

Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference Report



26–27 May 2025



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Sana'a



Acknowledgments

The Yemen Nexus Initiative Conference 2025, held on 26–27 May 2025 in Amman, Jordan, would not have been possible without the generous support and commitment of our key partners. We extend our deepest gratitude to:

- **The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Yemen**
for their unwavering support, valuable insights, and strong advocacy for localization and integrated approaches in Yemen.
- **Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH)**
for their essential contributions to organizing the event and their continued dedication to promoting sustainable, community-led solutions in humanitarian contexts.
- **UN Women Yemen**
for their active participation, leadership, and tireless efforts in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment through the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus approach.

We sincerely thank all our partners for their trust, collaboration, and shared vision of building lasting resilience and peace in Yemen through coordinated and inclusive action.

Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025 – Event Report

Event Title	Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025
Dates	26–27 May 2025
Location	W Amman Hotel, Great Hall, Amman, Jordan
Hosted by	Abs Development Organization for Women and Children (ADO), Yemen Women Leadership Network (YWNLN), and the Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)
Sponsors:	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany of Yemen, Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), and UN Women
Participants	In Person: 61 Person Remotely/Online: 76 Person
Contact Information	Website: www.yemenexus.org Email: info@yemenexus.org

1. Executive Summary

The Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025, held on 26–27 May 2025 in Amman, Jordan, was a landmark event that brought together key stakeholders to explore and advance the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus approach in Yemen. Organized by the Abs Development Organization for Women and Children (ADO), the Yemen Women Leadership Network (YWNLN), and the Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI), the conference was generously supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), and UN Women.

With over 80% positive feedback from participants, the conference was widely recognized as a significant success. It achieved its primary aim of highlighting the potential of local NGOs and their leadership in implementing the HDP Nexus approach, while fostering meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among a diverse group of stakeholders.

The conference played a crucial role in advancing our shared goal of addressing Yemen’s complex challenges through a coordinated Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus approach. The Yemen Nexus Initiative remains firmly committed to promoting this integrated strategy as a key pathway to overcoming the intertwined crises facing the country. It emphasized that lasting resilience and recovery in Yemen can only be achieved by aligning humanitarian aid with long-term development and peacebuilding efforts.

Looking ahead, the conference highlighted the importance of expanding the reach of the Nexus approach, advocating for greater donor flexibility, and—most importantly—empowering local actors and communities to lead their own development processes.

2. Conference Objectives

The conference aimed to:

1. Promote the localization of humanitarian action through the HDP Nexus approach.
2. Showcase successful examples of integrated programming in Yemen.
3. Strengthen coordination among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors.
4. Develop strategic frameworks and tools for advancing the Nexus agenda.
5. Empower women's role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

3. Agenda Highlights

Day 1: Foundation & Context Setting

3. Agenda Highlights – Day 1: Foundation & Context Setting

The first day of the Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025, held on 26 May 2025, was dedicated to setting the foundation for understanding and advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus in Yemen. The day began with an engaging Opening Session, featuring speeches from key stakeholders who emphasized the importance of localization, coordination, and sustainable solutions in Yemen.

09:00 – 09:15 | Opening Remarks by Keynote Speakers

- **Dr. Aisha Thawab, Executive Director, Abs Development Organization for Women and Children (ADO)**

Dr. Thawab welcomed the participants and addressed the current humanitarian and developmental landscape in Yemen. She outlined the origins of the Yemen Nexus Initiative since its establishment in 2021 and called for the practical implementation of the Nexus approach in alignment with national strategies.



- **Mohammed Al Samati, Assistant Undersecretary for the Social Development Sector, Director General of Associations and Federations, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL)**

Mr. Al Samati spoke about the current challenges facing Yemen and encouraged the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a promising framework. He urged humanitarian and development actors to intensify their efforts and collaboration in Yemen.



- **Marcela Masiarik, Counsellor Head of Cooperation, German Embassy of Yemen**

Ms. Masiarik emphasized the importance of working together, building local capacities, and supporting local organizations. She affirmed that Germany cannot effectively operate without strong partnerships with Yemeni civil society and expressed strong support for the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a model for future collaboration and coordination.



- **Rebal on behalf of Dina Zorba, Representative of UN Women Yemen**

Due to unavailability, Dina Zorba's remarks were delivered on her behalf by a representative from UN Women. Rebal expressed pride in UN Women's role as a supporting partner of the Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025. He reiterated UN Women's strong commitment to advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in Yemen and emphasized the critical importance



of adopting a triple nexus approach—linking humanitarian action, sustainable development, and peacebuilding to address the country's multidimensional crises.

- **Derya Mutlu, Head of Mission for Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in Amman**

Derya Mutlu highlighted the organization's strong commitment to the principle of localization as a guiding framework in its humanitarian and development work. He expressed WHH's pride in supporting impactful initiatives like the Yemen Nexus Initiative and affirmed their satisfaction in being an integral part of the process. Mr. Mutlu underscored the critical importance of integrating humanitarian action, long-term development, and peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing that such an integrated approach is essential for achieving sustainable change in complex contexts like Yemen.



09:16 – 09:30 | Introduction to the Yemen Nexus Initiative

A short film was screened introducing the Yemen Nexus Initiative, tracing its journey since its launch in August 2021. This set the stage for deeper discussions throughout the conference and reinforced the initiative's mission to promote integrated approaches in Yemen.

09:31 – 10:00 | Panel Discussion: What and Why – The HDP Nexus in Yemen?



This panel explored the rationale behind adopting the Nexus approach in Yemen's complex context.

Panelists:

- Marcela Masiarik, Counsellor Head of Cooperation, German Embassy, Sana'a
- Eman Ismail, Regional Representative, International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Dr. Amani Mohamed, Program Advisor, Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)
- Yousef Ahmed, Consortium Coordinator, Care International
- Romano Lasker, Nexus Academy Manager
- Lorik Pustina, Head of Resident Coordinators Office at United Nations

Moderator: Mays Nawayseh, Gender Advisor, ACAPS Middle East Hub

The session emphasized the urgent need for integrated, coordinated, and localized approaches to address Yemen's overlapping crises, including conflict, displacement, food insecurity, and underdevelopment.

10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break

10:31 – 11:20 | Live Programmatic Examples of HDP Nexus in Action



This session showcased real-world examples of how local organizations are implementing the Nexus approach through integrated programming.

Presenters:

- ADO: Dr. Senan, Information Management Officer
- Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO): Nabila Al Kumaim, Executive Director

- Generation Without Qat (GWQ): Mohamed Al Aswadi, Area Based Approach Coordinator
- Vision Hope International (VHI): Sina Nasser, Aden Office Manager

Facilitator: Mays Nawayseh, Gender Advisor, ACAPS Middle East Hub

These case studies illustrated how localized initiatives are making a tangible impact on communities affected by conflict and crisis, reinforcing the importance of empowering grassroots actors.

11:21 – 12:05 | Panel Discussion: Women’s Role in the HDP Nexus



This session centered on the critical role of women in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts.

Panelists:

- Marcela Masiarik, Counsellor Head of Cooperation, German Embassy, Yemen
- Dina El-Mamoun, Country Director, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
- Dr. Aisha Thawab, Yemen Women Leadership Network (YWLN)
- Buthina Al Saqaf, the Deen of Administrative Banking at Lahj University, Coordinator of Women Advisory Group
- Najat Ahmed, the Deen of Women Collage in Hadramout University

Facilitator: Mays Nawayseh, Gender Advisor, ACAPS Middle East Hub

Participants emphasized the importance of gender-sensitive policies, women’s leadership, and inclusive decision-making in shaping effective Nexus interventions.

12:06 – 13:00 | Panel Discussion: Displacement and the Nexus Approach



This panel focused on addressing the humanitarian and developmental needs of displaced populations in Yemen and identifying opportunities for integrating responses across sectors.

Panelists:

- Mohammed Hassan, Country Director, Geneva Call
- Jeon Patrick, Regional Advocacy Manager, DRC Representative
- Fateh Al-Ameri, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA
- Mohamed Al Aswadi, Area Based Approach Coordinator, Generation Without Qat (GWQ)
- Lamia Al Aryani, the funder of Yemen Peace School

Moderator: Amy Rodgers, Middle East Durable Solutions Platform (ME DSP)

The discussion highlighted the need for sustainable, rights-based, and coordinated interventions that go beyond emergency aid and support durable solutions for displaced communities.

13:01 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:01 – 15:30 | Interactive Group Work and Strategic Framework Presentation

Following lunch, attendees participated in small group sessions aimed at developing recommendations for Phase 2 of the Yemen Nexus Initiative.

Facilitator: Sarah Shehab, UN Women

The groups engaged in dynamic discussions, focusing on actionable steps to strengthen the Nexus approach in Yemen, particularly in relation to advocacy, climate resilience, and capacity-building.

15:31 – 16:30 | Closing Reflections and Recap of Day 1

The day concluded with a recap and reflection session, where each group shared key takeaways and insights. These findings laid the groundwork for the second day’s strategic discussions.

Day 2: Strategy, Climate Integration, and Tangible Action

The second day of the Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025, held on 27 May 2025, focused on advancing the strategic direction of the initiative, integrating climate considerations into Nexus programming, and defining concrete deliverables for Phase 2. The day was structured to build upon the foundational discussions of Day 1, moving toward actionable planning and stakeholder engagement.

09:00 – 09:15 | Recap & Objectives of Day 2



Speaker: Dr. Aisha Thawab, Yemen Nexus Initiative Lead

Dr. Thawab opened Day 2 with a comprehensive recap of the key outcomes from Day 1. She outlined the objectives for the second day, emphasizing the importance of developing a clear strategy, aligning stakeholders around shared goals, and ensuring that local voices remain at the center of the Nexus approach.

09:16 – 09:30 | NGO Mapping Service, Interactive Map, and Yemen Nexus Platform

Presenters:

- Wameedh Shakir, Gender Consultant, Sana'a

This session introduced an interactive NGO mapping service designed to enhance transparency, coordination, and collaboration among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors operating in Yemen. The presenters demonstrated how this tool can support evidence-based decision-making and improve access to localized information for better program planning and resource allocation.



Presenters:

- Mohamed Mutaher, IT Manager, Abs Development Organization (ADO)

The session included an overview about the newly developed Yemen Nexus digital platform. Mr. Mutaher provided a technical overview of the platform, highlighting its core features and functionalities.



09:31 – 10:00 | Nexus MEAL Toolkits Presentation

Presenter: Basheer Othman, MERAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Accountability, and Learning) Manager, ADO and Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)

Basheer presented a suite of practical tools developed by the Yemen Nexus Initiative to support organizations in designing, implementing, and evaluating integrated programs. These toolkits include frameworks for assessing nexus readiness, tools of monitoring cross-sectoral impact, and ensuring accountability to affected populations. The session highlighted real-world applications and invited feedback from participants for future improvements.



10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break

10:31 – 11:15 | Strategy Session: Framework and Risk Methodology

Session Led by:

- Dr. Amani Mohamed, Program Advisor, YNI – Strategy Overview and Framework

This session laid out the proposed strategic framework for Phase 2 of the Yemen Nexus Initiative. Dr. Amani outlined the vision, objectives, and expected outcomes for the next phase, focusing on scalability, localization, and sustainability.



- Mohanna Eljabaly, General Manager, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) – Risk Methodology

Mohanna Eljabaly followed with a presentation on risk assessment methodologies tailored to the Yemeni context, emphasizing the need for adaptive programming in volatile environments.



11:16 – 12:00 | Advocacy for Phase 2 – Open Dialogue and Advocacy Plan



Facilitator: Dr. Amani Mohamed, Program Advisor, YNI

An open dialogue was facilitated to gather input from stakeholders on the advocacy priorities for Phase 2. Participants discussed strategies to influence donor policies, promote flexible funding mechanisms, and strengthen national ownership of Nexus initiatives. Key themes included the

importance of amplifying local voices, improving communication strategies, and building coalitions across sectors.

12:00 – 13:00 | Concrete Outputs: Defining Tangible Deliverables

Presenter: Dr. Amani Mohamed, Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)

Facilitator: Wafa Tayeb, Safeguarding and Protection Officer

This session focused on identifying measurable outputs and deliverables for Phase 2 of the Yemen Nexus Initiative. Dr. Amani Mohamed presented a draft work plan outlining key milestones, timelines, and responsible actors for each component of the initiative, including research, capacity-building, advocacy, and digital tool implementation.

13:01 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:01 – 15:00 | Panel: Role of All Stakeholders in the Nexus



Panelists:

- Marcela Masiarik, Counsellor Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Yemen
- Tariq Aziz, the Policy Advocacy and Communication Coordinator, International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Romano Lasker, Nexus Academy Manager
- Dr. Aisha Thawab, Executive Director, ADO and Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)

Facilitator: Amy Rodgers, Middle East Durable Solutions Platform (ME DSP)

This panel explored the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in scaling up the Nexus approach in Yemen. Discussions emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, the role of the private sector, and the need for donors to adopt more flexible and predictable funding models. Panelists also addressed how different actors can contribute to creating an enabling environment for integrated programming.

5:01 – 15:30 | Panel: Climate in the Nexus



Panelists:

- Dr. Marie-Christine Heinze, President, CARPO – Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient
- Saeed Hamimi, Partnership Manager, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)
- Tareeq Hashem, the Head of GIS Remote Sensing Unit, Academic Teacher
- Dr. Jeehan, highly experienced consultant with extensive expertise in environmental issues and community development

Facilitator: Amy Rodgers, Middle East Durable Solutions Platform (ME DSP)

This session brought attention to the increasing impact of climate change on humanitarian and development outcomes in Yemen. Panelists discussed how climate-related risks—such as droughts, floods, and food insecurity—are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and undermining resilience efforts. They called for the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies within the Nexus framework to ensure long-term sustainability of interventions.

15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee Break

15:46 – 16:00 | Key Recommendations, Final Wrap-Up, Evaluation, and Next Steps



Presenter: Dr. Aisha Thawab, Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI)

Dr. Thawab summarized the main recommendations emerging from the conference, particularly those related to:

- Women’s leadership and inclusion in Nexus programming
- Community-driven approaches to humanitarian and development action
- Improved coordination mechanisms between local and international actors

She emphasized the need to ensure that women and marginalized groups are not only beneficiaries but also active participants and leaders in shaping Nexus interventions.

The conference concluded with a final wrap-up session, during which Dr. Thawab thanked all participants, speakers, and organizing partners. She reiterated the Yemen Nexus Initiative’s commitment to promoting a coordinated, localized, and sustainable approach to addressing Yemen’s multidimensional crises.

Plans for future events, continued knowledge sharing, and the official launch of the Yemen Nexus digital platform were announced.

4. Attendance and Participation

The Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025 successfully convened a diverse and representative group of stakeholders, including:

1. Representatives of Local Yemeni Organizations

These included leaders and experts from various civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs operating inside Yemen. The conference emphasized the importance of local leadership in implementing the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus approach.

2. Representatives of Local Yemeni Authorities

While the conference was held outside of Yemen, it included engagement with local authorities and community representatives who are key actors in humanitarian and development programming across different governorates.

3. Representatives of International and UN Organizations Operating in Yemen

The conference brought together high-level officials and technical experts from major international bodies and agencies involved in Yemen's humanitarian and development response.

4. Representatives of Major Donors and Diplomatic

The conference was supported by several key donor agencies that fund humanitarian and development programs in Yemen. Their participation underscored the growing interest in supporting integrated approaches such as the HDP Nexus.

This broad participation ensured a rich exchange of knowledge, experience, and perspectives, reinforcing the conference's goal of advancing a coordinated, localized, and sustainable Nexus approach in Yemen.

5. Participation Highlights

- **Hybrid Format:** Allowed for both in-person and remote participation, increasing access for those unable to travel.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Included small group work, live case studies, and open dialogues which ensured high engagement.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Women's leadership was strongly represented throughout the program, including panels on gender and peacebuilding.
- **Youth Representation:** Young professionals and representatives from youth-focused organizations contributed meaningfully to discussions.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Rich dialogue among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors helped identify practical ways to implement the Nexus approach.

6. Participant Feedback and Evaluation

The post-conference evaluation report highlighted strong satisfaction among attendees, with overall ratings ranging between 80% and 90%. Key strengths identified included:

- Excellent organization and logistics
- Relevant and high-quality content
- Effective coordination and moderation
- Active participation and engagement

Areas for improvement were minimal but included suggestions for more breakout sessions, improved interpretation services, and extended networking opportunities.

7. Achievements and Outcomes

1. **Strengthened Collaboration:** Over 50 civil society organizations (CSOs) and technical experts participated, enhancing partnerships across sectors.
2. **Knowledge Sharing:** Practical case studies and expert panels provided valuable insights into effective Nexus implementation.
3. **Strategic Framework Development:** A clear roadmap for Phase 2 was established, focusing on advocacy, capacity building, and climate resilience.
4. **Women's Empowerment:** Gender considerations were mainstreamed throughout the conference, reinforcing the importance of women's leadership in peace and development processes.
5. **Digital Tools Launch:** Introduction of the Yemen Nexus platform and mapping service marked a milestone in improving information accessibility and stakeholder coordination.

8. Conclusion

The Nexus Yemen Initiative Conference 2025, held on 26–27 May in Amman, Jordan, marked a significant milestone in advancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding (HDP) Nexus approach in Yemen. Organized by the Abs Development Organization for Women and Children (ADO), in collaboration with the Yemen Women Leadership Network (YWLN), and the Yemen Nexus Initiative (YNI), and supported by the Welthungerhilfe (WHH), German Embassy, and UN Women, the conference successfully brought together over 61 in-person participants and 76 online attendees, representing local and international civil society organizations, UN agencies, donors, and technical experts.

The event was widely recognized as a success, with overall participant satisfaction ratings ranging between 80% and 90%, as reflected in the post-conference evaluation. Participants praised the

well-organized structure, the high relevance of content, the quality of facilitation, and the meaningful engagement of diverse stakeholders. The hybrid format allowed broader participation, ensuring that voices from inside Yemen and abroad were included in critical discussions.

Over two days, the conference laid a solid foundation for Phase 2 of the Yemen Nexus Initiative, emphasizing:

- The importance of local leadership and ownership in humanitarian and development programming.
- The need to strengthen coordination among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors.
- The integration of climate resilience into Nexus programming to address growing environmental challenges in Yemen.
- The central role of women and youth in shaping inclusive, sustainable solutions.
- The necessity of advocacy efforts aimed at influencing donor policies and promoting flexible funding mechanisms.

Key deliverables such as the Yemen Nexus digital platform, NGO mapping service, and Nexus toolkits were introduced, offering practical tools to enhance transparency, coordination, and evidence-based decision-making in integrated programming.

Through dynamic panel discussions, live case studies, strategic planning sessions, and open dialogues, the conference fostered rich knowledge exchange and built consensus around the way forward. It reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders to promote a localized, coordinated, and sustainable Nexus approach that responds effectively to Yemen’s multidimensional crises.

As the Yemen Nexus Initiative moves into its next phase, it will continue to prioritize:

- Strengthening partnerships across sectors.
- Expanding the reach and impact of Nexus programming.
- Empowering communities—particularly women and youth—to lead their own development processes.
- Advocating for policy and funding reforms that support integrated, long-term solutions.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants, speakers, organizers, and sponsors for their invaluable contributions to the success of this landmark event. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient future for Yemen through the Nexus approach.

