



# MQSUN+



## Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

### Background

ENN is carrying out a series of detailed country studies on current and future opportunities to strengthen nutrition resilience through greater alignment of the humanitarian and development nexus (HDN) by looking at supporting policies, frameworks, financing arrangements and programmes. This study is being carried out with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through the MQSUN+ project and will be conducted throughout 2019. This overview provides information about the approach taken.

Over eighty percent of reported international humanitarian aid is for people who live in long- and medium-term crisis-affected countries. Short-term aid by design, is to provide lifesaving responses and can, at times, compete with longer-term development objectives. Longer-term assistance can also be limited in crisis affected countries and, an inevitable consequence of this is that the resources provided to meet the needs of the crisis affected, are not well suited to build people's nutrition resilience in the face of droughts, floods, escalation of conflicts, etc. This situation is not helped by a poorly evidenced understanding of the type of programmes that are most likely to strengthen nutrition resilience through the prevention of vulnerable population groups becoming malnourished.

Many organisations and institutions reflected these concerns in the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and the resulting Grand Bargain<sup>1</sup> initiatives which set targets for closer integration of humanitarian and development objectives and outcomes.

### What we will do

With the support of Irish Aid and DFID funding, ENN completed two in-depth country studies in [Kenya](#) and [Somalia](#) in 2018. In 2019, ENN will carry out two more studies in countries affected by protracted crises and is currently selecting a couple of the following options: Afghanistan, Syria, Philippines, Ukraine, Nigeria, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan to explore where progress is being made in aligning objectives and outcomes in these countries and specifically, examining what this means for nutrition actions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861>

Each country-based study will have a set of **country-specific findings** which will in turn inform the overall cross-cutting lessons learnt and recommendations to be summarised in a **synthesis report**. A webinar presentation will be hosted to present the conclusions and recommendations of the synthesis report toward the end of 2019.

## The Approach

ENN will undertake the following seven activities;

**Form an Advisory Group (AG)** of experts and representatives of different organisations to steer the country studies and the synthesis of findings.

**Review key documentation** prior to the country studies, to better understand global developments, financing trends and a sub-set of country policies, frameworks and financing arrangements as well as nutrition data trends.

**Interview stakeholders** such as, representatives of donors, agencies, governments and individual experts, to obtain their perceptions of the progress and obstacles to build nutrition resilience.

**Produce a short summary** of the documents review and stakeholder interviews to inform the approach to the country studies.

**Develop country case studies** (selected based on pre-determined criteria), which will involve two ENN staff working closely over a period of 10 days with national authorities and humanitarian and development partners to understand their policies/frameworks, institutional architecture and financing and how this translates into programme design and implementation for improved nutrition.

**Write up Country case study reports** which will be reviewed by the AG before finalisation and subsequently be made available on the [ENN website](#).

**Produce a synthesis report** together with the AG, to showcase examples of where achievements are being made, the obstacles to achieving greater nutrition resilience in protracted crisis contexts and recommendations for the ways forward. The findings will be presented in late 2019 and early 2020 at various conferences and meetings.

## How to be involved

For more information about this work, please contact [jeremy@enonline.net](mailto:jeremy@enonline.net) and [carmel@enonline.net](mailto:carmel@enonline.net). For periodic progress updates HDN (and other related ENN activities), please visit our [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#) account.

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