

# COORDINATED MULTI-ANNUAL, FLEXIBLE AND PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER BUILDING THE NEXUS: A PERSPECTIVE FROM GERMANY

## THE ISSUE

### THE EU MEMBER STATES' IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS



Enabling local solutions: Refugees and host community jointly farming on the land of the host community contributing to peacefully living together; Adi, Haute-Uélé, DR Congo, ©: Malteser International/ Antoine Mopepe

Malteser International is a multi-mandated organisation working in crisis settings. With expertise in Health, WASH and Food and Nutrition Security we incorporate the nexus in many of our programs. To this end, combining humanitarian, transitional, and development funding is essential.

“Coordination between FFO and BMZ aiming at collective outcomes enabled a flexible exit from the humanitarian assistance transferring into a transitional approach.”

## DONOR LANDSCAPE – SETTING OUT TO SUPPORT THE NEXUS

The German Federal Foreign Office (FFO) coordinates with the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Triple Nexus approach. Both ministries coordinate some of their grants through the “Nexus-Chapeau-Approach” where humanitarian and transitional projects have been working towards “collective outcomes”. With a dedicated budget-line for “transitional” funding the BMZ has gone a step further and created a special instrument supporting the implementation of the HDP Nexus<sup>5</sup>.

As FFO and BMZ have committed to more multi-annual and programmatic funding during the World Humanitarian Summit, they are now moving towards that direction. Malteser International was the first to pilot in a programmatic funding by FFO and our experience shows that this enables more flexible and adaptive nexus programmes in crisis settings.

5. BMZ Strategy on Transitional Development Assistance

## > Building the Triple Nexus in DR Congo

The northeast of DR Congo is a marginalised part of the country with weak social infrastructure. Local communities become hosts to refugees and IDPs from surrounding crises.

With development funding from the EU, Malteser International has been strengthening health systems in Ituri and Haute-Uélé for years. Through its *Emergency Program Africa*, co-funded by FFO, Malteser International was able to flexibly assist newly arrived refugees from South Sudan to access health services. Additionally clinical WASH and malnutrition treatment were implemented. In the prolonged presence of refugees in the area, a grant from BMZ for transitional aid helped to further assist the refugees, especially to continue treatment of malnutrition. With the BMZ transitional grant we were also able to follow the explicit preferences of the refugees and host communities: supporting them with agricultural training and inputs. This supported their food and nutrition security and increased resilience. To cope with the additional burden of refugees, the health system was supported by cost reimbursement for treatment of refugees, avoiding a conflict over access between refugees and host communities. The reimbursement was then gradually reduced in order not to disturb the long-term cost recovery approach aiming at sustainability for the health system.

As a result of the combined interventions, refugees could integrate into the local communities rather than having to move to camp settlements to secure their survival. Health structures and their development model were not disturbed through the humanitarian situation but enabled to increase and further strengthen their capacities. With the continuation of the situation the refugees were enabled to pursue their own priority by farming themselves<sup>7</sup>.

## KEY FEATURES CONTRIBUTING TO GOOD PRACTICE IN THE NEXUS

FFO humanitarian *Emergency Program Africa* funding enabled timely and adapted response to the refugee crisis. Coordination between FFO and BMZ aiming at collective outcomes enabled a flexible exit from the humanitarian assistance transferring into a transitional approach. Multi-annual EU development funding had played an important role for deep understanding of context and good relations with stakeholders in the area. With trust built over the years, the programme featured a very people centered approach using P-FIM methodology. The refugees' prioritised to be able to farm instead of receiving food distributions. With a strong focus in health, Malteser International would not have prioritised assistance to farming. But with the flexibility of the transitional funding, an approach open to peoples' choices could be pursued. Taking up peoples' priorities, farming was hence supported.

Supporting agricultural activities not only provided the needed resources but provided also space to local leaders and communities who then integrated refugees on their community lands, by this contributing to peaceful co-existence and strengthening social cohesion<sup>6</sup>.

## WHAT STILL NEEDS TO MOVE TO BETTER FUND THE NEXUS?

The coordinated FFO-BMZ Nexus approach, and especially the conditions given (relatively flexible, less earmarked funding given for a 3-year up to a 5-year period) are a good practice. But there are also clear limitations: The BMZ transitional funding and with it the Nexus-Approach can currently only be applied to responses in 11 countries worldwide so, we are missing opportunities in those regions in crisis that are not on the list. Therefore, we urge the BMZ to consider enlarging the list to further crisis settings. At the EU level, more multi-annual, untied, programmatic and coordinated funding - including transitional funding - would very likely strengthen timely and adaptive Nexus programming.

**Annette Wächter-Schneider,**

Program Director and Deputy Secretary General  
at Malteser International

[Malteser International](#) | [For a Life in Health and Dignity](#)

6. BMZ Strategy on Transitional Development Assistance, p.14, 5.4 "The aim is to strengthen the population and local structures so as to resolve conflicts peacefully at the local level and close to the target groups, thus preventing new conflicts from arising."

7. <https://www.malteser-international.org/en/our-work/africa/dr-congo/improved-living-conditions-for-south-sudanese-refugees.html>