

MEAL Tool Development under the Nexus Approach


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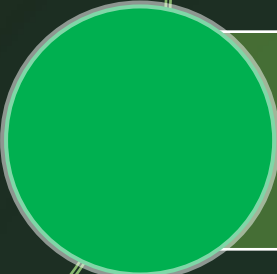
These tools were developed by ADO MEAL Management in collaboration with Nexus Initiative Partners.

MEAL Tool Development under the Nexus Approach

Objective of This Presentation:



Demonstrate how the Nexus Approach guides the development of the Logical Framework (Logframe).



Explain key MEAL tools aligned with the Nexus Approach.

Introduction to Logframe, MEAL, and the Nexus Approach

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Logical Framework (Logframe) Definition:

- A planning tool used to structure a project's objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities, indicators, and assumptions in a clear, logical order.

MEAL Definition:

- Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) ensures effective project implementation through systematic data collection and analysis.

Nexus Approach Overview: A strategic framework bridging:

- Humanitarian assistance (immediate needs).
- Development cooperation (long-term resilience).
- Peacebuilding efforts (social cohesion and conflict resolution).

Why Use the Nexus Approach to Develop the Logframe?

Ensures integrated programming that addresses root causes of weakness and conflict.



Promotes coherence across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding interventions.

How the Nexus Approach Shapes Each Level of the Logframe

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Logframe Level	Nexus Alignment Guidance
Goal (Overall Objective)	Reflects long-term impact across all three pillars (e.g., enhanced resilience, reduced conflict, sustainable development).
Purpose (Immediate Objective)	Addresses contributions to immediate humanitarian needs, development outcomes, and peacebuilding goals.
Outputs	Should link to one or more nexus pillars; e.g., improved food security (humanitarian), strengthened governance (peacebuilding), and increased livelihood opportunities (development).
Activities	Designed to deliver cross-cutting results; e.g., training on conflict resolution while providing agricultural inputs.
Indicators	Must be SMART and measure progress across all three domains where relevant.
Assumptions & Risks	Identify risks related to political instability, donor shifts, or community tensions and include mitigation strategies.
Means of Verification	Include data sources from humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding sectors for comprehensive assessment.

Example – Nexus-Aligned Logframe Entry

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- **Goal:** Enhanced resilience and social cohesion in conflict-affected communities through integrated humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peacebuilding efforts.
- **Purpose:** Improved food security, livelihood opportunities, and conflict resolution mechanisms for vulnerable populations.
- **Output 1.1:** Distribution of emergency food aid to 10,000 households.
- **Output 1.2:** Establishment of 50 farmer field schools to improve agricultural productivity.
- **Output 1.3:** Training of 50 local mediators in conflict resolution techniques.
- **Indicator Example:** % of beneficiaries reporting improved access to food, income, and peaceful dispute resolution.

Key Considerations When Developing a Nexus-Aligned Logframe

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- **Integrated Objectives:** Ensure each objective clearly contributes to at least two of the three pillars.
- **Context Sensitivity:** Align objectives with local realities, including cultural norms, conflict dynamics, and existing systems.
- **SMART Indicators:** Apply SMART criteria to indicators to ensure they are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Involve humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding teams in co-developing the Logframe to ensure relevance and ownership.
- **Iterative Review:** Treat the Logframe as a living document; update regularly based on learning and changing contexts.

Key MEAL Tools in the Nexus Framework

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List of Tools:

1. M&E Matrix
2. Indicator Tracking Table (ITT)
3. Activity Tracking Table (ATT)
4. Baseline Table
5. Project Work Plan

Purpose of These Tools:

1. Ensure alignment with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding objectives.
2. Foster consistency and collaboration across sectors.
3. Enable adaptive management and learning.

M&E Matrix: Purpose and Structure

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Purpose:

- A strategic planning and management tool to guide data collection, analysis, and use within the Nexus Approach.
- Expands on the Logframe to define key monitoring tasks and ensure indicators effectively measure results across:
 - Humanitarian assistance
 - Development cooperation
 - Peacebuilding efforts

Structure:

- Core Components:
 - Objective statements (from the Logframe)
 - Performance indicators (aligned with SMART criteria)
 - Data collection methods and sources
 - Frequency and schedule of data collection
 - Responsible personnel/teams
 - Data use and reporting mechanisms

M&E Matrix: Nexus Alignment

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Nexus Alignment

- Ensures indicators reflect interconnections between:
 - Humanitarian: Immediate needs (e.g., food security, shelter)
 - Development: Long-term resilience (e.g., livelihoods, education)
 - Peacebuilding: Social cohesion, governance, conflict resolution
- Promotes integrated programming by:
 - Applying context-sensitive and conflict-aware approaches
 - Encouraging collaboration among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding teams
 - Aligning with global frameworks (e.g., UNDP Triple Nexus, OECD DAC)

Baseline Table: Purpose and Key Elements

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Purpose:

- **Core Objective:** To collect and document relevant baseline data that establishes starting points for indicators across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.
- **Key Role:** Informs target setting and progress tracking within the Nexus framework.
- **Important Note:** The Baseline is not a needs assessment — it focuses on collecting starting values for indicators without altering the project's theory of change.

Key Elements:

- **Indicators:** Taken directly from the M&E Matrix; aligned with the Nexus Approach.
- **Baseline Value:** Starting point for each indicator.
- **Date of Baseline Value:** When the baseline data was collected.
- **Source of Baseline Value:** Survey, secondary data, etc.
- **Comments:** Explanations for zero values or adjustments made to align with Nexus principles.

Baseline Table: Nexus Alignment

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- **Integrated Indicators:** Reflect linkages between:
 - **Humanitarian:** Immediate needs (e.g., food security, shelter).
 - **Development:** Long-term resilience (e.g., livelihoods, education).
 - **Peacebuilding:** Social cohesion, governance improvements.
- **Context Sensitivity:** Data collection is timed to avoid peak conflict periods, harvest seasons, or humanitarian crises.
- **Participatory Approach:** Engage communities and stakeholders to ensure relevance and ownership.
- **Gender Considerations:** Collect sex-disaggregated data and include gender-sensitive indicators.

Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) : Purpose and Key Components

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Purpose:

- **Core Objective:** The ITT is a tracking mechanism for all project indicators, ensuring alignment with the Nexus Approach — a framework that bridges humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peacebuilding efforts.
- **Key Role:** Monitors progress across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Facilitates timely adjustments and improvements to project implementation. Supports sustainable and resilient outcomes by linking immediate needs, long-term resilience, and social cohesion.

Key Components:

- **Indicator Details:** Defines indicators (name, definition, unit of measurement) for consistent data collection.
- **Baseline & Targets:** Records baseline values and sets periodic targets aligned with project goals.
- **Data Collection & Achievement:** Tracks actual results and calculates progress (% of target achieved).
- **Demographic Disaggregation:** Breaks down data by age, gender, and beneficiary type for inclusive analysis.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Uses a "Status" column and links to other MEAL tools for adaptive management.

Indicator Tracking Table (ITT): Nexus Alignment

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Nexus Alignment:

- **Interconnected Indicators:** Links humanitarian (immediate needs), development (long-term resilience), and peacebuilding (social cohesion) goals.
- **Context Sensitivity:** Adapts indicators to local challenges and opportunities.
- **Participatory Approaches:** Involves communities and stakeholders in setting targets and reviewing progress.
- **Gender & Inclusion:** Disaggregates data by sex, age, and vulnerability to ensure equity.
- **Iterative Learning:** Regularly updates the ITT to reflect changing Nexus dynamics.

Activity Tracking Table (ATT): Purpose and Key Components

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Purpose:

- **Core Objective:** Tracks project activities alongside the ITT, ensuring Nexus (humanitarian-development-peacebuilding) alignment.
- **Key Role:** Simplifies progress monitoring for teams and Organization HQ without overloading the ITT.
- **Integration:** Details the Project Work Plan with activity-specific targets per reporting period (quarterly/annual/life-of-project).

Key Components:

- **Structure:** Lists activities with targets (milestones/dates), actuals, and status (completed/ongoing).
- **Reporting Frequency:** Quarterly updates preferred; semiannual reports consolidate six-month progress.
- **Linkage to Results:** Tracks activity completion as a critical management tool to ensure activities contribute to achieving impact-level outcomes across the Nexus framework. the Project Progress Report is dedicated to analyzing progress toward meeting activity targets.

Activity Tracking Table (ATT): Nexus Alignment

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Nexus Alignment:

- **Interconnected Activities:** Links immediate needs (humanitarian), resilience (development), and cohesion (peacebuilding).
- **Context Sensitivity:** Adapts to local challenges/opportunities.
- **Participatory:** Involves communities/stakeholders in target-setting.
- **Gender & Inclusion:** Disaggregates data by sex, age, and vulnerability.
- **Iterative Learning:** Regularly revised to reflect evolving Nexus priorities.

Project Work Plan: Purpose and Key Components

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Purpose:

- **Core Objective:** Plans, organizes, and tracks activities to achieve outcomes while integrating humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.
- **Nexus Integration:** Bridges gaps between immediate needs, resilience-building, and social cohesion.
- **Key Role:** Acts as a roadmap for adaptive implementation in evolving contexts.

Key Components:

- **Activity Alignment:** Explicitly links activities to humanitarian (e.g., food aid), development (e.g., education), and/or peacebuilding (e.g., conflict resolution) pillars.
- **Timeline & Milestones:** Sets realistic timelines considering seasons, culture, and conflict dynamics.
- **Resource Allocation:** Distributes resources equitably; includes contingency plans.
- **Responsibility Assignment:** Assigns clear ownership to teams, fostering cross-pillar collaboration.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Aligns with ITT/ATT; updated quarterly for adaptive management.

Project Work Plan: Nexus Alignment

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Nexus Alignment:

- **Interconnected Activities:** Ensures synergies (e.g., transitioning food aid to livelihoods programs).
- **Context Sensitivity:** Adapts to local challenges/opportunities.
- **Participatory:** Involves communities in design and review.
- **Conflict Sensitivity:** Minimizes harm, maximizes positive impact (e.g., inclusive dialogues).
- **Sustainability:** Builds local capacity and ownership.

Integration Across Tools

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How Tools Work Together:

- Logframe → M&E Matrix: Defines objectives and indicators.
- M&E Matrix → ITT & ATT: Guides tracking of indicators and activities.
- ITT & ATT → Project Work Plan: Informs planning and implementation.
- Baseline Table → All Tools: Provides starting points for measuring change.

Synergy Through the Nexus Approach:

- Each tool reinforces cross-sectoral linkages.
- Ensures integrated response to complex challenges.

Key Considerations for Nexus Alignment

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Humanitarian-Development-Peace Linkages:

- Indicators and activities should reflect interconnections between all three domains.

Context Sensitivity:

- Tailor approaches to local dynamics, including cultural, political, and security factors.

Gender Equality:

- Include sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators.

Adaptive Management:

- Treat tools as living documents; update regularly based on new information and changing conditions.

Best Practices in Using MEAL Tools

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Collaborative Development:

- Involve humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding teams in tool design and use.

Clear Communication:

- Use simple language for accessibility across stakeholders.

Data Verification:

- Maintain primary data in separate tabs for verification and transparency.

Learning Orientation:

- View missed targets as learning opportunities to improve implementation.

Conclusion

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Summary:

- The MEAL tools presented are designed to support integrated programming under the Nexus Approach.
- They enable holistic responses to complex crises by linking immediate relief, long-term development, and peacebuilding efforts.

Final Message:

- Effective MEAL systems are essential for accountability, learning, and maximizing impact in multi-dimensional projects.

Q&A

Open Floor for Questions