

Evidence base for EU action on fragility and HDP nexus

This document reflects the collective response of VOICE members to the renewed calls for further evidence on how to engage effectively in fragile contexts and operationalise the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus. It recalls that this debate is not new and it seeks to safeguard institutional memory, reaffirm previously agreed commitments, and reinforce accountability for their implementation.

By consolidating some existing EU and Member State commitments, relevant VOICE publications, and concrete member case studies on fragility and HDP nexus, this paper demonstrates that the EU already benefits from a solid political basis and growing operational experience to advance a coherent and integrated approach. The priority now is to ensure that EU policies build on these foundations, remain anchored in humanitarian principles, and translate ambition into real impact for people living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

This document will be updated regularly by VOICE members to further strengthen the evidence base underpinning EU engagement on fragility and the HDP nexus.

1. EU Political Commitments

Over the past decade, the EU has steadily strengthened its political and policy framework on resilience, fragility and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus. A first important milestone came in 2013, when the EU adopted its first Communication on resilience alongside an ambitious [action plan for 2013–2020](#). This was followed in 2017 by [a renewed Communication](#), aligned with [the EU Global Strategy](#), which broadened the focus from community-based resilience to also include state and institutional resilience.

Also in 2017, the Council adopted [Conclusions on operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus](#), leading the EEAS, Commission services and Member States to pilot this approach in several countries. The scope of the nexus framework was further expanded in 2018 to include the ‘peace’ dimension, helping shape what is now known as the HDP Nexus and reinforcing the [EU’s broader integrated approach to conflicts and crises](#). This direction was strongly reaffirmed in March 2021, when [the European Commission’s Communication on humanitarian action](#) committed the EU to deploy all necessary instruments to address immediate needs while also supporting long-term solutions, resilience and peacebuilding. In support of these political commitments, DG INTPA commissioned an in-depth study on the [Humanitarian-Development-Peace \(HDP\) Nexus in 2022](#), carried out by ECDPM and Particip GmbH, which identified a gap between political ambition and operational delivery, calling for clearer guidance, better-aligned funding and stronger coordination.

Climate risk, preparedness and resilience have also become increasingly central to EU thinking. In the framework of the [European Green Deal \(2019\)](#), DG ECHO advanced a new approach aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian action and strengthening disaster preparedness. These priorities were echoed again in the [2021 humanitarian Communication](#) and reinforced through the [Humanitarian Donors’ Declaration on climate and environment](#), endorsed since 2022. Complementing this, the EU adopted a [Joint Communication on the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific](#) that includes Disaster Risk Reduction in 2021, followed by [Council Conclusions](#) explicitly linking climate risks, fragility and stability. The [Mid-Term Evaluation of the NDICI-Global Europe](#) in 2024 further underlined the need for coherence and flexibility across EU instruments in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

More recently, in 2025, the Commission and the High Representative launched a [Preparedness Union Strategy](#), signalling the ambition to embed preparedness more systematically across internal and external action, and the Council has continued to highlight the importance of resilience in its [broader climate and policy discussions](#). Practical resources such as the [EU Resilience Compendium](#) continue to illustrate how Nexus-oriented and resilience-focused approaches can translate into operational practice.

Together, these developments reflect a clear EU trajectory toward more integrated, principled and resilience-driven engagement in fragile contexts, providing an important foundation for the forthcoming EU integrated approach to fragility.

2. EU Member States Commitments

Several EU Member States have also played an important role in advancing thinking and practice on fragility and the HDP Nexus through national policies, strategies and evaluations. Germany has [repeatedly positioned fragility](#) as a central development concern, including through [strategic reflections](#) and guidance on working across humanitarian, development and peace dimensions. Italy adopted [guidelines](#) to advance the HDP Nexus approach in 2023 and published an [Operational Manual](#) in 2025. Denmark has contributed through thematic evaluations, including on [civil society engagement across humanitarian, peacebuilding and development work](#). Sweden, through Sida, has developed [practical guidance](#) on applying the Nexus in programming.

These national-level commitments reinforce wider EU ambitions and demonstrate that Member States recognise both the necessity and the complexity of working in fragile environments in a way that strengthens resilience, supports local actors and sustains engagement even in deteriorating conditions.

3. VOICE and its Members' Publications

Beyond institutional commitments, VOICE and its members have generated extensive analysis, evidence and learning on fragility, the Nexus and integrated approaches. These contributions offer valuable insights into what works, what remains challenging, and what policymakers must consider when shaping future EU approaches to fragility.

Relevant publications include, among others:

VOICE

Year of publication	Organisation	Publication
2026	VOICE	VOICE out loud 40: Fragility the cost of Inaction
2025	VOICE	VOICE key highlights: VOICE - Global Focus roundtable in Copenhagen "Shaping the EU's humanitarian and development agenda: From Lessons to Action"
2025	VOICE	CONCORD EPLO VOICE Joint Statement on the MFF
2025	VOICE	2025 VOICE Policy Resolution: Time for Action: Humanitarian NGOs call for a bold response to fragility
2024	VOICE	VOICE presentation to COHAFA/CODEV: Implementation of the HDP Nexus through NDICI – Global Europe

2021	VOICE	<u>VOICE Out Loud 32: The EU Member States' implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus</u>
2019	VOICE	<u>CASE STUDIES - VOICE REPORT: NGO Perspectives on the EU's Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus</u>
2019	VOICE	<u>VOICE Report: NGO Perspectives on the EU's Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus</u>

VOICE Members

Year of publication	Organisation	Publication	Thematic/country focus
2026	WeWorld	<u>Integrating the P of the HDP Nexus in Ukraine</u>	Practical guidance on integrating the peace dimension of the HDP nexus in <u>Ukraine</u>
2026	IRC	<u>System Strengthening case studies <i>child protection – health-education – social protection</i></u>	Partnerships for systems strengthening with examples from <u>CAR, Somalia, Burundi, Nigeria, Kenya, Liberia, Lebanon, Ethiopia</u> These four IRC sector-specific case studies (health, education, child protection and social protection) show how diverse partnerships in programme delivery can strengthen government systems, improve cost efficiencies and scale solutions – including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
2025	World Vision DE	<u>Relief, Recovery & Resilience: Nexus Programming in Northern Bahr el Ghazal</u>	<u>South Sudan</u> This report shows World Vision and partner experience of implementing humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus programming in area-based contexts in South Sudan - analysing early outcomes, how adaptive, coordinated and multi-year approaches can link humanitarian relief with development and peace-oriented goals for resilience-building in fragile and conflict-affected settings - while proposing practical lessons and recommendations for donors, policymakers and humanitarian and development actors to improve HDP nexus

			operationalisation, financing, coordination and locally-rooted, sustainable impact.
2025	SIF	<u>Overcoming the Internal Displacement Crisis</u>	Internal displacement and nexus; focus on <u>Pakistan, Somalia and Madagascar</u>
2025	IRC	<u>Emergency Watchlist 2026 (Global)</u>	<p>20 countries on the Watchlist most likely to face a worsening humanitarian crisis in the coming year.</p> <p>The Emergency Watchlist report is the IRC's assessment of the 20 countries most likely to face a worsening humanitarian crisis in the coming year. The 10 recommendations in this report offer practical and effective ways forward to protect communities and to build more sustainable, resilient systems for the future.</p>
2025	IRC	<u>The next chapter of resilience: Pairing proven solutions with bold innovation at the climate-conflict nexus</u>	<p>Climate action and climate resilience in FCAS</p> <p>By building on what already works in building resilience to climate change while adapting it for the realities of fragile contexts, we ensure programs are relevant today and sustainable tomorrow, ultimately strengthening the capacities of communities and local systems to respond to future shocks.</p>
2025	IRC	<u>A New Era for Aid 2025: Prioritising People and Protecting Progress</u>	<p>The report focuses on increasing the impact and effectiveness of the aid system, particularly in FCAS.</p> <p>To maintain progress with fewer resources, the aid system must prioritise its work on where it is most needed and can be most impactful. This requires new thinking on where aid is spent, what it is spent on, how it is delivered, and how it is funded.</p>
2025	ChildFund Alliance, EDUCO, WeWorld	<u>Applying the HDP Nexus in Education: Promoting Sustained and</u>	This policy brief explores how the Nexus is being applied in education programming in fragile

		<u>Equitable Access in Fragile and Crisis Contexts</u>	and crisis contexts such as <u>Burkina Faso</u> and <u>Mozambique</u>
2024	World Vision Canada	<u>The Fragile Context Programming Approach</u>	This publication explains World Vision's Fragile Context Programme Approach (FCPA) as an adaptive, integrated method for working across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in fragile and volatile settings to deliver sustained well-being outcomes for children, families and communities — analysing how systematic context analysis, flexible programming and organisational agility help meet urgent needs while addressing underlying drivers of fragility — while proposing that such context-sensitive, flexible and integrated approaches are essential for more effective, coherent and sustainable impact in complex crisis environments.
2024	WeWorld	<u>Exploring the Space for Young People in Peacebuilding in Coastal Communities of Tanzania and Kenya</u>	This paper explores the intersection between youth, culture and peacebuilding and seeks to identify existing and potential spaces for young women and men to exercise positive leadership and influence in addressing conflict, security, and peacebuilding issues in <u>Tanzania</u> and <u>Kenya</u>
2024	WeWorld	<u>Exploring the Space for Young People in Peacebuilding in Northern Mozambique</u>	This research aims to analyse how culture contributes to young people's positive role in discussions pertaining to peace, security and conflict; and to understand the role it plays in promoting social cohesion and solidarity in <u>Northern Mozambique</u>
2024	Oxfam	<u>The Triple Nexus in Somaliland: Lessons from Integrated Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Work in El-Afweyn District</u>	<u>Somaliland – Triple Nexus</u> In Somaliland, Oxfam has been piloting approaches that aim to achieve greater synergy between HDP programming and influencing. This work recognises that communities' needs and ambitions are not met along the

			<p>false silos created by aid agencies. It asks the international development and humanitarian sector to walk the talk on locally led programming to better meet the holistic needs and aspirations of communities.</p>
2024	NRC	<p><u>Weathering the Storm: Why and How Development Financing Actors Should Stay Engaged During Political Crises</u></p>	<p>This publication aims to highlight how suspending or withdrawing development financing in fragile and conflict-affected countries following an unconstitutional change in government can deepen humanitarian needs and strain the global humanitarian system, drawing on case studies from Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Mali, Myanmar and Niger to analyse the consequences of reduced development engagement, while proposing actionable recommendations for development donors, international financial institutions and operational actors to remain engaged, adapt financing approaches and better support sustainable outcomes for affected populations.</p>
2024	IRC	<p><u>IDA21: Making Development Cooperation Work for Communities Affected by Conflict</u></p>	<p>The focus of the report is delivering development aid in FCAS.</p> <p>This report presents recommendations for ensuring that no community is left behind and that World Bank remains relevant in a world where the most extreme challenges and extreme poverty are increasingly concentrated in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.</p>
2024	Humanity & Inclusion	<p><u>Inclusive Humanitarian Action Case Studies Repository</u></p>	<p><u>Somalia, Somaliland, Syria</u></p> <p>This publication stresses practical experiences and lessons from humanitarian responses in Somalia, Somaliland and the Syrian crisis that demonstrate how to make humanitarian action more inclusive with and for</p>

			persons with disabilities — analysing how tools, data collection, capacity development and partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities improve accessibility, participation and tailored assistance — while proposing actionable recommendations to strengthen disability-inclusive humanitarian planning, coordination and programming across sectors in crisis contexts.
2024	Humanitarian Practice Network (ODI)	<i><u>The Meeting of Humanitarian and Civic Space in Sudan</u></i>	<p><u>Sudan</u></p> <p>This publication shows how the evolving interaction between humanitarian action and civic space in Sudan, shaped by decades of conflict, shifting governance and a shrinking public sphere, has affected national civil society and the prospects for localising humanitarian response, analysing historical and contemporary dynamics of rights, freedoms and operational space for local actors — while proposing lessons and strategic insights for policymakers, donors and practitioners to strengthen localisation, protection of civic space and more effective, context-responsive humanitarian practice in fragile environments.</p>
2024	ACT Alliance EU; Caritas Europa; Islamic Relief; EU Cord	<i><u>Maintaining Engagement in Fragile Contexts through Partnerships with Local Faith-Based Organisations</u></i>	<p>This publication addresses the lived experiences and contributions of faith-based organisations working in fragile contexts through Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approaches, showcasing how their deep community roots, integrated programming and long-term presence help address complex crises and sustain resilience, while proposing strengthened partnerships, flexible, long-term funding and coherent policy support from donors, governments and</p>

			multilateral actors to enhance effective, people-centred, sustainable solutions in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
2023	Trocaire	<u>Nexus for Resilient Lives Case Study</u>	<p>Ethiopia</p> <p>In Ethiopia, increasingly frequent crises driven by conflict and climate require a locally led, community-centred nexus approach that unites humanitarian, development and peace actors—through partnerships between national and international organizations—to address root causes, strengthen capacity, and achieve greater collective impact.</p>
2023	NRC	<u>The Nexus in Practice: The Long Journey to Impact</u>	<p>This publication explains how the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) Nexus is being operationalised — and the challenges and uneven practices of doing so — across five fragile and conflict-affected contexts (Libya, Iraq, Cameroon, Somalia and Afghanistan), analysing the extent to which nexus approaches have shifted programming beyond siloed humanitarian assistance to more sustainable, coordinated action that addresses underlying vulnerabilities and durable solutions for affected populations — while proposing key lessons, good practices and policy-oriented recommendations for donors, operational actors and international systems to improve financing, coordination, localisation and clarity in advancing effective, people-centred Nexus implementation.</p>
2023	IRC	<u>The New Geography of Extreme Poverty</u>	<p>This report assesses current approaches of development actors to project finance and delivery in conflict-affected countries, and provides and recommendations for expanded partnerships.</p>

			The report calls for expanded partnerships with non-government actors such as civil society and humanitarian organizations to reach communities at risk, along with increased available and affordable World Bank financing, channeled to conflict-affected LDCs
2023	EDUCO	<u>Education in Emergencies that Protects: Children and Adolescents in Ukraine</u>	<u>Ukraine</u> This publication aims to highlight how the armed conflict in Ukraine has severely disrupted and diminished access to safe, quality education for millions of children and adolescents — documenting the impacts on learning, protection, psychosocial wellbeing and rights, and illustrating how education in emergencies serves as a critical protective space that fosters safety, routine, resilience and development — while proposing urgent recommendations for sustained, flexible funding, inclusive education systems, psychosocial support and rights-based, child-centred responses to safeguard the future of affected young people.
2023	DRC	<u>Operationalising Conflict Sensitivity in Complex Contexts</u>	In fragile and conflict-affected contexts which are intrinsically complex, DRC works not only on the impacts of conflicts (emergency response) but also on the factors of conflicts (peacebuilding and lasting solutions). Interventions that are conflict- “insensitive” may fuel tensions, disputes and conflict, while increasing the risks for beneficiaries, staff and implementing partners.
2023	DanChurchAid	<u>Case Study on Financing Loss and Damage</u>	<u>Mali</u> This publication shows lived experiences of communities in Mali facing climate-related losses

			and damages, documenting how diverse stressors such as conflict, displacement, impacts on food production, natural resources and livelihoods are experienced on the ground, while proposing insights into how financing for loss and damage can better respond to local needs and realities under the UNFCCC’s climate finance agenda.
2023	Christian Aid Ireland	<u><i>Pockets of Peace in Crisis: Impact of Integrating Conflict Prevention into Humanitarian Resilience Programmes in Fragile Contexts</i></u>	This publication reports on how integrating conflict prevention into humanitarian resilience programmes can create “pockets of peace” in fragile and violent contexts, emphasising the role of conflict analysis, inclusive local engagement and peacebuilding approaches within humanitarian work to strengthen community resilience and cohesion, while proposing realistic, locally grounded and context-specific strategies, backed by flexible, longer-term funding, to enhance anticipatory action and support sustainable peace and protection for affected communities.
2022	World Vision	<u><i>Navigating the Nexus: A Brighter Future for Children in Urban Contexts in Iraq</i></u>	<u>Iraq</u> This publication indicates World Vision’s experience of implementing a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach in urban contexts in <u>Iraq</u> , analysing how sustained presence, partnerships and participatory, multi-year programming can link immediate humanitarian assistance with longer-term development and peacebuilding goals in a fragile, conflict-affected setting, while proposing practical recommendations for governments, donors and humanitarian actors to strengthen coordination, funding and durable solutions for displaced

			populations and vulnerable communities.
2022	WeWorld	<u><i>The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approach: South Libya</i></u>	This policy brief explores how to translate the Nexus operational aspects, principles and goals into practical strategies in <u>Southern Libya</u> .
2022	WeWorld	<u><i>Applying the “Triple Nexus” in Venezuela</i></u>	This study addresses the challenge of applying the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in the context of migration flows from <u>Venezuela</u>
2022	Oxfam	<u><i>Case Studies on the Triple Nexus in West Africa: What Can We Learn? (West Africa)</i></u>	<u>West Africa – Triple Nexus Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, Mali, Niger</u> These case studies show how some of Oxfam’s interventions are adapting to implement humanitarian aid, development and peacebuilding programmes simultaneously to address the systemic inequalities and weaknesses that keep people in poverty and make them vulnerable.
2022	DRC	<u><i>Peace in the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus: Learning & Practice Note</i></u>	The note shares programmatic guidance on bottom-up peacebuilding and elaborates on peace for humanitarian and development actors in their conflict sensitivity approaches, underlining the benefits of integrating peacebuilding approaches into and alongside humanitarian and development actions.
2022	DRC	<u><i>Exploring the Environment–Conflict–Migration Nexus in Asia (Asia)</i></u>	<u>Asia</u> Climate and other environmental factors cannot be isolated from the many social, economic and political factors that, together, can spur conflicts and/or lead people to migrate. Climate change clearly does compound pre-existing vulnerabilities, however, and migrants and people in conflict-affected areas are often among the most vulnerable to climate impacts.

2022	Christian Aid	<u><i>Ripping off the Bandaid: Putting People at the Centre of Humanitarian Action</i></u>	This publication brings up how failure to build resilience and invest in community-centred approaches in East Africa is contributing to severe food crises and humanitarian need, while proposing structural and policy changes, such as investing in community resilience, anticipatory action, social protection and locally led responses, to create more effective, timely and sustainable solutions to recurrent crises and systemic vulnerability.
2021	Caritas Belgium	<u><i>Local Actions, Global Lessons: Overcoming fragility in DR Congo</i></u>	<u>DR Congo</u> This publication analyses testimonies from the Caritas network's long-standing commitments to communities living in crisis situations in DR Congo while proposing appropriate and sustainable solutions to meet the major challenges of sudden crises, population displacement and widespread violations of rights.
2021	Oxfam	<u><i>Transforming the Systems that Contribute to Fragility and Humanitarian Crises: Programming across the Triple Nexus</i></u>	This briefing paper aims to identify the tensions and dilemmas that Oxfam faces when programming across the nexus and sets out new policy to address these dilemmas. The four dilemmas are as follows: 1. upholding principles across the HDP pillars; 2. working with states /government authorities; 3. balancing multiple programmatic priorities; and 4. defining peacebuilding as it relates to Oxfam's identity and added value.

Additional documents to be accessible upon request due to the sensitivity of the topic:

- IRC, 2025, Proposal for a target for allocating ODA to FCAS – Short brief.
- IRC, 2025, Triple nexus capability statement – Overview of the IRC's approach to the HDP nexus with 10 country examples.