

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action on strengthening the Strategic Place of ACT in the forefront on Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus Programming

COVER NOTE

The ACT structure responsible for the statement is the Peace and Human Security Reference Group. The ACT structures and counterparts that were consulted for the development of the statement are the Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Response Reference Group and the Triple Nexus working group. The statement's main issue is the call for ACT Alliance to strengthen its HDP Nexus (Humanitarian, Development and Peace) Approach. HDP Nexus is also referred to as Triple Nexus.

The HDP Nexus approach aims to achieve collective outcomes based on shared, risk-informed and gender sensitive analysis. This can be achieved through flexibility on working modalities within interventions that integrate all three pillars, as well as through parallel, coordinated, and complementary interventions. The HDP Nexus approach also embraces the importance of listening to affected communities and building on local capacities. A focus on Women, Peace and Security, youth engagement, conflict sensitivity and community resilience is also part of the approach. In recent years, climate-related shocks and risks exacerbate existing levels of vulnerability¹. Understanding mutually reinforcing dynamics of these fields is crucial in pursuing effective and sustainable solutions, a concept now emerging as the Climate-HDP Nexus.²

TOPIC

The HDP Nexus aims to enhance collaboration across humanitarian, development, and peace actions to reduce vulnerability and address the root causes of conflict. Emerging from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the OECD DAC adopted a recommendation to support the HDP Nexus approach³ confirming it as a relevant framework towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The HDP Nexus focuses on collective outcomes, risk-informed analysis, flexible and locally led implementation and community resilience. ACT Alliance, with its technical expertise and decades of holistic approach, is well-positioned to implement the HDP approach, emphasizing positive peace and leveraging its faith-based network. A main objective is that ACT Alliance and its membership, are implementing HDP Nexus programs and that there is funding available for this through the ACT humanitarian response system by the end of 2026.

¹ See for example, Mobjörk et al. 2020:3

² [Climate HDP briefing.pdf](#)

³ <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-5019>

STATEMENT

Together for Justice: Our Collective Action on Strengthening the Strategic Place of ACT at the Forefront on HDP Nexus Programming

The OECD DAC (Development Assistance Committee) updated its recommendation on the HDP (Humanitarian, Development, Peace) Nexus in 2024, reaffirming it as an urgent and key approach towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile contexts⁴. This is a strategic time for the ACT Alliance to facilitate an inclusive process to develop its own HDP Nexus approach drawing on the membership's vast experience and global footprint. This statement aims at informing and promoting the process, contributing to the ACT Alliance being actively engaged in HDP Nexus Programming within the remaining time of the current strategy period.

The HDP Nexus refers to the aim of strengthening collaboration, coherence, and complementarity across the pillars of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each pillar in protracted crisis contexts to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities, address root causes of conflict and contribute to more sustainable humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.⁵

In its 2019-2026 Global Strategy, the ACT Alliance committed to strengthening the links with the HDP Nexus approach (p.16). ACT Alliance has technical expertise and is engaged in all three pillars of the nexus, as well as climate adaptation. Moreover, ACT members have decades of ecumenical experience of working in a holistic way and often through drawing on local capacities and addressing the needs and rights of vulnerable communities. Another added value is the ACT Alliance approach to peace as something more than “negative” peace that focuses on the absence of physical violence. Instead, ACT members’ peacebuilding work focuses on building “positive” peace, developing grounds for sustainable and just peace in communities and societies, looking at root causes of conflicts, alleviating structural forms of violence and environmental, economic, political, and social inequalities, strengthening social cohesion thus representing strong linkages with humanitarian and development work. Finally, being a faith-based structure and having strong relations with local, national, and global churches and interfaith networks, ACT Alliance represents a unique added value of being able to mobilize relevant civil society actors in settings of complex fragility that can strongly benefit any HDP Nexus approach. Based on all these strengths the ACT Alliance is extremely well positioned to further operationalize and develop the HDP Nexus approach. There are also some known challenges in HDP nexus implementation, such as coordinating diverse actors, securing flexible and long-term funding and balancing resources across sectors, developing the necessary programmatic capacities, overcoming organizational silos, and adapting to varying vulnerabilities. Political sensitivities and protection needs may impact peacebuilding efforts, while measuring the collective impact of integrated interventions remains difficult.

The call to strengthen the HDP Nexus aligns closely with the theme of the ACT General Assembly, “Hope in Action: Together for Justice.” The HDP nexus is about working together, enhancing collaboration, and breaking the silos. The OECD DAC recommendation on the HDP nexus approach will have an impact on

⁴ OECD, DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, OECD/LEGAL/5019

⁵ OECD/LEGAL/5019

humanitarian, development and peace coordination, implementation, and funding mechanisms. Also, there is an urgent need to find ways to better respond to situations of fragility. Within ACT Alliance, the humanitarian sector has been stretched in some areas. Hopefully the HDP Nexus approach will allow for burden sharing by development and peace actors. At best the HDP Nexus approach can reduce aid dependency and reduce possibilities for instability and conflict in the first place, as well as contribute to a more conducive environment for long term development engagement. This is also an opportunity to learn from each other and to jointly work on ways to better address risks, needs and vulnerabilities. The totality of ACT Alliance’s response may be impacted. Therefore, the ACT Alliance and its membership will strengthen their efforts to improve coordination, coherence, and complementarity between ACT supported engagement within the three pillars, as well as with other relevant government, multilateral and civil society actors in any specific context of intervention.

Commitments & Recommendations

We as ACT Alliance aim to give attention to the importance of strengthening the operationalization of the ACT Alliance HDP nexus approach including advocacy related to funding. The objective is that the ACT Alliance and its membership, before end of 2026, are implementing (scaling, improving, documenting) HDP Nexus programs and that there is funding available for this through the ACT Alliance Humanitarian Response Mechanism. In line with this objective, we as ACT Alliance commit to:

- **Continue developing a position paper on the ACT Alliance HDP nexus approach by 2025**, ensuring an inclusive process within the membership, drawing on the added value of ACT Alliance being a faith-based humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actor.
- **Draw on local capacities, community-based knowledge and leadership** when planning and implementing HDP nexus initiatives.
- **Draw on the experience of forums and local actors** on ecumenical collaboration and holistic programming in applying HDP nexus approaches in contexts of protracted conflict and crisis.
- **Strategically utilize the added value of national ACT members’ permanent presence in contexts of protracted conflict and crisis** when developing HDP nexus programming.
- **Introduce a pilot project** to explore the feasibility of, and capture learning on HDP nexus programming and longer-term funding within the ACT humanitarian mechanism.
- **Work together to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation** in the ACT Alliance HDP nexus approach.

We call on States and donors to:

- **Provide financial support to faith-based and secular organisations** working on increasing nexus programming and deepening learnings at the different levels.
- **Use their leverage to urge other States and donors to increase their financial support** to HDP nexus policy and programming, particularly from the perspective and leadership of local-level actors.

A majority of the assembly has declared itself in agreement with the opinions expressed in this statement. While many ACT members agree with the public statement, there are members who have expressed differing perspectives on the content or tone. Their decision reflects the diverse viewpoints within our alliance, and we respect their choice to abstain or vote against. As always, we value the collective dialogue and encourage continued discussions on the matter at hand, recognizing the strength of our unity in diversity.