



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO

**OPERATIONAL TOOLS**  
FOR THE **HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS:**

# **OPERATIONAL MANUAL** FOR **JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS** IN **SITUATIONS OF CRISIS AND FRAGILITY**

YEAR 2025



Editorial Team:

This publication was prepared by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Deputy Technical Directorate, in collaboration with AICS Foreign Offices.

Editorial coordination:

Marta Collu

Editorial contributors:

Special thanks to the Technical Deputy Director, Leonardo Carmenati, for his assistance in drafting the text. We would also like to thank all the Offices of the Deputy Technical Directorate and the Foreign Offices of the Agency for sending suggestions and/or editorial contributions, especially Paola Abenante, Tommaso Antonelli, Elisa Artico, Angela Binetti, Valeria Buoninfante, Emilio Cabasino, Simone Cerqui, Adele Cornaglia, Alessandra Credazzi Salvi, Francesco D'Agostino, Federica De Gaetano, Elisabetta Di Pietrantonio, Marco Falcone, Tiziana De Gennaro, Letizia Fischioni, Silvia Lami, Francesca Laschiazza, Alessandra Lentini, Mina Lomuscio, Isabella Lucaferri, Margherita Lulli, Fabio Minniti, Lorenzo Orioli, Claudia Orsatti, Elisa Pettinati, Chiara Picchio, Alessandra Piermattei, Chiara Pontillo, Daniele Ravaioli, Valeria Clara Rizzo, Michele Rezza Sanchez, Teresa Savanella, Maria Rosa Stevan, Fabio Strinati, Ketty Tedeschi, Maria Rosaria Trivisani, Mirko Tricoli, Michele Romano, Viviana Wagner and Roxane Weber.

Acknowledgements:

We would also like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, specifically Laura Aghilarre, Sokolowicz Fabio, Tarek Chazli and Lucia Primicino, for their cooperation.

Year of publication: 2025

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. FOREWORD</b>	<b>pag 4</b>
<b>2. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>pag 6</b>
<b>3. HOW TO IMPLEMENT AICS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS</b>	<b>pag 8</b>
3.1. Objective of the joint context analysis	pag 9
3.2. Sources of information	pag 9
3.3. Contents of the context analysis	pag 11
3.3.1. Type of crisis and structural characteristics	pag 11
3.3.2. Conflict sensitivity and links between humanitarian aid, development and peace.	pag 14
3.3.3. Comparative advantage	pag 16
<b>4. JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE</b>	<b>pag 17</b>
Annex 1. Glossary	pag 20
Annex 2. Good practices in the implementation of humanitarian, development and peace nexus approaches the mapping of the IASC - Interagency Standing Committee	pag 22
Annex 3. Official Development Assistance for PEACE	pag 25
Annex 4. Experimentation in Lebanon and Ethiopia	pag 31
a. Ethiopia: joint context analysis (September 2019)	pag 31
b. Lebanon: joint context analysis (September 2019)	pag 32

# FOREWORD

## FOREWORD



The need to respond differently to situations of fragility across the globe stems from the deepening crises affecting our planet, which have left over 305 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. To reach at least 189.5 million of the most vulnerable among them, the United Nations has launched a \$47.4 billion appeal for 2025. This figure is more than double the amount requested in 2016, the year of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), when global humanitarian appeals totalled \$20 billion—only 59% of which was funded by international donors.

Even at that time, the increasingly dire conditions faced by countless people living in or fleeing from crises prompted the humanitarian community to call—more firmly and resolutely than ever—for the engagement of actors working in development and peacebuilding. On the eve of the WHS, it was already evident that humanitarian response alone could not adequately address the expanding scope and complexity of global fragility. This realization catalyzed a broader conversation around the need for a New Way of Working.

Despite initial scepticism, a growing consensus emerged around the imperative of aligning humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding financing toward a common goal: reducing fragility and addressing the root causes of crises. This convergence—often referred to as the “nexus” approach—reflects the urgency of acting coherently and strategically to safeguard human life and dignity through coordinated interventions across sectors.

This urgency is particularly salient for the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), which, in line with its mandate under Law 125/2014, plays a critical role in operationalizing the Humanitarian–Development–

Peace (HDP) Nexus. AICS's commitment was reaffirmed with the presentation of the HDP Nexus Guidelines to the Joint Committee in July 2023, a milestone in strengthening the coherence of Italian cooperation in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.

In this spirit of continuous improvement and innovation, the Agency has recognized the need to equip itself with practical tools to enhance its ability to act effectively, starting with a fundamental step: the implementation of Joint Context Analyses. These analyses are designed to capture the multifaceted needs of populations—not only from a humanitarian and life-saving perspective, but also with a view to sustainable development and the promotion of peaceful, inclusive societies.

In this endeavour, AICS's technical expertise is pivotal to understanding the structural drivers of fragility and to defining shared objectives that Italian cooperation actors can collectively pursue through coordinated programming. This is a collective effort, enriched from the outset by the Agency's solid partnerships—local, national, and international—whose diversity and comparative advantages will contribute to shaping high-quality, context-sensitive responses that place human dignity at the centre.

I am therefore pleased that AICS—working in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, as well as with civil society and academic institutions involved in drafting the sectoral guidelines—has developed this Operational Manual for Joint Context Analysis in Situations of Crisis and Fragility. This tool will enhance our ability to respond more effectively and inclusively to situations of fragility, guided by the awareness that behind every statistic are real human beings—men, women, and children—whose lives have been upended by crisis and conflict

Leonardo Carmenati  
AICS Deputy Technical Director

# INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian aid, conflict prevention, and support for peacebuilding processes are among the key objectives of Italian development cooperation, as defined in Law 125/2014 (Art. 1). In line with this mandate, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation's 2024–2026 *Three-Year Programming and Policy Planning Document* promotes synergies among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors, and foresees the implementation of the *Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus Guidelines*, in accordance with the OECD-DAC Recommendation of 22 February 2019.

These Guidelines (*Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus Guidelines* – hereinafter, *Nexus Guidelines*) were presented to the Joint Committee on 19 July 2023 and subsequently adopted by AICS through the Deputy Director's Decision No. 2132 of 27 July 2023.

The Nexus Guidelines define the strategic vision and operational modalities through which Italian development cooperation operationalizes the HDP Nexus in contexts of fragility and protracted crisis, in accordance with Law 125/2014 and aligned with the areas of action and principles outlined in the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus (hereinafter, the Recommendation).

In line with the Recommendation, Italian development cooperation is expected to launch pilot Nexus exercises using flexible, context-specific approaches that respect the diverse mandates of participating actors and remain consistent with the Italian legal and institutional framework. Even in countries where such pilot initiatives are not formally identified, the Nexus approach is still promoted by fostering coherence and complementarity among interventions across the three pillars of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peacebuilding.

More specifically, the Nexus Guidelines stipulate that, in fragile contexts where the Nexus exercise is implemented, the Diplomatic Representation, with the technical support of AICS, should conduct a joint context analysis across the three pillars, also related to specific geographical areas (area-based approach), and identify collective outcomes. These analyses are developed:

- With the involvement of Italian civil society actors active in the country, and in coordination with relevant Italian institutional stakeholders engaged in development cooperation (e.g. State Administrations, Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Public Entities, Regions, and Local Authorities);
- In consultation with local communities, national authorities of the partner country, and—where feasible—the private sector, in line with the “do no harm” principle;
- In coordination with the donor community and international actors operating in the area;
- in alignment with the geographical focus, sectors, and collective outcomes defined within any ongoing operational exercises, particularly those led by the EU or the United Nations<sup>1</sup> ;

- Based on joint context analyses developed through evidence-based methodologies under relevant field initiatives;
- While considering the nature, timing, and complementarity of interventions across the three pillars;
- With attention to collecting statistical data that enables the establishment of baselines and sector indicators.<sup>2</sup>

These joint analyses may be periodically updated to reflect evolving contextual dynamics, ensuring the relevance of programming and alignment with the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Updates will also incorporate lessons learned through ongoing monitoring and evaluation of funded interventions.

The findings from joint context analyses serve as key references for the development of strategic inputs to be transmitted by the competent Diplomatic Representation to the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, contributing to coordinated programming across the three pillars, as envisaged in Section 4.2 of the Nexus Guidelines.


AICS plays a central technical role in supporting the Diplomatic Representation throughout this process. Its contributions are expected to strengthen the Agency's capacity to address the root causes of vulnerability, fragility, and conflict; enhance resilience; and promote sustainable peace—while ensuring that humanitarian needs continue to be met.

These analyses are also intended to serve as working tools for all entities listed under Chapter VI of Law 125/2014 that implement cooperation interventions, regardless of whether their activities are financed or co-financed by AICS. Ultimately, this document is meant to support all actors involved in development cooperation, including beneficiaries, implementing partners, and local stakeholders, by providing a shared framework for action in complex crisis and fragility contexts.

---

<sup>1</sup> Examples of operational exercises launched in the field are included in Annex 4.

<sup>2</sup> See for example the EU Indicators on Resilience, Conflict sensitivity and Peace: [https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/system/files/documents/sector/booklet\\_resilience\\_conflict\\_sensitivity\\_and\\_peace\\_29-9-2020\\_final\\_1.pdf](https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/system/files/documents/sector/booklet_resilience_conflict_sensitivity_and_peace_29-9-2020_final_1.pdf)



# 3. HOW TO IMPLEMENT AICS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In line with the guidance provided in the Nexus Guidelines, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has developed this operational manual to strengthen the technical capacities of its staff in the implementation of the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus. Specifically, the manual aims to provide a standardized methodology, aligned with the Nexus Guidelines, for the development of joint context analyses, including a proposed template for joint analysis and assessment of comparative advantage (Annex 1). The tool may also be of use to other actors within the Italian development cooperation system engaged in interventions in crisis-affected and fragile settings.

The manual is grounded in internationally recognized definitions and standards, informed by analyses conducted by the Italian cooperation system, and shaped by the operational outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the commitments of the Grand Bargain (GB). On a pilot basis, the methodology was tested in two countries—Ethiopia and Lebanon—selected due to the established presence of Italian cooperation and the protracted and complex nature of the humanitarian crises in both contexts.<sup>3</sup>

To this end, the manual provides guidance on the objectives of joint context analysis, its relevance for joined-up programming and Nexus operational exercises, and an overview of information-gathering processes and relevant data sources. It outlines the required content for developing an analytical framework suited to fragile and crisis-affected environments.

The document also includes a proposed template for joint analysis—adaptable to specific contexts—which covers methodological approaches and sources, conflict sensitivity considerations, stakeholder mapping, an analysis of the comparative advantage of the Italian cooperation system, and, crucially, conclusions and recommendations to inform the definition of collective outcomes and the design of Nexus operational responses. Finally, the manual contains a series of annexes aimed at clarifying key elements essential to the analysis process. Additional annexes may be issued in the future to address emerging needs or clarify methodological aspects identified during the piloting of Nexus operational exercises within Italian development cooperation.

---

<sup>3</sup> *The results of this experiment are contained in Annex 5*

### 3.1. OBJECTIVE OF THE JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS

The purpose of the context analysis is to support the identification of the structural drivers of crisis, the priority needs of populations in the most vulnerable conditions, as well as resilience factors and community assets. The analysis explores the nature of the crisis, the contextual and structural characteristics of the country or geographical area, population needs across the short, medium, and long term within the three Nexus pillars, and the comparative advantage of local, Italian, and international actors.

In line with the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus approach, joint context analysis requires a multidimensional methodology that integrates humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding perspectives. A sectorally integrated analysis is a foundational step toward the design of coordinated and coherent interventions that address immediate needs, enable long-term development, and foster sustainable peace.

The findings of the joint context analysis will serve as a basis for identifying collective outcomes and for developing joined-up programming across the three pillars of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peacebuilding, while leveraging the comparative advantage of Italian development cooperation actors.

### 3.2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The context analysis may be developed using existing information and data relevant to the area of intervention, allowing for integration within broader efforts by the international and local community to address fragility. It should also serve to valorize the documentation produced by various actors within the Italian development cooperation system.

A preliminary desk review of available analyses is therefore essential. This may include consultations with UN agencies, UN Country Teams, the Office of the UN Resident and/or Humanitarian Coordinator, other international donors, international, Italian, and local civil society organizations, relevant Italian cooperation actors operating in the field, national and local institutions, and any ongoing peace missions.

A wide range of secondary sources should be reviewed, including national statistics and censuses, reports and studies produced by government institutions (including local and subnational levels), civil society organizations, international and local partners, donors, and academic institutions. It is also critical to analyse the relevant institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks of the country or region under examination.

Emphasis must be placed on the use of reliable, current, and context-appropriate secondary data. Data should, where possible, be disaggregated by sex and other relevant dimensions of intersectional vulnerability—such as age, disability, social class, sexual orientation, gender identity, displacement status, socioeconomic condition, and ethnic, cultural, or religious affiliation. This ensures sound evidence base and enables the identification of differential impacts across population groups.

Recent and up-to-date sources should be prioritized to ensure that the analysis accurately reflects current conditions and the evolving nature of the crisis and fragility.

During this phase, it is essential to identify major data gaps at the local level and in existing analyses. Where necessary, alternative information sources should be explored to address these gaps. This may include the collection of primary data—both qualitative and quantitative—through tools such as structured questionnaires, key informant interviews, beneficiary and stakeholder consultations, rapid assessments, focus group discussions, and the use of diaries or field registers.

**Primary data** collection is especially important for defining project-specific results, tracking progress, and supporting evaluation and learning. Where primary data is collected, it is essential that the process be led or supervised by qualified researchers. The resources required for such activities, including time, expertise, and financial inputs, should be carefully assessed in advance

**Box 1:**

**Examples of Secondary Information Sources for Context Analysis**

- National statistics and surveys – such as population and household censuses, data on refugees and displaced persons, etc. – possibly also carried out by decentralised and local administrations;
- National reports and publications;
- Classifications, reports, and context analyses carried out by international actors such as the EU, UN, IFRC and ICRC, World Bank, international and local NGOs (e.g. Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework – JIAF; Humanitarian Needs Overviews; Humanitarian Response Plans; Humanitarian Appeals; United Nations Development Assistance Framework – UNDAF; Common Country Analysis – UN; Global Trends UNHCR; Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations by the World Bank; INFORM Index by the EU; Gender country profiles – EU etc.)
- OECD DAC elaborations and analyses (e.g. States of fragility report; Platform on Fragility Framework <https://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/overview/1/>; Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) and related OECD reports;
- Context reports and analyses, including geographical or sectoral ones, produced by local organisations;
- Analyses carried out within the framework of programmes/projects (e.g. analysis of problems, needs, stakeholders, SWOT, etc.);
- Any other information shared in coordination meetings between humanitarian, development or peace actors on the ground.
- Information shared within the EU, e.g. through the Team Europe Initiatives or the Capacity4DEV <https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/countries/>

**Box 2:**

**Criteria for assessing the quality and accuracy of secondary sources**

1. **Authority:** Check whether the authority or body is recognised and qualified in the field.
2. **Accuracy:** Check whether the data are supported by reliable sources and whether they are consistent with other sources.
3. **Objectivity:** Ensure that the source is neutral, without obvious bias or promotional purposes.
4. **Relevance:** :The source must be relevant and sufficiently detailed for your objectives.
5. **Date of Publication:** The information must be up-to-date.
6. **Methodology:** Evaluate the transparency and validity of the data collection method.
7. **Revision between Peers:** Favour peer-reviewed sources for greater reliability.
8. **Consistency:** Check for internal contradictions and consistency with other sources.
9. **Citability:** The source must be clear to cite and verifiable.
10. **Feedback:** Consider the feedback and impact of the source in the sector.

### 3.3. CONTENTS OF THE CONTEXT ANALYSIS

The proposed analytical model is designed to be flexible and dynamic, reflecting the complex and evolving nature of the contexts in which the Triple Nexus is applied. As such, **the content is not intended to be rigid or prescriptive but may be modified or updated as needed to respond to the evolving dynamics of crises, shifts in stakeholder strategies, and emerging approaches within the international discourse.** Context analyses should remain adaptable to local realities and provide evidence-based insights to inform the joined-up programming envisaged in the Nexus Guidelines.

In terms of content, the joint context analysis examines:

- 1) The **types of crises** occurring in the geographical area and/or sector of reference, and the contingent and structural **characteristics** of the country or region—including the organization of governmental and non-governmental actors—and the vulnerabilities and needs of the population in the short, medium, and long term across the three pillars;
- 2) **Conflict sensitivity** and the interlinkages between humanitarian, development, and peace dimensions;
- 3) the **comparative advantage** of the Italian development cooperation system.

In line with the *do no harm* principle, this model considers conflict dynamics, gender inequalities and the role of women, the protection of human rights—including cultural rights—social inclusion of marginalized groups, the role of youth, intergroup relations among ethnic, religious, or minority communities, the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, humanitarian preparedness and response capacities, disaster risk management, and food and nutrition security.

#### 3.3.1. TYPE OF CRISIS AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

First and foremost, the model calls for the identification of the types of crises affecting the Partner Country, based on internationally recognized definitions of crisis and emergency—including protracted, critical, and complex crises—as developed by the *IASC Working Group*<sup>4</sup> and *FAO*<sup>5</sup>. It also draws on the typology of shocks defined by the *OECD*<sup>6</sup>, as outlined in the Glossary annexed to this manual.

In addition, the analysis will examine the contingent and structural characteristics of the context, with particular attention to:

- a) **Ownership and localisation**, considering the roles of state, national, sub-national, and non-governmental actors
- b) **Types of fragility and the needs of affected populations.**

---

<sup>4</sup> *IASC Working Group 16th Meeting, Definition of Complex Emergencies, 1994-*

[https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy\\_files/WG16\\_4.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/WG16_4.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> A. Harmer & J. Macrae, eds. 2004. *Beyond the continuum: aid policy in protracted crises*. HPG Report 18, p. 1.

London, Overseas Development Institute- [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs\\_high\\_level\\_forum/documents/Brief1.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs_high_level_forum/documents/Brief1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> *OECD, Guidelines for Resilience Systems Analysis, 2014.*

This analysis will help delineate the specific intervention context, including an assessment of the capacity of national and local actors—such as government institutions, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent, and diaspora groups—to respond to the crisis. It will also allow for an assessment of the country's multidimensional fragility level, drawing on the OECD-DAC framework<sup>7</sup> and the EU INFORM indicators on the risk and severity of crises<sup>8</sup>. Furthermore, the analysis will support the identification of priority needs among the most vulnerable populations and the main drivers of exclusion. These findings will contribute to shaping the humanitarian response strategy of the Italian development cooperation system.

The joint context analysis should be risk-informed—including food security, environmental, and climate-related risks—and should adopt a gender-sensitive and inclusive lens. It must take into account social dynamics between different population groups (e.g. ethnic and/or religious) and address the specific needs of the most marginalized populations, such as persons with disabilities, minorities, older persons, youth and children, indigenous communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and migrants.)<sup>9</sup>

**Social inclusion, human and cultural rights.** Conflict prevention is intrinsically linked to reducing discrimination and social inequalities. It depends on the inclusive development of institutions, the promotion of employment and decent work, the protection and fulfilment of fundamental human and cultural rights, the reform of democratic, social, and justice systems, and the active participation of women and youth in all peace and security processes.<sup>10</sup>

The nexus approach must include a robust analysis of the human rights landscape in all its dimensions. The recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family forms the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.<sup>11</sup>

Cultural rights constitute an integral and inalienable part of the universal human rights framework. Respect for cultural diversity is a pillar of international peace and security, a driver of social cohesion and sustainable development, and, as recognized by UNESCO, “an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity.”<sup>12</sup> Cultural rights protect the ability of individuals and communities to define and express their identity, worldview, and human development paths—through values, beliefs, languages, traditions, knowledge systems, artistic expression, institutions, and ways of life. They also guarantee access to the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and resources that enable such identity formation and expression.<sup>13</sup>

The context analysis should therefore include an assessment of the capacity of the Partner Country's systems to uphold and promote human rights—including cultural rights—and to ensure the meaningful inclusion of all population groups. Particular attention should be paid to the role of youth, their participation in decision-making processes, the violations of their rights, and the opportunities for their empowerment.<sup>14</sup>

The analysis should also address the specific needs of marginalized and at-risk groups, such as women, ethnic and/or religious minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and children, indigenous and neglected communities, displaced persons, refugees, and migrants. It should assess the resilience factors present in the context, with a focus on identifying agents of change and examining the extent to which the local system fosters inclusion in all its diversity. Cultural rights, in this regard, should be recognized and supported as a vital enabler for strengthening social cohesion and reducing fragility.

<sup>7</sup> See: <http://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/overview/0/>

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>

<sup>9</sup> OECD, *Recommendation on the OECD Legal Instruments Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus*, 2019

<sup>10</sup> World Bank and United Nations “Pathways for Peace Report, 2016. <https://www.pathwaysforpeace.org/>

<sup>11</sup> *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*, preamble.

<sup>12</sup> *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, Art. 4 <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/unesco-universal-declaration-cultural-diversity>

<sup>13</sup> For further information, see also the pages of the United Nations website dedicated to the activities of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which is part of the UN Human Rights Office, at the following link: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-cultural-rights>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/youth>

<sup>15</sup> OECD, *The Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus Interim Progress Review*, 2022

**Gender mainstreaming.** Gender equality is a critical factor in preventing conflict and fragility and in achieving sustainable peace. The full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in society, the economy, disaster risk reduction, and peace processes—across all phases and levels of decision-making—contributes to more inclusive governance and resilient societies.<sup>15</sup> The context analysis should therefore adopt a gender-sensitive lens, assessing the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities of women. It should also examine the role of women in the beneficiary country, including their presence and influence in political, social, and economic spheres, as well as in leadership and decision-making processes. The analysis should identify structural and sociocultural barriers to gender equality, opportunities for women's empowerment, and the contributions women can make to resilience-building, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response. There is a well-documented correlation between fragility, conflict, and gender inequality, as well as growing recognition of the transformative role women play in sustaining peace and preventing the recurrence of violence.<sup>16</sup>

**Climate, environment and food security.** Addressing climate and environmental risks is an essential component of conflict prevention, crisis response, and long-term resilience. In addition to driving increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are recognized as underlying drivers of conflict, food insecurity, and displacement.

The link between environment and conflict warrants particular attention due to the reciprocal and reinforcing relationship between environmental emergencies and situations of fragility or armed violence.<sup>17</sup> On the one hand, environmental degradation—often exacerbated by climate change and extreme weather events—can act as a trigger or amplifier of tensions, particularly in the competition over natural resources. On the other hand, conflict itself can worsen environmental degradation, including the contamination or destruction of natural resources vital to livelihoods, thereby further undermining food security and public health.

Identifying and addressing the environmental and climate-related drivers of fragility is critical for effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding, especially where environmental stress is a contributing factor to instability. In many contexts, particularly across Africa, urbanization—driven in part by climate-induced migration—is reshaping food systems, production and distribution patterns, and dietary practices.<sup>18</sup>

It will also be necessary to analyse the specific food security and nutritional needs of the context, identifying both risk factors and opportunities that can strengthen the resilience of rural communities, promote agricultural development, and support the sustainable transformation of food systems.

---

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.pathwaysforpeace.org/>; [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment-in-fragile-and-conflict-affected-situations\\_b75a1229-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment-in-fragile-and-conflict-affected-situations_b75a1229-en)

<sup>17</sup> On this subject see also: INCAF Common position climate change biodiversity environmental fragility, 2023, <https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/conflict-fragility/INCAF-Common-position-climate-change-biodiversity-environmental-fragility.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> UN, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition 2023*, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/sofi-2023/>

### 3.3.2. CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND LINKS BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AID, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

To effectively integrate peace into the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus, it is essential to clarify the scope and meaning of the “P” for Peace.

Peace-related actions refer to efforts where the primary objective is to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation, or recurrence of conflict, and to address its underlying causes and drivers. These actions can span short-, medium-, and long-term horizons and aim to prevent violence while fostering the conditions for building and sustaining peace.<sup>19</sup>

According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the “peace” pillar is generally understood through three interrelated component<sup>20</sup>:

- **Diplomacy:** Encompasses political dialogue, negotiations, and peace processes, often conducted by Special Envoys or other actors involved in national and international diplomacy.
- **Security :** Includes activities carried out by UN peacekeeping missions and other international, regional, or national actors engaged in peacekeeping, stabilization, counterterrorism, and the prevention of violent extremism.
- **Peacebuilding:** Covers a broad range of actions such as local and international community dialogues, trust-building initiatives, reconciliation processes, and efforts to address the root causes of conflict.

Distinction is often made between “soft p” approaches—focused on building societal capacities for peace—and “hard P” approaches—focused on political settlements and security responses to violent conflict. Both are essential and complementary. However, soft p interventions, especially at the local level, offer more immediate opportunities across the HDP Nexus, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.

Examples of *soft p contributions* by humanitarian and development actors include:

- Supporting social cohesion and resilience efforts that contribute to local peacebuilding.
- Reducing tensions between host communities, refugees, and internally displaced persons.

At the same time, humanitarian actors can also be involved in hard P processes, for example:

- Engaging in dialogue with all parties to a conflict (as the ICRC does) to secure humanitarian access and promote adherence to international humanitarian law;
- Sharing humanitarian analysis with Special Envoys to ensure humanitarian considerations are reflected in peace negotiations.
- Conducting advocacy to influence political frameworks in support of violence prevention and conflict mitigation.

A distinction must also be drawn between:

- **Negative peace** – The absence of direct violence, often maintained through truces, coercive measures, or monopolies on the use of force.
- **Positive peace** – The presence of social systems and relationships that support mutual well-being,

<sup>19</sup> IASC, *Exploring Peace Within The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN)*, 2020 [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/iasc.peace\\_within\\_the\\_humanitarian-development-peace\\_nexus\\_hdpn.issue\\_paper.2020-10.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/iasc.peace_within_the_humanitarian-development-peace_nexus_hdpn.issue_paper.2020-10.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> IASC, *A Mapping and Analysis of Tools and Guidance on the H-P Linkages in the HDP-Nexus*, 2022. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/humanitarian-development-collaboration/mapping-and-analysis-tools-and-guidance-h-p-linkages-hdp-nexus>

inclusivity, and justice. Positive peace creates the enabling conditions for human potential to thrive and is associated with desirable societal outcomes such as economic prosperity, reduced inequality, inclusive governance, and higher levels of well-being.<sup>21</sup>

In designing a conflict analysis, it is critical to apply a **conflict-sensitive approach** to maximise the effectiveness of interventions and avoid exacerbating existing tensions. Conflict sensitivity involves understanding the dynamics of peace and conflict in a given context, assessing how aid activities interact with those dynamics, and taking measures to minimise harm and enhance peace outcomes.

Decisions made as a result of conflict analysis—such as identifying priority areas of intervention or selecting partners—can have direct and indirect, positive and negative effects on peace. Therefore, the context analysis should examine both conflict-related risks (e.g. unequal distribution of aid) and peace-related opportunities (e.g. the role of women, youth, or environmental restoration as drivers of peace).

This process should include information-sharing and coordination with actors engaged in the peace pillar across its three components (diplomacy, security, and peacebuilding), and in both soft p and hard P actions. However, there is no universal approach to engaging with **peace actors**—the strategy must be adapted to the sensitivities and political dynamics of each specific context.

**BOX 3:**

**Tools for analysing conflict sensitivity: the Toolkit produced by WeWorld as part of an AICS-funded humanitarian project.**

**Toolkit** “*Conflict Sensitivity Operational Toolkit: a practical approach. WeWorld and Peaceful Change initiative, 2022*”, Financed by AICS through emergency funds, <https://www.weworld.it/en/what-we-do/publications/conflict-sensitivity-operational-toolkit>, contains a range of tools to integrate conflict dynamics into all phases of the project cycle—from strategic planning to monitoring and evaluation. It offers practical examples of how to apply conflict sensitivity in tools such as SWOT analysis, opportunity and risk assessments, and stakeholder analysis.

Below are a few illustrative factors—drawn from the toolkit—that may influence conflict dynamics:

- 1. Unequal distribution of assistance.** When aid is delivered to certain groups and not others, this can create perceptions of injustice and fuel intergroup tensions. This risk increases when distribution is based solely on need (which may vary significantly between groups), or when authorities—especially if biased—control the beneficiary lists, favouring particular groups. Disparities may arise not only in the quantity but also the quality of assistance and can extend to job opportunities or access to services.
- 2. Diversion or manipulation of aid by armed or political actors.** Assistance can be captured by power holders for political or financial gain. This includes pressure to direct aid to specific constituencies in exchange for political support, insistence on using selected suppliers, or outright diversion through theft, extortion at checkpoints, or forced profit-sharing with contractors. Armed actors may use or resell aid to sustain their operations.
- 3. Working with exclusive or illegitimate authorities:** Partnering with unelected, non-transparent, or non-inclusive authorities can inadvertently legitimize exclusionary practices and reinforce grievances. In contrast, engaging with representative and accountable authorities can reinforce local governance structures and help strengthen the social contract between communities

<sup>21</sup> IASC, *Exploring peace within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN)*, 2020

and the state. Community-based participatory approaches can mitigate these risks by fostering collaboration across dividing lines, strengthening relationships between citizens and authorities, facilitating inclusive dialogue, and supporting joint planning and implementation of community development projects.

Additionally, where applicable, it is important to analyse the linkages between humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peacebuilding efforts, taking into account any ongoing Nexus initiatives in the country that support the implementation of a coordinated approach—particularly through the identification of collective outcomes.<sup>22</sup>

### 3.3.3. COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

To support the achievement of collective outcomes identified in a given context, the analytical tool includes an assessment of the comparative advantage of each actor within the Italian development cooperation system operating in the Partner Country. This comparative advantage is essential for enabling joined-up programming, facilitating coordinated planning and a clear division of labour across the humanitarian, development, and peace pillars. Such coordination is intended to ensure that the contributions of Italian actors effectively align with and support the achievement of the agreed collective outcomes—particularly in the framework of operational Nexus exercises led by the EU, the UN, or other international stakeholder

This analysis may include the identification of the following elements:

- **Existence of development cooperation agreements between Italy and the Partner Country, including:**
  - i) economic-financial agreements; ii) cultural cooperation agreements; iii) general cooperation and development frameworks.;
- **Operational and logistical capacities of Italian cooperation actors in the Partner Country, including:**
  - i) presence and coverage of Italian development cooperation actors on the ground; ii) existence of institutional and operational structures (e.g. Embassies, AICS Offices, ICE – Italian Trade Agency, Civil Society Organizations, Religious Bodies, Chambers of Commerce); iii) capacity to prevent and respond to natural disasters. iv) capacity to respond to health emergencies. v) presence of Italian contingents in UN or EU peacekeeping or civilian missions.
- **Implementation of programmes and initiatives contributing to peacebuilding, carried out by humanitarian, development, and peace actors within a triple nexus approach. These initiatives may include:**
  - i) integration of conflict sensitivity in programming; ii) conflict prevention strategies; iii) support to peacebuilding pathways involving national, regional, and local dialogue processes; iv) participation in civilian peacekeeping missions; v) local capacity strengthening; vi) promotion of social cohesion.

The analysis of comparative advantage should also consider the positioning of Italian actors relative to other international and local stakeholders operating in the same context. This helps identify synergies, avoid duplication, and maximise the collective impact of interventions.

<sup>22</sup> For further information on nexus exercises being conducted in the Country, see e.g. Annex 4 "Good practices in implementing humanitarian, development and peace nexus approaches - the mapping of the IASC - Interagency Standing Committee"

# 4. JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

To facilitate the work of the drafting teams, a joint context analysis template is proposed below. This template can be used by AICS Offices, taking into account the specific requirements and sensitivities of each context.

The table of contents and questions included in this template are intended as a reference to support the structure and content of the analysis. They are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive. Offices may adapt the template—adding, modifying, or omitting elements—to ensure the analysis is contextually relevant and politically appropriate. Any such adaptations should be clearly documented in the methodological note. Where this is not feasible due to operational constraints, a brief technical note explaining the changes should be submitted to the AICS Rome Office.

## JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

### BOX 4 - Joint context analysis template

#### 1. METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF THE CONTEXT ANALYSIS

This section should provide a description of the methodology adopted by the Office in conducting the joint context analysis. It should reference the secondary and primary sources consulted, the specific meetings held with international, national, and local actors, and the analytical tools used (e.g., SWOT analysis, stakeholder mapping, risk assessments, or other relevant analyses—which may also be annexed to the document).

Additionally, it should outline any political and/or contextual sensitivities that influenced the structure and content of the analysis.

#### 2. TYPOLOGY OF SHOCK and CRISIS

Has the country been struck by one or more shocks, such as for example covariant, idiosyncratic or seasonal shocks, or long-term stress? Is the country subject to natural or man-made crises? Can such emergency/ies be defined as critical, complex, or protracted? See definitions in Glossary (Annex 1).

#### 3. CONTINGENT AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

##### 3.1. Ownership and localisation

##### 3.1.1. National and subnational state actors

Does the Government appear to have sufficient capacity and resources to

respond to the crisis and is it prepared to do so? Is it stable and does it have the capacity to administer the whole country? Are there political circumstances in the process of being re-established or emerging? Does the country have a form of administrative decentralisation (e.g. devolution, delegation, devolution)? Are sub-national state actors willing to intervene and do they have sufficient capacity and resources? What is the role of women and young people in administration, politics and decision-making? See definitions in Glossary (Annex 1)

### 3.1.2. Non-governmental actors<sup>23</sup>

Are there any local and national non-governmental actors able and/or willing to respond to the crisis? What are the characteristics of local civil society and how are they organised (including organisations led by women, young people, individuals with disabilities, minorities or ethnic, religious, marginalised groups, indigenous populations, displaced persons, refugees and migrants)? What is being done to respond to the crisis in the local community, including through community organisations or other non-formal and diaspora institutions? What are the characteristics of the local private sector, also in relation to respect for human rights? What is the role of women and young people in such organisations?

### 3.2. Types of fragility and the needs of the population

Based on the OECD DAC framework (<http://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/overview/0/>) the country experiences economic, environmental, political, security, social and human fragility. This section may include the following information: an overview of population groups at risk of being left behind, resilience factors and strengths/weaknesses, possible actors of change; their needs in the short-, medium- and long-term across the three pillars and the main factors of exclusion; analysis of social development, human and cultural rights and exclusion; food needs and the capacity of agricultural systems; analysis of economic transformation, environment and climate change and progress on global commitments. It is useful to refer to the indicators of the framework for the country in question, and to the Common Country Analysis<sup>24</sup> developed by the United Nations<sup>25</sup> and to specify in particular the conditions of women, young people, minors and marginalised groups (e.g. individuals with disabilities, the elderly, ethnic and religious minorities or groups, indigenous populations, displaced persons and refugees).

## 4. CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

### 4.1. Possible presence of conflict and violence

Are there any active and/or high-intensity conflicts? Is the operational context safe? What are the causes and main variables of the conflict? Which geographical areas and sectors does it involve? Who is involved? What are the interests and resources of the actors involved? What are the opportunities for peace? What role do women and young people, the environment and climate play in the conflict? What are the future prospects for the conflict?

### 4.2. Linkages between humanitarian aid, development and peace

Analysing, where applicable, the linkages between humanitarian aid, development and peace and describing any exercises being conducted in the Country that promote the

<sup>23</sup> For more information on localisation: <https://glocalisation.ifrc.org/>; <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2022-08/Outcome%20Paper%20Towards%20Co-ownership%20-%20Caucus%20on%20Intermediaries%20-%20August%202022.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/UN%20Cooperation%20Framework%20Internal%20Guidance%20-%201%20June%202022.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Example for Afghanistan: <http://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/countries/AFG/>

implementation of a nexus approach - including through the identification of collective outcomes. The analysis must take into account the different roles, responsibilities, mandates, opportunities and limitations of the various stakeholders within each of the three pillars

**5. COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE ITALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM**

What is the comparative advantage of the Italian development cooperation system? Are there any ongoing agreements with the Partner Country? Which? Which Italian actors are active and present in the Partner Country and what capacities exist to prevent and respond to natural disasters and emergencies? What programmes and initiatives exist to contribute to peacebuilding processes? What collective outcomes could the Italian development cooperation system contribute to? How do the different actors of the Italian Development Cooperation system position themselves in relation to other international and local actors?

**6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

On the basis of the above analysis, summarise recommendations for planning activities in the three HDP intervention pillars, also indicating possible geographical and sectoral areas. The recommendations must be consistent with the context analysis included in the previous chapters, both with reference to the geographic areas and to the sectors, as well as to the comparative advantage of the Italian System and any collective outcomes defined by the international community present in the field.

# GLOSSARY

## ANNEX 1

### **Protracted Crisis**

An environment in which a significant portion of the population is highly vulnerable to the risk of death, disease and lifestyle deterioration over a prolonged period of time. (FAO)<sup>26</sup>

### **Deconcentration**

Deconcentration – which is often considered the weakest form of decentralisation and is most frequently used in unitary states – redistributes the decision-making authority and financial and management responsibilities among the different levels of central government. This may merely involve shifting responsibilities from central government officials in the capital to those working in the regions, provinces or districts, or it may create a robust field administration or local administrative capacity under the supervision of central government ministries. (WB)<sup>27</sup>

### **Delegation**

Delegation is a more extensive form of decentralisation. Through delegation, central governments transfer responsibility for decision-making and the administration of public functions to semi-autonomous organisations that are not fully controlled by the central government, but are, ultimately, accountable to it. Governments delegate responsibilities when they set up public enterprises or companies, housing authorities, transport authorities, special service districts, semi-autonomous school districts, regional development companies or special project implementation units. Usually, these organisations have wide-ranging powers of discretion in decision-making. They can be free from constraints for regular public service personnel and may be able to charge users directly for services. (WB)<sup>28</sup>

### **Devolution**

A third type of administrative decentralisation is devolution. When governments devolve functions, they transfer decision-making, financial and management authority to quasi-autonomous units of local government with corporate status. Devolution usually shifts the responsibility for services to the municipalities, which elect their own mayors and councils, collect their own revenues, and have the authority to make independent investment decisions. In a devolved system, local governments have clear and legally recognised geographical boundaries over which they exercise their authority and within which they perform public functions. This type of administrative decentralisation forms the basis of most political decentralisation. (WB)<sup>29</sup>

### **Critical Emergency**

The situation endangers the lives and well-being of a large number of people or a high percentage of the population, often requiring large-scale multi-sectoral assistance. (IASC)<sup>30</sup>

### **Complex Emergency**

A humanitarian crisis that takes place in a country, region or society where there is a total or major failure of the authorities resulting from civil conflict and/or external aggression, and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate of individual Agencies.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>26</sup> (Major Emergency) <https://www.fao.org/3/i1683e/i1683e03.pdf#:~:text=is%20no%20simple%20definition%20of%20a%20country%20in%20some%20%28not%20necessarily%20all%29%20of%20the%20following%20characteristics.7>

<sup>27</sup> <https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01029/WEB/IMAGES/ ENGL-42.PDF>

<sup>28</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>29</sup> <https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01029/WEB/IMAGES/ ENGL-42.PDF>

<sup>30</sup> [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy\\_files/WG16\\_4.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/WG16_4.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> *ibidem*

### **Fragility**

The OECD defines fragility as the combination of exposure to risk and insufficient capacity to manage, absorb or mitigate said risks by the state, the system and/or the communities. Recognising the inherent complexity of fragility, the OECD introduced its multidimensional fragility framework in the 2016 States of Fragility report. This framework captures the diversity of fragile contexts, measuring it on a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, human, political, security and social<sup>32</sup>.

### **Localisation**

There is no single definition of “localisation”. As part of the Grand Bargain, the signatories undertook to “make humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary,” while continuing to acknowledge the vital role of international actors, particularly in situations of armed conflict. Strictly speaking, localisation can be viewed as a strengthening of international investment and respect for the role of local actors, with the aim of reducing costs and increasing the scope of humanitarian action. In a broader sense, it can be seen as a way of re-conceptualizing the humanitarian sector from the bottom up. It recognises that the vast majority of humanitarian assistance is already provided by local actors. For the purposes of the Grand Bargain Caucus on Localisation, localisation is defined as the process through which a measurable, equitable and mutually accountable relationship is established between local/national and international actors<sup>33</sup>.

The “Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance”, adopted by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in July 2021, reinforces the principles expressed in the Grand Bargain by providing an international framework to guide and encourage humanitarian and development actors to promote the capacities of civil society actors, including those in Partner Countries. Therefore, supporters of the DAC Recommendation commit themselves to: i) Respect, protect and promote civic space; ii) Support and involve civil society; iii) Foster the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of local Civil Society Organisations.

**National and Local Responders** : The Grand Bargain refers to national and local responders, which include governments, communities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and local civil society.

**Local and national non-governmental actors**: Organisations that are based and operate in their own country, the beneficiary of the aid, and are not affiliated to an international NGO.

**National and subnational state actors**: State authorities in the beneficiary country, both at local and national level<sup>34</sup>.

### **Shock**

A sudden event with a major and often negative impact on the vulnerability of a system and its parts. Shocks exert a significant negative (or positive) impact on the living conditions of people and the functioning of State<sup>35</sup>.

<sup>32</sup> <http://www3.compareyourcountry.org>

<sup>33</sup> <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2022-08/Outcome%20Paper%20Towards%20Co-ownership%20-%20Caucus%20on%20Intermediaries%20-%20August%202022.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2022-08/Outcome%20Paper%20Towards%20Co-ownership%20-%20Caucus%20on%20Intermediaries%20-%20August%202022.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/Resilience%20Systems%20Analysis%20FINAL.pdf>

**Coivariate shock**

Dispersed and infrequent large scale events, which can be positive or negative, such as violent conflicts, volcanic eruptions or the sudden introduction of new technologies, e.g. mobile phones <sup>36</sup>.

**Idiosyncratic shock**

Significant, small scale events that specifically strike individuals and families, such as the death of the main breadwinner or the loss of an income-generating activity <sup>37</sup>.

**Seasonal shocks**

Shock stagionali come le inondazioni annuali legate alla stagione delle piogge, le variazioni dei prezzi del mercato alimentare o gli shock ricorrenti come i frequenti sfollamenti o il colera endemico in particolari communities<sup>38</sup>.

**Stress**

A long-term trend that weakens the potential of a given system and deepens the vulnerability of its actors, such as increased pollution, deforestation, exchange rate fluctuations and election cycles <sup>39</sup>.

**ANNEX 2.****GOOD PRACTICES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE NEXUS APPROACHES - THE MAPPING OF THE IASC - INTERAGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE.**

In order to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities, the nexus approach is being implemented in an increasing number of countries, with diverse experiences as regards their operational activities, lessons learned and good practices. In 2021, the IASC's (Interagency Standing Committee) *Results Group 4* mapped the operational exercises, good practices and lessons learned. This mapping reflects the contributions of 16 countries, collected through the Resident Coordinators Offices (RCOs) and the contributions of partners.

The mapping was carried out with the key components of the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in mind:

- joint analysis or sharing of analyses to obtain a shared understanding of needs, risks and vulnerability;
- structuring of "collective outcomes" or priority areas based on the greatest need, risk and vulnerability;
- planning and joined-up programming in support of these collective outcomes or priorities;
- funding aligned or harmonised with these collective outcomes or priorities.

<sup>36</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>37</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>38</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>39</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>40</sup> *Mapping Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-DevelopmentPeace Nexus Approaches Synthesis Report, Settembre 2021: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2021-11/IASC%20Mapping%20of%20Good%20Practice%20in%20the%20Implementation%20of%20Humanitarian-Development%20Peace%20Nexus%20Approaches%2C%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>*

The following characteristics and good practices emerge from the mapping:

- Progress in the implementation of nexus approaches at the national level is evident, but several countries reported difficulties in creating an unambiguous understanding among stakeholders of the nexus approach, with differing opinions and interpretations. A strong commitment from various actors is essential to support progress within a nexus approach. In some countries, nexus working groups have included local and national authorities, the UN, local and international CSOs, the World Bank and bilateral donors.
- Significant progress has been made in leadership, sharing analyses, and defining common priorities (collective outcomes), as well as in joined-up programming. The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators have played a leading role, facilitating the coordination of nexus approaches. The Country Teams have strengthened the sharing of the analyses and engaged in joined-up programming on nexus priorities. In many countries, the processes for developing Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) have been used as opportunities for defining nexus priorities, drawing upon analyses from Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and guaranteeing complementarity with Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).
- Collective outcomes are increasingly used to provide strategic guidance to the interventions of humanitarian, development and peace actors and align UNSDCF and HRPs

The mapping delves into issues of peace, gender equality, and local actors—elements closely linked to the triple nexus—especially with regard to the local challenges encountered.

#### **Peace.**

The integration of the peace pillar into the humanitarian-development nexus is still in its early stages. Some progress has been achieved, but this is limited to a few countries. The mapping highlights several contexts in which the peace pillar is a key component of the nexus approach. In other contexts where ongoing conflict or fragility has made implementing the nexus approach particularly complex, efforts have been made to highlight the importance of strengthening state authorities and providing public services, alongside promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding. Elsewhere, multi-actor analyses and coordination have helped build trust and facilitate access and assistance, thereby improving the HDP nexus approach.

All the countries that took part in the mapping included peace in their joint analysis or data sharing, either as part of the CCA process or through a dedicated conflict analysis, as a basis for an HDP nexus approach. This is important to ensure that planning and programming are informed by a thorough understanding of the context.

In certain contexts, collective outcomes related to the peace pillar (such as conflict risk reduction, social cohesion, protection, and local governance) have been set up. These serve as examples of how to preserve humanitarian space while integrating the peace pillar within the triple nexus. In contexts where peace missions are present, significant steps have been taken to ensure complementarity between the planning of the mission and humanitarian and development programming.

In contexts where there are no peacekeeping missions and where there are likely to be no peace action planning documents, significant efforts have been made to ensure that the HRP and UNSDCF activities are conflict-sensitive and formulated to have a positive impact on social cohesion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In many countries, the role of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has been positively recognised at last; it contributes to transitional justice, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence, where actions are formulated based on joint analyses and the definition of collective priorities.

#### **Gender Equality.**

In most contexts, a gender perspective has been applied to the data collection and analysis, to planning and programming to guarantee gender-sensitive and responsive approaches. Gender analysis has been included in joint analysis documents, and in some contexts, collective outcomes have been defined to reduce gender-based violence.

The promotion of local ownership by women's groups has been observed in several countries. Networks of women human rights defenders and local women's organisations have been consulted and involved in the implementation of the nexus approach at a national and local level.

Elsewhere, the nexus approach has been characterised by government-led initiatives and the setting up of working groups to achieve commitments on women's rights and promote the mainstreaming of gender equality. Analyses of peace processes from a gender perspective have been included in the CCAs and joint programmes for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda have been carried out.

### **Localisation**

In the countries that took part in the mapping, the level of involvement of local actors varies. In some areas, the HDP nexus is still limited to international actors, such as the UN, CSOs and bilateral donors. In other contexts, on the other hand, coordination with national and local actors and their involvement at all stages of the process has been a priority. Countries with sound strategic plans and effective coordination structures, combined with a bottom-up, people-centred approach, have been the most effective in terms of strategically involving a wide range of local actors, considered the drivers of the nexus.

Government involvement and leadership are crucial for an effective and sustainable triple nexus approach. In many countries there has been strong commitment by national and local authorities, with ministries co-chairing or at least taking part in the working groups or task forces on the nexus. Local governments and municipalities have been involved, particularly in countries where the nexus approach focuses on area-based "convergence sectors/areas", often in the context of protracted displacement and durable solutions.

In some contexts, there have been difficulties in involving local CSOs, often due to the number of these organisations. A good practice was the inclusion of national counterparts at the local/provincial and central/ministerial level from the very beginning of the collective outcomes design process in 2019. Development and peacebuilding interventions are specifically designed to strengthen the capacities of the regional and local authorities, as well as the CSOs and community organisations, by supporting social cohesion. Overall, the participation of local CSOs in humanitarian coordination mechanisms has improved significantly in recent years, although it is often not possible to distinguish between humanitarian and development activities. This ensures a more people-centred approach and greater responsibility towards the populations affected.

## ANNEX 3.

### OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE

With regard to official development assistance for peace, the OECD classifies it through a series of codes that include actions capable of contributing to peace and preventing conflict, taking into account their focus on security, core governmental functions and the inclusiveness of political processes. More specifically, the OECD refers to 18 Creditor Reporting System (CRS) codes, which fall under codes 151 – “core” peacebuilding activities – and 152 – “secondary” peacebuilding activities.

The distinction between the core and secondary peacebuilding activities is designed to help distinguish some of the immediate activities related to maintaining security from the longer-term activities that support institution-building.

**Box 5. Core peacebuilding: core peacebuilding always includes an intentional design to support sustained peace as the primary objective.**

152		Conflict, Peace & Security	N.B. Further notes on ODA eligibility (and exclusions) of conflict, peace and security related activities are given in paragraphs 76-81 of the Directives.
	15210	Security system management and reform	Technical co-operation provided to parliament, government ministries, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to assist review and reform of the security system to improve democratic governance and civilian control; technical co-operation provided to government to improve civilian oversight and democratic control of budgeting, management, accountability and auditing of security expenditure, including military budgets, as part of a public expenditure management programme; assistance to civil society to enhance its competence and capacity to scrutinise the security system so that it is managed in accordance with democratic norms and principles of accountability, transparency and good governance. [Other than in the context of an international peacekeeping operation (15230)].
	15220	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution	Support for civilian activities related to peace building, conflict prevention and resolution, including capacity building, monitoring, dialogue and information exchange. Bilateral participation in international civilian peace missions such as those conducted by the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) or the European Union (European Security and Defence Policy), and contributions to civilian peace funds or commissions (e.g. Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding thematic window of the MDG achievement fund etc.). The contributions can take the form of financing or provision of equipment or civilian or military personnel (e.g. for training civilians). (Use code 15230 for bilateral participation in international peacekeeping operations).

**Box 5. Core peacebuilding: core peacebuilding always includes an intentional design to support sustained peace as the primary objective.**

	15230	Participation in international peacekeeping operations	<p>Bilateral participation in peacekeeping operations mandated or authorised by the United Nations (UN) through Security Council resolutions, and conducted by international organisations, e.g. UN, NATO, the European Union (Security and Defence Policy security-related operations), or regional groupings of developing countries. Direct contributions to the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) budget are excluded from bilateral ODA (they are reportable in part as multilateral ODA, see Annex 9). The activities that can be reported as bilateral ODA under this code are limited to: human rights and election monitoring; reintegration of demobilised soldiers; rehabilitation of basic national infrastructure; monitoring or retraining of civil administrators and police forces; security sector reform and other rule of law-related activities; training in customs and border control procedures; advice or training in fiscal or macroeconomic stabilisation policy; repatriation and demobilisation of armed factions, and disposal of their weapons; explosive mine removal. The enforcement aspects of international peacekeeping operations are not reportable as ODA. ODA-eligible bilateral participation in peacekeeping operations can take the form of financing or provision of equipment or military or civilian personnel (e.g. police officers). The reportable cost is calculated as the excess over what the personnel and equipment would have cost to maintain had they not been assigned to take part in a peace operation. Costs for military contingents participating in UNDPKO peacekeeping operations are not reportable as ODA. International peacekeeping operations may include humanitarian-type activities (contributions to the form of equipment or personnel), as described in codes 7xxx. These should be included under code 15230 if they are an integrated part of the activities above, otherwise they should be reported as humanitarian aid. NB: When using this code, indicate the name of the operation in the short description of the activity reported.</p>
	15240	Reintegration and SALW control	<p>Reintegration of demobilised military personnel into the economy; conversion of production facilities from military to civilian outputs; technical co-operation to control, prevent and/or reduce the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) – see para. 120 of the Directives for definition of SALW activities covered. [Other than in the context of an international peacekeeping operation (15230) or child soldiers (15261)].</p>

**Box 5. Core peacebuilding: core peacebuilding always includes an intentional design to support sustained peace as the primary objective.**

	15250	Removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war	All activities related to land mines and explosive remnants of war which have benefits to developing countries as their main objective, including removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war, and stockpile destruction for developmental purposes [other than in the context of an international peacekeeping operation (15230)]; risk education and awareness raising; rehabilitation, reintegration and assistance to victims, and research and development on demining and clearance. Only activities for civilian purposes are ODA-eligible.
	15261	Child soldiers (prevention and demobilisation)	Technical co-operation provided to government - and assistance to civil society organisations - to support and apply legislation designed to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers, and to demobilise, disarm, reintegrate, repatriate and resettle (DDR) child soldiers.

The financing of military equipment or services is generally excluded from ODAs. This blanket exclusion serves to avoid channelling ODA funds towards the armed forces of Partner Countries, thereby strengthening their military capabilities.

**Box 6. Secondary peacebuilding: secondary peacebuilding consists of purpose codes that may or may not include peace as an objective.**

151		Government & Civil Society-general	N.B. Use code 51010 for general budget support.
	15110	Public sector policy and administrative management	Institution-building assistance to strengthen core public sector management systems and capacities. This includes general public policy management, co-ordination, planning and reform; human resource management; organisational development; civil service reform; e-government; development planning, monitoring and evaluation; support to ministries involved in aid co-ordination; other ministries and government departments when sector cannot be specified. (Use specific sector codes for development of systems and capacities in sector ministries. For macro-economic policy use code 15142. For public procurement use code 15125.)
	15111	Public finance management (PFM)	Fiscal policy and planning; support to ministries of finance; strengthening financial and managerial accountability; public expenditure management; improving financial management systems; budget drafting; inter-governmental fiscal relations, public audit, public debt. (Use code 15114 for domestic revenue mobilisation and code 33120 for customs).

**Box. 6. Secondary peacebuilding: secondary peacebuilding consists of purpose codes that may or may not include peace as an objective.**

	15112	Decentralisation and support to subnational government	Decentralisation processes (including political, administrative and fiscal dimensions); intergovernmental relations and federalism; strengthening departments of regional and local government, regional and local authorities and their national associations. (Use specific sector codes for decentralisation of sector management and services.)
	15113	Anti-corruption organisations and institutions	Specialised organisations, institutions and frameworks for the prevention of and combat against corruption, bribery, money-laundering and other aspects of organised crime, with or without law enforcement powers, e.g. anti-corruption commissions and monitoring bodies, special investigation services, institutions and initiatives of integrity and ethics oversight, specialised NGOs, other civil society and citizens' organisations directly concerned with corruption.
	15114	Domestic revenue mobilisation	Support to domestic revenue mobilisation/tax policy, analysis and administration as well as non-tax public revenue, which includes work with ministries of finance, line ministries, revenue authorities or other local, regional or national public bodies. (Use code 16010 for social security and other social protection.)
	15125	Public Procurement	Support to public procurement, including to create and evaluate legal frameworks; advice in establishing strategic orientation of public procurement policies and reforms; advice in designing public procurement systems and processes; support to public procurement institutions (including electronic procurement) as well as structures or initiatives to assess public procurement systems; and development of professional capacity of public procurement bodies and staff.
	15130	Legal and judicial development	Support to institutions, systems and procedures of the justice sector, both formal and informal; support to ministries of justice, the interior and home affairs; judges and courts; legal drafting services; bar and lawyers associations; professional legal education; maintenance of law and order and public safety; border management; law enforcement agencies, police, prisons and their supervision; ombudsmen; alternative dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation; legal aid and counsel; traditional, indigenous and paralegal practices that fall outside the formal legal system. Measures that support the improvement of legal frameworks, constitutions, laws and regulations; legislative and constitutional drafting and review; legal reform; integration of formal and informal systems of law. Public legal education; dissemination of information on entitlements and remedies for injustice; awareness campaigns. (Use codes 152xx for activities

**Box. 6. Secondary peacebuilding: secondary peacebuilding consists of purpose codes that may or may not include peace as an objective.**

	15130	Legal and judicial development	that are primarily aimed at supporting security system reform or undertaken in connection with post-conflict and peace building activities. Use code 15190 for capacity building in border management related to migration.)
	15142	Macroeconomic policy	Support to macroeconomic stability, debt sustainability and structural reforms. Includes technical assistance for strategic formulation of policies, laws and regulation; capacity building to enhance public sector development; policy-based funding. For fiscal policy and domestic revenue mobilisation use codes 15111 and 15114.
	15150	Democratic participation and civil society	Support to the exercise of democracy and diverse forms of participation of citizens beyond elections (15151); direct democracy instruments such as referenda and citizens' initiatives; support to organisations to represent and advocate for their members, to monitor, engage and hold governments to account, and to help citizens learn to act in the public sphere; curricula and teaching for civic education at various levels. (This purpose code is restricted to activities targeting governance issues. When assistance to civil society is for non-governance purposes use other appropriate purpose codes.)
	15151	Elections	Electoral management bodies and processes, election observation, voters' education. (Use code 15230 when in the context of an international peacekeeping operation.)
	15152	Legislatures and political parties	Assistance to strengthen key functions of legislatures/parliaments including subnational assemblies and councils (representation; oversight; legislation), such as improving the capacity of legislative bodies, improving legislatures' committees and administrative procedures research and information management systems; providing training programmes for legislators and support personnel. Assistance to political parties and strengthening of party systems.
	15153	Media and free flow of information	Activities that support free and uncensored flow of information on public issues; activities that increase the editorial and technical skills and the integrity of the print, broadcast and online media, e.g. training of journalists and information professionals. Use codes in sector 220 for provision of equipment and capital assistance to media.
	15160	Human rights	Measures to support specialised official human rights institutions and mechanisms at universal, regional, national and local levels in their statutory roles to promote and protect civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights as defined in international conventions and covenants; translation of international human rights

**Box 6. Secondary peacebuilding: secondary peacebuilding consists of purpose codes that may or may not include peace as an objective.**

	15160	Human rights	commitments into national legislation; reporting and follow-up; human rights dialogue. Human rights defenders and human rights NGOs; human rights advocacy, activism, mobilisation; awareness raising and public human rights education. Human rights programming targeting specific groups, e.g. children, persons with disabilities, migrants, ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual minorities, indigenous people and those suffering from caste discrimination, victims of trafficking, victims of torture. (Use code 15230 when in the context of a peacekeeping operation and code 15180 for ending violence against women and girls. Use code 15190 for human rights programming for refugees or migrants, including when they are victims of trafficking. Use code 16070 for Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, i.e. Child Labour, Forced Labour, Non-discrimination in employment and occupation, Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining.)
	15170	Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions	Support for feminist, women-led and women's rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding). These organisations exist to bring about transformative change for gender equality and/or the rights of women and girls in developing countries. Their activities include agenda-setting, advocacy, policy dialogue, capacity development, awareness raising and prevention, service provision, conflict-prevention and peacebuilding, research, organising, and alliance and network building
	15180	Ending violence against women and girls	Support to programmes designed to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls/gender-based violence. This encompasses a broad range of forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence including but not limited to: intimate partner violence (domestic violence); sexual violence; female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C); child, early and forced marriage; acid throwing; honour killings; and trafficking of women and girls. Prevention activities may include efforts to empower women and girls; change attitudes, norms and behaviour; adopt and enact legal reforms; and strengthen implementation of laws and policies on ending violence against women and girls, including through strengthening institutional capacity. Interventions to respond to violence against women and girls/gender-based violence may include expanding access to services including legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and health care; training personnel to respond more effectively to the needs of survivors; and ensuring investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence.

**Box. 6. Secondary peacebuilding: secondary peacebuilding consists of purpose codes that may or may not include peace as an objective.**

	15190	Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility	<p>Assistance to developing countries that facilitates the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building in migration and mobility policy, analysis, planning and management. This includes support to facilitate safe and regular migration and address irregular migration, engagement with diaspora and programmes enhancing the development impact of remittances and/or their use for developmental projects in developing countries.</li> <li>• Measures to improve migrant labour recruitment systems in developing countries.</li> <li>• Capacity building for strategy and policy development as well as legal and judicial development (including border management) in developing countries. This includes support to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration, and strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants and preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.</li> <li>• Support to effective strategies to ensure international protection and the right to asylum.</li> <li>• Support to effective strategies to ensure access to justice and assistance for displaced persons.</li> <li>• Assistance to migrants for their safe, dignified, informed and voluntary return to their country of origin (covers only returns from another developing country; assistance to forced returns is excluded from ODA).</li> <li>• Assistance to migrants for their sustainable reintegration in their country of origin (use code 93010 for pre-departure assistance provided in donor countries in the context of voluntary returns). Activities that pursue first and foremost providers' interest are excluded from ODA. Activities addressing the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration should not be coded here, but under their relevant sector of intervention. In addition, use code 15136 for support to countries' authorities for immigration affairs and services (optional), code 24050 for programmes aiming at reducing the sending costs of remittances, code 72010 for humanitarian aspects of assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) such as delivery of emergency services and humanitarian protection. Use code 93010 when expenditure is for the temporary sustenance of refugees in the donor country, including for their voluntary return and for their reintegration when support is provided in a donor country in connection with the return from that donor country (i.e. pre-departure assistance), or voluntary resettlement in a third developed country.</li> </ul>
--	-------	---	---

## ANNEX 4.

### EXPERIMENTATION IN LEBANON AND ETHIOPIA

Below are the results of the joint context analysis of both Partner Countries, carried out in September 2019. These analyses are reported in this manual for the purpose of documenting the experimentation carried out as part of the effort to define the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Guidelines. However, the context analyses to be carried out within the framework of the pilot processes envisaged in the Nexus Guidelines should, as far as possible, follow the template proposed in Annex 1 and they can, of course, be more in-depth.

#### A. ETHIOPIA: JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS (SEPTEMBER 2019)

**Typology of Crises and Shocks:** Ethiopia is subject to protracted crises due to seasonal shocks (floods, drought, famine) that lead to competition for resources and services. In 2018, it ranked first in the world for the number of internally displaced persons. It is the second largest country in Africa in terms of the number of refugees (approx. 1 million). The government has limited capacity and financial resources in the face of a growing population (over 100 million), exacerbated by phenomena such as internal displacement and refugee influx.

**Contextual features:** Ethiopia's fragility concerns five<sup>41</sup> dimensions.

1. **POLITICS:** notwithstanding the signing of the Peace Agreement with Eritrea in 2018 and an initial launch of a broad plan of political and social reforms, the country finds itself exposed to sources of inter-ethnic conflict and instability.
2. **SOCIAL:** very low development and human capital index (In 2016, 26% of the population was living below the poverty line. Difficulties in planning and providing basic services; inadequate budget and limited protection and access to justice by the most vulnerable).
3. **ECONOMIC:** : strong economic growth but low income (in 2017, the annual income per capita was USD 783). Dependence on international aid, protectionism and high import costs, low foreign investment due to structural and political problems. Limited industrial/manufacturing development, low productivity and high unemployment, with a low percentage of women and young people in the labour market.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL:** climate change, deforestation and desertification expose Ethiopia to a high risk of environmental disasters. Recurring epidemics, poor regulation with regard to the use of water and grazing land, inadequate waste disposal system.
5. **SECURITY: Ethnic clashes and demonstrations persist.** Security measures have been increased in Addis Ababa and the Amhara region.

#### Collective Outcomes:

##### In the New Way of Working:

- f) **Resilience in the Lowlands:** (improving the provision of basic services; supporting the economic growth of pastoral communities and vulnerable people; reducing vulnerability through sustainable management of natural resources; strengthening institutions at the local level) .
- g) **Durable solution:** an additional 2 or 3 collective outcomes will be set for the period 2020 - 2025 in favour of durable solutions for IDPs / returnees / populations affected by recurring disasters.

**Within the CRRF - Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework:** The government has undertaken together with the international community to implement 9 pledges in favour of refugees (out of camp policy, education, work and livelihood, documentation, social and basic services, local integration).

<sup>41</sup> The Fragility Framework currently includes six dimensions, the human dimension having been added

**Comparative advantage:** i) presence of the MAECI/AICS Cooperation Agreements (the 2017-2019 Country Programming envisages 125 million euro, of which 45 million euro in grant resources and 80 million euro in concessional loans). Additional Italian funding comes from the country's agreements with: the Ministry of the Interior, for actions to counter and/or stem the migration phenomenon; the Ministry of the Environment for the transformation of fuel-powered generators into solar energy; ii) presence in Addis Ababa of the Italian Embassy, the AICS office (with an additional Programme Office in Semera) and ICE (Italian Trade Agency) iii) strong presence of other Italian System actors, including the private sector (e.g. ENEL Green Power and Illy Caffè), the CSOs active in all the 9 Ethiopian regional states, Non-Profit Organisations, informal voluntary groups, but also territorial bodies such as the Regional or Provincial Authorities, in addition to the Italian Institute of Culture (IIC) and the Italian School.

## B. LEBANON: JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS (SEPTEMBER 2019)

**Typology of Crises and Shocks:** Lebanon is subject to long-term stress. After an impressive effort of national reconciliation, material reconstruction, institution building and peacekeeping, the Syrian crisis of 2011 has once again destabilised the already fragile demographic and sectarian balance, creating instability and vulnerability. The Syrian conflict has caused a huge influx of refugees (1.5 million Syrian refugees and 309,000 Palestinians). 51% of Syrian refugees live below the extreme poverty line. Limited capacity of the institutions to provide public services (health, education, waste management, electricity distribution and drinking water).

**Contextual features:** Lebanon's fragility concerns five dimensions.

1. **POLICY:** : high degree of political instability and vulnerability of national institutions. Regarding the humanitarian crisis caused by the influx of refugees from Syria, it should be highlighted that Lebanon is not a signatory of the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees.
2. **SOCIAL:** The Syrian conflict has caused a huge influx of refugees (1.5 million Syrian refugees and 309,000 Palestinians). 51% of Syrian refugees live below the extreme poverty line. Limited capacity of the institutions to provide public services (health, education, waste management, electricity distribution and drinking water).
3. **ECONOMIC:** sharp slowdown in economic growth (GDP) and rising prices of staples. High unemployment rate, especially among young people. Limited availability of financial resources both at the central level and in the decentralised administrations.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL:** significant fragilities in the environmental sector with periodic crises in solid waste disposal and alarming levels of air, river and sea pollution, with considerably harmful consequences for the health of the population.
5. **SECURITY:** security challenges persist, stemming from a combination of exogenous (Syrian crisis and regional tensions) and endogenous factors (presence of parts of the territory beyond the control of the security forces, infrastructural and governance weaknesses).

**Collective Outcomes:** The reference framework within the nexus is the *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP)*. The LCRP 2017-2020 has 4 strategic objectives: (i) to guarantee the protection of vulnerable populations; (ii) to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations; (iii) to provide assistance services through national systems; and (iv) to strengthen the country's economic, social and environmental stability. The operational plan of the LCRP is organised into sectors of intervention (Basic Assistance, Education, Energy, Food Security & Agriculture, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter, Social Stability, Water), each of which is coordinated by the relevant Ministry with the technical assistance of the specialised UN Agency. The LCRP is aligned with, and complementary to, the United Strategic Framework 2017-2020 (UNSF), which defines the UN cooperation framework and the overall vision for such engagement in Lebanon: support to the government, peace and security, internal stability, governance and sustainable development, poverty reduction, and response to humanitarian needs. With reference to the European Union Regional Trust Fund – the Madad Fund (EUTF) – the Italian System, through its various actors, plays various complementary and synergistic roles: 1. Contributor and funder (MAECI/DGCS/ AICS), 2. Vice-Chairman of the two Committees (DGCS, Directorate General for Development Cooperation), as well as implementing body (AICS, numerous CSOs, Italian Universities and Research Institutes, etc.)

**Comparative advantage:** The Bilateral Cooperation Development Agreement (2002) is the Framework Agreement that defines cooperation relations between Italy and Lebanon. Successive agreements were signed in 2006 and 2009 for the management of cooperation initiatives. Within the framework of the London "Supporting Syria and the Region Conference" (2016) and the Brussels Conferences "Supporting the future of Syria and the Region" (2017-2018 and 2019), Italy pledged to support the countries involved in the Syrian crisis, including Lebanon, with the allocation of grant resources and concessional loans. Presence of the Embassy, the AICS office, the Italian Cultural Institute, ICE (Italian Trade Agency), numerous Italian CSOs and religious bodies. The Italian private sector is present with a few representative offices, but mostly relies on Lebanese agents and intermediaries.

**Peacebuilding:** in southern Lebanon, the peacekeeping mission UNIFIL (1,100 troops) mission has been active since 2006. The presence of the Italian peacekeeping contingent is subject to the annual UN Security Council resolutions and the approval of the Italian Parliament. The bilateral training mission, MIBIL, has also been active since 2015. With regard to strengthening access to justice, the programme entitled "Protection of human rights and improvement of living conditions in Lebanese prisons, with special attention to women's prisons" (1.5 million euro) is currently underway. It is implemented by the AICS office in Beirut, under direct management in partnership with UNODC, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

ON THE COVER



Project of the Italian Cooperation in Sudan.  
Ph. *Francesca Nardi*



Project of the Italian Cooperation in Ethiopia.  
Ph. *UNFPA*



Project of the Italian Cooperation in Uganda.  
Ph. *Enrico Izzo*



Project of the Italian Cooperation in Syria  
Ph. *Daniele Oro*



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale




AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO

[www.aics.gov.it](http://www.aics.gov.it)

**FOLLOW US**

 [agenziaitalianacooperazione](https://www.facebook.com/agenziaitalianacooperazione)

 [@aics\\_it](https://twitter.com/aics_it)

 [@aics\\_cooperazione\\_it](https://www.instagram.com/aics_cooperazione_it)