

THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

Sabrina Mayoufi
Humanitarian Response Coordinator

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Introduction & Context since the 90ties

In theory

Historically aid organisation are seeking to Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (**LRRD**) since the 80ties & 90ties

- There should be a follow-up from emergency to rehabilitation/transitional aid to development cooperation = **continuum**

In reality

Hardly met due to legal and funding implications, interfering or overlay of new crisis

- Implementation of emergency assistance, rehabilitation and development oriented projects occurre at the same time, to various extend, side by side in a given geographical area or crisis scenario = **contiguuum**

+ two decades of DRR and Resilience and more complex crisis

In practice

- Disaster preparedness and fostering programmes and projects with the objective of strengthening the resilience of communities in order to mitigate the occurrence of humanitarian crisis

In reality

- Growing complexity of humanitarian crisis with «no end in sight» = protracted crisis

New aspects of the “Devide”

The **Humanitarian – Development Devide** persists even more in complex crisis where humanitarian principles are at stake

- ✓ **humanitarians** commit to provide **unconditional** humanitarian aid based on needs
- ✓ **development** assistance is often **conditional** on adoption of measures and policies deemed necessary to spur society changes supported by donors

Another distinction

Humanitarian action is **people-centric** focus on undeserved areas (often neglected by or even outside control of the state)

International development is rather **state-centric** (e.g. hardly ventures into rebel-held territory)

➤ 2016 and the World Humanitarian Summit

“Grand Bargain” initiative

Called for actors to start considering **development oriented aspects in humanitarian interventions early**, right from the beginning, especially in **fragile states**, expecting / needing:

- More **Cooperation, Exchanges, Coordination** in situational analysis and assessments
- Still **seperate planning and implementation** of humanitarian interventions to stick to the **humanitarian principles**
- Design humanitarian interventions as local as possible = **Localisation**

Strengthening **coherence** between humanitarian, development and peace efforts

- to effectively reduce people's needs, risks and vulnerabilities
- supporting prevention efforts, and
- shifting from delivering humanitarian aid to reducing needs

DAC calls for "...**strengthened policy and operational coherence...building more complementarity** between Humanitarian-Development and peace actions"

Key message:

- Against the backdrop of the **SDG** related to **leaving no one behind**, **ending needs by reducing risks and vulnerabilities** is now a shared commitment
- Reducing the impact of protracted crisis on affected populations requires **both meeting immediate needs and investing in the medium to long term** to reduce chronic vulnerabilities and risks affecting communities
- Aid actors (=Humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding Agencies, Donors, and bilateral institutions) **must evolve their thinking and working methods** to address these issues more coherently

Where we stand + 3 years from WHS

- Still early days for Nexus focus programming
 - Little independent evaluations
 - Hard to get clear picture of what has really changed for better or worse
- Still we are all into it in a way or another
 - Because our dual mandated NGOs
 - Because type of countries, regions and crisis we are into
 - Because our thematic sectors of expertise and engagement
 - Because of our systemic approach for HELVETAS in particular

Double Nexus in practice at HELVETAS

From + 40 humanitarian projects in the last 5 years

Country

Disaster type

Impact / beneficiary

Project type

Year & duration

Sectors of intervention

Donors or funding type

Partnerships type

Timing/phasing intervention

Authorities relation

Particularities or normalities of Helvetas Nexus projects

- Ethiopia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Peru, Madagascar, Philippines, Mozambique, Pakistan
- Sudden onset, Slow onset, Protracted, Natural or man-made
- People affected by drought, cyclones, displacements, insecurity...
- Relief, rehab, reconstruction, cash, goods, livelihoods, trainings
- Water & Shelter, Food security, Protection, Skills
- Various durations from 3 months to 3 to 5 years
- Various donors type humanitarian & development
- Various partnerships local and internationals
- In close consultation and coordination with authorities

Gaps when trying to build bridges

Two spheres and different analytical framework highlighting 7 gaps:

- ✓ vision and strategy gap
- ✓ funding gap
- ✓ planning gap
- ✓ institutional gap
- ✓ geographic gap
- ✓ ownership gap
- ✓ sequence gap

2018 report - Kocks et al. "Building Bridges Between International Humanitarian and Development Response to Forced Migration"

Conclusion

No need for more debates or theories
We are all on the same line and same boat anyway
We need acts, experience and to deliver

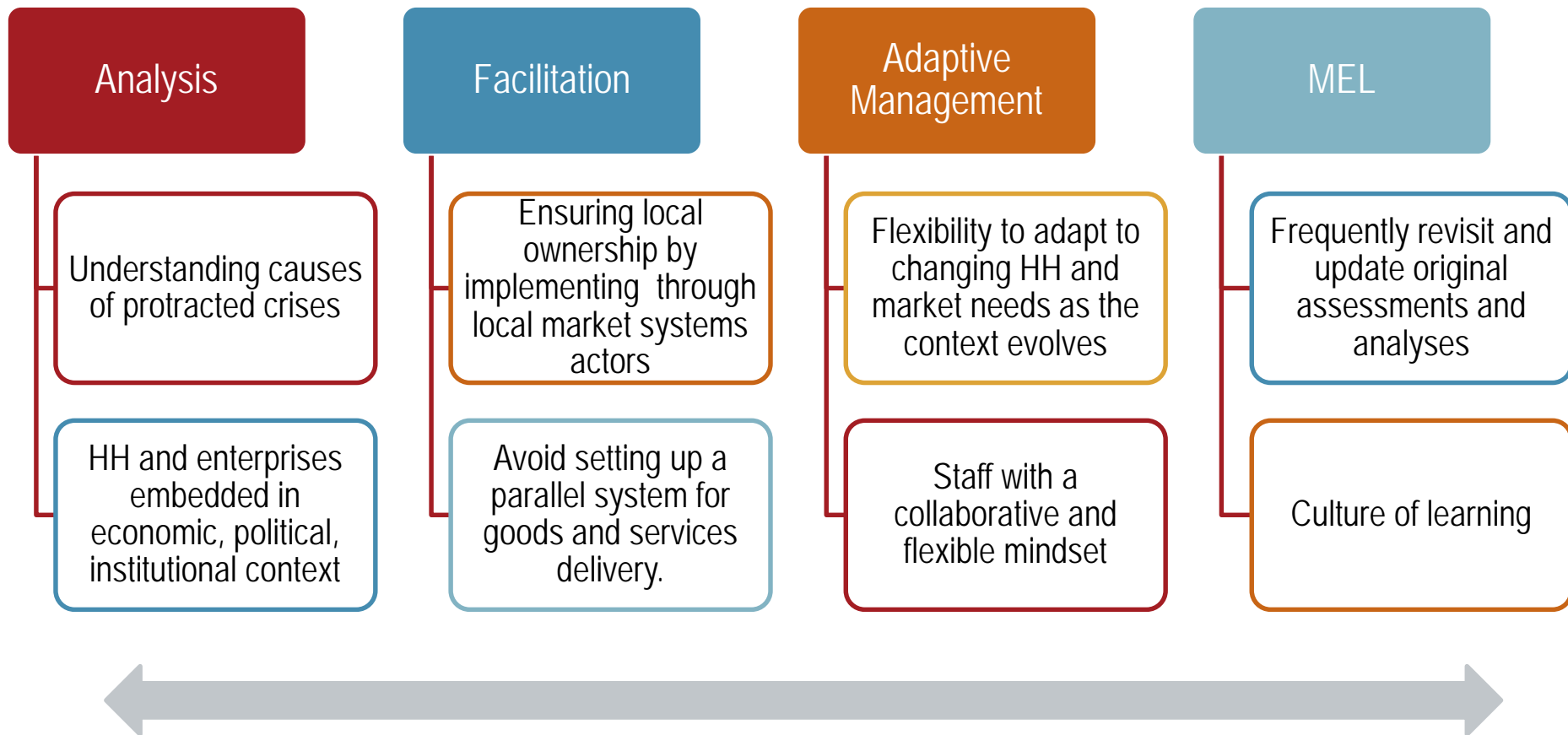
“ at the end of the day, nexus is a mindset, it's not just one project”

and

for the Nexus approach to deliver on its goal - to better assist millions of people and more effectively spend billion of aid

“the aspiration is systemic change... and that invariably takes time”

«Nexus entry points» from MSD perspective



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