

The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

The Water, Energy Food Security Nexus and its on-the-ground operationalisation

Project name	The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme Phase I
Funding	EUR 5 million from the European Union, EUR 1.7 million from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementers	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Duration	2016-2018

What is the Nexus?

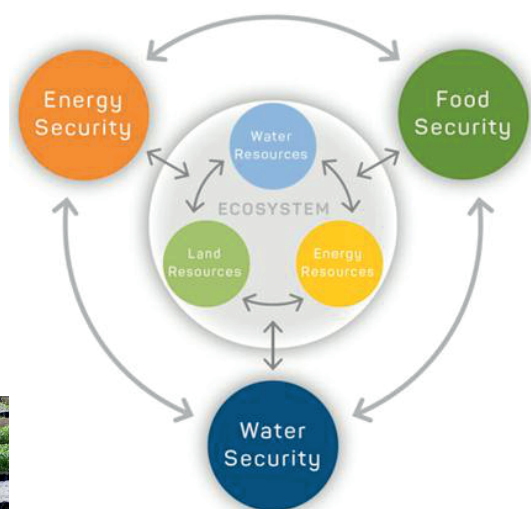
The Nexus approach highlights the **interdependence of water, energy and food security** and the natural resources – water, soil and land – that underpin that security. Nexus identifies **mutually beneficial responses** that are based on understanding the synergies of water, energy and agricultural policies. It also provides an informed and transparent framework for determining the proper **trade-offs and synergies that maintain the integrity and sustainability of ecosystems**.

The Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus represents a **paradigm shift** in the international development agenda, from sectoral development interventions to integrated resource use in a green economy. The Nexus approach uses context-specific solutions based on horizontal and vertical interventions to achieve long-term economic, environmental and social goals. Bringing the Nexus debate **from the academic sphere into development practice** faces significant barriers, including challenges to cross-sectoral collaboration and the complexity and incompatibility of current institutional structures. However, greater recognition of sectoral interdependence can help to overcome historical and sectoral barriers.

Background

The Nexus approach has moved up the international agenda after first being promoted at international policy-making events in 2010. The Bonn 2011 Nexus Conference organised by the German Government presented evidence on how a Nexus can enhance water, energy and food security by increasing efficiency, reducing trade-offs and building synergies while improving governance across the different sectors. The key objective of the Policy Forum 2013, organised as a follow-up to the Bonn Nexus 2011 Conference, was to ensure that the Nexus approach would be included in the post-2015 Agenda. Starting in 2014, GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) started to implement Nexus Regional Dialogue activities.

In 2011, the European Union (EU) adopted the Agenda for Change, which reoriented EU development policy towards sustainable growth and focused on agriculture and energy. The Agenda stipulates an integrated management approach to address global poverty and environmental sustainability. The EU Development Report 2011/2012 about confronting scarcity was presented prior to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. It urged inclusive sustainable growth and recommended the Nexus approach. At the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) Multi-Stakeholder Forums, held in Stockholm in 2013 and 2014, working groups presented **plans for integrating the Nexus perspective** in their activities.



L. to r.: Wells powered by wind in Tunisia; Women planting seedlings at a tree nursery in Ethiopia

These processes led to the proposal for the EU **Nexus Dialogues Programme Phase I**, which builds on the German-funded dialogues activities and EUWI experiences and is designed to stimulate international and regional dialogue.

The Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme

The Nexus Dialogues Programme Phase I (2016–2018), funded by the EU and BMZ, resulted from international efforts to operationalise the Nexus approach. The programme is designed to stimulate **five Nexus Regional Dialogues** (NRDs) involving various stakeholders, including national and regional policy-makers, the private sector, academia and civil society. The five regions are Africa (Southern Africa and the Niger Basin), Latin America, Central Asia (the Aral Sea region) and the MENA region. Five regional inter-governmental and international organisations have been identified as regional counterparts for the Nexus dialogues. Some of these dialogues are on-going, others are new. The dialogues aim to **develop Nexus policies and action plans at the national ministerial and regional policy levels**. The EU Nexus Dialogues

Region	Partner	Implementation Agency
MENA	League of Arab States (LAS)	GIZ
Latin America	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	GIZ
Africa	Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Global Water Partnership (GWP)
	Niger Basin Authority (NBA)	GIZ
Central Asia	International Fund for the Aral Sea (IFAS)	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Programme Phase I is jointly managed by EU DEVCO and GIZ.

→ Exchanging Knowledge between Nexus Regional Dialogues

The Global Nexus Secretariat (GNS) supports NRD development. GNS ensures the coordination and coherence of the different NRDs, supports implementation by partner organisations (e.g. by annotating proposals for quality control and coherence), and

stimulates exchange and mutual learning across the NRDs. GNS also coordinates conferences, workshops, etc. and publishes studies, brochures and other products elaborated within the programme.

→ Nexus Resource Platform

The Nexus Resource Platform (NRP), which was relaunched with the co-financing, is the global Nexus practical-information hub to help stakeholders stay up-to-date on relevant regional and global Nexus activities and events. It is a knowledge hub for swapping experiences and good practices, and enhancing global learning. It seeks to raise awareness of Nexus issues by publishing relevant articles. The NRP also envisages working with regional partners to develop and maintain subsites, and could establish strategic collaborations with various partners (i.e. the UNU-FLORES Nexus Observatory Platform, which collects scientific data and consolidates knowledge online).

→ Country Studies and Pilot Projects

To identify national Nexus priority issues, country studies involving relevant stakeholders will be carried out in each region. The studies will be followed by pilot projects demonstrating how the Nexus approach adds value at the local level.

→ Human Capacity Development

The NRD programme includes a Human Capacity Development (HCD) component that focuses on improving Nexus expertise and knowledge. A general HCD Nexus Framework that can be adapted for each region is being developed using lessons learned from German and European Nexus case studies. The module will include a regulatory perspective and various planning levels. Nexus training is aimed at ministerial and country-level Nexus pioneers, and makes a special effort to ensure gender parity. With its regional partners, GNS will compile a list of potential Nexus experts to be trained.

→ Regional Nexus Action List

In the final stage of the programme an action list will be compiled describing future investment in Nexus infrastructure and institutions.

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Global Nexus Secretariat
c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 – 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-7104
E nexus@giz.de

www.water-energy-food.org

www.giz.de

Author(s)

Maarit Thiem, Isabel Pasternack.

As at

February 2017

Implemented by



This publication has been produced on behalf of the European Union and Germany (German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, BMZ). GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication. The content does neither represent the opinion of the European Union nor Germany (BMZ).