



Peace as a Foundation for the Triple Nexus – A Global Policy Perspective

Intervention by Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Regional Representative – GPPAC Pacific & Shifting the Power Coalition, Programme – Manager Pacific Women's Mediators Network during the launch of UN Women's "Regional Framework Towards Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Asia and the Pacific" on 4 April 2023.

Our Pacific experience can assist the international community in understanding the Triple Nexus: women-first responders, faith communities and local peacebuilders are together connecting all parts of the Triple Nexus for the purpose of sustainable peace and development – from addressing geo-political challenges and attending to COVID-19 response during disasters and the climate crisis.

We know this is not possible via *separate and incoherent projects* that don't integrate peacebuilding: One lesson learned at the GPPAC global network of local peacebuilders is **that when one does not integrate conflict analysis in humanitarian and development work - and fails to integrate local partners in the development of interventions - we are all at risk of leaving people living in affected areas behind.**

The Triple Nexus is an operational framework that entails *complementarity and coherence* between emergency relief, development, and peacebuilding, as well as *coordination between actors*.

Pacific civil society has proven effective coordination mechanisms to bring together various experts across different pillars of work: These include the Shifting the Power Coalition working on WPS and humanitarian response, GPPAC Network bringing together peacebuilders in the region, the Pacific Council of Churches delivering diverse support to communities, and the establishment of the Pacific Women's Mediators Network aimed at bringing diverse experiences across various government and intergovernmental structures.

- *Why is it that the international community still struggles with adapting the Triple Nexus and working together?*

This may be a question of methodologies and practices or a question to the donors regarding effective donor coordination.

- *What can be done to ensure that peace is a foundation for the HDP Nexus, and why is that important?*

The ongoing mistake that we notice in the Pacific is the lack of proper integration of a peacebuilding perspective and conflict analysis in DRR and climate security action, as a few examples:

- Integrating a conflict-sensitive approach and supporting peace dividends in humanitarian and development assistance will lay the foundations for recovery and peacebuilding and help avoid inadvertently undermining peace work that is done by local peacebuilding partners.
- Conflict analysis across the Nexus can ensure long-term good by positively impacting existing or potential conflict dynamics.
- This requires sequencing and layering HDP interventions in all contexts.

In the Pacific, we know that such an action is possible: *As a signatory of the Generation Equality WPS-Humanitarian Action Compact, we are investing in inclusive, sustainable approaches and equitable partnerships to increase the influence, visibility, and resource base of local women leaders - including young women – in humanitarian, political and peace processes and decision-making including with the use of appropriate and accessible information and communication technology.*

We also **caution against the projectization of any interventions.**

- The HDP Nexus is a framework that goes beyond a single program and must support and build on existing mechanisms and structures, including national and political agendas, to **ensure the continuity of local action.**
- That is one of the aims of the Pacific Women’s Mediators Network – building upon 30 years of collective work – **enabling cross-nexus expertise with financial support to enhance women-led local and national civil society action.**

What are the risks if we continue treating the P as an afterthought?

- We welcome the conflict-sensitivity guidance by UNDP and recommend that **conflict and gender analysis is better integrated into all operational, strategic planning** rather than a team-dependent consideration.
- Humanitarian and development actors can also hire **staff with background and expertise in peacebuilding** to ensure the integration of such analysis across the Nexus to prevent the siloing of expertise within operations and hiring practices to be consistent with the Nexus.
- **Information and data-sharing** protocols with HDP actors, including civil society, can ensure assessments are more comprehensive and inclusive.
- **Mechanisms for integrating the commitments across the Nexus** are available in the Pacific and can serve as good practice: The integration of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS), the Boe Declaration, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) in the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy is a pathway to demonstrate how the Triple Nexus can progress commitments to an inclusive, peaceful and resilient Pacific. It is critical that regional strategies are supported by practical and well-resourced national and local strategies.
- **Neither donors nor implementing partners should cut or freeze peacebuilding interventions in the context of crises and disasters.** Sustaining peaceful societies requires prevention, response or reinforcing peace with a focus on local-level drivers and structural causes of conflict over the longer term.
- **Programming must also be flexible, responsive and agile** in order to adapt to an evolving context. In the Pacific, we can prepare for the cyclone season, but

COVID-19 opened us to the challenge of ensuring inclusive humanitarian action. That is why the Shifting the Power Coalition ensured the availability of resources for partners to work with greater flexibility to respond to the multiple impacts of the climate crisis and COVID.

How can we ensure realistic, risk-tolerant and appropriate financing for joint action (investing in peace to reduce humanitarian needs)?

When it comes to financing the NDP Nexus, I have already mentioned the need for flexibility.

In GPPAC-led conversations with donors around financing for peacebuilding debate, and welcome efforts by Sweden and Australia to offer such flexible support, despite the clear demarcation of humanitarian and development assistance.

However, integrating peace into the HDP Nexus requires action by the donors to **change their leadership, policy and strategy to programming, organisational structures, and staffing.**

In the spirit of GPPAC's participatory grantmaking model - **donors should engage peacebuilders and support them in designing such processes and mechanisms;** they can also **encourage their partners to work on the nexus**, bringing visibility to current work on the Nexus and sharing findings with others in a spirit of joint learning.

Finally, **supporting networks and coalitions working across the Triple Nexus** can facilitate global learning by co-creating empowering and equitable spaces for the exchange of expertise – for more impactful and informed action, sharing resources and access points and enabling and supporting communities of peacebuilding practice.

It is time to move the HDP Nexus more strategically into practice, with the New Agenda for Peace process and the upcoming 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review.

Let's work more coherently and less in silos.

Vinaka.