

Literature Review

Economic Collapse Emergencies

In examining emergencies primarily caused by economic collapse due to factors like corruption, two prominent examples stand out: Venezuela and Lebanon. Both cases offer critical lessons for humanitarian operations.

Venezuela

The country has experienced a severe economic crisis resulting from corruption, mismanagement, and repression under Nicolás Maduro's regime. This crisis led to extreme food and medicine shortages, hyperinflation, and a significant increase in poverty and malnutrition. The situation in Venezuela became a regional humanitarian disaster, affecting neighboring countries like Colombia due to the massive exodus of Venezuelan refugees. Humanitarian responses have included innovative mechanisms like using blockchain and digital currencies for aid distribution, supporting civil society and local actors, and engaging the Venezuelan diaspora community. The international community, including organizations like UNHCR, has emphasized the need for collaborative efforts and creative delivery channels for aid, recognizing the contested environment in which aid is delivered in Venezuela (Escobari, 2019; Rendon and Schneider, 2018).

Lebanon

Lebanon's economic and financial crisis, considered one of the world's worst since 1850, was exacerbated by years of corruption and mismanagement. The crisis has pushed more than half of the population below the poverty line, leading to soaring unemployment and price hikes for basic goods. The situation has led to potential security implications, including social unrest and a breakdown in law and order. Humanitarian responses have focused on providing immediate assistance to the most vulnerable populations, with international agencies like the World Food Program stepping in. However, the political class's inaction and unwillingness to implement reforms have posed significant challenges to these efforts. The international community's role in providing humanitarian assistance and applying pressure for political change has been crucial (Gharizi and Yacoubian, 2021).

Lessons Learned from Venezuela and Lebanon

From these cases, several key lessons for humanitarian operations emerge:

- **Importance of Political Neutrality:** Aid must be delivered in a politically neutral manner to reach those most in need effectively.
- **Engagement with Local and International Stakeholders:** Collaborative efforts involving local communities, NGOs, and international organizations are vital.

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- **Innovative Aid Delivery:** Utilizing technology and innovative methods can help overcome logistical challenges and ensure efficient aid distribution.
- **Addressing Underlying Causes:** Alongside immediate humanitarian aid, there's a need to focus on underlying issues like corruption and political instability.
- **Preparedness for Regional Impacts:** Recognizing and preparing for the regional implications of such crises is essential for effective response planning.

These examples underscore the complexity of responding to humanitarian crises induced by economic collapse and the importance of comprehensive, adaptive, and collaborative approaches in such situations.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Key Points

- **Climate Risks and Economic Impact:** Sri Lanka faces severe climate risks including floods, droughts, and sea-level rise which threaten its economic stability, primarily impacting agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing sectors (Mehta, 2020).
- **Policy Initiatives and Implementation Challenges:** There are multiple policy initiatives aimed at building climate resilience, including the integration of disaster risk management into school curricula and substantial investment in infrastructure to mitigate climate risks (Cels et al., 2023; World Bank, 2018). However, the implementation of these policies has been inconsistent, with some initiatives like climate-smart agriculture and early-warning systems facing delays (Mehta, 2020; Selvachandran, 2021).
- **International and Regional Cooperation:** Sri Lanka has engaged in partnerships with international bodies like the World Bank to fund climate resilience programs. These programs focus on improving forecasting, early warning systems, and infrastructural resilience against floods and other climate-related disasters (World Bank, 2021a).
- **Community Impact and Resilience:** The vulnerability of communities, especially in rural and northern regions, is exacerbated by socio-economic factors. Community-based approaches in disaster risk reduction have been emphasized, including education and local economic development strategies (Rehmet et al., 2008; World Bank, 2018).
- **Financial Strategies and Economic Recovery:** Financial mechanisms such as the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) have been established to allow rapid reallocation of funds in response to climate disasters. This is part of a broader strategy to maintain economic stability during and after climate events (Selvachandran, 2021).

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Analysis

The documents illustrate a comprehensive approach by Sri Lanka to tackle the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. The strategies involve a mix of policy formulation, international cooperation, financial planning, and community engagement. However, the effectiveness of these strategies is often hindered by economic constraints, particularly considering recent economic crises, and by the slow pace of implementation of key initiatives.

The resilience-building efforts are crucial given the projected increase in climate-induced disasters which are expected to worsen living conditions and economic outputs. The emphasis on integrating disaster risk management with development planning is seen as essential to sustain progress and mitigate future risks effectively.

Conclusion

Sri Lanka's approach to climate change and disaster risk is well-structured in theory, with significant international support and comprehensive policies. However, for these plans to effectively mitigate the impacts of climate change, consistent implementation and adequate funding are imperative. Strengthening local capacities, enhancing community resilience, and ensuring timely execution of projects are key to adapting to climate change and safeguarding the developmental gains Sri Lanka has achieved. The alignment of short-term economic recovery with long-term resilience strategies will be critical in managing both current and future climate risks.

Anticipatory Action

The collected documents on anticipatory action provide a comprehensive view of how this approach is being applied globally, with a particular focus on developing practical frameworks, enhancing local leadership, fostering regional collaboration, and integrating human mobility considerations. Below is an expanded and elaborated analysis based on the literature review on Anticipatory Action.

The challenges in Sri Lanka, as highlighted in the document on the economic crisis, emphasize the critical need for anticipatory actions in regions experiencing multi-faceted crises, such as economic instability exacerbated by external factors like the war in Ukraine. The sharp decline in agricultural production due to abrupt policy changes, such as the ban on chemical fertilizers, showcases how anticipatory actions must also consider economic and policy environments to be effective (FAO, 2022).

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Development of Practical Anticipatory Action Frameworks

The Anticipatory Action Toolkit, supported by the OCHA (OCHA, 2024), underscores the importance of creating practical and adaptable frameworks to guide anticipatory actions. It showcases how less than

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1% of financing for crises is pre-arranged despite the predictability of half of today's crises. The toolkit's development, fueled by a significant \$140 million commitment from the Central Emergency Response Fund, aims to enhance the capacity of field staff across diverse contexts and hazard types to implement anticipatory actions effectively (OCHA, 2024). This initiative demonstrates a shift towards preemptive crisis management that prioritizes speed, cost-effectiveness, and humane responses over traditional reactive methods (OCHA, 2024).

Enhancement of Disaster Preparedness and DRR Through Anticipatory Action

In Sri Lanka, anticipatory action serves as a crucial bridge between long-term disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and emergency response, as illustrated in discussions and planning under the SNAP South Asia Program. The program's strategy involves formulating action plans that incorporate anticipatory actions into national disaster preparedness frameworks, thereby ensuring a seamless transition from prediction to action. This approach is particularly important in regions like Sri Lanka, where the historical impacts of disasters such as tsunamis and civil conflicts underscore the need for robust and responsive disaster risk management systems (Anticipation Hub, 2023; Disaster Management Centre Sri Lanka, 2024).

Disaster Nationalism in Sri Lanka

The aftermath of the 2004 tsunami and the civil war led to the establishment of new disaster management frameworks. This historical perspective is vital for understanding how current anticipatory actions can be shaped by past experiences and the existing socio-political fabric, which influences the success of these interventions (Choi, 2015).

Sustainable Practices and Future Planning

As described in the document from Sri Lanka on economic and agricultural crises, integrating anticipatory action within broader economic and environmental policies is essential. This ensures that interventions are not only immediate in mitigating disaster impacts but also sustainable in supporting long-term economic stability and food security (FAO, 2022).

Locally Led Anticipatory Actions

The emphasis on locally led anticipatory actions highlights the pivotal role of local communities and actors in leading these initiatives. By leveraging local knowledge and practices, these actions not only ensure culturally appropriate responses but also enhance the speed and effectiveness of interventions. For instance, the briefing on locally led anticipatory actions details various benefits, such as increased relevance and acceptance of actions, improved granularity in forecast data, and enhanced identification

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of gaps in early warning systems. This local focus is crucial for embedding anticipatory actions within community practices, thereby enhancing societal resilience against disasters (Anticipation Hub, 2024).

Integration with Social Protection

The WFP document on Anticipatory Action and Social Protection provides a comprehensive framework on integrating these actions with existing social protection measures. This approach is crucial for enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable populations by ensuring that social safety nets are responsive and adaptive to impending climatic threats, thus providing a buffer before disasters strike (WFP, 2022).

Regional Collaboration in Anticipatory Action

The SNAP program's emphasis on regional collaboration exemplifies how pooling resources and expertise across nations can significantly enhance disaster resilience. By sharing knowledge, capacities, and financial resources, countries within the South Asia region can develop a cohesive and comprehensive approach to anticipatory action, ultimately leading to more robust regional disaster preparedness and response mechanisms (Disaster Management Centre Sri Lanka, 2024).

Integration of Human Mobility in Anticipatory Action

The collaboration between FAO and IOM highlights the critical need to integrate human mobility considerations into anticipatory action frameworks, particularly in response to climate-induced displacement and migration. This approach is essential in regions like Asia and the Pacific, where high levels of displacement due to natural hazards are exacerbated by climate change. By tailoring anticipatory actions to address the needs of displaced populations and host communities, stakeholders can mitigate the impacts of displacement, enhance community resilience, and foster long-term recovery and stability (IOM, 2023).

Conclusion

The expanded analysis underscores the need for a holistic approach to anticipatory action, which encompasses immediate disaster preparedness and broader socio-economic and political stability. This approach ensures that anticipatory actions are not only reactive to imminent climatic events but also proactive in strengthening the overall resilience of communities against multiple dimensions of risk.

Integrating anticipatory actions with social protection, as elaborated in the WFP guidance, provides a blueprint for ensuring that these interventions are both effective and inclusive. By leveraging existing social protection frameworks, anticipatory actions can be implemented more rapidly and can be more culturally and contextually appropriate, thereby enhancing the overall efficacy of disaster risk management strategies (WFP, 2022).

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The insights illustrate a comprehensive shift towards anticipatory action as an essential component of modern disaster risk management. This proactive approach not only aligns with global frameworks like the Sendai Framework but also enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of responses to predictable crises, ultimately leading to more resilient societies. The analysis, enriched by multiple sources and perspectives, provides a robust foundation for informing policymaking, implementation strategies, and future research on anticipatory action in disaster risk management.

The National Stakeholder Dialogue – Anticipatory Action Workshop

The National Stakeholder Dialogue, organized by the SLRCS with support from IFRC, focused on the promotion and integration of Anticipatory Actions (AAs) in disaster management within Sri Lanka (SLRCS, 2023b). The workshop convened various stakeholders from the government, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to discuss the proactive approach of AAs (SLRCS, 2023b).

The workshop marked a pivotal step towards institutionalizing anticipatory action in Sri Lanka's disaster management strategy. It brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss proactive disaster preparedness and response strategies (Anticipation Hub, 2023).

- **Objectives and Outcomes:** The primary goal was to raise awareness and build capacity among local and national stakeholders regarding the benefits and implementation of anticipatory actions. The establishment of a dedicated Technical Working Group and the development of an implementation roadmap were key outcomes, setting the stage for sustained collaborative efforts (Anticipation Hub, 2023).
- **Economic Rationale:** The workshop underscored the cost-effectiveness of anticipatory actions, presenting a compelling financial case for their broader adoption within national disaster management practices, and highlighting potential substantial economic returns on investments in disaster preparedness (Anticipation Hub, 2023).
- **Strategic Initiatives:** Moving forward, the focus will be on integrating these strategies into existing disaster management frameworks, enhancing early warning systems, and fostering partnerships that leverage local and international expertise in anticipatory action (Anticipation Hub, 2023).

This initiative represents a strategic shift towards a more proactive and economically efficient approach to disaster management in Sri Lanka, aligning with global best practices in anticipatory action and resilience building.

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Anticipatory Action, as discussed in the workshop, involves linking early warnings of disasters with pre-planned actions to mitigate the impact of disasters before they occur. This approach is supported by forecast-based financing and aims to protect lives and livelihoods by acting on predictions rather than reacting post-event (SLRCS, 2023b).

Analysis of Key Points and Takeaways

Proactive vs. Reactive: The core principle behind AAs is shifting from a historically reactive disaster management approach to a proactive one, emphasizing preparedness and pre-emptive measures (SLRCS, 2023b).

- **Integration into National Systems:** There is a significant push to integrate AAs into national disaster risk management (DRM) systems. This requires policy changes, capacity building, and the enhancement of data sharing and forecasting capabilities among stakeholders (SLRCS, 2023b).
- **Technological and Institutional Support:** Various institutions like the National Building Research Organization and Disaster Management Centre play crucial roles in supporting AAs through technology and infrastructure, particularly in areas like landslide risk management and early warning systems (SLRCS, 2023b).
- **Financial and Legal Frameworks:** The workshop highlighted the need for structured financial mechanisms and supportive legal frameworks to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of AAs. This includes creating budget lines for disaster preparedness and exploring insurance and risk financing options (SLRCS, 2023b).
- **Community and Stakeholder Engagement:** Effective implementation of AAs requires active engagement from all levels of society, including local communities and international partners. This collaborative approach ensures that the interventions are well-coordinated and culturally appropriate (SLRCS, 2023b).

Workshop Insights

- **Vision for Implementation:** The strategic vision for implementing AAs in Sri Lanka encompasses developing specific protocols, establishing a national working group, and embedding these actions within the existing DRM frameworks. It also stresses the importance of continuous training, public awareness campaigns, and simulation exercises to test and refine anticipatory actions (SLRCS, 2023b).
- **Innovation in Financing and Policy:** Innovative financing methods, such as contingency funds and insurance mechanisms, alongside revisions in national policies, are advocated to support

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the sustainable implementation of AAs. The workshop calls for policies that not only accommodate but promote the anticipatory approach to disaster management (SLRCS, 2023b).

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** The dialogue emphasized the value of a multi-stakeholder approach, where government bodies, international agencies, local organizations, and communities come together to share knowledge, resources, and strategies for disaster preparedness. This inclusive approach is vital for building a resilient system that can anticipate and mitigate disasters effectively (SLRCS, 2023b).
- **Future Steps:** Looking forward, the implementation of AAs in Sri Lanka should focus on regular updating of disaster management plans to align with technological advances and evolving environmental conditions. This should be supported by ongoing research, community feedback, and international cooperation to refine and optimize anticipatory actions (SLRCS, 2023b).

The National Stakeholder Dialogue serves as a foundational step towards a more proactive and collaborative disaster management system in Sri Lanka, highlighting the critical role of anticipatory actions in enhancing national and community resilience.

Migration

Sri Lanka has a significant proportion of its population engaged in international migration, heavily contributing to its GDP through remittances. Most of these migrants work in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in low or semi-skilled jobs (UN Network on Migration, 2021).

Migrant workers from Sri Lanka face numerous challenges such as exploitative recruitment practices, lack of decent work conditions, and various rights violations, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has significantly impacted their health and economic stability (UN Network on Migration, 2021). Issues such as human trafficking remain serious concerns, with Sri Lankan workers vulnerable to forced labor and other exploitative conditions abroad (UN Network on Migration, 2021).

The migration profile of Sri Lanka illustrates a complex interplay between economic development, security needs, and humanitarian concerns. The dual role of Sri Lanka as both sender and receiver of migrants underscores the dynamic nature of migration influenced by economic opportunities and geopolitical stability. The ongoing issues of displacement due to environmental disasters and ethnic conflicts highlight the need for robust disaster management and reconciliation processes (Integral Human Development, 2021).

The importance of comprehensive policies to manage both immigration and emigration effectively while ensuring the protection and integration of vulnerable populations such as refugees and internally displaced persons. This calls for a coordinated effort between the government, international

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organizations, and civil society to address the multifaceted challenges of migration in a way that promotes economic development and social cohesion (Integral Human Development, 2021).

Sri Lanka's comprehensive approach to migration governance, showcasing well-developed policies and international cooperation frameworks. However, it also identifies critical gaps, particularly in integrating migration into broader national development strategies and providing comprehensive support for non-citizens in various administrative and emergency contexts (IOM, 2018).

The findings suggest that while Sri Lanka has made significant progress in managing migration through policy and international partnerships, there remains a need for more inclusive policies that fully integrate the economic and social contributions of migrants into the national development agenda. This includes enhancing the legal frameworks to offer more rights and protections to non-citizens and improving the mechanisms for their integration and participation in the Sri Lankan society (IOM, 2018).

UN's Migration Network in Sri Lanka

Mission Statement

- Objective: To provide effective, coordinated, and timely UN system-wide support to the Government of Sri Lanka in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) (UN Network on Migration, 2021).
- Focus: The Network emphasizes the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities, aiming to foster an inclusive approach to migration management that respects human rights and international norms (UN Network on Migration, 2021).

Objectives

- Support for GCM Implementation: Facilitate the application and local adaptation of the GCM, leveraging the UN's resources and capabilities to advance migrant rights and integration (UN Network on Migration, 2021).
- Data and Policy Guidance: Act as a resource for reliable data, policy analysis, and guidance on migration, enhancing the capacity of Sri Lanka to manage migration effectively and humanely (UN Network on Migration, 2021).
- Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government entities, civil society, the private sector, and international partners to enrich migration governance (UN Network on Migration, 2021).

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Key Actions

- **Policy Implementation:** Support the Sri Lankan government in embedding the principles and objectives of the GCM into national policies and practices (UN Network on Migration, 2021).
- **Capacity Building:** Develop capacities within relevant Sri Lankan entities to better manage migration, particularly focusing on areas such as rights protection, crisis response, and integration of migrants (UN Network on Migration, 2021).

Migration and Climate Change

There exists an urgent need for enhanced legal and policy frameworks to address climate-related migration effectively. While international discussions acknowledge the impact of climate change on migration, national legislations generally lack specific provisions to address this issue comprehensively. The growing recognition of climate change as a driver of migration necessitates the integration of climate adaptation strategies into migration policies to manage the challenges proactively (Migration Network, 2023).

The importance of a coordinated international response to manage climate-induced migration suggesting that while significant strides have been made in recognizing the issue, much work remains in developing robust legal protections and practical solutions to support affected populations. The emphasis on research and data-driven policy development is crucial for crafting effective strategies that address both the immediate and long-term impacts of climate-related migration (Migration Network, 2023).

Main Points

- **Climate Change as a Driver of Migration:** climate change significantly influences migration patterns in Sri Lanka, exacerbating existing social, economic, and environmental challenges. These changes are leading to increased internal migration, especially from rural areas facing agricultural disruption due to adverse weather patterns like prolonged droughts and irregular rainfall.
- **Economic Impact and Migration Dynamics:** The adverse effects of climate change are particularly pronounced in the agricultural sector, a critical component of Sri Lanka's economy and livelihood for many. As agricultural productivity declines, rural inhabitants are compelled to move to urban areas or even abroad in search of better economic opportunities.
- **Policy and Institutional Framework:** There is a robust policy framework addressing labor migration and disaster management in Sri Lanka. However, there is a noted need for enhanced integration of climate mobility considerations into broader policy frameworks to better manage the migration driven by climate impacts.

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- **Need for Comprehensive Approaches:** The documents advocate for a holistic approach to addressing climate-induced migration. This includes improved data collection, particularly gender-disaggregated and seasonal migration data, and better coordination among governmental and non-governmental entities.

There is an urgent need for integrated approaches that address both climate change adaptation and migration. There is a critical gap in policy and support systems for communities affected by climate-induced changes, particularly in agricultural zones. Migration, while serving as a temporary coping mechanism, is not a sustainable long-term solution. Effective adaptation strategies, such as introducing drought-resistant crops, improving irrigation and water management, and diversifying income sources, could help mitigate the need for migration (De Moore et al., 2019).

A compelling narrative that climate change is not just an environmental issue but a complex socio-economic challenge that requires comprehensive policy interventions. By focusing on enhancing the resilience of agricultural communities and improving legal frameworks to support climate-induced migrants, Sri Lanka can better manage the migration flows and reduce vulnerabilities associated with climate change (De Moore et al., 2019).

An urgent necessity for Sri Lanka to develop adaptive strategies that address both the symptoms and sources of climate-induced migration. By fostering sustainable agricultural practices, improving water management, and integrating climate change into national development and disaster preparedness plans, Sri Lanka can mitigate the need for forced migration and better prepare for the demographic shifts that climate change is likely to bring. These efforts must be supported by comprehensive data collection and a collaborative policy approach that bridges environmental management, economic development, and human mobility (Chandrarathna et al., 2020; SLYCAN Trust, 2020).

Complex Dynamics of Humanitarian Aid: Protracted Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka

Main Points

- **Context of Displacement:** The displacement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka in 1990 by the LTTE has led to a protracted displacement scenario, persisting even after the civil war ended in 2009. This community has faced a dual challenge of displacement and return over several decades.
- **Diverse Aid Relations:** A variety of actors are involved in providing aid, including local and international NGOs, host communities, and government agencies. These relationships have evolved over time, influencing the social and humanitarian landscape in complex ways.

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- **Challenges in Aid Dynamics:** The dynamics of aid are influenced by political, social, and economic factors, which affect the efficacy and reach of humanitarian efforts. Issues of local integration, long-term sustainability of aid, and the shifting roles of different aid actors are significant challenges.
- **Impact on Local Communities:** The presence of displaced northern Muslims in Puttalam and other areas has significant social and economic impacts on the host communities, often leading to strained resources and altered community dynamics.

Analysis

A critical analysis of how aid relations in a protracted displacement context can become dynamic and complex, influenced by a multitude of factors beyond immediate humanitarian needs. Challenging traditional views of humanitarian aid by emphasizing the need for understanding local social dynamics and the long-term implications of aid.

It calls for a more nuanced approach to managing aid in protracted displacement situations, suggesting that aid strategies need to be adaptive and sensitive to the evolving relationships between displaced populations and their hosts. This involves recognizing the roles of various local and international stakeholders in shaping these aid dynamics and the importance of integrating humanitarian aid with development and local community empowerment strategies.

Overall, the importance of a comprehensive understanding of the local context in shaping effective and sustainable aid responses in situations of prolonged displacement, advocating for policies that enhance collaboration and support local capacities to manage complex humanitarian scenarios.

Sri Lanka Migration & Displacement Assessment

The "2023 Sri Lanka Migration & Displacement Assessment" report (SLRCS, 2023) provides a comprehensive analysis of various migration and displacement issues affecting Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has a substantial migrant workforce abroad, including about 1.7 million registered outbound migrant workers, primarily in the Middle East. Migration from Sri Lanka includes regular labor migration, irregular migration, and migration by sea facilitated by traffickers (SLRCS, 2023).

Migration Trends and Patterns

- **Outbound Migration:** Sri Lanka has a significant number of its citizens working abroad, especially in the Middle East. Issues such as exploitative working conditions, lack of legal protection, and the risks associated with illegal migration are prominent (Yatawara, 2023).

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- Internal Displacement: Conflicts and natural disasters have caused significant internal displacement, affecting housing, health, and livelihoods (Yatawara, 2023).
- Inbound Migration: The country experiences an influx of labor migrants and refugees, which poses challenges in terms of integration and providing adequate services.

Humanitarian Issues and Risks

- Outbound Migration: Migrant workers, particularly low-skilled and semi-skilled, face (Yatawara, 2023) exploitative working conditions, lack of legal protections, and high health and safety risks. Female migrants in domestic roles in the Middle East are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (SLRCS, 2023).
- Internal Displacement: Both conflict and disaster-induced displacements have led to significant humanitarian challenges, including housing shortages, livelihood disruptions, and health and psychosocial issues (SLRCS, 2023).
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers: They face multiple risks including exploitation, limited access to services, and legal challenges that contribute to prolonged detention and mental health issues (SLRCS, 2023).

Recommendations

- Strategic Integration: Integrate the Migration and Displacement portfolio more comprehensively within Sri Lanka Red Cross Society's (SLRCS) policies and operational plans.
- Policy Development: Advocate for the development and implementation of a robust Migration and Displacement Policy.
- Strengthen Partnerships: Enhance collaborations with government agencies and international organizations like IOM and ILO.
- Capacity Building: Improve technical support, training, and knowledge management concerning migration and displacement issues.
- Community Resilience: Focus on building resilience and providing comprehensive support to the most vulnerable migrant families.

The assessment underscores the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to manage the complex dynamics of migration and displacement, focusing on humanitarian needs, policy advocacy, and community engagement to mitigate the associated risks and challenges.

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Key Insights

- **Complex Migration Context:** Sri Lanka experiences diverse migration dynamics, including significant outbound labor migration, internal displacement from past conflicts, and inbound migration and asylum-seeking, particularly from regional conflict zones and economic migrants.
- **Challenges Faced by Migrants:** Migrants from Sri Lanka face various risks, including exploitation, human trafficking, and unsafe migration routes. Women and children are particularly vulnerable, with many women migrating for domestic work in precarious conditions.

IFRC's Role and SLRCS's Program

The IFRC aims to enhance the capacity of national societies to manage migration and displacement more effectively, stressing the humanitarian needs over legal statuses.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross has been actively involved in pre-departure orientations for migrants, promoting safer migration practices. Programs also support families left behind such as financial literacy training and providing educational materials for children.

The coordination between different Red Cross bodies and the integration of migration-related activities into broader national strategies were noted as areas needing improvement. There are ongoing discussions about how to best resource and structure these initiatives within the national society and the broader Red Cross network.

A noteworthy operation involved assisting Rohingya refugees who arrived by boat, highlighting the complex and urgent nature of such humanitarian responses.

There is a significant need for continued and enhanced support for the migration and displacement initiatives, especially considering the potential phasing out of other international supports, like the UNHCR in Sri Lanka.

The multifaceted nature of migration issues in Sri Lanka, which involve a mix of long-standing issues like conflict-induced displacement and newer challenges posed by economic conditions and climate change. The IFRC's strategic focus on strengthening local capacities and resilience is crucial but requires careful planning, adequate resourcing, and effective coordination both locally and regionally. The challenges of integrating strategic initiatives across different levels of the organization and ensuring sustainable funding are significant and need to be addressed to maintain and scale up the impact of these

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programs. The narrative also underscores the importance of adapting strategies to the evolving dynamics of migration and the specific vulnerabilities of affected populations.

Health

Key Informant Interviews with SLRCs on Health

The KIIs with the SLRCS provide valuable insights into the health and nutritional programs addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka.

Key Points

- **Role and Experience:** SLRCS is involved in various health and nutrition programs, including the MAM program which focuses on moderate acute malnutrition among children under five.
- **Program Descriptions:** The involvement in government-supported food distribution programs, offering transport support for the Ministry of Health to deliver food supplies.
- **Effectiveness and Monitoring:** The monitoring mechanisms in place for these programs, focus on assessing educational performance and nutrition among children, with coordination at the district level influenced by educational officers.
- **Impact of Economic Crisis on Health Services:** The challenges faced during the 2022 economic crisis, emphasizing the cut-downs in medical supplies and the prioritization of essential services despite financial constraints.
- **Response to Dengue Outbreak:** The interview also covers responses to dengue outbreaks, with significant support from the SLRCS in community health initiatives and public engagement to control mosquito breeding.
- **Community Health Initiatives:** Collaborations with SLRCS for community-focused health interventions, highlighting the importance of local support and community engagement in health programs.

Analysis

- **Inter-sectoral Collaboration:** The interviews highlight the collaborative efforts between governmental bodies, the SLRCS, and international organizations to address health and nutritional challenges. These collaborations are crucial in pooling resources and expertise to tackle public health issues effectively.
- **Program Sustainability and Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of the programs is closely linked to their monitoring and adaptability to local conditions. However, the sustainability of these initiatives often depends on continued funding and resource allocation, which can be challenging during economic downturns.

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- **Community Engagement:** The insights into community engagement practices in health initiatives show a proactive approach to disease prevention and health promotion, which is essential in managing outbreaks like dengue.

Conclusion

The interviews underscore the significant role of the SLRCS and local health departments in managing health crises and nutritional programs in Sri Lanka. The need for sustained funding, robust monitoring, and community involvement are critical for the long-term success of these initiatives. Going forward, it is recommended to strengthen inter-sectoral collaborations and enhance community engagement strategies to build resilient health systems capable of addressing both routine and emergent health challenges. These efforts should be aligned with broader national health policies and supported by adequate resources to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.

Health, Conflict and Migration

The complex interplay between conflict and health outcomes highlights the significant toll of civil unrest on public health infrastructure and individual well-being in Sri Lanka. It also stresses the importance of targeted health interventions and robust research to understand and mitigate these effects. The call for integrating mental health services with general health care reflects a growing recognition of the psychological scars left by conflict, suggesting that future health strategies in post-conflict settings should encompass a more holistic approach to health and well-being (Siriwardhana and Wickramage, 2014).

A critical need for continued research to fill the existing gaps in understanding the health needs of conflict-affected populations, particularly in terms of mental health and community resilience. Findings advocate for a stronger alignment between health interventions and the socio-cultural realities of the affected communities, ensuring that healthcare initiatives are both culturally sensitive and appropriately targeted to address the complex health landscapes shaped by prolonged conflict (Siriwardhana and Wickramage, 2014).

Main Points

- **Impact of Conflict on Health Systems:** The conflict in Sri Lanka severely disrupted health services, exacerbating public health issues and increasing mortality and morbidity among the affected populations.
- **Physical and Mental Health Challenges:** Displaced populations faced heightened risks of physical health problems, including infectious diseases and trauma. Mental health issues, particularly PTSD, depression, and anxiety, were significantly prevalent among those affected by the conflict.

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- **Research Gaps and Methodology:** Despite extensive research, gaps exist in synthesizing these findings to build an evidence-informed platform. The review utilized comprehensive literature searches across multiple databases to address these gaps.
- **Specific Health Concerns:** High maternal and neonatal mortality rates, poor antenatal care, and increased risk of sexual and physical abuse were notably significant in conflict areas.
- **Health System Resilience:** The resilience of health systems and communities was under-researched, with a significant need for studies focusing on the long-term impact of conflict on health and the effectiveness of health interventions.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has made notable strides in gender equality, especially in education and health. However, significant barriers remain in achieving true gender parity across various sectors. The following analysis synthesizes insights from multiple sources to present a comprehensive overview of gender dynamics in Sri Lanka.

Human Development and Women's Status in South Asia

Sri Lanka boasts a high Human Development Index (HDI) compared to its South Asian counterparts, ranking 75th globally with an HDI of 0.782. The country also performs well in gender equality, ranking 73rd in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) with a GII of 0.383. Literacy rates between men and women are nearly equal, and women have significant access to education and healthcare (Kumarasiri, 2021).

Current Challenges

Despite these advancements, Sri Lanka faces substantial challenges. Women's participation in the labor force is low at 34%, and political representation is minimal, with women occupying only about 5% of parliamentary seats (Kumarasiri, 2021). Cultural and social barriers persist, including gender-based violence and low enrollment in STEM education for women. These barriers limit women's economic opportunities and decision-making power (UNODC, 2024).

Ongoing Initiatives and Strategic Drives

Several initiatives aim to empower women and reduce gender imbalances. These include finalizing national policies on gender equality, operating emergency helplines for women's complaints, and conducting counseling services. Efforts are also underway to amend legal frameworks to create a more favorable environment for female labor force participation and to introduce flexible working hours (Kumarasiri, 2021; UNODC, 2024).

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Digital Gender Divide

Women and girls in Sri Lanka face limited access to technology, which impacts their access to education, health, and financial inclusion. The digital literacy rate for women is significantly lower than for men, which affects their employability prospects. Socio-cultural barriers, high costs of digital devices, and safety concerns further exacerbate this divide (Wanigasinghe, 2023). Addressing the digital gender divide is crucial for enhancing women's economic and social opportunities. Initiatives to improve digital literacy and access, particularly in rural areas, are essential. These include providing training and loan schemes for women interested in technology fields and updating educational curriculums to meet digital demands (Wanigasinghe, 2023).

Labor Force Participation

Women's labor force participation in Sri Lanka is significantly lower than that of men. While educational achievements for women are high, this has not translated into equivalent economic participation. Structural barriers and gender norms limit women's opportunities in the labor market (Gunawardane, 2013; World Bank, 2021b).

Political Representation

Sri Lanka has one of the lowest levels of female political representation globally, with women holding less than 6% of parliamentary seats. This low representation affects women's influence on policymaking and limits their participation in governance (Gunawardane, 2013).

Socio-Cultural Influences

Patriarchal norms in Sri Lanka perpetuate traditional gender roles, viewing men as dominant and women as caretakers. These norms restrict women's opportunities in various sectors and contribute to gender-based violence. Changing these deep-rooted cultural attitudes is essential for advancing gender equality (Gunawardane, 2013).

Employment and Economic Participation

In Sri Lanka, gender inequality is evident in various sectors. Women play a significant role in key economic sectors such as tea plantations, garment industries, and as migrant workers, often occupying the lowest ranks within these industries. The female labor force participation rate is notably lower than that of males, with women making up only about 33.6% of the total economically active population (UN Women, 2021). Female unemployment is higher at 11%, compared to 7% for males, and women are underrepresented in leadership positions across both public and private sectors.

Education and Health

Education in Sri Lanka is legally compulsory up to the age of 14, and the country offers free education up to university level, resulting in high literacy rates for both genders. Women have particularly benefited from these policies, with a higher university admission rate compared to men (Weeratunga,

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2011). Despite this, there are disparities in enrollment in training and skills development programs, which contribute to low female labor force participation (Etp, 2023).

Sri Lanka has made significant progress in female education and healthcare, achieving near parity in literacy rates and educational enrollment. However, disparities remain in higher education and professional fields, where women are underrepresented in leadership positions (World Bank, 2021b).

Sri Lanka has been recognized for achieving gender parity in education, with equal access to primary, secondary, and tertiary education for both boys and girls. This achievement is underpinned by the country's long-standing policies promoting free and compulsory education (openDemocracy, 2016; USAID, 2020). However, despite high literacy rates among women (98.6%) compared to men (97.7%), gender stereotypes persist within the educational system. Textbooks and curricula often reinforce traditional gender roles, which hinder the empowerment of women and girls beyond the classroom (openDemocracy, 2016)

The study by Withanage and Chandrakumara (2021) on gender equality in education in Sri Lanka investigates the distribution of education and training between males and females. Using data from the Department of Education, University Grants Commission, and the Department of Census and Statistics, it reveals that while gender equality in education is achieved in several areas, disparities remain in others. Specifically, male bias is evident in grade one enrollments in national schools and in engineering and technology study programs at universities. Conversely, female bias is present in bio-science centered streams. The study highlights the need for policy interventions to address these inequalities and ensure equal access and participation for both genders across all educational levels and training programs (Withanage & Chandrakumara, 2021).

Political Representation

Women's representation in political spheres is significantly low, with women holding only about 5.3% of parliamentary seats (UN Women, 2021; Weeratunga, 2011). Historical and systemic barriers, including lack of financial support and nomination difficulties, hinder women's political engagement (Weeratunga, 2011).

Despite Sri Lanka's history of female political leaders, including two female state leaders, women's representation in political and decision-making positions remains minimal. Women constitute only 5% of the national parliament and 2% in local government (openDemocracy, 2016). Efforts to increase female representation in leadership roles are crucial, as diverse perspectives in governance and business can drive more inclusive and equitable policies (EconomyNext, 2024).

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Workforce Participation and Economic Empowerment

Women's participation in Sri Lanka's labor force is markedly low, with only 32% of women engaged in formal employment (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, 2023). This discrepancy is further exacerbated by the high unemployment rates among women, double that of men. Key barriers include a lack of access to financial resources, discriminatory policies, and societal norms that confine women to domestic roles (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, 2023). Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing economic crisis have disproportionately affected women, limited their economic opportunities, and exacerbated existing inequalities (EconomyNext, 2024).

Unpaid Care Work

Unpaid care work is a significant barrier to women's economic participation. In Sri Lanka, women perform most unpaid domestic tasks, which limits their ability to engage in income-generating activities. This unpaid labor not only hinders women's economic empowerment but also perpetuates gender disparities in the labor market (EconomyNext, 2024).

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a critical issue in Sri Lanka, with one in five women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner (Salgado and Women, 2023; UN Women, 2023). The cultural stigma surrounding domestic violence often prevents women from seeking help. Organizations like Women in Need (WIN) and AKASA provide vital support services, including shelters and legal aid (UN Women, 2023). Addressing gender-based violence through robust legal frameworks and societal change is essential for advancing gender equality.

Health and Reproductive Rights

The adolescent birth rate has slightly decreased, and a significant percentage of women have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (UN Women, 2021). However, access to maternal health services and reproductive rights still requires improvement to achieve gender equality (UN Women, 2021).

Government Initiatives and Policy Recommendations

The Sri Lankan government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has implemented programs to support women entrepreneurs, provide access to finance, and promote gender-responsive policies. For example, the "Enabling an Empowering Business Environment for Women Entrepreneurs" program by ADB has facilitated access to loans and business development training for women-owned SMEs (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, 2023). Additionally, the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus has advocated for integrating gender perspectives into the budgetary process and establishing gender-responsive budgeting frameworks (Parliament of Sri Lanka, 2024).

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Legal Framework and Reforms

Sri Lanka has enacted several legal reforms aimed at improving gender equality. Key legislation includes the criminalization of sexual harassment and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (South Asia WBL, 2021). However, gaps remain in ensuring comprehensive protection and equal opportunities, particularly in the enforcement of these laws (South Asia WBL, 2021).

Corporate Sector and Initiatives

Several Sri Lankan companies have started advancing gender equality in the workplace. For instance, John Keells Holdings PLC extended parental leave for both mothers and fathers, and MAS Holdings set a target for gender balance at management levels (UN Global Compact, 2022). Initiatives like the Global Compact Local Network's Target Gender Equality program have encouraged corporate culture shifts towards greater inclusion and equity (UN Global Compact, 2022).

Gender Dimensions of Poverty

The analysis of gender dimensions of poverty in Sri Lanka by Kottegoda (Kottegoda, 2004) explores the relationship between gender and poverty through an interdisciplinary approach. It emphasizes that women and men experience poverty differently due to unequal access to resources such as food, healthcare, skills training, credit, property, and income. The brief discusses how social norms and power imbalances exacerbate these inequalities, making women more vulnerable to poverty. It also highlights the gendered nature of the labor market and state poverty alleviation programs, which often reinforce traditional gender roles and place additional burdens on women (Kottegoda, 2004).

Board Gender Diversity

The feasibility of implementing board gender diversity rules in Sri Lanka is examined through a socio-legal lens in a book by Menaka Angammana (Angammana, 2023). The study argues that such rules could enhance corporate governance and promote gender equality. The International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have advocated for good corporate governance practices, including board gender diversity, to attract investors and foster economic development. Despite the recognized benefits, Sri Lankan legislators have yet to introduce these rules. The study suggests that implementing board gender diversity could improve corporate governance and contribute to broader societal gender equality (Angammana, 2023).

Integrating Gender, Climate Action, and Reproductive Health

A policy dialogue focused on integrating gender, climate action, and reproductive health underscores the critical role of women and girls in driving climate action. The dialogue, organized by the Ministry of Environment, UNFPA Sri Lanka, UNDP Sri Lanka, and SLYCAN Trust, highlighted the intersection of climate change and sexual and reproductive health. Emphasizing the need to invest in women, the event called for policies and initiatives that prioritize gender-responsive climate solutions, aiming to amplify the voices and contributions of women in shaping a sustainable future (UNFPA, 2024).

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Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change

Gender mainstreaming in climate change processes in Sri Lanka is critical as women, who constitute most of the poor, face greater vulnerabilities due to gender-based inequalities. The Climate Change Secretariat has initiated processes to integrate gender considerations into national planning and policy. This includes creating gender mainstreaming units in all government ministries and developing a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to ensure gender-responsive climate policies. The plan aims to enhance institutional coherence, financial resources, and participatory decision-making, recognizing the vital role of women in climate resilience (SLYCAN Trust, 2020).

Gender Mainstreaming Theory

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy aimed at promoting gender equality by integrating gender perspectives into all levels and stages of policies and programs. The goal is to make gender equality considerations a core component of policy processes, ensuring that both women's and men's interests and experiences are adequately reflected in all areas of public policy. The most frequently cited definition by Mieke Verloo describes it as the reorganization, improvement, development, and evaluation of policy processes to incorporate a gender equality perspective by the actors normally involved in policymaking (Walby, 2005).

Historical Context and Development

The concept of gender mainstreaming gained significant traction following the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, which explicitly called for gender perspectives to be mainstreamed into all policies and programs. By the early 2000s, gender mainstreaming had become a widespread approach at local, national, and international levels, supported by various policy statements and guidelines from organizations like the United Nations and the European Union (Gupta et al., 2023)

Implementation and Challenges

Despite its widespread adoption, the implementation of gender mainstreaming has faced numerous challenges. Critics argue that it often becomes a "tick-the-box" exercise without achieving meaningful outcomes. The focus tends to be on increasing awareness rather than on developing the technical skills and knowledge necessary to effect substantial change. Additionally, gender mainstreaming is sometimes perceived as a threat to existing power structures, leading to resistance within organizations (Gupta et al., 2023).

Theoretical Debates

Gender mainstreaming encompasses several theoretical tensions, particularly around the concepts of "gender equality" and the "mainstream." One major issue is whether the process should aim for "sameness," "difference," or "transformation" in gender relations. Another debate focuses on whether gender mainstreaming should prioritize altering internal processes or achieving tangible results for women and men. The relationship between gender mainstreaming and other forms of inequality, such as those based on ethnicity and class, is also a critical consideration (Walby, 2005).

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Analysis

Gender mainstreaming holds the potential to significantly advance gender equality by embedding gender considerations into the core of policy-making processes. It shifts the focus from addressing gender issues as peripheral concerns to integrating them into the mainstream policy agenda. This integrationist approach can lead to more comprehensive and sustainable gender equality outcomes.

However, several critiques highlight the limitations of gender mainstreaming in practice. One significant issue is the risk of depoliticization, where gender mainstreaming becomes a technical rather than a transformative process. This can result in superficial compliance without substantive changes in gender relations. Additionally, the complexity of effectively implementing gender mainstreaming in diverse institutional and cultural contexts means that success can vary widely between different organizations and regions (Gupta et al., 2023).

Intersectionality and Inclusive Approaches

Effective gender mainstreaming must also address intersectionality—the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender—which can lead to overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. By considering these intersecting inequalities, gender mainstreaming can better address the diverse experiences of different groups of women and men, making policies more inclusive and equitable (Walby, 2005).

Expertise and Democracy

A significant tension within gender mainstreaming is the balance between expertise and democratic participation. While technical expertise is crucial for effectively implementing gender-sensitive policies, democratic engagement ensures that these policies are responsive to the needs and perspectives of those they aim to serve. Therefore, combining expert knowledge with participatory approaches can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of gender mainstreaming initiatives (Walby, 2005).

Conclusion and Recommendations

While Sri Lanka has made progress in certain areas of gender equality, significant challenges remain. Addressing the deeply rooted societal norms and stereotypes, enhancing women's economic participation, ensuring political representation, and combating gender-based violence are crucial steps towards achieving gender parity. The ongoing economic crisis presents both challenges and opportunities to advance gender equality, necessitating focused and sustained efforts from all sectors of society.

To further gender equality in Sri Lanka, it is essential to:

- Implement gender-balanced budgeting and provide quotas for political representation.
- Enhance social security schemes and care facilities for vulnerable women.
- Address the digital gender divide through targeted education and access initiatives.

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- Reform labor laws to support women's participation in the workforce.

By addressing these areas, Sri Lanka can create a more inclusive and equitable society, benefiting from the full potential of its female population.

Gender mainstreaming is a vital strategy for achieving gender equality, but its success depends on addressing both its technical and political dimensions. It requires a nuanced understanding of intersectionality, the integration of expert knowledge with democratic processes, and a commitment to substantive rather than superficial change. As gender mainstreaming continues to evolve, it must adapt to the complex realities of gender relations in different contexts to realize its transformative potential.

Triple Nexus Review

The Triple Nexus approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. By integrating these traditionally siloed sectors, the approach seeks to create more holistic and durable solutions to conflicts. The nexus aims to bridge the operational and strategic gaps between different aid modalities, promoting a unified response that leverages the strengths of each sector to address complex crisis scenarios (Cochrane and Wilson, 2023).

The Triple Nexus approach, while conceptually robust, faces significant practical challenges in implementation, primarily due to coordination issues, funding imbalances, and the need for genuine local engagement. The lessons learned from various contexts underscore the need for a more cohesive and integrated approach that truly blends humanitarian, development, and peace efforts into a unified strategy. The recommendations provided aim to address these challenges by advocating for stronger local leadership, balanced funding, and integrated planning and implementation strategies. Achieving these goals would likely lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes in complex crisis scenarios. Insights from understanding of the Triple Nexus, highlight the critical need for adaptation and innovation in policies and practices to make the Triple Nexus approach more effective and responsive to the needs of affected populations.

While the triple nexus approach is strategically advantageous, its implementation faces practical challenges, primarily due to funding disparities and the complex interplay between different aid sectors. The recommendations suggest a paradigm shift toward more integrated, flexible, and locally driven approaches. These strategies are not only about bridging gaps between humanitarian, development, and peace efforts but also about transforming how these sectors interact to foster sustainable peace and development. Adapting these recommendations can lead to more resilient communities capable of navigating the complexities of post-conflict recovery and development.

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The inherent challenges of implementing the Triple Nexus approach, particularly in conflict-affected and fragile contexts underscore the need for more coherent integration of peace initiatives within the nexus framework, suggesting that without addressing the root causes of conflicts through adequate peacebuilding measures, the efforts in humanitarian aid and development could be undermined.

The lessons learned suggest that while the Nexus approach offers a promising avenue for more holistic interventions, its success heavily depends on genuine collaborative efforts that transcend traditional sector boundaries and prioritize local capacities and leadership.

The recommendation to enhance local involvement is particularly poignant, reflecting a broader call for a shift towards more sustainable, inclusive, and locally led development and peacebuilding processes. This aligns with the growing advocacy for decolonizing aid, which seeks to rebalance the power dynamics between international donors and local actors.

advancing the Triple Nexus effectively requires a nuanced understanding of local contexts, committed international support that respects local capacities and leadership, and a balanced allocation of resources across all three nexus components to truly achieve sustainable peace and development.

Triple Nexus and Localization

Localization involves shifting authority and resources towards local actors to improve the efficacy and sustainability of interventions in conflict-affected areas. This concept is pivotal across humanitarian, development, and peace sectors, advocating for interventions that are more responsive to local needs and conditions (Barakat and Milton, 2020).

While localization presents a promising avenue for more effective conflict response, it requires careful consideration of the local political, social, and economic dynamics. The enhanced participation of local actors, supported by appropriate international frameworks and sustained capacity-building efforts, is essential for the success of localization initiatives. Moreover, navigating the political landscape and aligning international and local priorities remain significant challenges that need strategic attention and innovative solutions.

Challenges of Implementing Localization

- **Defining the Local:** The complexity of defining 'local' varies across contexts, affecting how interventions are designed and implemented. The notion of 'local' can encompass diverse actors, from grassroots organizations to local governments, each with different capabilities and interests (Barakat and Milton, 2020; Cochrane and Wilson, 2023)

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- **Capacity Constraints:** Despite the recognized value of local actors, there often exist significant gaps in their capacity to manage and sustain large-scale projects, especially those involving complex financial management and accountability requirements (Cochrane and Wilson, 2023).
- **Political Will and Dynamics:** Localization is also affected by political considerations, including the alignment of international donor priorities with local realities and the potential manipulation of aid processes by local elites to consolidate power (Barakat and Milton, 2020).

Recommendations for Enhancing Localization

- **Building Capacities:** Strengthening the capacities of local actors is crucial for effective localization. This involves not only training and resource allocation but also supporting the development of robust institutional frameworks that can sustain long-term development and peacebuilding efforts (Cochrane and Wilson, 2023)
- **Policy Support:** Advocating for policies that promote local ownership and leadership in humanitarian and development initiatives. This includes adapting international funding mechanisms to be more accessible to local organizations and ensuring that they align with local strategies and objectives (Barakat and Milton, 2020)
- **Inclusive Participation:** Ensuring that localization efforts include a wide range of stakeholders, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, to enhance the inclusiveness and legitimacy of interventions. Engaging diverse local actors helps in grounding the interventions in the local socio-cultural context and gaining broader community support (Cochrane and Wilson, 2023)

Triple Nexus Findings and Lessons Learned

- **Integration Challenges:** Integrating humanitarian, development, and peace actions remains complex due to differing timelines, goals, and metrics of success among sectors. The lack of a common framework often results in siloed operations (Schindler, 2023; Talisuna et al., 2023a).
- **Resource Allocation:** Peace initiatives are notably underfunded compared to humanitarian and development efforts, which hampers balanced triple nexus applications. This funding disparity impacts the ability to address root causes of conflicts effectively (Saferworld, 2023).
- **Local Engagement:** Local actors play a critical role in the success of nexus-oriented projects. Their insights and participation are essential for culturally relevant and sustainable interventions (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2022; Talisuna et al., 2023a). The importance of localisation in the Triple Nexus is highlighted, where local actors are not just participants but leaders in defining and driving responses. This involves understanding local dynamics and leveraging local knowledge and capacities (Roborgh et al., 2024).
- **Policy and Practice Gap:** There is a recurring theme of a significant gap between the strategic policy formulations at the international level and their practical applications at the ground level,

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often due to rigid funding structures and bureaucratic inertia (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2022).

- **Coordination Challenges:** Effective implementation of the Triple Nexus is often hindered by coordination issues among humanitarian, development, and peace actors. This is exacerbated by differing operational timelines and organizational priorities (Todisco, 2024). There is a recurring challenge in effectively coordinating and integrating humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. This is often due to different operational mandates, objectives, and timelines that each sector follows. The need for better coordination mechanisms is emphasized across various contexts to enhance the effectiveness of the Triple Nexus approach (Finkenbinder et al., 2020).
- **Conceptual and Operational Gaps:** There is a significant gap between the conceptual understanding of the Triple Nexus and its practical application, especially in terms of integrating the peace component effectively within the nexus framework (Interpeace, 2020).
- **Funding Mechanisms:** Funding remains a critical challenge, with peacebuilding efforts often under-resourced compared to humanitarian and development components. This imbalance affects the overall effectiveness of nexus initiatives (Meininghaus Birgit et al., 2024). Funding for peace initiatives remains significantly lower compared to humanitarian and development efforts, creating an imbalance that can undermine the overall effectiveness of the Nexus approach. There's a call for balanced and flexible funding mechanisms that support all three pillars of the nexus equally (FAO and NRC, 2021).
- **Local Engagement and Capacity Building:** Local and national capacities are crucial for the sustainability of efforts. However, there's a tendency for international actors to dominate, overshadowing local voices and diminishing the potential for durable solutions (Nguya and Siddiqui, 2020). Engaging local actors and building local capacities are crucial for the sustainability of Triple Nexus efforts. This includes empowering local governments, civil society, and communities to lead their developmental, peace, and humanitarian agendas (Finkenbinder et al., 2020).
- **Long-term Commitment:** Nexus approaches require a shift from short-term emergency responses to long-term commitments that address underlying causes of crises (Talisuna et al., 2023b).
- **Adaptation and Flexibility:** Programs must be adaptable and flexible to respond to changing on-the-ground realities, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings (Trocaire, 2023).

Challenges Identified

- **Integration Across Sectors:** Achieving effective integration of humanitarian, development, and peace initiatives remains challenging due to differing operational mandates, timelines, and funding mechanisms, which often lead to coordination issues (Brugger et al., 2022).

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- **Funding Imbalances:** Peacebuilding efforts are notably under-resourced compared to humanitarian and development efforts, affecting the balance and efficacy of the Triple Nexus approach (Brugger et al., 2022).
- **Local Capacity and Engagement:** There is a significant need for building local capacities and ensuring that local actors are not merely participants but leaders in shaping and driving Nexus initiatives (Brugger et al., 2022).

Triple Nexus Recommendations

- **Enhanced Funding for Peace:** Increase funding allocations for peace initiatives to balance the triple nexus approach and address the often-neglected peace component more effectively (Saferworld, 2023).
- **Flexible Funding Mechanisms:** Develop more flexible funding mechanisms that can adapt to the fluid needs of nexus contexts, allowing for seamless transitions between emergency and development phases (Schindler, 2023; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2022). Advocate for a rebalancing of funding across the Triple Nexus to ensure that peace initiatives are not underfunded. Encourage donors to adopt more flexible funding approaches that can adapt to changing ground realities and support integrated nexus responses (Finkenbinder et al., 2020).
- **Strengthen Local Capacities:** Empower and build the capacities of local communities and institutions to lead nexus initiatives. This includes training, resource allocation, and support for local governance structures (Schindler, 2023; Talisuna et al., 2023a).
- **Adopt a Context-Specific Approach:** Recognize that no one-size-fits-all approach exists for the triple nexus; instead, tailor strategies to specific regional and cultural contexts to enhance effectiveness (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2022).
- **Enhanced Local Involvement:** Strengthening local ownership and involvement in planning and execution phases to ensure that interventions are culturally relevant and sustainable (Nguya and Siddiqui, 2020; Todisco, 2024). Strengthen mechanisms for local participation in planning and execution phases to ensure interventions are contextually relevant and sustainable. This includes supporting local governance structures and community-based organizations in their capacity to manage and lead responses (Finkenbinder et al., 2020; Roborgh et al., 2024).
- **Balanced Funding:** Advocate for equitable funding across the humanitarian, development, and peace sectors, with an increased focus on peacebuilding to address the root causes of conflict and displacement (Brugger et al., 2022; Meininghaus Birgit et al., 2024).
- **Integrated Approaches:** Adopt more integrated approaches that bridge the operational and strategic divides, promoting a unified strategy that leverages the strengths of each sector (Brown, 2020).

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- **Integrated Planning and Implementation:** Develop integrated planning processes that include humanitarian, development, and peace actors from the onset. This would help in aligning objectives and activities across the Triple Nexus, reducing operational silos, and increasing the overall impact of interventions (FAO and NRC, 2021).
- **Integrated and Coherent Frameworks:** Developing integrated frameworks that facilitate cooperation and coherence among humanitarian, development, and peace actors is essential for addressing complex crises comprehensively (Trocaire, 2023).
- **Adaptation and Flexibility:** Programs must be adaptable and flexible to respond to changing on-the-ground realities, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings.
- **Decolonial and Bottom-Up Approaches:** Incorporate decolonial perspectives to challenge and transform power imbalances between global North and South actors, fostering a more equitable system of international aid (Meininghaus Birgit et al., 2024).
- **Promote Peacebuilding within the Nexus:** Increase investment in peacebuilding activities as part of the Triple Nexus to address the root causes of conflicts and build sustainable peace. This involves supporting local peace initiatives and integrating peacebuilding into humanitarian and development programs (FAO and NRC, 2021).

Triple Nexus Analytical Framework

Variables in the Triple Nexus

Independent Variables (Causal)

- **Government Stability:** The political stability and governance capacity significantly influence the effectiveness of Triple Nexus interventions.
- **International Aid:** The level and type of international support, including financial and technical assistance, dictate the scope of Nexus activities.
- **Community Engagement:** The degree of local community involvement in planning and implementing Nexus initiatives.

Dependent Variables (Outcome)

- **Socio-economic Development:** Measurable improvements in economic opportunities and living conditions.
- **Resilience to Crises:** Enhanced community resilience against natural disasters and economic shocks.
- **Peace and Social Cohesion:** Reduction in conflict incidences and improved inter-community relations.

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Causality within the Triple Nexus

The causality in the Triple Nexus is often complex and multi-directional. For example, enhanced socio-economic development (dependent variable) can lead to improved peace and social cohesion (dependent variable), which in turn may influence further development. Conversely, inadequate attention to peacebuilding can exacerbate vulnerabilities, affecting both humanitarian and development outcomes. Understanding these causal relationships is crucial to designing interventions that effectively leverage and reinforce positive synergies.

Micro Level Analysis

At the individual and community levels, interventions are directly felt by the people. For instance, a microfinance program aimed at women in a post-conflict area not only addresses immediate economic needs but also fosters long-term empowerment and community solidarity. These interventions require sensitive approaches that consider the immediate needs and local dynamics, such as ethnic tensions or regional disparities, to avoid unintended consequences.

Meso Level Examination

At this level, the focus shifts to regional, sub-national, and sectoral dynamics. This includes how regional policies, like those promoting tourism in Eastern Sri Lanka, interact with local efforts to rebuild conflict-affected communities. It also involves assessing how sectoral policies in education or healthcare are aligned with overall peacebuilding and development goals. The meso level bridges the localized interventions with national policies, illustrating how sub-national trends can influence and be influenced by broader policies.

Macro Level Evaluation

At the national and international levels, the Triple Nexus approach considers the impact of global trends such as climate change and international trade policies on Sri Lanka's strategic direction. It also evaluates how national policies, such as those related to national reconciliation or foreign investment, are designed to align with and support the Triple Nexus framework. Stakeholders at this level include international NGOs, government bodies, and global policymakers whose decisions shape the operational landscape of humanitarian, development, and peace initiatives in Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka, the Triple Nexus framework offers a comprehensive approach to intertwining humanitarian aid, development, and peacebuilding into a cohesive strategy. By understanding and analyzing the interactions at micro, meso, and macro levels, stakeholders can better coordinate efforts to create sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities across the nation.

Triple Nexus Triangulation Model

Paul Howe's Triple Nexus Triangulation Model (Howe, 2019) explores the interconnectedness of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.

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Triple Nexus Definition

The Triple Nexus refers to the intersection of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. It suggests that coordinated actions in these areas can have greater and mutually reinforcing impacts, particularly in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Howe, 2019).

Components of the Triple Nexus

- Humanitarian Actions: Immediate relief efforts to save lives and alleviate suffering during and after crises.
- Development Actions: Long-term efforts to improve economic, social, and institutional development.
- Peace Actions: Initiatives aimed at conflict prevention, resolution, and promoting peace.

Implementation and Examples

Nexus Actions

These actions are categorized based on their contribution to one or more areas of the Triple Nexus (Howe, 2019).

- Single Nexus: Focus on one area (e.g., purely humanitarian).
- Double Nexus: Actions that contribute to two areas (e.g., humanitarian and development).
- Triple Nexus: Actions that impact all three areas.

Potential and Challenges

Benefits

- Enhanced Impact: Coordinated actions across the nexus can lead to more comprehensive and sustainable outcomes.
- Efficiency: Integrating efforts can optimize resource use and avoid duplication.
- Holistic Approach: Addressing the root causes of crises and conflicts can lead to long-term stability and development.

Challenges

- Complexity: Implementing a triple nexus approach requires careful planning and coordination among diverse actors.
- Measurement: Evaluating the impact of nexus actions can be difficult due to the interlinked nature of the outcomes.
- Risk of Compromising Principles: Balancing the distinct principles and mandates of humanitarian, development, and peace actors can be challenging.

The Triple Nexus Triangulation Model

Howe's triangulation models (Howe, 2019) emphasize the importance of integrated approaches that simultaneously address humanitarian, development, and peace objectives. By visualizing the overlaps and intersections, these models highlight the potential for coordinated actions to achieve more comprehensive and sustainable outcomes in crisis-affected and developing regions.

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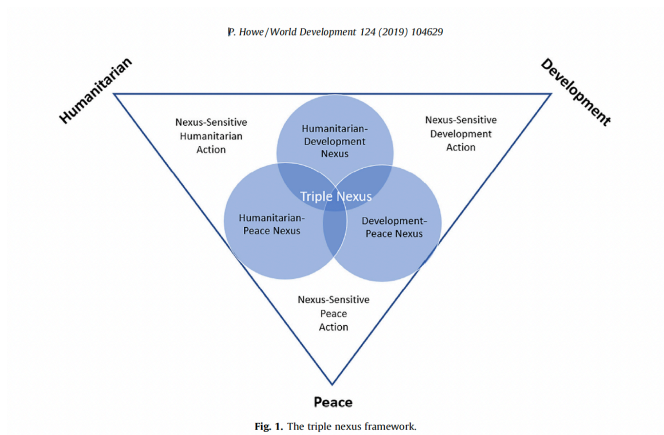


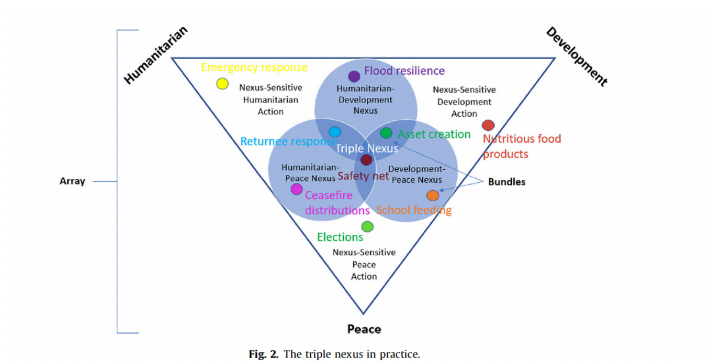
Figure: The Triple Nexus Framework (Howe, 2019)

Key Areas

- Nexus-Sensitive Humanitarian Action: Humanitarian efforts that are sensitive to and can contribute to development and peace outcomes.
- Nexus-Sensitive Development Action: Development efforts that are designed to also address humanitarian and peace issues.
- Nexus-Sensitive Peace Action: Peace initiatives that integrate humanitarian and development goals.

Intersections

- Humanitarian-Development Nexus: Actions that achieve outcomes in both humanitarian and development domains.
- Humanitarian-Peace Nexus: Actions that address both humanitarian needs and contribute to peacebuilding.
- Development-Peace Nexus: Initiatives that support development and foster peace.
- Triple Nexus: The central area where actions contribute to humanitarian, development, and peace outcomes simultaneously.



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Figure: The Triple Nexus in Practice

Arrays and Bundles

Bundles refer to a set of actions targeting a specific group to maximize impact. Bundles can be:

- Sequential: Actions occur in phases, such as initial humanitarian aid followed by development efforts.
- Simultaneous: Actions happen at the same time, reinforcing each other.
- Repeated: Actions are carried out at predictable intervals, like regular safety net transfers.
- Integrated: Single actions inherently supporting multiple outcomes.

Arrays consist of multiple bundles strategically aligned to achieve broader goals. For example, various bundles aimed at SDG 2 (zero hunger) may collectively address humanitarian, development, and peace needs, reinforcing each other for greater impact:

Implementation Examples

- Emergency Response (Humanitarian): Immediate aid during crises, which primarily focuses on humanitarian outcomes but can also set the stage for development and peace initiatives.
- Flood Resilience (Humanitarian-Development Nexus): Initiatives that provide immediate relief during floods while also building long-term resilience to future disasters.
- Returnee Response (Humanitarian-PeaceNexus): Support for refugees returning to their homes, which includes immediate humanitarian aid and efforts to foster peace and stability.
- Asset Creation (Development): Long-term development projects that also consider peace and humanitarian aspects.
- School Feeding (Development-Peace Nexus): Programs that provide nutritional support to children, contributing to their education (development) and promoting social stability (peace).
- Nutritious Food Products (Nexus-Sensitive Development Action): Development initiatives that ensure food security and address humanitarian needs.
- Ceasefire Distributions (Peace): Distributions during ceasefires that focus on humanitarian relief and promote peace.
- Elections (Nexus-Sensitive Peace Action): Efforts to support free and fair elections, which promote peace and stability and consider humanitarian and development impacts.

Transforming Humanitarian Assistance with Digital Innovations

This section delves into the evolution and effectiveness of humanitarian aid in the context of emerging technologies and digital advancements.

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Key Findings

- Customizable Solutions: Flexibility in aid delivery is crucial, allowing choices that reflect local needs and circumstances, which enhances the efficacy and appropriateness of aid (Devex, 2024).
- Inclusivity and Accessibility: Ensuring that aid programs are inclusive and accessible to all, particularly vulnerable groups, is vital for the success of these programs. This involves using digital platforms to widen reach and improve participation (Devex, 2024).
- Efficiency in Aid Delivery: The need for rapid, adaptable, and effective aid delivery methods is underscored, particularly in the face of quickly evolving crises (Devex, 2024).
- Long-term Planning and Resilience: Developing strategies that not only address immediate needs but also contribute to long-term sustainability and resilience against future crises (Devex, 2024).
- Partnerships: Strong, diverse, and well-coordinated partnerships are essential to drive next-generation aid programs that are holistic and effective (Devex, 2024).

Recommendations

- Adaptability to Evolving Needs: Aid programs should be dynamic, adjusting to changing needs and circumstances, and should integrate regular feedback from the communities they serve.
- Long-term Investments: There should be investments in skills and infrastructure to sustain aid effectiveness over time, alongside integrating aid programs with local social protection systems to ensure continued support.
- Leveraging Digital Innovations: Utilizing digital solutions to enhance the speed, transparency, and accountability of aid delivery. This includes leveraging digital payments which can streamline processes and make aid delivery more efficient.
- Inclusivity in Design: Programs must prioritize inclusivity, ensuring that digital tools and platforms do not exclude those who are less digitally literate or have limited access to technology.

Analysis

The document highlights a shift towards more digitally integrated aid solutions, reflecting a broader trend of digital transformation in various sectors. The emphasis on flexibility, inclusivity, and long-term planning indicates a move towards more sustainable and resilient humanitarian practices. These strategies suggest that while digital tools offer significant advantages in terms of efficiency and scalability, they must be implemented thoughtfully to address the diverse needs of affected populations effectively.

Annex III

The recommendations stress the importance of understanding local contexts and integrating community feedback into program design, which aligns with best practices in user-centered design and agile methodologies commonly seen in other sectors. The push for partnership and collaboration also reflects a growing recognition that complex global challenges require multi-stakeholder approaches.

Conclusion

Reimagining Aid in the Digital Age (Devex, 2024) advocates for a strategic rethinking of humanitarian aid to make it more aligned with current technological capabilities and future needs. It calls for an integrated approach that balances immediate relief with long-term developmental goals, leveraging technology to enhance both reach and impact while ensuring that programs are inclusive and adaptable to the changing environments in which they operate.