

Centre for HDP Nexus Solutions (C4NS)

Anchored Locally. Co-creating Solutions. Accelerating Impact.



The purpose of the nexus approach is “...to reduce overall vulnerability and the number of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities and address root causes of conflict.” (OECD DAC, 2019)

Why now, why C4NS?



In an era of escalating fragility and restless crises, the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus is a necessity. Yet, implementation remains fragmented, policy-heavy, and often disconnected from field realities. The Centre for HDP Nexus Solutions (C4NS) was founded to bridge this gap.

We are a lean, agile platform dedicated to translating Nexus principles into practice. By co-creating tools, sharing knowledge, and catalysing innovation, we help local and global actors deliver coherent, community-driven outcomes in complex contexts.

Vision

A world where humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and peacebuilding are seamlessly integrated, empowering communities to thrive in stability, resilience, and dignity.



Mission

Our mission is to advocate for and create localised nexus solutions for lasting impact where humanitarian action, development, and peace come together. We build on local strategies to bring actors across sectors together, foster shared responsibility, and promote holistic approaches that reduce risks and strengthen resilience. In this way, we help shape inclusive, sustainable development pathways and lay the foundations for durable peace for communities in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.

Our strategic pillars

C4NS operates through three interdependent strategic pillars:



OPERATIONALISING THE NEXUS

We offer tailored, on-the-ground support that helps organisations turn HDP Nexus principles into action. Our work includes:

- Tailored training, coaching and mentoring
- On-demand help desk and advisory
- Integrated support and toolkits for planning and delivery

Example success metric:

Number of organisations adopting or localising C4NS tools.

KNOWLEDGE HUB

We curate and share actionable knowledge, connecting local, national, regional and global actors. Our services include:

- Open-access Nexus knowledge platform
- Peer learning exchanges and practitioner workshops
- Annual Nexus Forum and Insights Report

Example success metric:

No. of queries resolved through the help desk; training satisfaction scores.

APPLIED RESEARCH

We integrate collaborative research, and policy briefs through:

- HDP Nexus fellowships for field-based research
- Practical recommendations for stakeholders
- Real-time learning loops between operations and policy

Example success metric:

Number of funded fellowships; citations in policy documents.

Our stakeholders

We work with and for:



- National and local actors in fragile and conflict-affected contexts
- International and national non-profits implementing integrated responses
- UN and donor agencies seeking coherence and impact
- Academic partners and research institutions committed to field-grounded evidence

Our operating model

We are currently piloting two complementary funding models: to balance sustainability with innovation and impact:

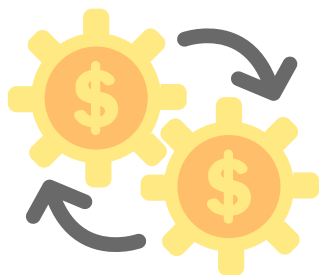
Model A: Self-financed services

Funded via grants, project-based income, and monetisation of training, coaching, and help desk offerings. This model supports sustainability and local ownership.

Model B: External funding for fieldwork and innovation


Driven by philanthropic and institutional donors to fund:

- HDP Nexus Fellowships (5 annually, to start)
- Applied research projects
- Knowledge translation and dissemination initiatives




The Team



Marco Kirschbaum
Co-Director 

Director, NGO Management Association. Previously: HDP Nexus Advisor to the UN country team in South Sudan (2021–23); Country Director Handicap International; Head of Protection Middle East, then Asia, at ICRC. Based in Switzerland.



Pamela F. Husain
Co-Director 

Co-Founder PHAP; Humanitarian/development specialist with UN and INGOs. Previously: Senior Nexus Advisor & Strategic Planner, UNFPA Afghanistan (2024); Regional Advisor MENA & Africa, Deputy Country Representative UN Women Afghanistan. Based in India.




David Lefor
Co-Director Research 

Doctoral Researcher on HDP Nexus specialised in research, M&E, and strategy; Consultant UNICEF Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Previously: Consultant UNICEF Vietnam, Tajikistan; Director of Programmes at Includovate. Based in Thailand.


The Board



Massimo Alone
Co-Chair of the Board 


CEO and founder, APMC - Africa Partnership and Management Consulting; Doctoral Researcher on HDP Nexus. Previously: Humanitarian Programme Coordinator, Oxfam; Country Director, People in Need. Based in Rwanda.



Ennie Chipembere
Co-Chair of the Board 


Director and Coach at ECLC - Empowering Coaching Learning Careers. Previously: Director for Locally-Led Development at Humentum; Country Director, Head of Programme Learning & MEAL at ActionAid. Based in South Africa.



Jonathan Wood
Board Member 

Deputy Head of Donor Relations at Geneva Call. Previously: Senior Programme Adviser, UNAIDS; Chief Operating Officer, GCERF; Director, Advisory Services, NGO Management Association, Programme Coordinator, Ashoka. Based in Switzerland.



Valeria Fruzzetti
Board Member 

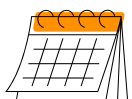
Director Finance & IT at Save the Children. Previously: Head of Global Accounting, Global Grant Finance at Plan International; Country Administrator Oxfam and Action against Hunger; Senior Program Finance Advisor, War Child UK. Based in Italy.

What's next - Let's build it together

The Centre is a new initiative grounded in decades of field experience, co-creating practical, scalable solutions with actors across sectors and regions.

We're currently:

- Collaborating with partners to deliver trainings and peer learning exchanges
- Co-designing and operating a Help Desk with deployable field expertise
- Partnering with local organisations to launch pilot projects in fragile settings
- Publishing our first toolkit and Insight Reports shaped by field realities
- Convening the Nexus Dialogue Series to spark collective reflection and action



Schedule a call via Calendly

OR



connect@hdpnexus.org



How we can support and learn from each other.