

Abstract

The OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus (thereafter HDP Nexus) was adopted by the DAC at its Senior Level Meeting on February 22, 2019. This study was designed to understand the concept of the HDP Nexus and to provide the Korean government with policy suggestions that can implement it. The international community is facing the need of humanitarian assistance for climate change and natural disasters and the threat of peace for armed conflicts. Therefore, the implementation of HDP Nexus is increasingly required as a solution to overcome these conflicts and natural disaster situations.

The HDP Nexus is a framework for working together to achieve common goals by coordinating the different methods of activities and financing use in the fields of humanitarian aid, development and peace. These are aiming for effectively reducing vulnerabilities, shifting from delivering humanitarian assistance to ending need, and thus supporting prevention efforts. This cooperation is based on expectations that it will enhance the effectiveness of policies and respond to multidimensional risks through mutual complementation across multiple sectors. Related discussions in the international community took shape through the HDP initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank in 2016, and the recent emergence of the Nexus discussions stems from the global refugee crisis.

Korea is a member of the OECD DAC, participating in major discussions on humanitarian aid and international development cooperation, and also actively participating in various activities for peace. However, the whole-of-government strategy for implementing HDP Nexus has not been established and there are limitations on each sector's capacity to work within that framework. Despite Korea's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, the amount of budget is small compared to the social and economic infrastructure and services sectors, and the target

countries are also concentrated in Asia. In the case of peace activities, the ministry of foreign affairs developed its initiative of “Action with Women and Peace” in June 2018, and KOICA carried out ‘the Project Peace Village without Landmine’ successfully. Also, Korea's PKO help to maintain social stability in fragile and conflict states. A central concern, however, is that the PKO's principles require distance from others.

As a result of evaluating the Korea's HDP Nexus based on the OECD DAC Recommendation, the government has introduced the latest approach and suggested new initiatives. However, there has been little achievement in reducing the risk of conflict and crisis occurring. Given the possibility of HDP Nexus, Korea has retained relative operational strengths in humanitarian aid programs. A brief summary of the situation in Korea offers lesson for connecting humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace activities and then, whole-of-government approach efforts should be made. Above all, it seems urgent to prepare database for reviewing policy cases associated with the HDP Nexus implementation across all sectors of government.

This study suggests the need for the Korean government to implement humanitarian aid, development and peace programs within an integrated framework and in relation to the broadly shared HDP Nexus concept in which other donor countries including the United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States, as well as by the World Bank and the UNDP have been productively engaged. The creation of database and evaluation system learned from the United Kingdom and Sweden's cases is critical to Korea in that it has to prepare comprehensive HDP Nexus database that could be used to learn from past cases and improve future development project implementation.

In terms of fund operation, the cases of those two countries' strategies highlight the principles of predictability and flexibility. They have tried to keep the balance between the aims of humanitarian aid and development cooperation, and their commitment could be a good role model for Korea. In addition, the United States has laid the foundation for intersectoral integration system for the implementation of

HDP Nexus by legislation of the Global Fragility Act, a precedent that can be referred to Korea when the country attempts to lay the foundation for the whole-of-government approach projects. The tendency to exclude the recipient government from the process of carrying out the donor funded, however, be an obstacle to achieving the ultimate goal of the HDP Nexus in the long term perspective. The World Bank and the UNDP are clearly aware of the need for simultaneous access to the government and the private sector and are working to support both at the same time.

Based on these implications, this study classified the Korea's strategy for implementing HDP Nexus as whole-of-government approach, detailed implementation and discourse strategies. The whole-of-government approach emphasize the comprehensive and coherent cooperation between actors when government tried to introduce foreign policy related to fragile states or developing countries. To this end, the establishment of the Coordinating office that strives to strengthen cooperation on the HDP Nexus would be required. In terms of implementation strategy, the establishment of an intersectoral and international network for the HDP Nexus, and the reinforcement of a triangular cooperation system with specialized organizations in divided field should be considered. At the same time, building a monitoring system was proposed to effectively manage and evaluate HDP Nexus implementation. Finally, it was suggested that the implementation phase of HDP Nexus should be categorized according to each sector's demands. Based on the type of HDP Nexus, new policies have to be developed. In terms of discourse strategies, this study proposed the integrated HDP Nexus framework to be included in the Korea's key diplomatic tasks.

In this way, Korea's initiatives associated with the HDP Nexus can contribute to alternative paths for securing a reputation as a major partner for the implementation of HDP Nexus.