

## Revised Situational Analysis Report

# Nutrition-centric Humanitarian, Development and Peace Triple Nexus (NC-HDPTN) in Ethiopia

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**SANKOFA**  
Research & Consulting Plc.

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## **AFFIRMATION**

Except as acknowledged by the references to other authors and publications, the finding described herein consists of our own work carried out based on the contract agreement signed with ACF. The primary qualitative data collected throughout the assessment remain the property of MoH/ ACF. Such ownership includes the right to make further use of the data, results, reports, and other findings resulting from and specific to the work performed according to this consultancy contract. SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc shall not use or transfer any outputs created in connection with this assignment to the third party without the written consent of MoH/ ACF Finally, the content of this report is solely the responsibility of the authors; and does not necessarily reflect the views of MoH and ACF.

SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc

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## ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger
CGD	Center for Global Development
COHA	Cessation Of Hostilities Agreement
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DPG	Development Partners Group
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
EDHS	Ethiopia Demographic And Health Survey
ECHO	European Commission's Office of Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
EFS	Operations Ethiopian Food Systems
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
EPBN	Ethiopian Peace Building Network
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
EU	European Union
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund
FAO	Food And Agriculture Organization
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic Of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FNP	Food And Nutrition Policy
FNS	Food And Nutrition Strategy
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster
GTP	Growth And Transformation Plan
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
HMDIP	Health Sector Medium-Term Development And Investment Plan
HDPTN	Humanitarian, Development and Peace Triple Nexus
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
HSTP	Health Sector Transformation Plan
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDI	In-Depth Interview
IDPs	Internally Displaced People
IOM	International Organization For Migration
IR	Inception Report
IRC	International Rescue Committee
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
KII	Key Informant Interview
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation And Development
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MoF	Ministry Of Finance
MoH	Ministry Of Health
MoP	Ministry Of Peace
MoPD	Ministry Of Planning And Development
MoWSA	Ministry Of Women And Social Affair
NNP	National Nutrition Programs
NC-HDPTN	Nutrition-Centric Humanitarian, Development and Peace Triple Nexus



NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NSA	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
NWOW	New Way Of Working
OCHA	The United Nations Office For The Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization For Economic Co-Operation And Development
OG	Operational Guideline
OPHI	Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiatives
PDU	Program Delivery Units
PLW	Pregnant And Lactating Women
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Program
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communications
SD	Seqota Declaration
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHNS	School Health And Nutrition Strategy
SLOT	Strength, Limitations, Opportunities And Threats
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UN	United Nation
UNDAFs	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**To be included in the final report**

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

### I.1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Triple Nexus (HDPTN) is an approach that aims to work together across the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) sectors to meet peoples' needs, mitigate risks and vulnerabilities, and move toward sustainable peace. The approach is based on the recognition that HDP challenges are interlinked and require joint efforts to address them effectively (UN, 2019). The HDPTN is an emergent approach that aspires to transform the way that HDP activities are planned, implemented and financed to more effectively and coherently meet needs, reduce risks and build resiliency (SIPRI, 2019). Therefore, it aims to prevent, prepare, and address crises, particularly for the most vulnerable and at-risk populations (GNC, 2020), support durable solutions for internal and other forms of displacement (Mason *et al.*, 2020), strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to shocks and promote social cohesion and peace building (UN, 2019). The World Bank supports the HDPTN approaches in several countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence such as Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar and Uganda (State and Peacebuilding Fund, 2018).

The concept of Nutrition-Centric Humanitarian, Development and Peace Triple Nexus (NC-HDPTN) is a specific application of the HDPTN approach that focuses on how nutrition-related interventions could be integrated, coordinated and aligned across the HDP sectors to achieve lasting benefits (GNC, 2020). It aims to address the root causes of malnutrition and food insecurity in conflict-affected and fragile contexts by linking HDP efforts (Nguya & Siddiqui, 2020). According to the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, some countries including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Somalia, and Yemen are implementing the Nutrition-Centric Humanitarian and Development Nexus (NC-HDN). These countries face complex and protracted crises that require coordinated and coherent responses from relevant actors to address the root causes and drivers of malnutrition (GNC, 2020). Building on the NC-HDN, the implementation of the NC-HDPTN has been viewed as a cross-cutting issue that requires coordination and alignment of different actors and sectors to address the immediate, underlying, and basic causes of malnutrition and food insecurity (Nguya & Siddiqui, 2020). Addressing the triple pillars could have particular importance in Ethiopia and it could also promote the integration of development and peacebuilding interventions to address the complex nutritional problems in addition to immediate lifesaving interventions in the country. Hence, the Ethiopia Ministry of Health (MoH) has initiated to materialize of the NC-HDPTN by developing an operation guide (OG) and implementation roadmap (IR). In advance of the OG and IR development, a situational analysis needs to be conducted to understand the current situation of HDP efforts and the potential challenges and opportunities for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. Therefore,

The Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with Action Against Hunger (ACF) has commissioned SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc. to carry out a Situational Analysis to carry out Situational Analysis of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. The present report presented the findings of the situational analysis based on the detailed literature review and consultations conducted with the representatives of concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations and the community.

## **I.2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

- To explore the existing humanitarian, development and Peace context/situation of Ethiopia;
- To identify potential actors and stakeholders on the humanitarian, development and peace pillars of the triple nexus in Ethiopia;
- To explore operational policies, procedures, and standards of donors, development and humanitarian actors and government for HDPTN programs and interventions in Ethiopia;
- To analyze actors and stakeholders' decision-influencing power relationship to operationalize the triple nexus concept in Ethiopia;
- To explore the strengths, limitations, opportunities and threats (SLOT) of HDP actors and stakeholders to materialize the triple nexus concept in Ethiopia;
- To explore demonstrated solutions/experiences and practical challenges towards development effectiveness principles while implementing triple nexus both in the country and abroad;
- To identify essential ideas for the development of the NC-HDPTN OG and IR for Ethiopia;

## **I.3. SCOPE OF THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

- Detailed historic and existing humanitarian, development and peace-building situation and efforts of Ethiopia;
- Thorough analysis of actors, stakeholders and networks on HDP Pillars in Ethiopia; this includes a list of identified stakeholders for HDPTN; and come up with existing and practical power-influence matrix with brief narrative description on why those actors who have veto power, influence, and high, least, and or neutral interest to support and opposes the materialization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia;
- List and review narratives of existing and lively policies, procedures, standards and guidelines of potential bilateral and multi-lateral donors and governments on HDP programming for developing countries and Ethiopia; narratives should indicate the enabling and hindrance of policies, procedures, standards and guidelines towards materialization of the triple nexus programming in Ethiopia.
- Conduct detailed SLOT analysis on key actors and stakeholders (Veto power, high interest and power and supports and opponents) on the materialization of the HDPTN in Ethiopia including the SLOT to rollout of this concept at regional and lower levels of the country.
- This situational analysis needs to explore the existing situation of Ethiopia, demonstrated experiences and challenges of other countries where the HDPTN is applied towards the development effectiveness principles for better planning, OG and IR development and share the best experience after implementation of the triple nexus in Ethiopia. Hence, the scope of this task might need to review evaluative documents of other countries and compare within country's situation and capacity.
- Finally, in this situational analysis, MoH and its supporting partner, ACF, expect essential ideas, considerations and suggestions to include in nutrition-centric OG and IR development.
- In addition to the above, the situational analysis shall encompass lessons learned on exercises of nexus approaches and recommendations, such as identifying a division of responsibilities between key actors at different stages of a crisis to improve programming efficacy, better funding mechanisms to enable greater flexibility and partnering with local governments.

## SECTION II: METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Study Setting, Design, and Population

The present study was conducted at the national and regional level where Gambella and Tigray Regions were included among regions for the primary data collection. A participatory exploratory qualitative research design was used to guide the conduct of situational analysis on the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. The study involved the representatives of Humanitarian, Development and Peace program personnel from concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, the community members have also participated in the study. Data were collected from multiple sources using literature review, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), In-depth Interviews (IDI), and Focus group discussions (FGDs),

- **Literature Review:** A review of the existing literature was the principal method employed to explore the existing humanitarian, development and peace context/ situation of Ethiopia. It enabled the understanding of operational policies, procedures, and standards of donors, development and humanitarian actors and government for HDP programs and interventions in Ethiopia. Therefore, an extensive review of existing literature, reports, and studies on Ethiopia's humanitarian, development, and peace context/situation was undertaken to establish comprehensive insights on the issues of interest using structured document review. The reviewed documents included policy, strategy, and program documents, governmental & non-governmental organizations reports and research articles to capture sufficient information to address the research objectives.
- **Key Informant Interview (KIIs)/ In-depth-Interview (IDI):** It was conducted with the representatives of selected governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and other relevant institutions that have been operating at the national and regional levels. **Semi-structured interview guides** were used to facilitate KIIs/ IDIs where open-ended questions with detailed probe questions and instructions for the interviewers were prepared to guide the data collection. The tools were prepared based on the review of the literature and considering relevant expert recommendations (**Annex-II**).
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** FGDs were conducted at the national and regional levels. At the national level, the FGD participants included representatives from different stakeholders that have been implementing Humanitarian, Development, and Peace related initiatives at the national level. The FGD generated key information to understand the stakeholders' decision-influencing power relationships and the process and challenges of multisectoral coordination in the implementation of Humanitarian, Development, and Peace related initiatives. At the regional level, FGDs were conducted among community members involving Community members- Adult male and female community members, youths and religious/ community leaders. Semi-structured discussion guides were used to facilitate FGDs where open-ended questions with detailed probe questions and instructions for the interviewers were prepared to guide the data collection (**Annex III**).
- **SLOT Analysis:** The analysis task was to identify potential actors and stakeholders on the HDP Pillars of the triple nexus in Ethiopia. This was done through identifying and mapping the key stakeholders from the major sectors including Donors, International Agencies, and Government and Non-Government Organizations. The stakeholders were then categorized by type and their strengths, limitations, opportunities and threats (SLOT) in terms of materializing the triple nexus concept in Ethiopia were presented using the SLOT analysis matrix (**Annex IV**).
- **Power Mapping Exercise:** The main purpose of the stakeholder power mapping was to explore the existing relationships and power dynamics between and among stakeholders and their decision-influencing power relationship to operationalize the triple nexus concept in Ethiopia. The power mapping exercise was guided using the standard power mapping template adapted for the purpose of the present study.

This was done by identifying and mapping the key stakeholders that can influence, lobby and advocate the NC-HDPTN by virtue of their position, capabilities, knowledge, connections and scope of influence. The power mapping categorized the stakeholders based on their decision-making power, influence and their support to the operationalization of NC-HDPTN (**Annex V**).

## 2.2. Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

In the present situational analysis, a total of **32 KIIs, 01 IDI, and 10 FGDs** (23 KIIs, 01 IDI, and 02 FGDs at the national level and 09 KIIs and 08 FGDs at the regional level) where individuals and groups of individuals that have diversity in pertinent characteristics and experiences were included for the data collection (Table 1). In the data collection, extensive efforts were undertaken to include all relevant sectors and personnel who have experience working in the HDP, nutrition and the triple nexus-related issues in the country. Non-probability purposive and convenience sampling techniques were employed to select participants where MoH/ ACF assisted the study team in the identification of the respondents from relevant organizations. The research team contacted the potential participants, explained the details of the study, and invited them to participate in the study after receiving oral informed consent for their voluntary participation. The KII/ IDI participants who refused to participate in the study were well-documented and reported. We were not able to include the representatives of USAID, FCDO, Cordaid, Ethiopian Peace Building Network (EPBN), and Addis Ababa University (AAU) in the present situation analysis. Instead, the representatives of ECHO, Irish Aid and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have participated in the study.

Table 1: Participants for Situational Analysis on NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, September 2023

Method	Actor/ Stakeholder (Data source)	Sector	Focus Area	#
<b>KIIs</b>	Ministry of Health (MOH)	Government	HD	1
	Ministry of Peace	>>	P	1
	EDRMC	>>	H	1
	Ministry of Finance	>>	HDP	1
	Minister of Planning and Development	>>	D	1
	Minister of Agriculture	>>	HD	1
	Minister of Education	>>	DP	1
	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	>>	HDP	1
	Minister of Water and Energy	>>	D	1
	Irish Aid	Donor	HDP	1
	ECHO	Donor	H	1
	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Donor	D	1
	UNICEF	UN actors	HD	1
	WFP	>>	H	1
	Office of the UN Resident Coordination	UN Coordination	HDP	1
	Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)/UN OCHA	>>	H	1
	The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU)	>>	H	1
	SUN Civil Society Network	SUN Networks	D	1
	EPHI	SUN Networks	D	1
	Norwegian Church	NGO	P	1
Right to Grow Partnership	NGO	D	1	
Concern World Wide	>>	HD	1	
Save the Children	>>	HDP	1	
<b>FGDs</b>	Ministry of Health (MOH)	Government	HD	1
	Minister of Planning and Development	>>	D	
	Minister of Agriculture	>>	HD	
	Minister of Education	>>	DP	
	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	>>	HDP	
	WFP	UN actor	HDP	1

	FAO	>>	HD	
	SUN Business Network	>>	HD	
	Action Against Hunger (ACF)	NGO	HDP	
<b>IDIs</b>	World Vision- Implemented HDP in Ethiopia	>>	HDP	I
<b>Regional Level Assessment- KIIs and FGDs</b>				
<b>FGDs</b>	Community members- Adult Male	2	I/ Region	
	Community members- Adult Female	2	>>	
	Community members- Adult Youths	2	>>	
	Community members- Religious/ Community Leaders	2	>>	
<b>KIIs</b>	Gov't and Non-Gov't Actors (Local NGOs) working on HDP	8	4/ Region	
<b>Foot Note: H-Humanitarian: D- Development: P-Peace</b>				

### 2.3. DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

The preliminary analysis of qualitative data was initiated alongside the data collection. Before the actual analysis, data collected in a digital recorder were transcribed and translated from Amharic (When necessary) into English. A thematic framework analysis was used to analyze the data using ATLAS.ti Versions 23.0.8 qualitative data analysis software. To ensure the rigor of this evaluation, the lead and associate consultants who are well-experienced qualitative researchers analyzed the data in-group. After reading transcripts, codes and categories were assigned for responses. After coding the first couple of interviews, the team of researchers discussed the appropriateness and meaning of the codes. Further interviews were coded accordingly. Individual codes were assigned into categories and individual categories were linked to themes that were developed based on the assessment objectives and emerging issues. The primary and secondary data were triangulated which, enabled the examination of the degree of convergence in the findings. The triangulation offered the benefits of cross-validation of findings using different data sources and a more holistic understanding of the issues. It minimizes common method bias, which can occur if the same source provides information on all variables of interest.

### 2.4. ETHICAL AND SAFEGUARDING CONSIDERATION

SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc. is committed to ensuring that the rights of research participants are respected and protected, in accordance with the principle of research ethics and the Global Policy on Safeguarding research participants and other vulnerable people. The team of consultants and the data collectors therefore strictly adhered to the International Ethical Standards and Safeguarding Principles for research involving human subjects in the conduct of the study. In this regard, the safeguarding manual that SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc adopted from international organizations operating in Ethiopia was used to guide the whole tasks under this assignment. A letter of support was obtained from MoH and submitted to the concerned organization before the data collection. The information sheet and consent forms were prepared to guide the data collectors in getting authentic informed consent. The study team discussed the details of the study including its objectives, the procedures involved, the study requirements, the potential benefits and risks of participation, and the confidentiality of the data. The study participants were assured that their lack of participation would not have any negative repercussions on the current or future aspects of their lives. All participants were informed that they would cancel their consent at any time, without any harm. Finally, oral informed consent was obtained from all participants.

## 2.5. DATA QUALITY CONTROL MEASURES

### Data Quality Control Measures- Before Data Collection

- **Fieldwork Planning, Team Setup, and Specifying their Role:** SANKOFA Research and Consulting Plc prepared a detailed fieldwork plan before the actual data collection. The plan specified the number of field team and team members, the role, and what would be expected from each team member to keep extra buffer time for possible delays.
- **Recruitment of the data collection team:** Data collectors and supervisors who have MSc-level training in the areas of public health, nutrition, social science and economics with a demonstrated prior experience in humanitarian, development and peace-related research have managed the field work.
- **Data collector training:** To ensure that the data collection team has a clear overview of the context, objectives of the study and the content of the instrument, the consultants provided two days of training to the field team before the actual data collection. During the training mock interviews that simulate the real-life interaction between the data collectors and the respondents were conducted in the presence of the consultants.

### Data Quality Control Measures- During Data Collection

- **Team Leader:** An experienced Team Leader was assigned for the overall coordination of the data collection process and to monitor the progress of the fieldwork. They were responsible for reviewing the quality of the collected data through organizing debriefings with the consultants and data collection team and providing feedback to the data collectors.
- **The use of High-Quality Digital Sound Recorder (Sony PX-470):** High-Quality Audio Recording devices were used to enable recording details of the KIIs and FGDs, which could be missed in the field notes or memory alone and to facilitate more eye contact between the moderators and the respondents.
- **Minimize Attrition:** Considering the negative impact on data quality owing to high attrition that may happen because of refusal and other factors, concentrated efforts were undertaken to minimize attrition through closely working with ACF and MoH.
- **The use of Probes:** In addition to the established questions, the facilitators used probes to clarify concepts, elicit detail, and extend the narrative when necessary.

### Data Quality Control Measures- After Data Collection

After the fieldwork, SANKOFA ensured data quality through close monitoring during the transcription, translation, coding, categorization and analysis process. The collected data were simultaneously translated from Amharic into English language (When appropriate) and transcribed by the data collection team to avoid potential data loss and ensure capturing contextualized issues in the process.

## SECTION III: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Conceptualizing HDPTN

The idea that underpins the HDPTN is a continuation of long-running efforts in the humanitarian and development fields that include Relief-to-Development Continuum, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), and Resilience (Trócaire, 2023). The HDPTN approach appears to add two new elements (Peace pillar and high-level structure to facilitate programs or collaborations that simultaneously address two or three pillars) (IASC 2020, Trócaire, 2023). Therefore, in programs designed with a nexus lens, each community of practice retains its unique expertise, employing it in a way that achieves their individual objectives while also supporting the other communities in order to increase the ultimate benefit to the populations they serve (Dubois 2020).

#### Key Milestones in the Development of HDPN Approach

**The Grand Bargain: A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need:** In 2016, the international community acknowledged the need to pay special attention to populations living in fragile and conflict-affected settings and – under the “Grand Bargain” –both donors and aid organizations made a commitment to work together to enhance humanitarian assistance globally. The Grand Bargain is a pledge made by various humanitarian organizations and donors to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action. It was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016 with a goal of enhancing collaboration and transparency, and ultimately delivering better assistance to those in need (World Humanitarian Summit, 2016). This became known as the New Way of Working (NWOW), which frames the work of development and humanitarian actors, along with national and local counter-parts, in support of collective outcomes that reduce risk and vulnerability and serve as an instrument toward the achievement of the SDGs (OCHA, 2017). The NWOW calls on humanitarian and development actors to work collaboratively towards “**collective outcomes**”, which has been placed at the center of the commitment to the NWOW (OCHA, 2017).

#### **Box 1: OECD DAC II Nexus Principles**

##### **Better Coordination**

1. Context analysis
2. Empowered leadership
3. Public engagement

##### **Better Programming**

4. Prioritizing prevention, mediation & peace building
5. People at the center
6. Do No Harm
7. Aligning programming with risk
8. Strengthening national and local capacities
9. Invest in learning and evidence

##### **Better Financing**

10. Evidence based financing strategies
11. Predictable, flexible, multi-year financing

In 2019, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD- DAC) and the United Nations met for the high-level “Partnership for Peace” meeting that aimed to strengthen partnerships in fragile contexts to improve collective efforts to end need, sustain peace and achieve SDGs. Accordingly, OECD- DAC adopted recommendations on the Humanitarian Development-Peace Nexus in 2019<sup>2</sup>. The recommendations included Eleven Nexus Principles under three

<sup>1</sup> According to OCHA, collective outcomes are defined as “the concrete and measurable results that humanitarian, development and other relevant actors want to achieve jointly over a period of 3–5 years to reduce people’s needs, risks and vulnerabilities and increase their resilience”. These collective outcomes are informed by and based on the context-specific indicators for nutrition, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), health security, and other health-related and food and nutrition-related SDGs (OCHA, 2017, WHO 2021, SUN 2022).

<sup>2</sup> HDPTN refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actions. While the HDPTN Approach refers to an approach that strengthens the collaboration, coherence and complementarity of humanitarian, development and peace pillars. The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each pillar—to the extent of their relevance in the specific context—in order to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address the root causes of conflict (OECD/DAC 2019).



categories around strengthening the coordination and programming as well as introducing predictable, flexible and multi-year financing mechanisms- Box 1 (OECD/DAC, 2019). These principles would serve as the basis for the designing and implementation of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia.

The UN General Assembly under its resolution - the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review on development has also emphasized the need for collaboration and cooperation and calls on the development system to coordinate with humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts, particularly in countries facing emergencies to mitigate drivers of conflicts, disaster risks, humanitarian crises and complex emergencies (UN, 2022).

### **Peace Incorporation into the HDPTN**

The peace element has been considered a relevant addition to the Triple Nexus and regarded as the missing link that could bolster the Triple Nexus approach, especially in the contexts of crisis and conflict. However, there were concerns that it could undermine humanitarian principles if not carefully managed (ECDPM 2022). Moreover, although there have been long-running debates, there has been little agreement between implementing organizations on the understanding and implementation of the peace component of the HDPTN so far nor is there complete clarity about the impact that peace work could and should have on humanitarian assistance and development cooperation (Voice 2019; Oxfam 2019; DI 2019). Some respondents who participated in the present study have shared their feelings of uncertainty about how the peace pillar would be integrated with the development and humanitarian pillars while others reflected their perception that peace efforts could be the sole responsibility of the government.

However, most participants were heard voicing the potential added value of integrating the peace component in the nexus efforts. For instance, a respondent from one of the government organizations mentioned the following in support of the above assertion underlining the fact that without peace no humanitarian or development activities would be effective.

*...So, peace is a foundation to pave the way for bringing different capacities together, effectively implementing humanitarian or development activities and bringing a safe working environment for different actors.*

**[KII, Gov, P]**

Another respondent added:

*Peace is the glue that firmly connects the other sectors. Without working on peace, it is not possible to ensure the smooth execution of other pillars and ensure the sustainability of their outcome.*

**[KII, NGO, P]**

In 2020, the IASC issued a policy framework for exploring peace within the HDPTN. The framework aims to provide clarity on the full spectrum of peace actions to improve the complementarity, coordination, and collaboration between HDP actions. It emphasizes the possible engagement pathways along a “peace spectrum” within humanitarian action. The key highlights from the paper call for joint context and conflict analyses across the nexus, outcome-based planning, flexible, responsive, and agile programming that can adapt to an evolving context, increasing understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities, activities, and capacities, exchange of expertise, incorporating conflict-sensitivity into program design, advocating for financing across HDP programming while safeguarding financing to respond to immediate humanitarian needs as they arise. The paper also emphasizes adherence to the ‘do no harm’ principle and ‘doing more good’ when possible while responding to the local context and the voices and capacities of local people and communities (ISAC 2020).

## Misconceptions around HDPTN Approach

The literature review identified some misconceptions about the basic concepts of HDPTN. Table 2 presents some of the most common misconceptions with the associated right concepts for possible consideration.

Table 2: Common misconceptions around HDPTN with the associated right concepts

Misconceptions	The Right Concept
All actors/programs must fully engage all pillars at all times	There is much more flexibility working in the HDPTN than is often assumed. Programs can be placed anywhere within the framework.
The peace pillar equates to peace-building.	Peace can also include peacekeeping, political dialogue and mediation efforts. The "peace" aspect varies by needs, actors and opportunities in a given context.
All pillars are equally important and the HDPTN is applied in the same way regardless of context.	Certain pillars take on greater significance depending on the context. In most parts of Yemen, Syria, or South Sudan, the peace pillar would need to play a much greater role.
Addressing root causes will come at the expense of meeting immediate needs.	To work in development while ignoring the drivers of conflict – inequality, marginalization, etc. – risks reinforcing those negative forces and increasing the risk of conflict.
In the HDPTN, humanitarians need to become experts in development and vice versa.	Applying nexus thinking requires humanitarian teams to be aware of root causes in order to avoid exacerbating them.

### 3.2. The Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Situations in Ethiopia

This section presents the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Situations of Ethiopia with the intention of highlighting the relevance of promoting the HDPTN approach in all efforts undertaken to address the felt needs of the population in the country.

**The Development Situation in Ethiopia:** With about 123 million people (2022), Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa, and one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, with an estimated 6.4% growth in FY2021/22. However, the country remains one of the poorest, with a per capita gross national income of \$1,020. Ethiopia aims to reach lower-middle-income status by 2025. The share of the population living below the national poverty line decreased from 30% in 2011 to 23.5% in 2021 (UNDP and OPHI, 2023). Despite improvements, development challenges including an increasing incidence of conflict growing food insecurity concerns, and other global conditions leading to high inflation of food prices have limited the development of the country (World Bank 2023). The government in collaboration with partners has been implementing several programs to promote the development of the nation. Recently, the government has launched a 10-Year Development Plan based on its 2019 Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda, which runs from 2020/21 to 2029/30. The plan aims to sustain the high growth achieved under the Growth and Transformation Plans of the previous decade while facilitating the shift towards a more private-sector-driven economy (FDRE 2020). The Ethiopian health sector, alongside other sectors, has also been playing its part in contributing to the economic growth of the nation.

**The Humanitarian Situation in Ethiopia:** Ethiopia is currently experiencing a multifaceted humanitarian situation arising from factors such as conflicts, periodic droughts, natural disasters, and other related factors. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) of Ethiopia has targeted providing humanitarian assistance for more than 20 million people across the country including an estimated 4.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 4.4 million people were targeted for multi-sector non-food assistance. The HRP requires an estimated US\$ 3.99 billion to address the identified need. Ethiopia is recognized as being particularly susceptible to climatic shocks and is among the nations most affected by recurring droughts. Therefore, the HRP has targeted an estimated 13 million beneficiaries for humanitarian assistance in regions impacted by drought (EDRMC and OCHA, 2023). However, the UN-OCHA overview of funding towards HRP as of 7 October 2023 showed that only USD 1.2 Billion (30%) of the fund has been received from international donors in seven months of implementation with unmet requirements of USD 2.8 Billion (UN-OCHA, 2023).

The community members were also consulted to share their reflections about the assistance they have been getting. Accordingly, among others, conflicts, climate shock and natural disasters such as floods were mentioned to have contributed to the humanitarian need seen in the regions. One of the residents of Mekelle mentioned the following while explaining the humanitarian situation of the people in the area.

*“..The humanitarian situation here is serious. Currently, the community especially pregnant women and children are suffering from a shortage of food.*

**[FGD, Community Member, Mekelle]**

In line with the facts presented above, the inadequate coverage of humanitarian assistance appeared as the major issue. Community members reflected on the importance of designing measures in addition to humanitarian assistance to facilitate speedy recovery and the long-term resilience of the community.

*“...In addition to the humanitarian aid, agricultural inputs should be provided to the community and support should be made available in a way that enhances agricultural productivity in order for the society to recover from the current situation and for better livelihood outcomes.”*

**[FGD, Community Member, Mekelle]**

**The Peace Situation in Ethiopia:** Ethiopia faces a multifaceted peace situation that necessitates deliberate and thoughtful considerations. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), conflict and violence triggered over 5.1 million internal displacements in 2021, which is triple the number reported in 2020 (IDMC, 2022). The Ministry of Peace (MoP) conducted a pilot study on the peace index in three regions of Ethiopia: Sidama, SNNP, and SWEP. Although the study found high peacefulness at the individual level among Ethiopian citizens surveyed, community-level peace indicators were much lower. The study also found that 43% of community members reported local violent disputes that demanded harmony between ethnic groups to be bolstered. The same study revealed that intergroup harmony was negatively influenced by economic and food insecurity, with individuals' ethnic centrality increasing and peaceful attitudes decreasing as uncertainty over finances and food arises (MoP, 2023). The local stakeholders and community members consulted from both Mekelle and Gambella have also reported peace-related challenges in their area. Among others, the two-year conflict in the Tigray Region and the ethnic and resource-related conflicts in Gambella were mentioned to have contributed to the peace-related challenges seen in these regions.

*“Ethnic tension is the primary cause of the conflict in the region. Resources particularly land is also among the reasons for dispute among people in the area.”*

**[FGD, Community Member, Gambella]**

Efforts have been made to engage various stakeholders including community leaders, civil society organizations, regional authorities and other international actors to foster peaceful coexistence and resolve conflicts in the country. Additionally, there have been initiatives to promote economic development, job creation, and social services to address some of the underlying causes of unrest. Moreover, the Ethiopian MoP is a federal government institution established under Proclamation No 1097-2018 to sustain the reforms that Ethiopia is currently undergoing through peace-building measures, establishing and strengthening the rule of law, and building the capacity of peace and security-focused sectors. The Ministry is also tasked to promote the already existing social customs to deepen and sustain peace-building objectives and build national consensus (MoP, 2018). One of the community members from Mekelle mentioned the following about community-based efforts to bring about peace in the region.

*“...Everybody is attempting to bring peace to the region. For example, religious fathers have been promoting peace in our community.”*

**[FGD, Community Member, Mekelle]**

On the other hand, a women discussant added:

*“...There are many opportunities to support peace initiatives in the community. The community is hardworking, energetic, cooperative, and supportive of every development and peace initiative.”*

**[FGD, Community Member, Gambela]**

**The Nutrition Situation in Ethiopia:** Malnutrition in all forms is high in Ethiopia despite the country having made encouraging progress in terms of reducing malnutrition over the past two decades. According to the 2019 EDHS report, 37% of children under age 5 were stunted showing a reduction from 51% in 2005 with a 2% decline every year. Moreover, 7% of children under age 5 were wasted, 21% were underweight and 2% were overweight with wide geographic disparities (EPHI, 2019). According to the 2023 survey conducted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the stunting, and wasting rates have shown an increase from the level reported in 2019 where 39% and 11% of children under-5-year-old were found to be stunted and wasted respectively (EPHI, 2023). The main underlying drivers of malnutrition in Ethiopia are interrelated and complex. The survey identified food price inflation, crop failure, desert locusts, climate change-induced droughts and floods, conflicts, and public health emergencies to have contributed to the high level of malnutrition in the country (EPHI, 2023). Moreover, poor maternal and child feeding practices, high incidence of infectious diseases, limited access to quality nutrition, and inadequate finance, education, and health services were also identified drivers of malnutrition in Ethiopia (WHO, 2019, Lemessa, R. et al, 2023, USAID, 2020). Ethiopia has been implementing different policies, strategies, and programs to ensure food and nutrition security, as part of its national development agenda. Some of the major strategies and programs include the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP), Food and Nutrition Strategy, Seqota Declaration (SD), National Nutrition Programs (NNP), National Food Security Strategy, Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) Strategy, School Health and Nutrition Strategy (SHNS), the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), and other Food Safety and Quality related regulatory initiatives.

### **The Potential Relevance of the NC-HDPTN Approach to the Ethiopian Context**

The high level of malnutrition and the situation of conflict, climate crises and the associated increase in the humanitarian need in the country and challenges in bringing economic development could indicate the potential relevance of the NC-HDPTN approach in Ethiopia. The approach could accelerate efforts towards averting malnutrition by addressing the underlying humanitarian, development and peace-related challenges of the country.

The recent experience of the country where development works have been destroyed by conflicts and the associated significant increase in the humanitarian need in the conflict-affected areas could also support the above assertion. Some of the potential of the NC-HDPTN approach include.

- Encouraging a coordinated response among HDP actors to provide immediate food and nutrition assistance, while also addressing the underlying causes of poverty, lack of access to healthcare, and social inequalities.
- Promoting the incorporation of peacebuilding efforts that enable the nutrition sector to maintain the gains of promising development interventions, such as the Seqota Declaration
- Contributing to breaking the vicious circle between conflict and food and nutrition insecurity by implementing conflict-sensitive and peace-building efforts.
- Enabling the development of a unified long-term plan tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the affected population thereby enhancing efficient and effective use of resources.
- Leveraging the critical role of the local actors and engaging them in decision-making related to humanitarian, development and peace efforts.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of both nutrition and long-term development outcomes through the sharing of expertise, information and resources based on agreed collective outcome/ efforts.

The respondents who have participated in the present study were heard voicing the importance of operationalizing the NC-HDPTN approach given the existing situation of the country

*“...the adoption of nutrition-centric triple nexus could help in addressing the intricate interconnections between humanitarian, development, and peace-related challenges in the country. It could help to gain a deeper understanding of the root causes of vulnerabilities and develop sustainable solutions that foster long-term development and peace.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP].**

Another respondent shared his experience in working with NC-HDPTN in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

*“...I have learned a lesson on the importance of conducting a conflict analysis and incorporating the findings of this analysis into a framework for the effectiveness of nutrition activities. It is not always solely about food insecurity causing malnutrition; there are other factors like vulnerability, conflicts, access to social services, and inequity. If you don't bring the broader factors into the equation, you will miss it!! By integrating conflict sensitivity into our analysis, we gained a more holistic understanding of malnutrition and its underlying causes. It is not wise only to think about malnutrition from peace and conflict lenses as well.”*

**[KII, UN, H].**

### **3.3. Review of the Policy Environment to the Operationalizing NC-HDPTN**

This section presents the review of global and national policies, strategies, procedures, and standards of donors, development and humanitarian actors and government. The document review was intended to inform the development of an operational guide and implementation roadmap for NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia.

#### **Global Policy Environment**

The HDPTN is a policy framework that aims to ensure strong cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between HDP efforts at the national level to ensure collective outcomes based on joined-up, coherent, complementary, and risk-informed analysis, planning, and action (UNDP, 2023). Amidst today's ongoing multidimensional conflicts and crises, progress on human development has reversed and the number of people living in conflict-affected contexts has increased, and humanitarian needs are growing.

With a vast majority of humanitarian needs nowadays emanating from conflict and countries affected by fragility lagging furthest behind on the path towards sustainable and inclusive development, there is a growing international consensus about the need to anchor humanitarian and development efforts in the pursuit of peace (UN, 2023).

Given nutrition is an essential component of both humanitarian aid and sustainable development and the public health significance of malnutrition in many countries affected by conflict or fragility, it has been found crucial to ensure the integration of nutrition interventions into HDP efforts. Among others, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that envisioned a world free of poverty and hunger and immune to the harshest effects of climate change has laid a solid foundation for the implementation of HDPTN in a way that promotes the improvement in nutrition (UN, 2015). Moreover, the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) has also called for approaches that strongly advocate for interlinkages between HDP pillars to address the impacts and root causes of food crises. It further stresses the importance of context-specific analysis that seeks to understand the root causes of food crises and the connections between food systems interventions and peacebuilding efforts (UN 2021). The OCHA Strategic Plan 2023–2026 has also reflected the commitment of OCHA for the realization of the HDPTN and it has been playing a leading role in driving durable solutions across the HDPTN within the UN (OCHA 2023). The strategic plan of OCHA is translated in the 2023 HRP of Ethiopia recognizing an urgent need to fully adopt and accelerate the implementation of the HDPTN approach. Regarding nutrition-related global initiatives, the UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 and the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) Strategy 2022–2025 for example outlined the importance of a nexus approach involving all relevant nutrition stakeholders across HDP pillars (UN Nutrition, 2022, GNC, 2022). Similarly, USAID promotes linking long-term nutrition programming with humanitarian response in chronically vulnerable communities to enhance their resilience in the face of climate-related and other shocks. It aims to better coordinate humanitarian and development funding to ensure targeting resources from both program streams to high-risk communities (USAID 2014). Lastly, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement that aspired to a world free from malnutrition by 2030 through among others engaging movement stakeholders, systemic change, driving country ownership, and advocacy could also be cited among the practical experience to inform and support the implementation of the NC-HDPTN approach in Ethiopia (SUN 2021).

### **National Policy Environment**

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), the foundational local document of the land declares the state's responsibility for the protection of public health. Among others article 41: sub-article 4: stated: "The State has the obligation to allocate ever-increasing resources to the public health, education, and other social services" (FDRE 1995). Therefore, the constitution provides a favorable policy environment to interpret relevant articles into policies, strategies, programs, and guidelines that promote the effectiveness of nutritional interventions including through the implementation of NC-HDPTN. Ethiopia has also a Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP II) that is aligned with the national 10-year development plan and international targets such as the SDGs. Although the HSTP II does not indicate the triple nexus, the emphasis given to the multisectoral linkage, aligning planning and strengthening financing, the promotion of the engagement of key stakeholders including the community and local government and a comprehensive package of nutrition interventions could also create an enabling policy environment to implement NC- HDPTN. Moreover, the country endorsed the Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP) in 2018 which provides an overarching framework covering the key dimensions of food and nutrition security including ensuring optimal nutrition in times of emergencies, and related critical issues at macro, meso and micro levels. It also provides a policy framework for multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional governance of food and nutrition-related activities in the country. It should therefore be viewed as a key policy framework that promotes the implementation of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia although it lacks clear provision on the peacebuilding effort except guiding the inclusion of the justice sector as one of the multisectoral collaborators (FDRE 2018).

The Food Systems Pathway Commitment and Position Statement that was formulated based on the call to action initiated by the UN has also promoted partnership among the donors, implementing partners and the private sector for building resilience to shock. Such initiatives could also indicate the enabling environment laid by the EFS with respect to the implementation of NC-HDPTN despite it does not clearly mention about the triple nexus approaches (FDRE, 2021). The Seqota Declaration (SD) is an innovative commitment by the government of Ethiopia to end stunting among children under two years by 2030. The SD primarily promotes effective coordination and collaboration of sectors, communities and development partners (FDRE 2016). According to the Health Sector Medium Term Development and Investment Plan, the SD Innovation Phase has contributed in terms of averting stunting from among over 110,000 children with an annual average stunting reduction of about 3% (MOH 2023).

The commitments included under SD are in line with most of the OECD-DAC recommendations and the 10 action points outlined in the grand bargain in areas such as catalyzing social movement, addressing crosscutting issues, promoting multisectoral collaboration, engaging the local government, embracing context-specific learning and actions. This suggests NC-HDPTN could leverage and build upon the existing and proven best practices of the SD although it mainly focuses on development activities and does not clearly indicate the need for the engagement of humanitarian and peacebuilding actors. The recent experience of the country where development works have been destroyed by conflicts and the associated significant increase in the humanitarian need in the conflict-affected areas could reveal the fact that the promising gains of SD could be lost or set back in such conflict-affected areas. This may imply the need for actors involved in SD and other related national initiatives to consider examining the potential of the NC- HDPTN approach for the Ethiopian context.

The Productive Safety Net Program Phase IV (PSNP) has been implemented in the country to improve food security and reduce poverty among people living in chronically or transitory food insecure households in the most drought-prone areas (MoA, 2015). Furthermore, the Ministry of Peace (MOP) was re- created and the Ethiopia Peace Building Policy was developed centering on ensuring peace, democracy, and development in the country (MoP, 2022). The National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management also provides a framework that enables withstanding the impacts of hazards and related disasters and reduces damage caused by a disaster through multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approaches. It assigns MoH as a leading institution concerning food shortage-induced malnutrition and other human epidemics associated with disasters (EDRMC, 2013). The HRP could also be mentioned to represent efforts by the humanitarian community to sharpen the contributions to building resilience while at the same time acting as an urgent call for increased engagement and coordination with development and peace actors to work to address the root causes and drivers of humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities (EDRMC 2023). The Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative (DSI) provides a principled operational framework and platform to design and implement durable solutions in support of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia and host communities/communities at locations of return, relocation, or local integration. It outlines peacebuilding efforts including conflict mitigation, mediation, resolution and peaceful co-existence. Moreover, the government has recognized the importance of private sector involvement in driving economic growth and development in the country. To this end, the GTP II for example encourages private sector participation and foreign direct investment in Ethiopia (FDRE, 2016). Ethiopia has also a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Proclamation to provide a legal framework for PPPs (FDRE, 2018). Given the potential contribution of the private actors in nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions in terms of the development of value chains, marketing of nutritious foods, mobilization of resources and bringing innovations such legal frameworks could have considerable relevance for the realization of NC-HDPTN. Overall, the legal provisions in the country have also been in favor of promoting external funding and diplomatic relationships to support the development efforts in the country.

Among others, the country has established procedures and regulations to facilitate the inflow of foreign aid in the country. Among others, the new CSO proclamation promotes the mobilization of external funding to support the development of the country except the funds dedicated to political agendas (FDRE, 2019). These initiatives could provide a favorable environment and opportunity for the operationalization and furtherance of the NC-HDPN approach in Ethiopia through coordinating humanitarian, development and peace efforts in a way that maximizes impacts. The availability of legal frameworks that govern the operation of triple nexus actions and the alignment of existing policy documents with international standards could benefit the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia by bringing together state and non-state institutions at federal and regional levels. Moreover, the operationalization of NC-HDPTN could also benefit from the vast experiences of different actors in the implementation of HDP-relevant interventions in the country. One of the respondents from the government organizations mentioned the following explaining the alignment of the national working documents with the international standards.

*“...Those policies and strategies are mainly adopted from the international policy, strategies and guidelines, and they are aligned with the international frameworks and standards. Most of them are designed so that it could be used as a direction to meet the sustainable development goals.”*

**[KII, Gov, HD]**

However, the inadequate integration/ harmonization of policy frameworks, standards and actions, the competing priorities of different actors, the alienation of some actors particularly the peace actors from most of the humanitarian and development actions and the limited experience in integrating peace in such actions also mentioned to challenge the operation of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia.

*“...There are operational policies, procedures, or standards that support the separate implementation of each of the HDP pillars in the country. However, in order to govern the operationalization of NC-HDPTN, there is no single comprehensive package that encompasses all three pillars. It may challenge the operation of the NC-HDPTN”.*

**[KII, Gov’t, HDP]**

*“...Our priorities are well aligned with the global priority agendas. For example, the Seqota Declaration roadmap is aligned with the global SUN movement. I think we have limitations in integrating the peace element in our policies and strategies.”*

**[KII, Gov’t, HD]**

*“.... The presence of divergent policies, procedures, and standards among donors, and humanitarian and development actors would be among the significant hindrances for the NC-HDPTN efforts. In some cases, donor policies may prioritize development efforts while neglecting humanitarian aspects, or vice versa.*

**[KII, NGO, D]**

### **The Implication of the Existing National Policies to the NC-HDPTN Implementation in Ethiopia**

The existence of government sector organizations to coordinate and lead the nexus pillars, the alignment of the existing national policies with the global agendas, the priority given to nutrition, the presence of partners that provide technical and financial support around NC-HDPTN pillars, the interest of the government and others partners towards the nexus approach, and related factors could be mentioned to promote the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. Overall, the FNP could be viewed as a key policy framework that promotes the implementation of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia.



The increasing level of attention given to the multisectoral approach, the promotion of partnership among national, regional and global organizations including private actors and the establishment of the Food and Nutrition Council could also be mentioned among the positive initiatives in the FNP with a potential contribution to the realization of NC-HDPTN. More importantly, the financial commitment of the government in addition to the resource mobilization efforts involving donors and private actors could also enhance the effectiveness of the NC-HDPTN efforts (MoH, 2018). The Food Systems Pathway Commitment (EFS) also lacks clear provisions about the triple nexus approaches and inadequate attention has been given to the peace component of the nexus. However, the promotion of financing partnerships among the donors, implementing partners, the private sector, and local community, and the ambition of building risk-informed resilience to shock could show the enabling environment laid by the EFS concerning the implementation of NC-HDPTN (FDRE, 2021).

The presence of demonstrated experience in the implementation of multi-sector and multi-partner initiatives to capture lessons from and inform the development of the NC-HDPTN and the availability of key partners with experience in the NC-HDPTN approach could also contribute to the designing, implementation and thereby the success of the NC- HDPTN Nexus in Ethiopia. In this regard, the success of the SD Innovation Phase that averted stunting from among over 110,000 children with an annual average stunting reduction of about 3 percent could be boldly mentioned (MOH 2023). The fact that multiple development partners working collaboratively to facilitate the effective networking and streamlining of resources could provide substantial lessons to NC-HDPTN although SD mainly focuses on development efforts and does not clearly indicate the engagement of humanitarian and peacebuilding actors. Other key experiences that could be captured from SD include the value of government leadership, effective coordination and collaboration modalities that involve multiple sectors, communities and development partners to attain a common goal, resource mobilization, the possibilities of introducing innovation and robust monitoring and evaluation system. Given the current situation of the country, SD could also be viewed in another scenario where the conflict has shown its considerable impact in terms of destroying development works in the country with the associated significant increase in humanitarian needs revealing the fact that the promising gains of SD would have been lost or set back in such conflict-affected areas. This could be in part explained by the recent increase in the prevalence of malnutrition particularly stunting and wasting as reported in the study conducted by EPHI (EPHI, 2023). The scenario clearly indicates the demonstrated need for the NC-HDPTN approach in the Ethiopian context where SD could provide a solid platform to integrate the humanitarian and peace pillars into the nutritional programs thereby facilitating the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN approach in the country.

Moreover, the PSNP that most HDP frameworks identified as an action shared across the three HDP pillars could also provide a favorable learning platform for the adoption of the HDP efforts in the country. The fact PSNP has integrated five key government policies/ strategies, particularly the National Social Protection Policy; the National Policy on Disaster Risk Management (NPSDRM), the National Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP), the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) and the Pastoral Development Policy (PDP) could have meaningful place in terms of guiding relevant policy actions for the common goal as the case of NC- HDPTN. However, it is worth mentioning that the peace element is still missing in the PSNP (MoA, 2020). Finally, the recent establishment of the Ministry of Peace and the associated development of the Ethiopia Peace Building Policy could enable the integration of the peace element into the humanitarian and development actions possible. The policy advocates for mainstreaming peace interventions in the government sectors in partnerships with key stakeholders including the civic societies, private sector and development partners. Although the policy is viewed as a critical milestone for collaborating with peace actors around the NC-HDPTN efforts, the lack of clarity in financing and resource mobilization for peace efforts should be acknowledged to potentially undermine the policy actions (MOP, 2020).

### 3.4. Operationalizing NC-HDPTN

#### Frameworks for the Operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia

Three frameworks were developed to clarify the nexus approaches; three pillars with a triangle shape and thereby guide the implementation of the triple nexus approaches. It is worth mentioning that all the frameworks promote the need to collaborate among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts and stakeholders including government and non-governmental organizations and local communities to bring about the desired collective outcomes. Moreover, localization, long-term solutions, and sustainable development rather than short-term fixes have been advocated across the three frameworks (Trócaire, 2023, Howe, 2019, Medinilla *et al.*, 2019).

In a framework proposed by Howe, a triangle depicts the full range of possible interventions and each point of the triangle represents one of the three pillars. Within a triangle are three circles where each circle indicates one of the double nexus relationships with significant flexibility in how directly individual activities or programs address various pillars, positioning themselves at various points within the triangle. It was also found to be more comprehensive focusing on whole of context approach and identifying the range of potential nexus relationships that actions could support including the triple nexus, double nexuses, and nexus-sensitivity. (Howe 2019) (Figure 1).

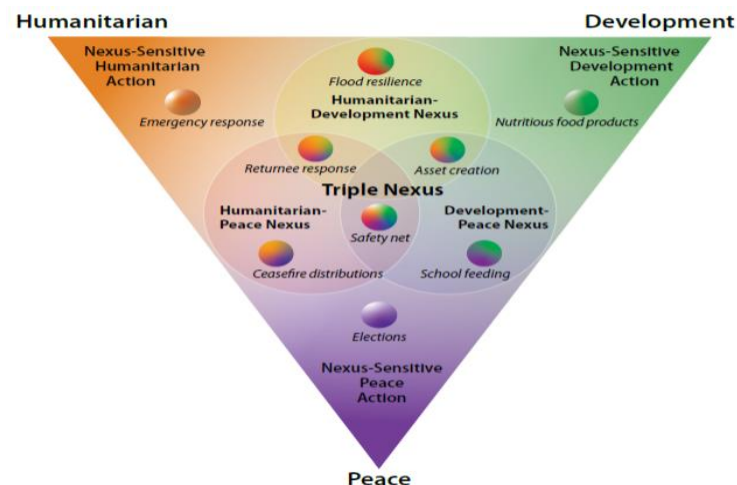


Figure 1: Triple Nexus Conceptual Framework Prepared by Howe (Howe, 2019)

**Note:** The actions listed under each part of the triangle are indicative of the types of actions related to each pillar, but they are not comprehensive.

Howe's framework could be used to apply the nexus approach in both protracted conflict and other contexts while the other frameworks have given more emphasis on protracted conflict situations (Trócaire, 2023, Howe, 2019, Medinilla *et al.*, 2019).

Furthermore, it allows adoption based on the given context and tested in different countries/ contexts and found to be valid. Therefore, Howe’s framework would be a sound framework for adaption for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in the Ethiopian context.

Throughout the HDPTN literature, a very common refrain is that *programming in the Nexus is context-specific* (OCHA 2017, Alcayna 2019, Center on International Cooperation 2019). Four scenarios were presented to elaborate on differences in contexts through a nexus lens. Accordingly, each pillar is represented by a circle where the overlap among the circles could indicate opportunities to address each of the overlapping circles. The size of the circles could provide meaningful insight into the context where a larger circle indicates the larger relative need or emphasis for that pillar in that specific context.

1. **A Stereotypical Concept of the HDPTN:** The three pillars have equal need and opportunity (Equal size circles). There is a fair overlap of development with each of the other two pillars depicting a significant need for the HD and DP nexuses.
2. **The HDPTN in Stable, but Non-conflict Crisis Prone, Underdeveloped Contexts:** These areas are remote, prone to drought, and have very little infrastructure. The areas are generally stable, with some localized security risks but not overt conflict where both humanitarian and development needs are large, with significant overlap.
3. **The HDPTN in Contexts Where Underdevelopment is Driving Insecurity and Instability, but with Few Humanitarian Needs:** In this context, insecurity has a large impact on the population, but there are few immediate humanitarian needs. Weak/unequal development may be driving conflict in such areas.
4. **The HDPTN in Complex, Protracted Crises in Under-developed Contexts:** In these areas, all three pillars have much overlap highlighting the significant needs for the HDP.

In order to identify which scenarios would better describe the HDPTN needs of the country, issues such as the overall under development of the country and existing high disparities among different areas in the country in terms of conflict, development (Urban Vs vs. rural) and humanitarian crises and the associated vulnerabilities and need for HDP actions were considered. Accordingly, it was well understood that all four scenarios could be implemented based on the humanitarian, peace and development situations in the given area in Ethiopia. The dominant framework however would be HDPTN in **“Complex, Protracted Crises in Under-developed Contexts ”** where the three pillars would be equally targeted in the country with higher level of overlaps. However, depending on the humanitarian, development and peace-related situation of the given area “HDPTN in Stable, but Non-conflict Crisis Prone, Underdeveloped Contexts”, “HDPTN in Contexts Where Underdevelopment is Driving Insecurity and Instability, but with Few Humanitarian Needs” and “HDPTN in Complex, Protracted Crises in Under-developed Contexts” could be implemented.

### 3.5. Key Elements that Guide the Operationalizing NC-HDPTN

The study attempted to review the experiences relevant to the implementation of HDPTN/ HDN to inform the future implementation of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia and guide the development of OG and IR. The section mainly adapts the WHO recommendations that guide the operationalization of the HDPTN in the health sector (WHO. 2021). The guide has six steps for the nexus implementation process namely: establishing nexus coordination mechanisms, joint assessment, formulating collective outcomes, developing and implementing the joint multiyear plan, harmonizing resources and financing, and monitoring and evaluation (WHO, 2021).

## **Coordination:**

Overall, the HDPTN coordination mechanism could be established either by adapting the existing coordination mechanisms or establishing a standalone HDPTN coordination mechanism. Regardless of the form chosen, the nexus coordination mechanism should however be integrated with other sectors and facilitate multisectoral partnerships. Some of the critical activities to ensure effective coordination of the NC-HDPTN could include the designation of a nexus focal point, mapping of nutrition actors and activities, identification of gaps, interlinkages, overlaps, and potential areas of synergy and complementarity, nexus strategy/ modality development involving all the actors and orientation. Moreover, reviewing and adapting organizational structures and positions as well as coordination, communication, learning management and operational processes would facilitate teams and partners to work more closely (Trocaire, 2023).

The respondents also expressed the importance of establishing an effective coordination platform for the success of NC-HDPTN in the Ethiopian context. Although potential challenges were mentioned in the creation of such coordination mechanisms that involve multiple actors representing different sectors, the respondents voiced that the existing platforms such as the multi-sectorial nutrition platform and the emergency operation center could provide a good opportunity to inform the coordination mechanism of NC-HDPTN.

*“... We have solid experience in terms of coordinating initiatives that involve multiple stakeholders. One of the great examples is the multi-sectorial nutrition platform. Another example is the emergency operation center in the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission, which involves multiple sectors. These coordination platforms would provide valuable experiences that can be shared and learned from.”*

**[KII, Gov’t, H]**

Respondents further acknowledged the fact that establishing an effective coordination mechanism would require a significant investment of time and commitment to bring all actors together to join into one conversation to reach a basic consensus. The ownership of the government stakeholders was also emphasized for the success of such efforts. Most of the respondents further iterated the value of carefully examining and when necessary strengthening existing coordination platforms in a way that supports the implementation of NC-HDPTN rather than creating additional/ new ones. This viewpoint highlighted the need to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the utilization of existing structures, resources, and expertise.

*“... We can use the existing coordination platforms such as the platforms used for coordination of the food and nutrition strategy, Seqota Declaration, and food system transformation to frame the coordination of NC- HDPTN efforts in Ethiopia.”*

**[KII, Gov, HD]**

*“... I suggest adapting the existing coordination platforms instead of creating another platform just for NC- HDPTN. Having too many platforms would not make us effective because it will make us busy and lose focus.”*

**[KII, NGO, HD]**

*“... Ethiopia has established both regional and national platforms to encourage active participation and collaboration among stakeholders. These platforms serve as collaboration space and facilitate joint agenda setting, resource mapping and tracking mechanisms.”*

**[KII, NGO, HD]**

One of the critical challenges identified in the coordination of HDPTN actors is the diverse normative frameworks adopted by institutions. While development actors openly pursue political goals, such as strengthening good governance, humanitarian assistance adopts the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and autonomy (ECDPM 2019). Moreover, varying project terms, financing mechanisms, capacity and willingness to implement the HDPTN could be among the challenges in the coordination of NC-HDPTN efforts (CGD, IRC, Mercy Corps 2019). The respondents have also shared similar thoughts as reflected in the below quote.

*“...The presence of divergent policies, procedures, and standards among donors, and humanitarian and development actors would be a significant hindrance. In some cases, donor policies may prioritize development efforts while neglecting humanitarian aspects, or vice versa.”*

**[KII, NGO, D]**

Moreover, concerns were expressed about the current situation of the country where conflicts in the country were mentioned making it difficult for stakeholders to coordinate the nexus actions. Moreover, some respondents highlighted the weak communication and coordination between the humanitarian, development, and peace actors to potentially challenge the coordination of HDP efforts.

Among others, NC-HDPTN could leverage the coordination platforms laid by the FNP, which envisioned creating a supportive environment with well-organized, integrated and institutionalized coordination and linkage mechanisms to allow knowledge sharing, joint planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food and nutrition programs. Among others, the Government is working to establish Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) with the leadership of the highest government decision-makers to coordinate the implementation of FNP. NFNC, which is composed of relevant sectoral ministers, regional presidents and city mayors, and led by the prime minister will be established to oversee the implementation of the FNP. The Council has a standalone secretariat (the Food and Nutrition Coordination Agency) that coordinates and supports the implementing sectors and stakeholders.

There are also humanitarian and development aid coordination platforms comprised of donors, UN agencies and NGOs that assist the government on food and nutrition-related issues including

- **Development Coordination:** The Development Partners Group (DPG) comprises bilateral and multilateral development partners that provide development assistance to Ethiopia. The main objective of DPG is to foster policy dialogue and coordinate/ harmonize development partners' support for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national development plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Health, Population and Nutrition (HPN), which consists of the Nutrition DPs Forum, is one of the five technical working groups that operate directly under the umbrella of the DPG.
- **Humanitarian Coordination:** In Ethiopia, the overall humanitarian coordination is led by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) with the support of the UNOCHA. Whilst government and humanitarian partners maintain various internal coordination forums, the highest-level joint forum, co-chaired by the NDRMC and the humanitarian coordinator is the Strategic Multi-Agency Coordination, which provides overall guidance on the humanitarian response in the country (ENN, 2020). The Emergency Nutrition Coordination Unit (ENCU) is also situated within the NDRMC and collaborates with UN agencies. It leads cluster coordination in addition to being the technical emergency nutrition arm of the Government of Ethiopia (Isaack B., 2011). The Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Group, chaired by the NDRMC, brings together the UN cluster system and government line ministries to coordinate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation efforts in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) is also coordinating humanitarian efforts involving UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners.

- **UN Humanitarian and Nutrition Coordination:** The cluster system operates in Ethiopia with the OCHA chairing the EHCT. Clusters/sector task forces are chaired by relevant line ministries and co-chaired by UN agencies where the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is responsible for operational coordination of nutrition efforts. The Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund (EHF) is the primary mechanism for emergency funding and constitutes a country-based multi-donor pooled fund managed by OCHA under the leadership of the humanitarian coordinator (UNDAF 2015).

The HCT and the DPG teams established new collaboration and coordination arrangements to advance the HDPTN in Ethiopia as a common priority (HCT-DPG team, 2023). Therefore, these platforms could provide both strategic and overall operational guidance for the coordination of NC-HDPTN efforts in Ethiopia by engaging all concerned government and non-governmental stakeholders.

### Joint assessment:

The successful implementation of the HDPTN requires comprehensive knowledge of the context, a shared understanding of the issues of interest and a shared vision. Joint analyses and evaluations are required to understand the context and need to take into account the full range of contextual factors, including local governance and power structures and power dynamics, and the risks, needs and resilience of the target groups (DI 2019; Oxfam 2019; World Vision 2020). The assessment could also provide a good opportunity to work with actors and provide a platform for aggregating and integrating information from different sources (WHO, 2021). Prioritizing holistically integrated context analyses was also viewed as crucial as the basis for impact measurement, evaluation and programming (CARE 2018; World Vision 2020). The UN JSC review has also reported that integrating and consolidating all relevant information and analysis, including underlying causes/drivers of risk, needs and vulnerabilities could enable the identification of agreed priority areas that can serve as a basis for collective outcomes (UN, 2020). However, several organizations identified challenges in moving from joint analyses to (political) goals (collective outcomes) indicators jointly defined by donor institutions and implementing organizations (Center for Global Development, IRC, Mercy Corps 2019; DI 2019; ECDPM 2018; World Vision 2020). Additional challenges in the joint assessment include volatile contexts, where the situation changes rapidly and often unpredictably, challenges in devising indicators for peace and inclusion, and limited willingness to share data due to concerns about data protection and competition (UN, 2018). The UN has also identified a lack of shared understanding of risk, need and vulnerability among concerned actors among the challenges in the conduct of joint assessment (UN, 2018). The lack of a common cross-pillar platform to consolidate or share relevant data and information for priority setting and review of the programming was also mentioned as challenging in many countries (UN, 2020). Therefore, a shorter time horizon for joint analysis and efficient information management systems for recording and sharing information is essential to the successful implementation of the HDPTN (DI 2019, CIC 2019).

Participants have also reflected on their thoughts on the importance of the joint assessment emphasizing that such assessment could improve the understanding of the local context in terms of the HDP lens and enable actors to have a shared understanding of the priority needs and the associated actions.

*“... We need is solid analysis of the local context to inform all actors about priority humanitarian, development and peace-related needs at national and regional level and reach into consensus on required joint actions.”*

**[KII, Gov't, HDP]**

The situation analysis revealed the relevance of the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) which was launched in Ethiopia in 2018 to promote evidence-based decision-making for nutrition and support the implementation of the FNP using the existing data sources. The NIPN is hosted by the EPHI and works under the national nutrition governance system in collaboration with multi-sectoral stakeholders (EPHI, 2021). Moreover, the Unified Food and Nutrition Information System (UNIS) is being rolled out by MoH to capture appropriate nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific indicators (MoH, 2023). Therefore, such initiatives could provide an enabling environment for the conduct of joint assessment in the operationalization of NC-HDPTN.

### **Collective Outcomes:**

The articulation and operationalization of collective outcomes was mentioned as a transformative tool to bring HDP actors together around the same priorities and objectives (UN, 2020). It also provides a common vision that aims to build a bridge between short-term assistance, medium-term outcomes and long-term development programming and financing (OCHA 2018). The results of the joint assessment could serve as the foundation for the formulation of collective outcomes, which should be a collaborative and iterative process and where possible through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. After defining the collective outcomes, each partner could identify their own entry point of action, which is a specific area of action that could contribute to the achievement of those collective outcomes. Therefore, it allows the different groups of actors to work towards common objectives in a way that fits their own mandates while paying attention to complementarities with others (WHO, 2021).

OCHA suggested three steps to define and articulate the collective outcome. 1) Prioritize a small number of areas that require simultaneous humanitarian and development action; 2) Determine a time frame (ideally, between 3-5 years taking into account other relevant planning time frames e.g. the national development plan time frame), and 3) Determine what target would be appropriate for each collective outcome (e.g. 25% reduction) (OCHA 2018). ISAC has also highlighted that collective outcomes are one entry point for collaboration and contributions to peace (ISAC, 2020).

Regarding the challenges in defining collective outcomes, the UN report indicated the lack of empowerment, encouragement and capacity for country leadership to advance collective outcomes, including adequate coordination support structures that cut across silos (UN, 2018). The respondents who participated in the present situational analysis reflected concerns highlighting the weak communication and coordination between the donors supporting humanitarian, development, and peace action including in the same donor organizations as the potential challenge in setting collective outcomes.

*“...The humanitarian side, the development side, and the peace side of the same donors may not talk to each other making the NC-HDPTN challenging.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP]**

Thus, donors must be closely involved when articulating and operationalizing collective outcomes to ensure their ownership of the collective outcomes and finance in a more aligned and better-sequenced manner to the achievement of these outcomes. The critical role of government leadership in leading/ co-leading the processes around the articulation, implementation and resourcing of collective outcomes was also repeatedly highlighted as important.

### **Joint Multiyear Plan:**

Multi-year plan was often reported as an ideal approach that involves creating a single plan that covers humanitarian, development and peace needs. Where it is not possible to have a single plan, the preferred solution would be to ensure that the humanitarian response plan covers multiple years and that the humanitarian, development and peace plans are closely aligned with each other.

For example, the 2023 HRP of Ethiopia for example is a one-year plan while the UNDP country program document for Ethiopia (2020-2025) is a five-year strategic document indicating the substantial differences in the implementation time between those plans. Although both documents prioritized the implementation of the triple nexus approach, it appears that the differences in the time frames outlined two documents could potentially challenge the alignment of the plan in order to implement joint multiyear planning. The KII respondents further acknowledged the potential challenges of bringing together diverse entities towards a shared objective and having a Joint Multiyear Plan.

*“... It would not be easy to gather multiple actors that have separate priorities into one platform and to have a shared plan. It would be quite important to bring a structural shift in order to align the immediate humanitarian needs with long-term development efforts and achieve joint planning.”*

**[KII, Donor, H]**

The multiyear and multi-layer plan that targets the different layers in the global conceptual framework for the causes of malnutrition could be a relevant approach to bring all relevant actors together for the operationalization of NC-HDPTP in the Ethiopian context.

### **Harmonizing Resources and Financing:**

Harmonizing resource and financing include tracking funding flows, establishing a multi-partner pooled fund, and allocation and harmonization of resources (OCHA 2017). In 2020, the UN Joint Steering Committee (JSC) review highlighted, that in most countries where collective outcomes have been agreed, funding decisions and processes remain mostly unchanged and the review recommended the importance of engaging donors as early as possible in the articulation of collective outcomes. A dedicated implementation and resourcing plan for each collective outcome must be developed in a way that reflects how respective humanitarian, transition, development and peace-building activities contribute to achieving the defined outcome. Therefore, there needs to be a harmonization of resources and collective outcomes must drive funding and programming decisions (UN, 2020). A study conducted by Oxfam further reported that the nexus approach could require structural and operational shifts and it will generate better outcomes if the financing mechanisms are adapted (Oxfam 2019).

Respondents who participated in the present situational analysis were heard voicing several funding-related challenges for the implementation of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. Challenges such as the availability of more support to humanitarian assistance than the development and peace programs, the differences in the planning and priorities among different HDP Pillar actors including donors and the associated lack of harmonized funding across the HDP Pillars, earmarked and short-term funding were mentioned among as the hindrances for the effectiveness of the NC-HDPTN.

*“...One of the potential threats would be resource mobilization. The limited flexibility of donors on funds allocated for humanitarian response would be one of the major challenges for the implementation of NC-HDPTN.”*

**[KII, Donor, HDP].**

*“...Donors allocate humanitarian funding with specific conditions, such as prioritizing water trucking over constructing boreholes/drilled holes as stipulated in the agreement. This would be challenging for the Triple Nexus approach;”*

**[KII, UN, HDP].**

Therefore, there should be efforts that involves donors to explore how to maintain independent, principled and needs-based humanitarian funding while encouraging multi-year flexible financing.



The importance of aligning the priority of the NC-HDPTN (Collective Outcome) with the funding priorities of donors and higher-level advocacy works should be there to bring a paradigm shift in the current funding landscape in a way that promotes the Nexus approach. One of the respondents mentioned the importance of identifying one champion donor to advocate for the nexus agenda among other donor communities.

*“...Based on my experience, having one donor for the overall nexus agenda was a super-helpful approach. In my experience, Champion Donor played a role in leading the discussions and fostering collaboration among Donors. We were able to collectively define outcomes, outputs, and strategies for integrating the triple nexus. Therefore, having one or two donors take the lead allows for more streamlined decision-making and coordination.”*

**[KII, UN, H]**

The respondents further shared a valuable insight into the importance of effectively navigating the constraints posed by donor regulations and when possible collaborating with diverse donors as a possible measure to leverage complementary efforts and maximize impact through bridging the gap between immediate humanitarian response and long-term development objectives. Some of the respondents further shared their practical experiences in extending the timeframe for humanitarian response to ensure the long-term sustainability of the impact as follows:

*“...Humanitarian response does not often go beyond one year. If you add development interventions while working on humanitarian response, your project would stay in the community for three to five years. As the project stays longer, the interventions would have a more long-term benefit to the community.”*

**[KII, NGO, HD]**

Moreover, emphasizing domestic resource mobilization could also enhance the success of the operationalization of NC-HDPTN, ensuring ownership and sustainable financing, and reducing dependence on foreign aid

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Monitoring and evaluation enable operational plans and the joint multiyear plan to be reviewed and where necessary updated. To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of Triple Nexus implementation, there should be country-specific collective outcomes that are strategic across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding dimensions (Nguya G., Siddiqui N, 2020). Therefore, it was found very important to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track Triple Nexus implementation that spells out a set of principles and generic success indicators. The EU however has noted that finding a common framework for measuring Triple Nexus results is not straightforward given the multiple pillars (ECDPM, 2022). In line with this, most participants have emphasized the issue of accountability as a major challenge for implementing nutrition interventions or other interventions that require collaboration across multiple sectors. Given the dynamic nature of the NC-HDPTN and the need for indicators that capture the multidimensional aspects of HDPTN, respondents shared their thoughts on the importance of identifying indicators relevant to the three pillars. The need to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes and impacts of the interventions was also underlined.

*“...It would be important to design the M&E framework based on joint outcomes that all parties involved in the nexus agree upon. The M&E framework should be flexible and context-specific.”*

**[KII, NGO, HD].**

## **Localization:**

Strong national and local ownership of collective outcomes, shaped by the operational context and comparative advantages of different actors has been an integral part of the NWOW (OCHA 2017). Localizing the HDPN and area-based approaches was therefore viewed as important to achieving cross-sectoral coordination and longer-term programming at the local level (ECDPM 2018, CARE 2018). In this regard, consultation and coordination with local implementation partners and the involvement of the affected population groups in problem identification, priority-setting and decision-making were also considered important (CGD, IRC, Mercy Corps 2019; ECDPM 2019, World Vision 2020). From the perspective of the “localization” agenda, the considerable reliance on INGOs (among other implementation partners) to deliver EU-funded Triple Nexus actions was criticized for putting a break on localization, by withholding opportunities for local actors to play a fuller role in service delivery across the Triple Nexus, and to build up relevant capacities and expertise (ECDPM 2022).

Respondents who took part in the situational analysis have also stressed the importance of involving the local actors including communities, CSOs, local NGOs, and local government in the nexus initiatives highlighting their role in program implementation and their strong community connections.

*“...The representation of local NGOs and CSOs is very important. Therefore, there should be a deliberate strategy to include these stakeholders in the conversation, as their inclusion is crucial for addressing humanitarian, development, and peace aspects effectively.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP]**

Another respondent added the following to promote the engagement of local actors

*“...CSOs, Local NGOs, the Local Government and the Community are key stakeholders in NC-HDPTN efforts. To encourage their engagement, organizations should include their insight when putting together grant proposals and donors should also ensure that the views of the local actors are included in the grant proposal.”*

**[KII, Donor, HD]**

However, in practice, the engagement of the community was reported inadequate based on the report of most of the community members who took part in the FGDs conducted at the regional level. With this, participants mentioned that they have never witnessed youth/women engage in the planning, implementation and review of the nutrition-focused interventions.

*“...In this area, we have not seen the community members including women and youth participating in planning and decision-making of the processes related to nutrition initiatives.”*

**[FGD, Community Members, Gambela]**

## Local Experience Relevant to Triple Nexus: The Case of World Vision Ethiopia

**Introduction:** This case story presents the lessons learned from applying the triple nexus approach by World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) in three districts of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR): Gelana, Suro Bergudasa, and the Amaro special woredas. The communities in these districts faced multiple challenges, especially security issues, due to the frequent conflicts in the area. These conflicts often disrupted WVE's interventions and affected the project outcomes. Moreover, the limited budget allocation prevented some vulnerable groups, especially women and children, from receiving the support they needed, such as sanitary materials and food.

**The Purpose of the Pilot Project:** WVE launched a pilot project in three neighboring woredas to demonstrate how a HDPTN approach can address the challenges they face. The main goal of this project was to use the Context Monitoring and Risk Analysis (CMR) to guide the strategic distribution of the budget among the three pillars of the nexus. This way, WVE hoped to reach the most relevant community groups with the efficient use of the budget

**Key Interventions:** The project involved various stakeholders in different stages of the project cycle, such as assessments, planning, coordination, and information exchange. The project used a participatory approach to collect and analyze data from the field and make joint decisions on the actions to be taken. The project also ensured accountability and oversight by signing agreements with different offices and sharing periodic reports with them. The communities were also empowered to participate in the target selection and the types of support needed.

**Outcomes and Impact:** The project promoted social cohesion, trust, and peace among community members. It also trained and transformed youths into peace builders and provided them with livelihood opportunities. These outcomes supported sustainable peace and development in the communities.

**Key Lessons:** The projects showcased key strengths, such as regular context monitoring and review sessions, which facilitated informed decision-making and prioritization according to the changing needs at the community level. The project's flexibility in applying the three pillars of the triple nexus approach as per the current context and situation significantly contributed to its adaptability. Notably, the projects were able to address urgent humanitarian needs by providing food items, an initiative not included in the initial plans. However, as pilot initiatives, there was a learning curve associated with fully grasping and executing the triple nexus approach. The projects faced challenges in completely fulfilling the planned humanitarian needs, managing only to supply a portion of the non-food items. These experiences will be valuable for refining future project designs and enhancing the impact of triple nexus interventions.

### 3.6. Key Stakeholders, Their Decision-influencing Power Relationship and SLOT

This section presents the key actors and stakeholders that could have a potential role in the implementation of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. We attempted to map out the stakeholders based on their engagement in HDP-related interventions in the country where emphasis was given to understanding their potential contributions to the realization of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia.

#### Key Actors/ Stakeholders for the Operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia

The multidimensional and multi-sectoral nature of nutrition in terms of both effect and outcomes defines the potential actors that have been engaged in nutrition-related efforts in the country. The FNP provides a policy framework for the involvement of all responsible sectors and partners to address both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. The policy also provides guidance on the nutrition multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional governance of food and nutrition-related activities in the country (FNP 2018). Accordingly, Figure 4 presents the key group of stakeholders that could have a potential role in the implementation of the NC-HDPTN based on the nine categories.

Government Sector	Donor	UN
INGOs	CSOs	Community
Networks	Academia	Private Sector

Figure 2: Key Actors for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, October 2023

**Government Organizations:** It includes government organizations that have been involved in HDP-related initiatives in Ethiopia. The situational analysis has therefore identified 22 government stakeholders including those who were not identified to play a critical role in the implementation of the FNP owing to the nature of the NC-HDPTN approach. The role of key government stakeholders such as MoH, MoA, NDRMC, MoE, MoP, MoF, etc for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN is presented in the annex section (**Annex VIII**). It also includes actors operating at all levels in the existing government structure spanning from the federal to regional, woredas and kebele levels. According to the interviewee, the key roles of government sectors involve program ownership, policy formulation, the development of strategy, programs and relevant regulations, leadership in the coordination and collaboration efforts, mobilization of resources, advocacy and awareness creation and monitoring and evaluation among others.

*“...The government must come up with a clear and rational plan for implementing the nexus. When the government takes the lead, it creates a strong basis for dialogue and positive responses from donors. However, it’s important to note that this response is not automatic. Government ownership and leadership is the key to further driving the nexus agenda.”*

**[KII, Donor, D]**

Another respondent has also stressed the need for Government ownership by explaining the following:

*“...We need government ownership and buying on the agenda. To achieve this, we need influential champions within the government organizations who can push the agenda forward and facilitate its integration.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP]**

**Donors:** Donors can provide financial assistance, and technical and resource support to the implementation and scale of nutrition-related interventions in the country and the contribution of the donors in efforts to end malnutrition in Ethiopia is considered substantial. The top 5 donors for humanitarian response in Ethiopia include the USA, the European Commission, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Also, the Netherlands, Estonia, Türkiye, Portugal, Luxembourg, Finland, Japan, New Zealand, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden, and Norway have been provided funding support in the year 2023 (OCHA 2023). The Development Partners Group (DPG) comprises 30 bilateral and multilateral development partners. The main objective of DPG is to foster policy dialogue and coordinate/harmonize development partners' support for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national development plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Health, Population and Nutrition (HPN), which consists of the Nutrition DPs Forum, is one of the five technical working groups that operate directly under the umbrella of the DAG. The HPN comprises multilateral and bilateral partners (including foundations and the Global Fund) that provide development assistance to Ethiopia. The HPN works towards improved aid coordination, harmonization and alignment, and promotes Ethiopian national ownership of the health sector in line with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action (OECD, 2008). Respondents have identified donors among the major stakeholders in order for NC-HDPTN to be successfully implemented. One of the respondents who have experienced the implementation of NC-HDPTN abroad has stated the following stressing the role of donor for the success of the program.

*“...One of the successful experiences from DRC was the strategy of engaging donors in the implementation of the Triple Nexus approach.”*

**[KII, UN, H]**

Most respondents however highlighted the declining trends in donor funding as a concern and underlined the need for more engagement of the donor in order to realize the nexus approach in the country. The findings that emerged from the community have also supported the above assertion where inadequate humanitarian support was often reported.

*“...We are not getting adequate support despite our challenging situations. We have suffering from a shortage of supplies and irregularities in getting assistance.”*

**[FGD, Community Members, Mekelle]**

**UN Agencies:** Most of the respondents mentioned UN agencies as key players in addressing food and nutrition efforts in Ethiopia. Some of them were recognized for the catalytic role of UN agencies in realizing the NC-HDPTN by engaging in humanitarian response, supporting the implementation of long-term development programs, coordination and advocacy, providing information and bringing technical experts for HDPTN and nutrition efforts. Participants identified UNICEF, WHO, FAO, WFP, OCHA, UNHCR, ENCU, and UNDP as the main UN actors for the implementation of the NC-HDPTN. It was evident that the UN actors could play a significant role in realizing the Triple Nexus in Ethiopia. The diverse mandates and coordinated efforts of UN actors could be leveraged to bring together humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts by providing information and bringing technical expertise, resources, and global network necessary to effectively address the interconnected challenges in humanitarian, development, and peace sectors. The key roles and responsibilities of UN Agencies for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN are presented in the annex section of the report (**Annex VIII**).

*“... We are conveners between the government and donors. Yes, we have this role to support the convening coordination. Our strength is that we have thousands of staff members who are working everywhere in the country. Also, we work with humanitarian, development and peace pillars. So, we are at the juncture where we can actually push the agenda among all actors to bring them together.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP]**

**INGOs:** They have been contributing to improving nutrition outcomes in the country and potentially engaging in nutrition-centric HDPTN through technical expertise, resources, coordination, and engaging in research and development to influence policy, strategy and operation. There are several international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Ethiopia. Even though, study participants were not able to determine the exact number of INGOs with the potential of engaging in NC-HDPTN, an estimated more than 100 organizations were reported to have been working on food and nutrition efforts in the country.

Table 3: Stakeholders identified from INGO for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, October 2023

Action Against Hunger	GAIN	Christian Aid	Nutrition International
FHI 360	IRC	MSF Belgium	Concern Worldwide
Goal	Islamic Relief	Plan International	Catholic Relief Services
World Vision	GIZ	Save The Children	Feed the Future
NCA	Secure the Future	Samaritan Purse	Dan Church Aid
CISP	SUN	TIG	Medical teams International
Cordaid	MSF Holland	Cafodsciaf Trocair	International Medical Corps
Oxfam GB	Care	Project HOPE	Right to Grow Partnership
IOCC			<b>Others ...</b>

**CSO:** The CSO include local NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, Women Groups, and Youth Group etc.... Some participants noted that CSOs have a deep understanding of the community and contribute to the nutrition intervention through closely working with the community. Among others, these organizations were mentioned to often engage in awareness creation efforts on different thematic areas including nutrition and health-related issues, advocate for the voices and needs of vulnerable communities, foster partnership among stakeholders to mobilize resources and in capacity building initiatives as well.

**Community:** The community members were identified among the key actors for the successful implementation of the NC-HDPTN. Most participants reflected that engaging the community including the vulnerable segments of the community such as women could be instrumental for the success of any community-based initiative and to ensure programmatic adaptation based on local knowledge, and understanding of contextual factors including culture and needs. Respondents further highlighted that engagement of the community in nutrition programming has been increasing in recent years although there remains a lot of work to further empower the community. Most of the respondents recognized the substantial role of communities, CSOs, and local NGOs, in the success of triple nexus.

*“...The representation of NGOs and CSOs in the nexus efforts is very important. There should be a deliberate strategy to include stakeholders in the conversation, as their inclusion is crucial for addressing humanitarian, development, and peace aspects effectively.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP]**

*“...They [CSO, Community and Local Government] are important starting from design to implementation and monitoring... To ensure this, when organizations are putting together their proposals, they should be demonstrating the input and the insight of the community. And when donors are looking at proposals, they should be ensuring that they meet the needs and responses informed by the community.”*

**[KII, Donor, HDP].**

**Networks:** For the purpose of the present situation analysis, Peace Networks, Sun Movement, and the Media were considered as a network. Underlining the current situation of the country, respondents were heard voicing the need for more peace actors in Ethiopia and highlighted the role of peace networks in preventing conflict, creating social cohesion, resolving conflicts and promoting peaceful environments. Similarly, the roles of the SUN Movement were mentioned to be advocating for improved nutrition, promoting multi-sectoral collaboration, capacity building, monitoring progress, and mobilizing resources and information. Given the inadequate community-based awareness of nutrition, and the interlink between HDP and nutrition, Media could be one of the key players in food and nutrition efforts and the success of NC-HDPTN implementation. Media could contribute in terms of disseminating important information and in the promotion of behavioral change, policy advocacy, ensuring accountability and in the provision of a platform for diverse voices.

**Academia:** According to respondents' academia could have a pivotal role in transforming the food and nutrition efforts through capacity building, evidence generation and dissemination thereby influencing decision making. The respondents highlighted academia to contribute to NC-HDPTN implementation by conducting research, facilitating capacity-building training, documentation of best practices and challenges, and policy advocacy. To this end, research organizations such as EPHI (The lead of the SUN academia network), universities and other higher academic institutions were identified among others.

**Private Sector:** Some respondents mentioned the private sector as a crucial actor in the implementation of the NC-HDPTN. In the context of nutrition, the private sector has been participating in the production and distribution of food, local agriculture and other related issues. Although respondents emphasized the fact that the engagement of the private sector in nutrition-related initiatives at the infantile stage, they suggested the need to encourage private sector engagement in nutrition-relevant initiatives through the creation of a more supportive environment and the promotion of public-private partnerships to leverage resources and expertise.

### Stakeholders Decision-influencing Power Relationship

This section presents the findings of a decision-influencing power relationship analysis that was conducted involving key stakeholders working in the humanitarian, development, and peace sectors in Ethiopia. The power mapping exercise was conducted to understand the stakeholders' decision-influencing power relationship for the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN concept in Ethiopia.

Two categories of stakeholders were engaged in the exercises; Category I- Involved participants from the UN, Implementing Partners and SUN business network while Category II- Involved participants from Government Organizations including MOH, MOE, MOA, MOPD, and MOWCYSA. The key steps of the power mapping exercise involved defining the goal, identifying key stakeholders, conducting a facilitated discussion with stakeholders, visualizing the power map and discussing the power dynamics, and identifying action points to organize key stakeholders towards the defined goal where the operationalization of NC-HDPTN was the goal of the exercise. The research team identified a total of 35 stakeholders prior to the power mapping exercise representing 9 stakeholder categories as presented in the above section. Using a power mapping grid template, the participants discuss the **Power Dynamics** and the support level of stakeholders for the successful operationalization of the NC-HDPTN (Figures 5 and 6).

Thus, the exercise revealed the stakeholder that holds the most power, those with the ability to influence decisions, and others that are sidelined from the process where different dimensions of power, such as political, resource, expertise, etc. were considered. Finally, the participants identified potential areas for intervention, collaboration, or advocacy (**Action Points**) based on the power dynamics finding.

**Note:**

Readers should exercise caution while interpreting the present findings. This is because the participants have used their experience in the implementation of existing nutrition programs, as the NC-HDPTN is a new concept in Ethiopia. Moreover, the limited number of participants in Category I (Non-Government Participants) should also be considered although it is worth noting that effective and dynamic discussions were conducted with the active involvement of all available personnel.

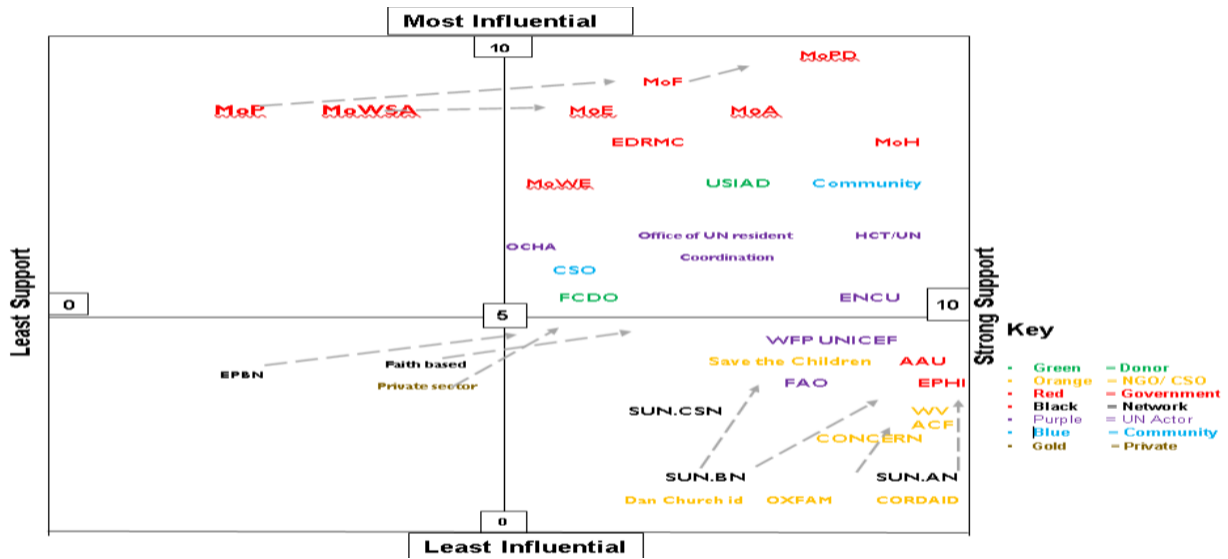


Figure 3: Power Mapping Exercise of NC-HDPTN Government Participants, October, 2023

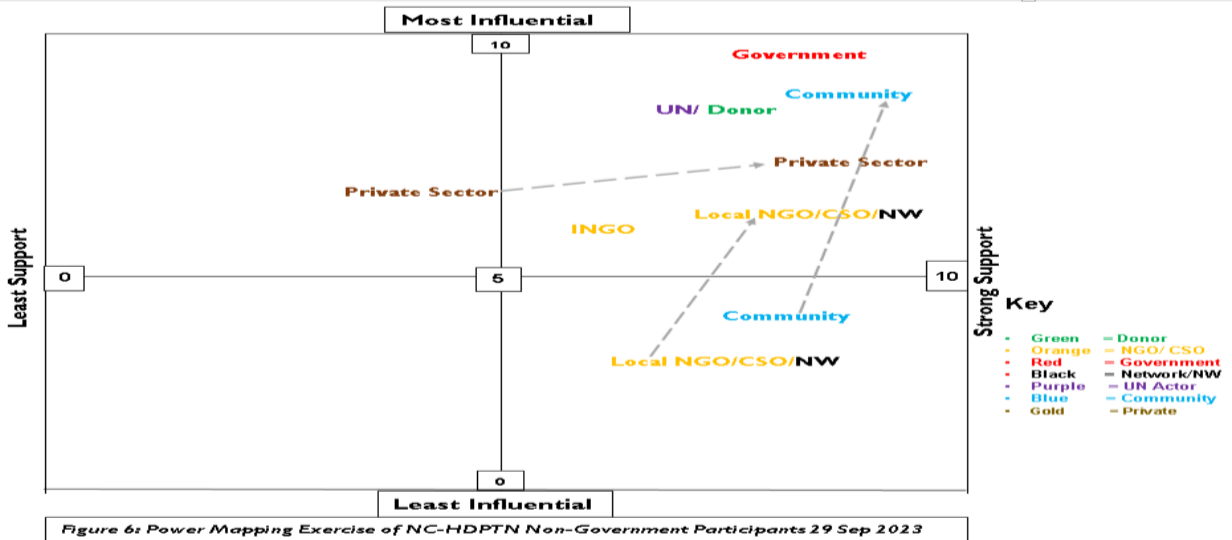


Figure 4: Power Mapping Exercise of NC-HDPTN Non-Government Participants 29 Sep 2023

Figure 4: Power Mapping Exercise of NC-HDPTN Non-Government Participants, October, 2023



**Powerful Actors:** The power mapping exercise revealed that the most powerful stakeholder categories for the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN were the Government, Donors, UN actors and the Local community. Government decision influencing power emanates from legitimate political power. Therefore, the government actors were found to be the primary decision-makers and could play a crucial role in shaping policies and strategies related to the NC-HDPTN. These actors mentioned the government’s power to allocate resources, coordinate efforts involving other actors and implement the NC-HDPTN approach. Referring to the significant influence of the Government in the decision-making related to the implementation of the triple nexus approach, participants emphasized the importance of Government ownership to advance the nexus agenda. With this, many participants strongly recommended that the Government take ownership, particularly in the areas of planning, resource mobilization, leading coordination platforms, and monitoring the progress of NC-HDPNC implementation to ensure that vulnerable community members can benefit from the programs effectively.

*“...The government should take a leading role in various aspects, including the development of clear and rational plans, strategies for transitioning from humanitarian needs to long-term development, and the integration of support from the three pillars (humanitarian, development, and peace). This level of government ownership is seen as indispensable not only for effective implementations but also for gaining buy-in and support from donors by enhancing credibility and confidence among donors.”*

**[KII, Donor, HDP].**

Participants further agreed that the decision influencing power and support to the NC-HDPTN widely varies among Government actors. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) was identified as the most influential, followed by the Ministry of Planning and Development (MOPD) with a power scale above 9 out of 10. The Ministry of Health was the highest supporter of the NC-HDPTN (Scale above 9 out of 10) with the power slightly below the MOPD. Participants agreed that the Ministry of Peace (MOP) and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) were less supportive of the NC-HDPTN. The participants suggested pushing the support and power levels of the MOP, MOWSA, MOPD and MOF to higher levels by advocacy, engagement and revising their role/ mandate with respect to the triple nexus approach.

Donors were the second most influential stakeholder in the operationalization of NC-HDPTN. They could influence the implementation of the NC-HDPTN initiatives through their funding, funding conditions, and diplomatic engagement. According to the participants, their power and support level varied where USAID was mentioned as the number one funder of the nutrition program (In humanitarian and development contexts) in Ethiopia. It was suggested that the MOH and other Government counterparts hold continuous dialogue to better understand their internal policy and procedures, and jointly develop a common goal and strategic framework to get their buy-in to make sure adequate support would be available for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN. Continuous discussion for revision of the funding conditions should also be considered in accordance with the Global OECD/DAC recommendations (i.e., long-term, flexible, and predictable financing). Most respondents mentioned the significant influence of donors in determining programming decisions and bringing resources into the country.

*“...Donors are very influential because they determine the kind of programming that ends up taking place. They bring resources into the country. Therefore, moving the donors to the nexus is important. I think a lot of donors are receptive to it although they set some of the funding priorities.”*

**[KII, UN, HDP].**

The UN actors such as UN OCHA/ HCT, and the Office of UN Resident Coordinator were also the top influential stakeholder categories. They were already found to be supporters of the Triple Nexus agenda as it is associated with most of the SDG aspirations.

They provide technical and financial support, advocate for policy changes, and facilitate coordination between different actors (convener). They could also provide technical expertise to understand the theoretical underpinning and global good practices/ lessons. Other multilateral organizations such as the World Bank and EU were raised to have significant influence in Ethiopia's NC-HDPTN. The participants suggested the MOH, MOF and MOPD to assign them as champions to push for the triple nexus agenda. The participants also assigned the partners' development group in this category and suggested onboarding them to actively engage in the promotion of formulating a unified strategic framework for the implementation of triple nexus.

There were divergent views on the power of the local community between the Government sector participants and non-government sector participants. The Government participants positioned the local community as highly influential and strong supporters of the NC-HDPTN both at the current and at the future anticipated state, while the other group rated the community as supporters with below average influence level at the current state and strong supporters and highly influential in future anticipated state. The latter group justified that despite the community members having a significant stake and influence; they were often excluded from the decision-making process and lacked the power to improve their local situation.

However, the government participants argued that the local community has the power to shape relevant interventions and their outcomes. This argument is supported by the impact of community-level structures such as Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and Health Development Armies (HDAs) on the achievement of HSTP I (MOH, 2020). Moreover, community contribution has been demonstrated during the implementation of the Community Score Card (CSC) that involved 800 woredas in Ethiopia where the community showed considerable commitment in bringing improvements in the local health situation. It was also worth mentioning that both groups agreed on the need to involve the local communities in decision-making processes to ensure that interventions address their needs, build resilience, and promote sustainable peace and development. Therefore, efforts should be resorted to enhance the engagement of the local community and community-based networks including women's networks, faith-based organizations, and peace-building networks in all NC-HDPTN actions (MOH, 2023).

The participants positioned partners such as SUN academia and SUN business group in the lower influential group with high support of the nutrition triple nexus. On the other hand, the private sector and faith-based organizations were positioned in the lower influence and non-supporter quadrant. This suggests the need for a strategy to engage faith-based organizations and make a strategic shift to strengthen partnerships with the private sector during the design and implementation of NC-HDPTN. The participants believe that there is a high chance to move the private sector to the strong supporter and highly influential quadrant by creating an enabling environment through settling currency issues and facilitating bank loans, and access to the market.

Overall, the power mapping exercise identified nine key actors and their current and anticipated decision-making power and support levels for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN. The Government, Donors, UN agencies, and the community (Based on the government participants) were among the powerful actors. Participants suggested identifying at least one champion from the identified actors to expedite the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in the country. These actors play a catalytic role in the implementation of NC-HDPTN through their experiences, leadership, networks, and unique comparative advantages.

## SLOT Analysis

In this study, SLOT analysis was conducted to explore the strengths (S), limitations (L), opportunities (O) and threats (L) of concerned actors and stakeholders to materialize the Triple Nexus concept in Ethiopia. The result of the SLOT is used in the formulation of recommendations in the designing of operational guidelines and implementation road map for effective planning and implementation of the Triple Nexus concept in Ethiopia. Accordingly, the below tables present the summary of the SLOT analysis.

Table 4: SLOT Analysis Matrix presenting the SLOT of stakeholders identified for the operationalization of NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, October 2023

Strengths	Limitation
<p><b>Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existence of government structure at all levels including at the grass root level.</li> <li>• Rich experience in implementing humanitarian and development programs</li> <li>• The establishment of Food and Nutrition Coordination Platforms at the national and regional level</li> <li>• Leadership commitment to the realization of NC-HDPTN</li> <li>• Strong relationship between the federal and regional governments, and the UN, and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Rich experience in the implementation of multi-sectoral imitative involving relevant factors such as National Nutrition Programs and Seqota Declaration</li> <li>• The government ownership of the nutrition programs</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in implementing new initiatives/ innovations in the country-SD</li> <li>• The existence of the Ministry of Peace promotes peace and political stability in the country</li> </ul> <p><b>Donor and UN Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interest of UN agencies for the realization of HDPTN.</li> <li>• UN agencies' technical capacity, experiences and presence in similar contexts all over the world</li> <li>• Well-coordinated humanitarian system and rich experience in emergency response</li> <li>• Donors' commitment to humanitarian and development assistance.</li> <li>• Donors' willingness to engage in nexus-related policy and strategic discussions.</li> <li>• The presence of humanitarians and the development workforce in the country</li> </ul>	<p><b>Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate accountability mechanisms in the coordination of multi-sectoral initiatives.</li> <li>• Fragmentation of efforts among and within actors working in the HDP pillars.</li> <li>• Resource limitation for the successful implementation of the HDP approach.</li> <li>• Inadequate experience in the implementation and linkage of peace intervention among stakeholders.</li> <li>• Sub-optimal capacity at the lower level of the system.</li> <li>• Nonfunctional development infrastructures health facilities, schools and limited accessibility of key services.</li> <li>• Inadequate leadership in the development efforts such as income-generating activities, job creation, and women empowerment.</li> <li>• Lack of political commitment in terms of ensuring equality and promoting peace.</li> <li>• High turnover of well-informed and trained staff members.</li> <li>• Inadequate translation of strategies into a detailed plan of action and weak monitoring at the lower level</li> </ul> <p><b>Donors and UN Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term and earmarked funding for the humanitarian responses from Donors.</li> <li>• Different time framework for humanitarian assistance and development initiatives.</li> <li>• Fragmentation of efforts among and within actors working in the HDP Pillars.</li> <li>• Inadequate linkage of humanitarian, development and peace efforts within the organization.</li> <li>• Applying different targeting and selection of geographic areas for humanitarian and development assistance.</li> <li>• Emergencies fund tends to be short-term without looking at the underlying structural and foundational challenges.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated experience in supporting new initiatives/ innovations in the country</li> </ul> <p><b>NGOs/CSOs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interest and commitment of the NGOs to the realization of the NC-HDPTN approach</li> <li>• Availability of different <b>NGOs/ CSOs</b> at the regional level including those working in nutrition-related interventions</li> <li>• <b>The engagement of NGOs/ CSOs</b> in the nutrition coordination platforms</li> <li>• The establishment of the Consortium of NGOs working on humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts</li> </ul> <p><b>Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The engagement of the community (Volunteers) in Humanitarian and Development efforts.</li> <li>• The awareness of the community regarding the harm impact of conflict and is supportive of development and peace initiative</li> <li>• The engagement of elderly and religious leaders in peace promotion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding is not in a more holistic continuum way for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.</li> <li>• Funding only one pillar of the triple nexus-humanitarian or development.</li> <li>• Limited practice of funding for peacebuilding efforts.</li> <li>• Funding requirements for budgetary support to implement sustainable development projects.</li> <li>• Prioritizing humanitarian activities than development actions.</li> </ul> <p><b>NGOs/SCOs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited-service coverage- Focusing on accessible areas, refugees (Gambela)</li> <li>• Inadequate experience and expertise in implementing peace actions</li> <li>• Limited number and capacity of NGOs- Tigray</li> <li>• Implementation of fragmented interventions</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict over power and resources between ethnic groups.</li> <li>• Awareness problem and high level of illiteracy.</li> <li>• Harmful traditional and cultural practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p><b>Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling national and global policy environment</li> <li>• Established strategic partnerships among government, UN agencies, donors and other actors</li> <li>• Potential for fund raising for initiating matching domestic financing (Government allocations)</li> <li>• Schools could be a good entry for education and awareness creation</li> <li>• The existence of technology and communication platforms for the sharing of information</li> </ul> <p><b>Donor and UN Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential funding opportunities for climate change-induced humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Nexus is one of the priority areas for the UN resident's office in Ethiopia and the willingness of the UN to convene, coordinate and push the nexus agenda.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous crisis, conflict and unstable politics make stakeholders' coordination of the Triple Nexus quite difficult</li> <li>• Competing-political commitments among the government sectors to adapt to a triple nexus</li> <li>• Resistance to abandoning the old way of working among key stakeholders and adapting to a new nexus approach</li> <li>• The high level of price inflation in the country</li> </ul> <p><b>Donor and UN agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining trend of donors' funding to humanitarian response and development initiatives</li> <li>• Resistance to abandoning the old way of funding and working among key stakeholders and adapting to a new nexus approach</li> </ul> <p><b>CSO/ NGO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistance to abandoning the old way of working among key stakeholders and adapting to a new nexus approach</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethnic and religious polarizations that lead to conflict</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existence of nutrition-related coordination platforms such as the SUN platform that involve all stakeholders</li> </ul> <p><b>CSO/ NGO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of NGOs, and CSOs that implement different humanitarian and development activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The availability of community-based platforms, mainstream and social media at the grass root level</li> <li>• Potential for fund raising for initiating matching domestic financing (Community contributions)</li> <li>• Citizen’s willingness to pursue a peaceful life</li> <li>• The community- based value given to the religious and community leaders</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of natural resources in the country- water, fertile land and forests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High levels of youth unemployment could aggravate the conflict threatening national security.</li> <li>• Poor/ damaged social and development infrastructure in Gambela and Tigray</li> <li>• Psychosocial Distress and Trauma in conflict-affected area -Tigray</li> </ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recurrent climate-induced crisis and</li> <li>• Global situations such as market dynamics</li> </ul>
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### 3.7. Lessons Learned from Global and National Experiences

This section presents some of the lessons captured from the global implementation of the triple nexus approaches. The lessons are structured based on key elements for the operationalization of the triple nexus as suggested by WHO and other international organizations. We attempted to present lessons for Nutrition Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) and HDPTP as follows.

#### Summary of Global Lessons- HDN for Nutrition

**HDN for Nutrition in Myanmar, Niger and Afghanistan:** The experiences and challenges of crisis-affected states in strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) were identified through a case study conducted by the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS). The HDN framework aims to balance short-term responses with longer-term solutions and achieve sustainable development (GNC and SUN SMS, 2021).

#### **Experiences and Challenges: HDN for Nutrition in Myanmar, Niger and Afghanistan**

- **Shared Understanding:** *To engage in an HDN approach, stakeholders must have a shared understanding of how it can lead to improved nutrition outcomes. This requires identifying areas of convergence and alignment, as well as understanding the roles, responsibilities, and principles of engagement for each stakeholder involved.*
- **Inclusiveness:** *To create an HDN for nutrition, it is essential to have a regular dialogue between humanitarian and development actors to identify common areas of work. This requires identifying shared objectives and developing joint initiatives and activities where coordination mechanisms are more inclusive. It is also important to agree on implementation approaches and commonly monitor progress to ensure that the HDN is effective in achieving its goals.*
- **Long-term plan:** *The multisectoral action plans for nutrition developed in the studied countries provide a framework to strengthen the HDN for nutrition by balancing short and long-term actions. However, the level of ambition of these plans is often not reflected by the resources and capacity available for implementation. To address this, there is a need to develop new partnerships, increase the coverage of commonly prioritized programs, and ensure that strategic visions are translated into actionable local plans.*
- **Risk Informed Response:** *Nutrition-related policies, plans and programs adopted by countries are too often not sufficiently risk-informed to respond effectively to shocks. This means that when a crisis occurs, humanitarian actors and specialized disaster-management agencies are often left alone to lead the nutrition emergency response, possibly even undermining the continuity of other public services and longer-term development programs.*
- **Accountability:** *Building a HDN requires shared participation and commitment from all actors: national and local authorities, communities, humanitarian agencies, as well as development donors, the UN and civil society. There is however often a perceived lack of accountability for results and transparency on challenges and failures. This can undermine mutual trust and means some actors, facing competing priorities, are reluctant to allocate time and resources to engage in HDN processes. It calls for building trust through inclusiveness, budget tracking, respecting humanitarian principles, develop agreed, specific and achievable annual plan, and Promote systemic change at institutional level.*

**HDN for Nutrition in Protracted Crises: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen:** Based on a desk review of HDN for Nutrition in four countries (Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen), the Emergency Nutrition Network synthesis report that provides insights into the experiences and challenges of crisis-affected states in strengthening the HDN framework (Emergency Nutrition Network, 2020).

<i>HDN for Nutrition in Protracted Crises: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen</i>
<p><b>Linkage:</b> Addressing underlying causes of undernutrition through strengthened service delivery systems, prevention programming, and health systems strengthening is an essential part of the humanitarian response. However, there is still a scarcity of initiatives that aim to converge humanitarian and development assistance on the same at-risk populations. This reflects limited coordination between humanitarian and development actors, different targeting criteria of donors and/or implementing partners and financing silos.</p> <p><b>Policy and Plan:</b> Kenya has reduced the need for humanitarian aid by implementing various development processes, making it a ‘silver standard’ for the HDN. Ethiopia and Yemen are working on multiyear strategies to enhance resilience and HDN, which is a positive step. However, these strategies are separate from national development plans and HRPs, and are mainly led by the UN. They aim to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development efforts. Somalia has a different approach, as it plans to fully integrate humanitarian and risk reduction into its National Development Plan. It was suggested that having separate resilience and/or prevention strategies may not be helpful and that they should be incorporated into sectoral development plans instead. This would require strong political commitment and active coordination.</p> <p><b>Nutrition targets and indicators:</b> The four countries have different nutrition targets and indicators in their plans and frameworks. Kenya prioritizes stunting over wasting as a more stable outcome measure, while Somalia focuses on wasting rather than stunting. Ethiopia’s HRPs target wasting, but its nutrition policy and Multisectoral Resilience Strategy also aim to reduce stunting. Yemen’s HRP only has ‘reduced wasting’ as a goal.</p> <p><b>Clarity around the collective outcome:</b> The increasing focus and alignment of higher-level policies, plans and frameworks on resilience building in all four countries were viewed as encouraging. However, without supporting architecture and financing, these may not lead to a better HDN that would be comprehensive, coherent and appropriately targeted. Strong government leadership (where possible) and a lead agency with a proven record of coordination, accountability and technical leadership can help clarify the best approaches for humanitarian response and the areas and groups that need more long-term nutrition security efforts.</p> <p><b>Coordination:</b> The absence of high-level focal points or mechanisms to ensure coordination between humanitarian and development actors was a major constraint. Often National Disaster Management Authorities are tasked with ensuring that risk management could be mainstreamed into sectoral development plans (The case in Ethiopia.) However, limited progress raises the question of whether such agencies have the ability and authority to coordinate across humanitarian and development actors. To better blend approaches, the engagement of both humanitarian and development actors in longer-term HRPs could help them communicate and plan how to move together towards one direction or the other as situations worsen or improve. There were also practical issues of partner capacity and issues of competition between implementing partners.</p> <p><b>Financing:</b> A major constraint was also the lack of appropriate financing mechanisms. Humanitarian funding was often short-term and restricted in the extent to which it could address underlying causes. Longer-term development financing was constrained by political risk aversion in donor countries and invariably squeezed out in areas of recurrent humanitarian programs where longer-term development and prevention-oriented financing was most needed. Recurrent humanitarian financing may also incur substantial transactional costs and, in many contexts, have lower cost efficacy than direct budget support and/or pooled sector support. Systematic financial tracking of longer-term development funding allocated by sector (including nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive spend) and scale of resources would be needed.</p>

## **Summary of Global Lessons- HDPTN**

**Lessons Learned- Coordination:** To strengthen the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, it is essential to enhance coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, including the government, NGOs, and international partners. By aligning emergency response efforts with long-term development strategies and peace efforts, nutrition interventions will not only be effective in the short term but also contribute to sustainable development and improved well-being of the population. The following lessons show the experience in Kenya on the humanitarian-development nexus in addressing nutrition challenges. It involves integrating humanitarian assistance with long-term development efforts to ensure sustainable solutions.

**Kenya:** *The 2011 drought that affected large parts of Kenya, particularly the 23 Arid and semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties, was characterized by late response and poor coordination. The drought resulted in high rates of acute malnutrition and child mortality. However, the 2016/17 drought witnessed progress in how Kenya’s systems were oriented to reduce risk and respond more quickly and effectively to crises. A number of factors have contributed to this progress, including strengthened humanitarian and development linkages. Taken together, these factors have enabled a considerable degree of progress in addressing the root causes of humanitarian challenges in Kenya.*

- *Kenya has implemented an ambitious Humanitarian and Development Nexus framework called the “Ending Drought Emergencies (EDE) Common Programme Framework” to achieve greater sectoral and humanitarian-development system linkages*
- *Devolved local government structures have provided freedom to directly manage budgets and determine local-level priorities. This responsibility has resulted in strengthened local capacity, which obviates the need to wait for a national response or for humanitarian partners to access external funding.*

**Lessons Learned- Joint assessment:** The successful implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) requires a comprehensive understanding of the context and a shared understanding of the issues of interest. The experience of actors involved in HDPTN implementation globally has demonstrated this. This section presents lessons learned from Islamic Relief, a faith-inspired humanitarian aid and development agency. These lessons could potentially inform the Nexus Coordination-Humanitarian-Development-Peace Technical Network (NC-HDPTN).

**Indonesia:** *The Islamic Relief Indonesia team conducted a context analysis involving stakeholders from all project areas. The analysis gave them a stronger understanding of the needs of the communities and how the project might address them. After the project started, an unforeseen outbreak of rabies occurred, which meant that the team had to adjust where and when they could work. However, partly as a result of the information generated from the analysis and the engagement with communities, the team had a strong understanding of who to coordinate with to continue to deliver activities. They were also able to discuss potential risks and how these might be mitigated. These adjustments were discussed as a team, and then the donor was brought in to ensure agreement on the approach (S. Brown and R. Mena, 2021).*



**Lessons Learned- Collective Outcomes:** This section presents lessons learned in identifying collective outcomes and provides sample collective outcomes to inform the Nexus Coordination-Humanitarian-Development-Peace Technical Network (NC-HDPTN). The lessons from the Center on International Cooperation in different countries have shown that collective outcomes can bridge the silos between humanitarian, development, and peace actors. Collective outcomes can be taken from strategic documents, and government leadership in engaging actors to set collective outcomes encourages commitment to support implementation. Some actors may develop programmatic collective outcomes and apply an area-based programming approach (Center on International Cooperation, 2019).

*In several contexts, collective outcomes have helped to bring humanitarian and development actors closer together. In Chad, collective outcomes were designed to link the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the World Bank country strategy, and the government's National Development Plan (NDP). In Lebanon, the United Nations and the World Bank have established a "compact" of shared priorities around which they plan to collaborate over the next several years. Outcomes are also beginning to appear directly in strategic plans, including Mauritania's 2018–22 Country Development Partnership Program (CDPP), Somalia's 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and Ukraine's 2019–20 HRP. While the involvement of governments in articulating outcomes varies by country, a few promising examples of national ownership are emerging. In Burkina Faso, the collective outcome on nutrition prompted the government to create a budget item related to nutrition. At least one donor used collective outcomes as a basis for supporting a capacity-building program related to disaster-risk preparedness*

**Sample of Collective Outcomes- Burkina Faso**

**Food Security:**

- By 2020, reduce by 50 percent the number of people in phase three of food insecurity and reduce to 0 percent the number of people in phases four and five of food insecurity.

**Nutrition:**

- By 2020, reduce by 30 percent the rate of chronic malnutrition among children 0 to 5 years.

**Climate-Induced Hazards:**

- By 2020, increase by 50 percent the number of institutions with capacities for disaster risk reduction.

**Lessons Learned- Joint Multiyear Plan:** The lesson highlights the successful development of a long-term plan in the Somali region of Ethiopia. The Government of the Somalia region of Ethiopia, the United Nations and development partners developed a Durable Solutions Strategy for the period 2022-2025 as part of efforts to find solutions to the region's perennial internal displacement. It provides a roadmap to operationalize durable solutions to resolve internal displacement in the Region.

**Somali Regional State Durable Solutions Strategy 2022-2025:** *The Somali region faces a complex displacement crisis, with 1 million IDPs affected by conflict, violence, and climate change. Women, children and marginalized groups are the most vulnerable. This Strategy aims to enhance coordination and collaboration between the government and the aid sector at different levels and to align humanitarian and development planning and delivery in the region. The Strategy adopts a multi-sectoral and layered approach, involving humanitarian, development, stabilization, and peacebuilding actors, in cooperation with the government, to pursue sustainable solutions for IDPs. The Strategy also supports localized planning, implementation and monitoring, with the participation of affected communities and partners. It provides a policy and methodology for peacebuilding efforts, such as conflict mitigation, mediation, resolution and peaceful co-existence. The Strategy builds on existing projects, resources, coordination mechanisms and methodologies while avoiding duplication of effort (SDC 2021). The multi-year plan was often reported as an ideal approach that involves creating a single plan that covers humanitarian, development and peace needs.*

**Lessons Learned- Harmonizing Resources and Financing:** Respondents in this study acknowledged the potential funding-related challenges for the implementation of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia. The following case story is presented with the intention of shedding light on the potential possibilities based on the experience of CARE Mozambique and Jordan.

**Flexible Financing- CARE Mozambique and Jordan:** CARE Mozambique links humanitarian assistance and transitional assistance by involving disaster risk management activities in long-term program activities and in the Early Childhood Education program. This ensures a high level of flexibility in responses to shocks, including natural phenomena such as drought. Emergency instruments are integrated into existing development programs. CARE Jordan has been taking a new approach to linking humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. The new approach requires programming and organizational changes, which have an impact on job advertisements, local partnerships, and donor contracts, among other things. At the organizational level, some donors are enabling flexible bridging finance by integrating emergency budgets. Teams are also sharing knowledge and learning from each other. An important element of implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus is improving economic living conditions by introducing savings groups and (micro-) loans at the local community level. This is done in combination with activities to improve social cohesion (BMZ 2021).

**Lessons Learned- Localization:** According to the learning journey on HDPTN by Swiss, the sub-national level is seen by many as the most impactful way to implement nexus approaches. Swiss engagement in Haiti is a good example of this, where the intervention logic has been that it is better to work at the local level, where resources can be concentrated and where the work is closer to the population and institutions that deliver services (SDC, 2022).

**Lebanon:** Nexus initiatives that are implemented in specific locations or within administrative boundaries (local or regional entity) have been shown to be both manageable and yielding results. The Beka'a Valley water management project in Lebanon is a case in point. The project adopted a humanitarian-peace approach, aiming to address the increasing tensions between Lebanese and Syrian communities, as well as weak governmental institutions in Beka'a Valley. The project started as a Direct Action in the first phase from 2015-2019, with the objective of improving access to water and sanitation services, as well as enhancing resilient, sustainable, and conflict-sensitive public water management in the Valley. In phase two, from 2020-2023, the project aims to ensure that host communities and Syrian refugees in the Beka'a Valley benefit from safe, affordable, and equitable access to well-managed drinking water and sanitation services, resulting in fewer water-related conflicts. The project integrates conflict-sensitivity as a key element and adopts a strong focus on strengthening institutions to contribute to conflict prevention and mitigation and to ensure fair and transparent regulation (SDC, 2022).

**Lessons Learned- Monitoring and Evaluation:** Monitoring progress requires collective outcome indicators and context indicators, based on regular context analysis. These indicators should be different from project monitoring, which is often output-based and does not reflect the impact of the interventions. The case of Somalia shows how the M&E system was implemented in the operationalization of Somali Regional State Durable Solutions (IOM, 2019)

**Delink Outcome Monitoring:** The current reliance on aggregated output level indicators fulfills the accountability needs of donors but not of host governments and affected people. Output level results monitoring does not offer any insight on actual progress out of protracted situations. In Somalia, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat has been working to develop a set of outcome-level indicators (based on the IASC durable solutions framework) across the humanitarian-development-peace spectrum to establish a common basis for monitoring progress in solving the protracted displacement crisis. It has for this purpose partnered with the sectors and partners to develop a context monitoring tool coupled with public opinion surveys using radio shows and SMS surveys in order to have an objective means of measuring those same collective indicators (IOM, 2019).

The table below presents some of the selected good practices with their respective outcomes that could happen as a result of failing to consider the identified practices. The details of global and national good practices, their implications for NC-HDPTN and the data source are presented in the annex section of the report (Annex I).

Table 5: Summary of lessons learned to inform NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, October 2023

<b>Category</b>	<b>HDPN Good Practices</b>	<b>Risk of not applying them</b>
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decentralized and empowered subnational coordination</li> <li>• Link HDPTN coordination structures at the local level</li> <li>• Use HDPTN funding pragmatically through a people-centered approach</li> <li>• Multidisciplinary leaders, consensus builders, judged on outcomes</li> <li>• Donor and aid partner fora to align collective outcomes and intervention strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Untimely decisions that do not reflect context needs</li> <li>• Overlap, duplication and blurred lines between HDPTN</li> <li>• No sustainability and continued dependence on aid</li> <li>• Mandates, funding, and interests not reconciled (incoherent strategy)</li> <li>• Lack of common vision leads to siloed work and the status quo not being challenged.</li> </ul>
Joint Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular multisectoral, joint humanitarian, development, conflict, and political-economy analyses</li> <li>• Decentralized common analysis capacity at the subnational level</li> <li>• Who, where, what and when, mapping for HDPTN</li> <li>• Fund flow monitoring for humanitarian, development and peace resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fragmented problem analysis/response strategies</li> <li>• No local targets, endless planning, no delivery</li> <li>• Duplication and prevents short/long term synergies</li> <li>• Funds do not match needs / political strategy</li> </ul>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A common framework for the International Community and link all plans</li> <li>• Develop Area Based Plans based on government-led community consultations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many plans reduce effectiveness and diversion risk</li> <li>• Exclusive and unrealistic national plans that equate to conflict</li> </ul>
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool fund or Multi-Partner Trust Fund for HDPN synergies, risk-taking, enabling functions and joint analysis.</li> <li>• Use of country systems</li> <li>• National co-funding at all levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding does not meet comprehensive needs</li> <li>• Institutions are weak, unaccountable and illegitimate</li> <li>• Generates a culture of dependency</li> </ul>
M&E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have unified outcome frameworks at the country level across HDPTN</li> <li>• Use context analysis tools to monitor outcomes</li> <li>• Use perception surveys to monitor outcomes</li> <li>• Separate outcome monitoring from program implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans not accountable for ending crisis objectives</li> <li>• Aggregation of output indicators, not reality</li> <li>• Population feedback/aspirations ignored</li> <li>• Attribution more important than ending the crisis</li> </ul>

### 3.8. FRAMEWORK FOR Operation Guide and Implementation Roadmap

This section presents essential ideas identified for the development of the NC- operational guideline (OG) and implementation roadmap (IR) for Ethiopia. It also recommends appropriate proxy indicators for measuring the benefits of nexus approaches and measuring progress that helps for accountability, scorecard measurement of the implementers.

#### Contents Suggested for the Operation Guide of NC-HDPTN

#	Title	Description
1		Introduction to the NC- HDPTN approach
1.1	Background	Include the Ethiopia nutrition, humanitarian, development and peace situations.
1.2	Relevance	Describe the relevance of NC-HDPTN to improve the nutrition outcome of the country.
1.3	Evolution	Evolution of the HDPTN approach. Provide a brief evolution of the emergence of the HDPTN. Include key points about the Global Political Declarations such as the Grand Bargain, the New Way of Working and the OECD/ DAC recommendations
1.4	Conceptualization	Describe the conceptual frameworks, selection criteria, selected framework, its benefit and challenges. The team suggests Howe framework.
		<p>Figure 1: Triple Nexus Conceptual Framework Proposed by Howe (Howe, 2019).</p>
1.5	Theory of Change	Develop/ adapt the theory of change for the NC-HDPTN OG The study suggests adapting the existing change model of food and nutrition strategy to fit the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN. The operational manual development team could look at each of the relevant strategic outcomes from the FNS and propose theoretical ways in which the interventions can be best aligned with medium- to longer-term goals (Sida, L. and Nelis, T, 2022). The aim of developing these TOCs is to help align current programming and develop future programming options, as well as better generate evidence on what works. The TOCs are also intended to bridge the gap in generating evidence to inform future strategic outcomes and help the organization think through realistic contributions to national systems (WFP, 2022).
2	Rationale and scope	Provide rationale and scope for the development of NC-HDPTN. Mention the need for action-oriented guidance to implement the NC-HDPTN.
3	Aim and objectives	Describe the aim and objectives of the OG
4	Target Audience	Mention the target audiences of this OG including the Government sector, donors, UN actors, INGO, CSO etc...
5	Principles	Outline the principles to consider when operationalizing the NC-HDPTN.
6	Processes	Outline the key steps for implementation of the NC-HDPTN

		<p><b>Steps of the Nexus process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the major steps for the NC-HDPTN operationalization</li> <li>• Clearly indicate the prerequisites or conditions before the realization of nexus. This may include, the establishment of an advisory group or task force, awareness creation meetings, training etc....</li> <li>• Develop an illustrative diagram showing the nexus steps, and linkage with the expected strategic result.</li> </ul> <p>Suggested steps by WHO</p> <p>Step 1: Establish nexus coordination mechanisms</p> <p>Step 2: Joint assessment</p> <p>Step 3: Formulating collective outcomes</p> <p>Step 4: Developing and implementing the joint multiyear plan</p> <p>Step 5: Harmonizing resources and financing</p> <p>Step 6: Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Include Guiding questions for monitoring and evaluation of HDPTN implementation (Annex VII)</p>
7	Role and Responsibility	Describe the roles and responsibilities of actors and stakeholders (Annex VIII)
8	Governance	Describe the Governance and institutional arrangement of NC-HDPTN

## Contents Suggested for the Implementation Roadmap of NC-HDPTN

Implementation Roadmap for NC-HDPTN		
S. No	Title	Description
1		Introduction to the NC- HDPTN approach
1.1	Background	Include the Ethiopia's nutrition, humanitarian, development and peace situations.
1.2	Relevance	Describe the relevance of NC-HDPTN to improve the nutrition outcome of the country.
1.3	Theory of Change	Develop/ adapt the theory of change for the NC-HDPTN IR
2	Aim of the roadmap	Describe the aim and objectives of the IR
3	Target Audience	Mention the target audiences of this IR including the Government sector, donors, UN actors, INGO, CSO etc...
4	Principles	Outline the principles to consider when operationalizing the NC-HDPTN.
5	Outcome	Describe the expected outcome of the NC-HDPTN.
6	Phases	Outline the key phases of the implementation roadmap for the NC-HDPTN. Include an illustrative diagram of the road map
6.1	Phase one	Advocate for and create a coordination mechanism
6.2	Phase two	Establish the necessary frameworks, tools and capacity
6.3	Phase three	Pilot test the NC- HDPTN
6.4	Phase four	Scale up the NC- HDPTN
7	Costed plan	Describe the costed plan. Consider prioritization and scenario.
8	Institutional Arrangement	Describe the Governance and institutional arrangement of the IR
9	Monitoring and Evaluation	Describe the monitoring, reporting, KPIs, indicator matrix etc...

## SECTION IV: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Ethiopia has been facing humanitarian, development and peace-related challenges although the country has made encouraging progress in reducing malnutrition over the past two decades.

- The government should bring all actors on board to address the high rate of malnutrition and the humanitarian, development and peace-related challenges. The NC-HDPTN approach could be relevant approach in the Ethiopian context to accelerate efforts undertaken to avert malnutrition and other underlying challenges of the country through integrating interventions in humanitarian, development and peace sectors. Such intervention could have an instrumental role not only in terms of enhancing the nutritional outcome of the country but also could contribute to the long-term development of the nation.

The Ethiopian national policies generally align with the global policy and create a positive enabling environment for the implementation of NC-HDPTN. The government's commitment to integrating humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts is also reflected in its policies and plans. For example, The FNP and various sectoral policies provide the framework for aligning humanitarian and development interventions. Additionally, the government's peacebuilding and conflict resolution strategies could also positive contribution to the realization of NC-HDPTN.

- The Government should harness the potential of the policies by engaging key actors particularly the donors, INGOs, local actors including the community, and the private sector to further strengthen the integration of humanitarian, development and peace interventions. It was also found essential to develop a shared understanding among all stakeholders relevant to nutrition and humanitarian, development and peace actions for the effective operationalization of the nexus.

The multidimensional and multi-sectoral nature of nutrition in terms of both effect and outcomes defines the potential actors engaged in the nutrition efforts in the country. It is important to recognize the decision-influencing power relationship among stakeholders in the humanitarian, development, and peace sectors. In the context of Ethiopia, the most powerful stakeholder categories for implementing the Triple Nexus approach were found to be the Government, Donors, UN Agencies, and the Local Community (Although not agreed by the two groups) in descending order of power. However, the peace sector was positioned as relatively less supportive and less influential compared to the expected level of influence and support.

- The Government sector should engage all actors particularly the donors, UN agencies and the local community in the decision-making process through dialogue, joint assessment and determination of collective outcome, planning and monitoring of NC-HDPTN implementation. Moreover, there should be efforts to bring actors such as CSOs, local government, media, private sectors and networks to a high level of support and influence. Facilitating necessary technical and financial support for the peace sector could also enable the sector to lead the integration of peace into the NC-HDPTN.
- To ensure effective mobilization of funds, it was found important to align donor priorities with the long-term goals of the country. One way to achieve this is by analyzing the compatibility of donor policies with the government's objectives. This analysis could help create a compelling case to attract donors and mobilize resources for the implementation of the NC-HDPTN.
- Supporting academia in generating and disseminating could also have considerable importance in facilitating informed decisions.
- It was also found important to enhance the local community's influence and power to contribute to the Humanitarian, Development and Peace needs in their area.

**For the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia, the following points should be taken into consideration**

**Coordination:** A significant number of research participants emphasized the importance of carefully examining and strengthening existing coordination platforms rather than creating additional ones. This viewpoint highlights the need to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the utilization of existing structures, resources and expertise.

- For the effective coordination of the NC-HDPTN, there needs to be strengthening the existing coordination platforms by cultivating accountability, establishing the food and nutrition council or agency, formulating clear plans and monitoring their implementation, and strengthening the subnational level coordination platforms among others.

**Financing:** In the past ten years, there has been a declining trend of humanitarian funding when compared to the humanitarian and development needs. In 2023, around 20 million people were targeted for humanitarian aid, requiring \$4 billion. Only 30% of the required funding has been received from international donors in seven months, leaving significant unmet needs.

- Engaging in global-level policy discussions to influence donor countries to revise their funding conditions (flexibility, longer time frame, and predictability) was viewed as important.
- Formulation of a financing strategy with a due emphasis on domestic financing initiatives could have the potential for the effective financing and sustainability of NC-HDPTN efforts.
- Moreover, strengthening the local government structures with the freedom to directly manage budgets through crisis modifier/ contingency fund based on the determined local level priorities could be a meaningful approach that reduces the need to wait for a national response or for humanitarian partners to access external funding.
- Selection of champion government, donors, and UN Agencies should work together in resource mobilization efforts to support the realization of the NC-HDPTN. There should be continuous dialogue to gain buy-in to the agenda and adequate support for the operationalization of the NC-HDPTN. There should also be a strong information system to monitor fund flow for humanitarian, development and peace resources.

**Joint Assessment:** For a better understanding of the local context, all HDP actors should conduct a joint assessment which should also include conflict situations (Peace Pillar) of the area. The assessment would enable defining the collective outcome that guides the priority actions of all the actors bridging between short-term assistance, and development efforts.

- To ensure the successful implementation of the NC-HDPTN, a joint assessment involving different stakeholders representing the HDP Pillars, including government, humanitarian organizations, and local actors, should be conducted. The findings of this assessment could inform the development of a collective outcome and a unified long-term plan

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** As a new approach, the operationalization of NC-HDPTN requires a shift that promotes coordination, coherence and complementarity among HDP actors. Therefore, a Tailored M&E framework that could absorb the diversified needs of the actors could have paramount importance.

- Flexible and context-specific M&E frameworks that could address complexity, monitor context and monitor progress not only to the nexus efforts but to the change brought to the vulnerable community should be in place for the effective implementation of the NC-HDPTN in Ethiopia



Moreover, the study highlighted common misconceptions across the concept of Triple Nexus that could pose a challenge to the operationalization of NC-HDPTN. The misconceptions include all actors/programs must fully engage all pillars at all times, The peace pillar equates to peace-building, all pillars are equally important, addressing root causes will come at the expense of meeting immediate needs, and in the HDPTN, humanitarians need to become experts in development and vice versa.

- The Government Sector and Partners should develop an advocacy and awareness creation program to dispel misconceptions and provide accurate information for local actors engaged in the implementation of NC-HDPTN and for the community at large. Moreover, given the NC-HDPTN is a new working approach that needs a paradigm shift, there should be continued capacity-building training, experience sharing and promotion of continuous learning and knowledge management
- Finally, disseminating the scientific evidence generated in each journey of the NC-HDPTN to the global and national scientific communities, developmental partners, funding bodies, and the national and regional government could be essential. With this, engaging research organizations and Universities could be important. MoH/ ACF should also disseminate the findings of the present study using all available mechanisms such as publication in reputable scientific journals, sharing through policy briefs and blogs, and availing the findings in the already existing organizational websites.

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## ANNEXES

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Power Mapping Exercise with Government Participants 29 Sep 2023



Power Mapping Exercise with Non-Government Participants 29 Sep 202



