

BACKGROUND

Various processes are underway to identify priorities for the global development agenda beyond 2015. Two of the major sources of early thinking – the outcomes of Rio+20 and the recommendations of the first report from the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT) – point to a need for a single consolidated agenda that addresses both sustainable development and poverty eradication. Nationally-led plans to build peace and security as enabling conditions for development also feature in the current dialogue, as does a renewed framework for building resilience to crises. Tackling fragility, poverty and vulnerability to conflict and disaster, including by enhancing the resilience of communities and livelihoods, are not only development priorities. They are also central to the humanitarian agenda.

ADVOCACY AREAS FOR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Unequal progress against the MDGs, chronic fragility and vulnerability and recurrent and protracted emergencies highlight the need to dedicate resources in a more focused way to countries vulnerable to humanitarian crises. Global challenges, such as environmental degradation, food and water insecurity, rapid population growth, unplanned urbanisation, conflict and forced population displacement are also risks of increasing importance in the poorest countries and their neighbours. The impacts are interlinked: protracted humanitarian crises act as a barrier to sustainable development by undermining long-term recovery and resilience, and conversely, a lack of development can trigger a relapse and magnify the impact of crises on vulnerable people. Humanitarian assistance can be an investment in development – especially if it is positioned with medium and long-term goals in mind.

The post-2015 development agenda presents a unique opportunity for the humanitarian community to advocate for sufficient priority and allocation of predictable, long-term resources to development programming that can reduce the risk of humanitarian crises and support sustainable recovery in post-crisis and transition settings. Possible areas for common advocacy are:

- *A stronger focus on resilience and linkages between crisis preparedness/response/recovery, risk reduction and development* – Building resilience to crises is a long-term, development-oriented process, which requires the sustained commitment of all relevant actors to address humanitarian needs while building the foundations for longer-term development. Strengthening resilience requires joint planning and resource mobilisation that links short, medium and long term interventions. Development assistance needs to play a greater role in crisis prevention, preparedness and recovery, including adequate financing and flexibility to react to deteriorating situations. Comprehensive strategies are required to assist people affected by crisis – including those who have been displaced or lost their livelihood. Effective national and local systems must be in place and have sufficient capacity to enable affected people to cover their basic needs in the aftermath of crisis and ensure that recovery efforts put them on a path towards long-term development.
- *Development strategies that are inclusive and benefit the most vulnerable people in the poorest and crisis-affected countries* – Extreme poverty, conflict, forced population displacement, disaster and fragility have continued to jeopardise prospects for sustainable development, such that fragile Low-income Countries have met very few of the MDGs. The proportion of global poor living in fragile states is expected to increase from 20% in 2005 to 50% in 2014. People living in countries affected by protracted and recurrent humanitarian crises have been left behind by the current agenda. Development policy post-2015 must address the needs of people who are vulnerable to crisis in a more targeted way, by taking a country-led approach to tackling development setbacks rooted in conflict, violence and insecurity. Development assistance must incorporate mechanisms to ensure that organizations are held accountable to affected people, and that assistance is responsive to their needs. It must prioritize peace and security to create an enabling context for development.

- *The eradication of food and nutrition insecurity* – Persistent inequalities in access to scarce resources make food, nutrition and water security, as well as supporting sustainable livelihoods, priority issues in the post-2015 agenda. A large number of countries suffer from chronic food and nutrition insecurity, with associated severe impacts on health and development. The proportion of undernourished people is about three times higher in countries with protracted crises than in other developing countries. Investing in nutrition is investing in development – it creates healthier, smarter and more productive people. Improvements in agricultural productivity must be complemented by needs-based social safety nets – such as school feeding, mother-child nutrition, food- or cash-for-work, and programmes for asset creation, microcredit and insurance – which can improve resilience.
- *Sustainable development goals that reflect the aspirations and rights of the most vulnerable people* – recognizing in particular that in countries experiencing multiple, protracted crises, with high levels of violence and stalled development, policies need to be tailored to ensure protection from rights violations and a basic standard of living for the poorest and most marginalized. Overcoming obstacles to development in these situations requires tackling extreme vulnerability and protecting those affected by violence, conflict and natural disasters – including the displaced. It requires addressing drivers of poverty, conflict and inequality by making disaster and conflict-affected people actors in a country's development programmes rather than leaving them behind. A multi-dimensional approach to sustainability (political, social, economic, and environmental) will encourage accountability to affected populations, urban or rural, and help them build livelihoods more resilient to disaster and conflict.

KEY MESSAGES

1. **Ensure that tackling conflict, disaster, climate and other risks and enhancing community resilience is central to the development agenda.** Progress against the MDGs has been unequal. Chronic vulnerability, fragility and poverty continue to jeopardize prospects for sustainable development. Beyond 2015, development strategies must be more focused on reducing the risk of humanitarian crisis and their impact when they occur, including through better preparedness and capacity building. This includes support for sustainable recovery in post-crisis and transition settings. Humanitarian assistance can be an investment in development.
2. **Prioritize inclusive development strategies designed to benefit the most vulnerable people in the poorest countries, and especially those affected by fragility and protracted crisis.** People living in countries with protracted and recurrent crises have been left behind in the MDG process. Development policy post-2015 must address their needs in a more targeted way. It must enable them to hold service providers accountable, and prioritize peace and security as interdependent with humanitarian and development investments for sustainable recovery.
3. **Integrate humanitarian and development assistance to strengthen linkages between crisis preparedness/response/recovery, risk reduction and development.** Development assistance should be more central in crisis prevention, preparedness and recovery. It should be flexible enough to react to deteriorating situations. Comprehensive strategies should enable people to meet basic needs in the aftermath of a crisis and ensure that recovery efforts contribute to long-term sustainable development. This is especially important in situations of displacement or loss of livelihood.
4. **Invest in eradication of food and nutrition insecurity.** Persistent inequalities in access to scarce resources make food, water and nutrition security priority issues in the post-2015 agenda. Resources dedicated to food security, including agricultural productivity, must be complemented by expanded social safety nets, which can improve resilience. Investing in nutrition is investing in development – it creates healthier, smarter and more productive communities.
5. **Adopt sustainable development goals that reflect the aspirations and rights of the most vulnerable people.** Policies must address drivers of poverty, conflict and inequality by making disaster and conflict-affected people actors in a country's development programmes, rather than leaving them behind. A multi-dimensional approach to sustainability will encourage accountability to affected populations and help them to build livelihoods more resilient to disaster and conflict.