



VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) is a network representing 86 European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid and disaster risk reduction and it promotes the values of humanitarian NGOs.

Consultancy

NGO perspectives on the EU humanitarian-development nexus approach

Terms of Reference

About VOICE: Founded in 1992, VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) is a network representing 86 European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in humanitarian aid worldwide. VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid and disaster risk reduction and it promotes the values of humanitarian NGOs.

Background:

Driven in large part by the extent of protracted crises and conflict generated humanitarian needs and displacement, 2016-2018 marked a series of conceptual shifts regarding linking relief, rehabilitation and development, at global and European levels.

- At global level, the World Humanitarian Summit's emphasis on prevention of crises and the SDG's vision to leave no one behind, lead to the United Nations' institutional commitment to a New Way of Working and the commitment to work in a 'triple nexus approach', on prevention of crises and peacebuilding, development and humanitarian assistance.
- At European level, the EU committed to a broadened approach to state and societal resilience, implemented through a humanitarian-development nexus¹, and recently political discussions confirmed a move towards a triple nexus with peace, which is more coherent with the EU's recently adopted Integrated Approach. Currently nexus pilots between the EU institutions and member states are taking place in six countries: Iraq, Sudan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda and Chad, with a broader roll-out expected.
- In addition the scale of global displacement and crisis in dealing with migration has contributed to a new EU approach to Protracted Displacement and Development; the Lives in Dignity Communication. This environment also leads to the creation of new funding approaches at EU level (such as the EU Trust Funds) and new initiatives globally such as the CRRF.

VOICE engagement on the issue is long-standing thanks to the interest and expertise of members working in both development and humanitarian assistance.² The European Consensus for Humanitarian Aid (2007) is the main policy document on EU humanitarian aid. In its fifth chapter on Aid continuum, the importance of linking humanitarian, development and any other relevant aid instruments is emphasized, especially "in situations of fragility and where communities are seeking to recover from the effects of crisis".

Currently, VOICE has a DRR-Resilience Working Group, involving 17 active VOICE members which includes advocacy on implementation of the nexus as part of its work plan.

Purpose of the consultancy

VOICE is seeking a consultant to study the challenges and opportunities of working in a nexus approach from the humanitarian NGO perspective, and to support NGOs in one country to engage with the EU on the nexus approach.

- Document the challenges and opportunities of working in a nexus approach from NGOs' perspective in different contexts

¹ [Lives in Dignity Communication](#) (2016), [Operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus](#) (Council conclusions 2017), [Joint Communication – a strategic approach to state and societal resilience](#) (2017), [Council conclusions on a strategic approach to resilience](#) (2017)

² A selection of [VOICE position papers](#) on LRRD, DRR and resilience



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- Demonstrate NGOs' added-value in the design and implementation of the EU nexus pilots
- Identify factors that create an enabling environment for NGOs working in the nexus
- Provide the network with evidence & recommendations to use for advocacy and visibility purposes

This consultancy will provide the VOICE membership with the opportunity to document the opportunities and challenges of nexus approaches from a humanitarian NGO perspective. It will demonstrate NGOs' experience and added-value in the design and implementation of nexus pilots and by providing them with the opportunity directly to engage with the EU on the nexus in one of the 6 pilot countries, it will also provide a model for engagement that could be replicated elsewhere. It is expected that by showcasing members' existing experiences of the challenges and opportunities, and by bringing NGOs together to formulate priorities and experience in one country, VOICE members will be better equipped to engage with the EU at field and headquarter level to influence EU development of the nexus approach.

Based on the [VOICE General Assembly Policy resolution on the nexus](#) the consultant should bear in mind the following relevant questions for the VOICE network:

- The need for an evidence base from NGOs' own work that demonstrates the advantages of working in a nexus approach, particularly with regard to retaining a people-centred approach and implementing community resilience.
- The need for examples of good practices and challenges (especially with regard to EU donors' practices and funding streams) in relation to good programming of a nexus approach.
- The question of whether there are limits and potentials to a nexus approach for humanitarian NGOs, especially in the case of a triple nexus approach, e.g. if it contradicts the humanitarian principles.
- How the nexus approach can reinforce the role of local organisations in humanitarian assistance.

Outputs

1. A consultancy report (maximum 30 pages) on the basis of desk review, case studies and workshops
2. An NGO workshop and an NGO-EU exchange in one of the six EU pilot countries

Methodology

1. Desk review:
 - Mapping context of Nexus and NWOW.
 - Prepare a field visit to one country, identifying VOICE members (and partners)/NGO programmes that are relevant to the humanitarian development nexus approach and selecting NGOs to involve in the process in that country.
2. Preparation, delivery and facilitation of 2 one-day meetings in a pilot country: an NGO workshop and an NGO-EU exchange (logistical and content)
 - 1-day workshop in country, together with the NGO forum and the NGOs whose programmes have been identified as relevant. The workshop will develop NGOs recommendations for implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus on the basis of:
 - i. Good practices from NGOs own programmes
 - ii. Identified priorities (thematic and geographic)
 - iii. Challenges with current EU and MS funding streams
 - a follow-up exchange in-country with the EU delegation, ECHO staff and where relevant, EU MS donors.
 - Document the workshop so as to be shared at headquarters level as VOICE input to the nexus process, document the exchange, and the workshop methodology.



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3. Documentation of case studies from NGOs' programmes, with support from the VOICE DRR-Resilience working group, documenting challenges and opportunities for a nexus approach, as well as enabling factors for humanitarian NGOs. These case studies should cover a variety of relevant sectors, countries and contexts (e.g. natural disaster, conflict).
4. Draft a report showcasing NGOs experiences, highlighting challenges and opportunities, and drawing recommendations or conclusions of relevance to the network.

Expected timeline:

- Inception phase: meeting with VOICE Secretariat early November
- Desk review and preparation field visit/workshop: by end of November
- Field visit/workshop: early December
- Report by end the year

Costs

Compensation will be competitive and in accordance with the experience of the consultant. It is expected to cover approximately 15 consultancy days and communications and travel costs incurred following VOICE policy.

Management and Reporting

The work of the consultant will be supervised by the VOICE senior advocacy officer. Regular exchange/progress reports via phone or skype will be scheduled. The consultant will submit her/his report one week from the date of the completion of the consultancy which is expected by the end of the year.

The consultant's report will be reviewed by VOICE. VOICE will conduct the final editorial review of the report and the consultant will then complete the final report.

The consultant will brief VOICE following completion of his/her work.

Consultant requirements:

- Strong analytical and research experience, demonstrated by relevant previous analysis
- Proven experience in workshop design and facilitation;
- Experience in the humanitarian/development sector preferably with NGOs
- Experience in advocacy is an asset; knowledge of the EU is an added value
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work quickly and deliver products in line with agreed timeframes, ensuring strong communication with VOICE team
- Excellent English writing skills, French spoken skills an asset

Application process

Please send CV, motivation letter and brief proposal (no longer than 3 pages) outlining the process for conducting this work, the methodology, timeframe, budget and overall rate associated.

These documents should be submitted to celia@ngovoice.org by **26 October, cob**. Interviews with successful candidates will be scheduled the following week.