carbon offset. The second is the WASH Bottleneck Tool, which as analyses the bottlenecks at the national and subnational level. The tools have recently been modified to accommodate risk of shocks making it relevant for us in fragile contexts.

Planning, monitoring and evaluation

Joost Kooijmans
Chief Operating Officer, SWA

- Joint planning, monitoring and evaluation is essential with special attention to risk, environment etc. Also the process needs a strong localisation angle so that joint planning, monitoring and evaluating is owned locally.
- Partnerships trust needs to be developed overtime in an incremental or stepped approach.
- Joint Information systems need to in place that will allow transfer of humanitarian and development information at the beginning of a crisis, during crisis and in pre-crisis phases. This is to ensure humanitarian actors leverage existing models of service delivery and infrastructure for a more cost effective and smoother transition into development. During times of pre-crisis, it will assist development partners to work together on long term resilience activities such as better preparedness for emergency response and other preventative measures.

- Civil-military liaison is critical, especially in conflict settings. The WASH sectors need to building capacity in these areas, which is a sensitive issue that can hamper collaboration and progress, especially regarding peace.

Capacity Development

Evita Rozenberg & Will Tillett

IRC & United Purpose

- The majority of capacity development needs to be programmed during the pre-crisis phase
- To build a joint capacity building initiative across humanitarian and development, we must have a good overview of the whole system of actors. This should consider the distinction between skillsets and mindsets, where mindset is one of the big challenges to overcome in developing capacity around the triple nexus
- Develop joint Lessons learned activities such as the WASH systems academy
- There is a need for common terminology across humanitarian, development and peace.
- More closely link capacity development links to Research and Learning (R&L), ensuring that the WASH sector better understands the points of complimentary and connectiveness across the nexus.

Closing remarks

Monica Ramos

Coordinator – GWC

What we have achieved over the past two days is very inspiring. In terms of ways forward, the WASH Sector has more concrete priorities and actions than we did from the last workshop in 2019. The WASH sector are starting to use common language and to view improving WASH in fragile contexts as a common agenda. Starting to see the siloed approach dissolve and we are starting to work together in an efficient and effective manner.

Tamarial Abdul Malik

WASH Cluster National Co-Lead, Afghanistan

in Afghanistan, the gap between humanitarian, development and peace is a critical issue, especially with respect to peace. We cannot achieve sustainable development with peace.   Over the last two days, the WASH Sector have developed positive ways for the humanitarian, development and peace sectors to work together and gives me hope on how we can move forward.

Marc-André Bünzli

Head Expert Group WASH, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

To move forward, the WASH Sector needs to find a broader and expanded network of stakeholders – academia, lawyers, political parties, associations etc. This must be built before the crisis. Further, it takes time to build the political will, and should be the top priority of the partnerships. Lastly, the

WASH Sector needs to develop more concrete recommendations to protect water and sanitation infrastructure, based on International Humanitarian Law.

Joost Kooijmans
Chief Operating Officer, SWA

There is a lot more learning that humanitarian, development, and peace actors need to do to understand each other. SWA is a multipartite platform which is well suited to ~~the~~ bringing partners together on the nexus. SWA can contribute through the Building Blocks of the SWA Framework, on which the Joint Operating Framework could build. Accountability is another important element to build trust. The SWA mutual accountability mechanism is in place and could be useful across the nexus.

Next steps

Thilo Panzerbieter
Chair - German WASH Network

The next steps are to The German WASH Network and the conveners will continue to drive the initiative and invite you again to take stock in about a year. We strongly encourage participants to reach out to us to be part of the next steps, as we are seeking an active group.

More specifically, the next steps include, in alignment with the SWA Strategic Framework 2020-30 and the humanitarian WASH Sector's Road Map 2020-2025 :

- **Global Policy/ Strategy:**
  a) Development of the WASH Triple Nexus Joint Operating Framework. Identification of countries for piloting the WASH Triple Nexus approach
- **Institutional Arrangements/Coordination**
  a) Development of a WASH humanitarian-development-peace partnership note between SWA and GWC, highlighting strategic alignment and areas of partnership such as campaigns, fundraising, capacity development, research and learning etc.
  b) Formation of a joint task force, with membership across SWA and GWC, and other sectors/actors as relevant
- **Capacity Development**
  a) Hosting regional learning and working events.
  b) Provision of technical assistance and capacity building support to pilot WASH HDPN at the regional, national and subnational level.

Sincere thanks to all the participants for their active and engaged participation throughout the whole event!

Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact the conveners under the following email address:
triple.nexus@washnet.de

Annex 1: Key Definitions and Terminology

Key Definitions and Concepts

Sector (not exclusive to but associated with)	Principle	Definition
Peace[12]	Do no harm	Minimise negative effects
Peace	Do more good	Reinforce positive effects/minimize negative effects
Peace	Contribute to peace	Building peace by addressing structural causes and drivers of conflict, and supporting peace drivers
Humanitarian[13]	Humanity	Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.
	Neutrality	Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
	Impartiality	Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.
	Independence	Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

Key Definitions of the OECD[14]

Nexus approach/New Ways of Working refers to the aim of strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each pillar – to the extent of their relevance in the specific context – in order to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict.

Collective outcome refers to a commonly agreed measurable result or impact enhanced by the combined effort of different actors, within their respective mandates, to address and reduce people's unmet needs, risks and vulnerabilities, increasing their resilience and addressing the root causes of conflict.

Comparative advantage refers to the demonstrated capacity and expertise (not limited solely to a mandate) of one individual, group or institution to meet needs.

Key terminology of UNDRR[15]

Resilience: The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Prevention: Activities and measures to avoid existing and new disaster risks.(disaster risks include conflict, environmental, political, economic etc.).

Mitigation: is a related concept that relates to the lessening or minimising the adverse affects of disaster risks.

Adaptation[16] is another related concept that relates to adapting to the adverse effects of disaster risks (while commonly used in climate change risks, it can be broadly applied across all disaster risks Within this workshop, when we discuss prevention, it is used broadly to capture mitigation and adaptation.

Preparedness: The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters.

Response: Actions taken directly before, during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.

Sustainable Development[17]

- Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies

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[12] Peace definitions come from: IASC Issue Paper: Addressing Peace in the Humanitarian, development, peace nexus, Aug 2020. Found in <Issue paper - Exploring peace within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)_0.pdf (reliefweb.int)>

[13] OCHA, OCHA on Message: Humanitarian principles, Found in <What are Humanitarian Principles (unocha.org)>

[14] OECD 2021: 643.en.pdf (oecd.org), p.6-7

[15] UNDRR (2021): Terminology. Found at < https://www.undrr.org/terminology >

[16] UNFCCC Glossary of key terms. Found at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/glossary.aspx >

[17] The Sustainable Development Agenda – United Nations Sustainable Development, found at www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment
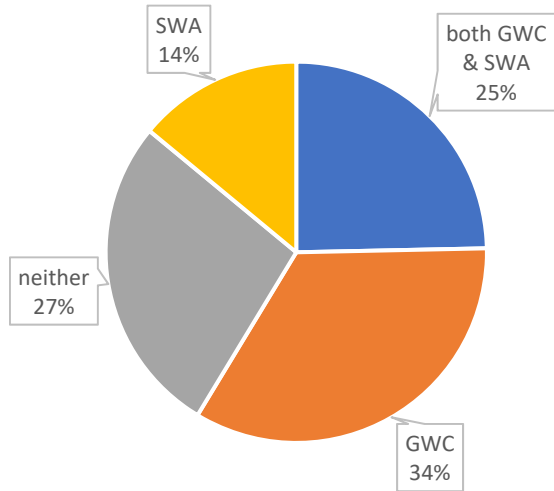
Annex 2: Key Triple Nexus documents

Key Triple nexus global documents are listed but not limited to the following:

- OECD 2021, DAC Recommendation on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- World Bank Group, World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020-25
- SIDA 2020, Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
- IASC 2020, Issue Paper – Exploring Peace within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)
- UNSDG 2020, Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Collaboration: Cooperation Framework Companion Piece
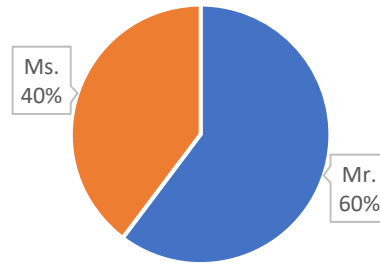- IASC 2020, Policy, Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes

- **Key Triple nexus global documents specific to the WASH Sector are listed but not limited to the following:**

- USAID Water and Development Technical Series 2021, Technical Brief 8, Humanitarian-Development WASH Coherence in WASH or WRM Programs
- ICRC, World Bank, UNICEF 2021, Joining Forces to Combat Protracted Crises: Humanitarian and Development Support for Water and Sanitation Providers in the Middle East and North Africa
- WASH Agenda for Change 2020, Applying WASH System Approaches in Fragile Contexts
- UNICEF, SIWI, Water Governance Facility, UNDP 2020, WASH Accountability in Fragile Contexts
- UNICEF 2019, Water Under Fire Volume 1: Emergencies, Development and Peace in Fragile Contexts
- World Bank 2017, Turbulent Waters: Pursuing water security in fragile contexts
- Geneva Water Hub 2017, A Matter of Survival: Report of the High Level Panel on Water and Peace
- ODI 2016, Making Humanitarian and Development WASH work better together
- ICRC 2015, Urban Services During Protracted Armed Conflict
- WASH Cluster, WASH Sector Roadmap 2020-2025
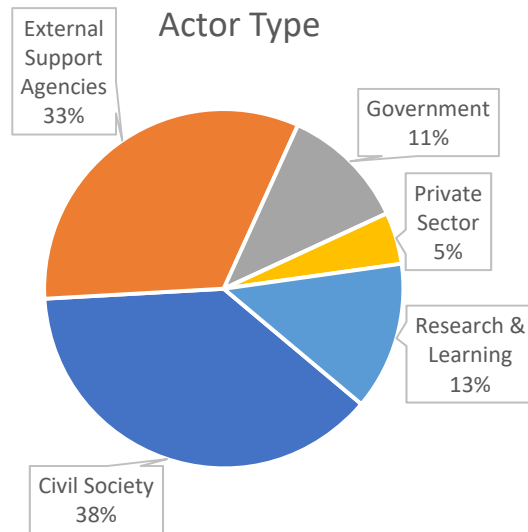- SWA, SWA Strategic Framework 2020-2030

Annex 3: Participants

Partnership Representation

- SWA 14%
- both GWC & SWA 25%
- neither 27%
- GWC 34%

Gender Balance

- Ms. 40%
- Mr. 60%

Actor Type

- External Support Agencies 33%
- Government 11%
- Private Sector 5%
- Research & Learning 13%
- Civil Society 38%

Duty Station of Registered Participants (42 Countries)

Quantity 1 — 22