

TOOLBOX

Female Genital Mutilation and the Humanitarian Development Nexus

Practical Ways to Support Programme-Level Implementation of the Nexus Approach

July 2022



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What is Reflective Practice Exercise?

- **A systematic learning process** that encourages individuals and teams to look back at their interventions and critically review different aspects.
 - Can **help to improve programme** quality, and effectiveness and support staff capacity development.
 - Can **occur on an ongoing or periodic basis** but is most effective when built into the programme cycle or identified as a regular part of the implementation.
 - **Needs planning** and should be given time, managed systematically and documented.
- For example, in the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme, reflective practice sessions can be built into learning and monitoring approaches at the country, regional and global levels.



Reflective Practice: Methods

- **A literature review** focused on the rollout of the nexus approach, adapting interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other relevant learning.
 - **Deep-dive workshops** with 20 UNICEF staff and partners in Somalia and Uganda.
 - An **online survey** was administered to four UNICEF country offices and their partners including Burkina Faso, Egypt, Somalia and Uganda.
 - **Key informant interviews** were conducted with child protection specialists at headquarters and in regional and country offices.
- A review of and participation in different **webinars and online conferences**.
 - The **development and or adaptation of tools** to support the implementation of the nexus approach



Reflective Practice: Results

- Participants see the nexus approach as an **opportunity for strengthening interventions** with space for additional capacity-building.
- Participants feel **programmes would not package or document their programme** within the conceptual framework of the nexus approach.
- Strategies to address FGM **needs a blended and balanced approach** targeting different aspects of child protection and other related systems.
- **Interventions depended on service providers** being present in communities, and this was disrupted throughout the pandemic.



Actions to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms

- Acknowledge that communities are active actors in their own protection with capacities and resources
 - Engage community members perceived to be respected and influential within their communities
 - Work with rather than for communities in addressing protection gaps in humanitarian crises
 - Recognize community mechanisms as a critical component in strengthening national child protection systems
- Recognize community mechanisms as a critical component in strengthening national child protection systems



Toolbox:

practical ways to support programme-level reflective practice



TOOL 1:

Making sense of change – a sample tool

TOOL 2:

FGM/nexus programme reflection workshop

TOOL 3:

FGM elimination and nexus tracking tool

TOOL 4:




Sample orientation plan on FGM interventions within the nexus approach

TOOL 1: Making sense of change – a sample tool

Aim: To unpack an adaptation or change process while also identifying the potential gains and benefits (outcomes) of situating FGM interventions within the nexus approach.

This exercise is to help a team to think through the changes associated with linking FGM interventions to the nexus approach.

The purpose is to consider the implications of changing working practices and how this will lead to gains and benefits.

WHAT WILL WE KEEP BY LINKING FGM TO THE NEXUS?  KEEP	WHAT WILL WE LOSE WHEN THE CHANGE IS IMPLEMENTED?  LOSE	WHAT WILL WE GAIN BECAUSE OF SITUATING FGM INTERVENTIONS WITHIN THE NEXUS?  GAIN	WHAT WILL BE THE BENEFITS OF THE CHANGE TO US?  BENEFITS
<i>Consider the relationships/roles/work habits/methods/systems/processes/mode of thinking/behaviours, etc. that we had before trying to link FGM and the nexus approach and that are still relevant, or that we can keep as we adapt programmes to eliminate FGM.</i>	<i>Consider the relationships/roles/work habits/methods/systems/processes/mode of thinking/behaviours, etc. that no longer fit with the idea of situating FGM interventions within the nexus approach. These we will need to lose!</i>	<i>Identify all the relationships/roles/habits/methods/processes/behaviours/ways of thinking and acting, etc. that were not there before but are in place (or will be). What do we have to gain from linking FGM interventions to the nexus approach?</i>	<i>Think about the benefits of changing how FGM interventions are designed, planned, implemented, etc. Identifying benefits can build commitment to trying new things or adapting and highlighting ways to improve impact.</i>

TOOL 2: FGM/nexus programme reflection workshop

Aim: This exercise supports team/programme reflection on actions to eliminate FGM within the nexus approach. UNICEF teams can use it to promote learning and identify how they put the nexus into practice.

Partners and stakeholders can also join a reflection session as relevant. The exercise is divided into **four parts** and can be completed in stages.

Still, it may be best to conduct it in a workshop setting over about two hours (the number of participants will impact the time needed).

Part 1: What?

Part 2: So what?

Part 3: Challenge analysis

Part 4: Now what?

TOOL 3: FGM elimination and nexus tracking tool

Aim: Matrix 2 is a tool to take stock of how programmes reflect the main provisions of [The Humanitarian-Development Nexus: The Future of Protection in the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation](#).

By going through the matrix, a team can generate an overview of how programmes to eliminate FGM integrate different elements of the principles for ensuring that interventions are taking place within the framework of the nexus approach.

Completing the matrix will help a team to identify areas for attention as they develop work plans.

MATRIX 2

MACRO QUESTIONS	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS	NO PROGRESS	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	GOOD PROGRESS
HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS CONCEPTS AND APPROACHES				
How is the nexus approach understood within UNICEF?	Different sections within UNICEF have a similar understanding of the nexus approach and how to apply it in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partners understand the concepts associated with the nexus approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The rationale for adopting the nexus approach is straightforward and makes sense to UNICEF staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What was done to build internal capacity to understand and apply the nexus approach?	Staff have been provided with capacity-building or skills development to work through the nexus approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff have access to standard operating procedures or other tools linking female genital mutilation (FGM) and the nexus in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Country office staff can provide mentoring or technical support to apply the nexus in practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How are the outcomes associated with the nexus approach understood within UNICEF?	Reflection and lessons about working on FGM through the nexus are taking place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lessons learned are well documented and shared with stakeholders and across the Joint Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lessons learned are impacting changes at the implementation level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS AND LOCALIZING HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING				
How are child protection systems responding to emergencies (compounded by COVID-19)?	FGM interventions to integrate child and social protection systems work within the nexus approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local government and community-based actors are supported to deliver services relating to FGM (both prevention and response)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOOL 4: Sample orientation plan on interventions within the nexus approach

Aim: This plan is a sample for situating FGM within the humanitarian-development nexus through an orientation/capacity-building programme.

It can be used internally within UNICEF or as a joint exercise with key stakeholders and partners.

The plan can and should undergo adaptation as needed in a specific context.

TABLE 6: SAMPLE ORIENTATION SESSIONS

SESSION	CONTENT	PURPOSE
Session 1: Concepts and principles of the nexus approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying the nexus approach The rationale for the nexus approach Linking the nexus to the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) Programme and operational strategies for FGM within the nexus approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase understanding of the nexus approach, underlying concepts and how these connect to FGM elimination
Session 2: Eliminating FGM: Taking stock of current practice across the nexus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions used by country programme strategies to eliminate FGM Challenges implementing programmes during COVID-19 Reflect on the link between FGM and protection (gender-based violence) minimum services and messages for communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share ideas and practical examples on the different interventions found in strategies to eliminate FGM and to share reflections and learning generated through the COVID-10 pandemic
Session 3: What can we learn about working with community protection and surveillance mechanisms because of COVID-19?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of community-based mechanisms in eliminating FGM What makes community-based mechanisms effective in addressing FGM and other protection concerns? Characteristics of effective community mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build capacity and knowledge on getting the most out of community-based child protection mechanisms and interventions to eliminate FGM
Session 4: Looking to the future: leveraging the nexus – some ideas for FGM programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying lessons from the formative review of the nexus to the Joint Programme Planning and adapting existing approaches to eliminate FGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To link FGM and nexus interventions to findings and to learn about implementation within UNICEF
Session 5: Using reflective practices to enhance programme approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using reflective practice exercises to promote programme adaptation and ongoing learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build capacity for teams to reflect critically on interventions to address FGM, promote active learning, documentation, and sharing

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