

FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation

Outcome Report from the conference

Resilience as a Task: How to help people in fragile regions to cope with complex crises

9–10 November 2022
Prague



FORS

České fórum pro rozvojovou spolupráci
Czech Forum for Development Cooperation

INTRODUCTION

This paper resumes the main ideas and key messages expressed during the conference and does not necessarily reflect the speakers' views and position.

The conference *“Resilience as a Task: How to help people in fragile regions to cope with complex crises”* took place in Prague, on 9–10 November. The conference was held under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský and Minister for European Affairs Mikuláš Bek. The aim was to draw attention to the importance of development cooperation and the role of civil society in strengthening



the resilience of local communities in developing countries as well as to identify needs, solutions, and instruments for resilience-building. We referred to the current complex crises in the world: food security, climate crisis, inequalities, and protracted conflicts. The conference placed a particular emphasis on the countries and regions important for the security and stability in Europe – Africa, the Middle East and Ukraine. The main topics of the discussions were approaches such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the Triple Nexus (Humanitarian-Development-Peace actors) and complex solutions. We primarily targeted Czech decision-makers to strengthen their support for the quality and necessary level of financing of development assistance measures.

The two-day event brought together up to 78 participants, with an additional audience of more than 100 who followed the conference online. Among them, there were representatives of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA),

the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Czech Development Agency and other public authorities, as well as guests from academia, private sector, mainly from the national level.

The conference was opened by Pavel Příbyl, the Director of FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, who presented the context of the event in a situation when the world is facing many complex crises and the war in Ukraine has only stressed the urgency of working on measures to support the resilience of local communities in fragile regions.



The opening speech was followed by the address of Jiří Kozák, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He transferred the regards of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský and highlighted that resilience in the context of development was one of the most important advocacy priorities of Czechia during its presidency of the Council of the EU. He presented three main topics in Czech humanitarian and development policy: Disaster Risk Reduction concerning fragility and climate security, the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in practice and the participation of the private sector in sustainable development. Mr Kozák mentioned that the Russian war in Ukraine influenced the priorities in fragility and resilience building, especially in link with food, energy security and cyber crisis.



KEYNOTE SPEECH: IN THE LIGHT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

MS. TANYA COX, DIRECTOR OF CONCORD EUROPE

- If we think about all the conflicts in the world, the natural disasters, the impacts of inequalities and poverty, a huge number of people need to know how to increase their resilience.
- Looking at the origins of the word “resilience” and how that has evolved over time, especially in our sector, we can see that it encompasses **resisting, absorbing, accommodating and recovering from shocks** – with the aim of restoring the previous order – so the aim is overall **stability**. That misses the point as to whether people should *have* to be able to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from such shocks. Or whether stability is the right objective. There are a number of reasons why we should question this.
- Most of the situations where **people are required to be resilient** are also the situations where they find their **rights being undermined or even violated**, for example, in conflict. But **we should never expect people to get used to the situations in which their rights are violated or allow that to become the “new normal”**.
- There is a risk that a focus on resilience could lead us to spend a lot more effort on adapting, rather than on **addressing the root causes of the problem** and making sure it either doesn’t happen again, or does so less frequently and less severely.
- A **rights-based approach** to resilience, on the other hand is transformative, empowering, root cause-based, not just palliative.
- We, practitioners, advocates, policy-makers and funders, we all need to think about how we can take a **rights-based approach to resilience**:
 - We need to **empower people** as rights-holders when their rights are being undermined
- The first area where we need to increase our efforts is **preventing disasters from happening, by addressing the root causes**; not just maintain the status quo.
 - For example, the way the economy functions today, being geared towards creating “growth” based on high production and consumption, is at the root of climate change. To prevent more climate-related disasters, and thereby reduce people’s need to be “resilient”, then we have to change the way the economy functions. Despite some new initiatives like the circular economy, policy-makers are not really acknowledging that the fundamental purpose of the economy should be to create well-being for all within the limits of the planet (and so they’re not challenging the focus on profit and growth).
- Secondly, we need to involve local people in **preparedness measures** far more than is currently the case. Local communities, including especially women and children, know what will work best.
 - As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, governments are generally ill-prepared for more lasting, all-encompassing disasters. In that situation, the nature of “resilience” took on a new meaning. And we just weren’t prepared to deal with this at all; not prepared and not able to provide the support people needed.
- Thirdly, we need to **rebuild better**. It is not simply building back better because we want to avoid returning to the status quo, even if it is improved. Evolving and addressing the root causes means that we must do things



“The most crucial task in ensuring that people are resilient is to make sure we fulfil their rights.”

differently. And taking a **people-centred approach** means looking at where people are (for example, working in the informal sector) and finding solutions that work for them.

- Resilience **does not exist in a vacuum or even in its own right**; it is closely linked to many sectors, and these **sectors are interrelated**. For instance, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the health crisis turned into a food crisis, a livelihood crisis, and an education crisis. **Risks are interconnected**.
 - So, our responses need to be interconnected too. **We need to take a systemic and comprehensive approach to resilience.**
- Lastly, we should be aware of how the term ‘resilience’ has evolved in EU usage and intention. In 2012, when the European Commission released its Communication on the EU approach to resilience, the **focus was on the resilience of people and communities**, but by 2017 this had changed to the **resilience of state and society, with a focus on security and risk management**. “People” had been amalgamated up to a higher level – so those tailored solutions that need to be applied, risk disappearing.
 - However, there are some instances when state resilience should **not** be improved – for example in the case of authoritarian or repressive states which violate people’s rights.
- If the EU or Member States’ governments do strengthen state resilience, then ensuring transparent and accountable governance should be one objective. Reinforcing an enabling environment for civil society and local communities, access to information, freedom of speech, media and assembly are key – and align with EU values. **A democratic society, with a strong social contract between state and the population, will necessarily be more resilient to risks and crises.**
- **The most crucial task in ensuring that people are resilient is to make sure we fulfil their rights.**



PANEL 1: INTRODUCING THE CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES: THE IMPACT OF COMPLEX CRISES ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Speakers:

Ms Evelien van Roemburg, Head of Oxfam EU office

Mr Richard Walker, Regional Director Africa/People in Need (PIN), and

Mr Bernardo Dumbo, Resilience Programme Manager/PIN Angola – via a letter read by R. Walker

Mr Martin Ronceray, Policy Officer/European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

Ms Marta Úbeda Rodríguez, Policy Officer/DG INTPA, European Commission

Ms Hana Volná, Deputy Director of DC-HA Department/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czechia

Moderator: Ms Åsa Thomasson, Policy Advisor/CONCORD Sweden



The world is facing multiple concurrent crises with increasingly severe consequences for local communities. The war in Ukraine has not only worsened the food crisis but also clearly shown how fragile the international food system is. There is a record number of protracted conflicts impacting especially women and girls, the elderly and the disabled. Inequalities have sharply increased due to the covid pandemic. The climate crisis is escalating. All these problems are pushing millions of people to extreme poverty and hunger, deepening the differences between the global North and South even more. On the first panel, speakers were invited to give an insight into these complex crises, deep dive into their impact on the local communities, and offer solutions.

KEY POINTS:

- Official Development Aid (ODA) and Development Cooperation are the most important ways to prevent crises from spinning out of control and address the root causes.
- We must act much earlier; we need to have a development **system that builds resilience to shocks** and thus limit the need for ex-post humanitarian assistance. To build resilience, we need investment in local food systems, education, health, and protection services.
- We need to ensure that **humanitarian funding keeps pace with the needs**. The example of the war in Ukraine shows that **if there is a political will, there are funds available**. We need the same political will to respond to humanitarian crises elsewhere.

- As funds will always be limited, we must also ensure that **development spending is invested and used for the proper purposes**. Because of the influx of refugees from Ukraine, who, beyond any doubt, need to be helped, at least 11% of official development aid is not spent on fighting poverty and inequality in partner countries but is used for the cost of refugees in Europe - and this percentage could increase.
- **Building resilience and not just one strength** within the system is important. We must stop focusing on a single sector. We **need integrated programming** that addresses all the needs together.
- Mechanisms such as the **Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs)** should allow **improved collaboration and alignment of donors' agendas** towards joint programming.
- We are experiencing the **3rd wave of autocratisation** – a new phase where we witness an erosion of societies' abilities to claim better governance. It is characterised almost globally by **reduced rights** of civic associations, limited freedom of speech, and the possibility of being present in the public sphere and getting funding.
- Different actors are welcome to mobilise and use the public sphere in the **changing, 'closing' civic space**. It's **another type of actors**, conservative ones, that can take the street, but it does not mean it's impossible to take the street anymore.
- **Support and funding civil society is more critical than ever** as there is a very diverse civil society that is pushing and supplementing the states, calling them to account.
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** is the way the EU addresses local resilience building, ensures long-term development, and decreases dependency on foreign development aid. The new financial instrument **NDICI-Global Europe** must be tailored to tackle the root causes of crises and mainstream resilience.
- To implement the Triple Nexus and strengthen the resilience, it is necessary to **approach the processes more practically**, based on the experience from the field, local feedback, and knowledge.
- We must ensure that development continues even when there are conflicts and fragility. Improving the cooperation between **Development and Peace actors is the way forward**.
- **Czechia** brought to the table diplomacy for the Nexus during its EU Presidency, especially humanitarian diplomacy. The diplomatic part is needed as it allows to **communicate with local partners** and give them a voice through diplomatic channels and networking.
- Donors must provide **direct support to local actors**, including financial support. In the humanitarian sector, this has not been met at all. Figures speak for themselves – 97 % of all funding still goes to the big players, primarily major UN agencies. There is a real challenge ahead of big donors, national and regional ones like the EU, to seize the chance for the **shift to reach smaller-scale actors with the funds**.
- In the context of a **coup d'état**, it is vital to **keep on the funding and the conversations** to bridge the gap between humanitarian aid and development funding.
- In such a situation, when the government is being put in place in an unconstitutional way, the EU introduces a **"basic needs approach"**. That is implemented through independent actors, NGOs, to ensure that basic needs like livelihoods are secured.
- In the context of the situation like in Mali, the Czechs are recognised for their ability to respond to additional crises or needs and to make new financial commitments within multilateral mechanisms. What is "very amazingly" new about the Czechs is that they have seen the crisis as a driving force to increase their support and funding.



PANEL 2: POLICY APPROACHES AND CASES OF GOOD PRACTICE IN STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Speakers:

Mr Muhammed Hammady, Country Director Ukraine and Syria/Caritas Czech Republic

Ms Serkalem Getahun, Environment, Livelihood and Agriculture Expert/PIN Ethiopia

Ms Kalkidan Lakew Yihun, Program Coordinator for CARE's Women (in VSLAs - Village Savings and Loan Associations) Respond initiative/CARE International

Ms Åsa Thomasson, Policy Advisor/CONCORD Sweden

Ms Hana Volná, Deputy Director of DC-HA Department/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czechia

Moderator: Mr Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň, Senior Researcher/Institute of International Relations Prague



This panel brought together representatives from missions/branches of Czech NGOs in partner countries, an international NGO platform, and a donor to share experiences on how civil society organisations and local communities are addressing the impacts of multiple crises and to explore the possibilities of applying these experiences in another country or crisis response. Another essential part of the discussion was the importance of partnerships with local authorities, EU delegations (including Team Europe focus), EU Member States, embassies, and UN agencies for strengthening the resilience of local communities.

KEY POINTS:

- **Resilience building** needs to focus on the **root causes** of the vulnerability of local communities. As a long-term and complex process, it requires long-term, **complex, and complementary funding**.
- **The Triple Nexus approach** is vital for the resilience building of local communities. Its **Peace component** can enhance the leadership capabilities of CSOs and support social cohesion among vulnerable groups. Based on their tight connection to these groups, international and other CSOs play a vital role.
- **Landscape management** and **climate-smart agriculture** are among the concrete approaches to building local communities' resilience. Before intervening, it is necessary to understand the local context and communities and strengthen the governmental systems to increase their ownership. It is also important to use research data and digital solutions such as soil surveys, maps, or data sharing.
- Another approach to resilience building is **Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)**, which helps **women** increase their savings and asset ownership, leadership, confidence, and self-esteem. In addition, it helps to enhance social solidarity between VSLAs members and their resilience. For scaling up, it is necessary to work with

the **government** and the private sector, especially **financial institutions**, to adapt their services to women in communities.

- Any funding should have a gender aspect because many crises are embedded in **inequalities**, and communities are characterised by gender as well as socio-economic disparities.
- **Governance structures** for supporting the longer-term resilience of local communities are necessary. They should also enable the creation of **joint solutions** put together by the public authorities with local civil society and the private sector based on their own mandates and capacities.
- **Small donors can be pioneers** of some approaches, such as the Triple Nexus and localization.
- **Supporting organized civil society is the key to building resilience and ensuring real change for people.**

Recommendations for donors:

- Have a **specific strategy, policy, and a dedicated budget line to support civil society** in strengthening organisations and their relationship with members, grassroots groups, and other peers, but also **enable civil society with its expertise** to participate in other thematic and geographic budget lines.
- Have a consistent, recurrent, and systematic dialogue with civil society, not only about funding. To encourage such a discussion also **at the political level between donors/international actors and civil society outside the capitals.**
- Build **expertise on strengthening civil society** in donor institutions.

Recommendations for the EU and its Team Europe Initiatives:

- **Facilitate funding and coordination at the local level** and tackle existing challenges consisting of many funding instruments focused on different aspects of the Triple Nexus approach.
- Always **support natural resources management** activities.
- When funding needs assessment in local communities, also **include assessment of capabilities of small local actors.**
- **Push for inclusive national social and financial policies.**
- For a deep understanding of the country context, **adopt quality guidelines for EU Delegations' engagement with CSOs**, incl. those situated outside the national and regional capitals, **as well as with local grassroots groups** that have good connections with marginalised groups (women, indigenous people, small scale farmers), and support their participation.
- **Address the incoherences** between the situation at the EU level, where **EU Delegations hold more power than the EU HQ**, and in EU Member States where, on the contrary, ministries of foreign affairs (MFAs) have more control than national embassies.
- **Ensure greater coherence** and coordination in the **assessment of needs** and the provision of **funding** at the local level by the EU and Member States.



PANEL 3: HOW TO FOSTER THE RESILIENCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES VIA COMPLEX SOLUTIONS

Speakers:

Ms Marta Úbeda Rodríguez, Policy Officer/DG INTPA, European Commission

Mr Petr Němec, Researcher and Project Manager/Mendel University Brno, Czechia, and

Ms Monika Sedláková, Project Manager/Holistic Solutions, Czechia

Mr Richard Walker, Regional Director Africa/People in Need

Mr Erik Siegl, Head of Projects abroad/Diaconia ECCB, Czechia

Mr Pavel Růžička, Director of Empress/Platform for Sustainable Consumption & Production, Czechia

Moderator: Ms Lenka Suchá, Researcher/Global Change Research Institute, Academy of Sciences, Czechia



Speakers were invited to share their views on how bringing together different actors from academia, business, and NGOs can positively impact local communities, their development and life. The discussion focused on the role of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, in conjunction with the Team Europe approach and Team Europe Initiatives, as a complex EU solution to strengthen the resilience of local communities in cooperation with Member States. Speakers also provided insights on providing complex solutions in humanitarian crises and quickly escalating conflict situations. Also, the panel outlined ways to “rebuild better” war-torn cities, considering environmental and smart city aspects.

KEY POINTS:

- Regarding the **Triple Nexus, solid coordination between the H-D-P actors** (Humanitarian, Development, and Peace actors), as well as **joint planning, joint analysis, joint advocacy strategy, integration of Peace element and appropriate financing** are key to its successful operationalisation.
- **Connecting all actors, from academia, the private sector, and official authorities**, both on the donor side and the beneficiary side, generates **added value for local people** who develop skills, live from their lands, and use their resources. Therefore, they are not forced to migrate. And in the end, they adapt well to climate change. It makes the development objectives sustainable.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**, even though it is humanitarian and intended to mitigate shocks, needs a **developmental framework** for its implementation and a long-term scale-up. So, the **funding mechanisms must be combined, not just humanitarian ones**.

- **The involvement of local communities** in the design and delivery of any DRR, DRM (Disaster Risk Management) programmes is essential. It is the only way we will be able to transfer the ownership and have a hope of sustaining the approaches or scaling up in the future.
- Time is essential in situations of shocks. **With early warning systems, the more time we can give the communities, the better their response is.** And it is proportional – the longer the planning, the better and more effective the response.
- **Peacebuilding** as one of the pillars of the Triple Nexus becomes more important as we see the impact of the conflict on the **mental health** of displaced and traumatised populations and their resilience. Gender-related issues become more apparent as **women, children as well as the elderly and the disabled** become much more impacted by the shocks.
- **Complex solutions** should be an instrument tackling **all aspects of the poverty** caused by protracted crises. As far as essential needs are covered, we cannot speak about complex solutions. Complex solutions can be built only on stepping stones covering all sectors.
- We also need to have a **complex overall approach**. Working through **local communities' partners** such as community-based organisations (CBOs) or churches, who are very well suited for devising solutions, gives a chance to adapt more flexibly, adopt the holistic approach and support the communities more efficiently.
- Concerning the **Green cities programmes** of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), we prefer to speak about a complex **approach** to cities. First, we look over all the sectors and all the specific issues such as high energy and carbon intensity, climate resilience, demographic changes, transport, smart solutions, digitalisation or gender issues. Then we pick one that can be implemented in the next three to five years and that will **increase the citizens' quality of life**, which should be the primary goal.
- **Sustainability** is a keyword in a complex solution. We should only try to solve social problems with technologies which are appropriate. Instead of introducing technologies that are too expensive, too energy consuming or impossible to repair in local conditions, we should look for **“soft technologies”** that can be created by the communities themselves or for **“soft measures”** to change habits.
- Regarding **conflict situations**, it is very important to strengthen the cooperation between all Nexus' pillars (Humanitarian-Development-Peace) because it might be the **Peace pillar, diplomacy and political dialogue** that sustain the collaboration with the government in power.
- The conflict is perceived as all over the place. But in fact, the **conflict is happening generally in pockets** and there are many places where we should still be doing programming and a lot more recovery programming.
- There is extremely little preparation time in **very quick scale-up** conflicts such as **Ukraine**. The focus is more on **coping strategies**. When it happens, make sure that there is a preparation in place so that people know when they have to flee, what to take with them, how to protect children etc. **Surveillance efforts and information provision** are probably the best way to build some “resilience” or at least the coping and adapting capacity of communities.
- Broadly speaking, it is very important to **prevent states from failing and becoming wholly failed states**. And that is why **support for Ukraine as a state is so essential**.



PANEL 4 – FOCUS ON UKRAINE – STABILISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION ASPECTS

Speakers:

Mr Pavel Havlíček, Policy expert/Association for International Affairs (AMO), Czechia

Ms Lucie Chudá, Desk Officer for UA, MD and GE/DC-HA Department, MFA, Czechia

Mr Marek Štys, Head of Humanitarian Programmes/People in Need

Ms Dagmar Kuchtová, General Director, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

Ms Vladlena Martsynkevych, Project Leader/CEE Bankwatch Network

Moderator: Mr Ondřej Kopečný, Director of Transparency International Czechia



The aim of the debate was to bring together speakers from various sectors, mostly from Czechia, who deal with Ukraine, to provide their assessment of the situation in this war-torn country and consider the role of civil society organisations and the private sector in its stabilisation and reconstruction. An important objective was also to gain an overview of Ukraine's environmental and sustainable reconstruction needs and to learn about the position of the international community, particularly the EU and the Czech Republic, in this regard.

KEY POINTS:

- **Ukraine** will continue to be one of Czechia's top **priorities** in the coming years. The war aroused a massive **wave of solidarity** in Czech society. Czechia is the **largest per capita recipient** of people fleeing the war in Ukraine, and its public and government have provided **unprecedented financial resources** in reaction to the war.
- **Czech MFA's funding to Czech NGOs and the private sector** for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and Moldova will continue in 2023, especially in the framework of the **Czech governmental Program for humanitarian, stabilisation, reconstruction, and economic aid to Ukraine (2023 – 2025)**. A variety of usual Czech bilateral ODA tools, such as grants to Czech, international, Ukrainian CSOs, tied financial donations and tenders for the private sector, is envisaged.

- **Ukraine is a task with a two-track process:** the post-war reconstruction and its integration in the EU must solve the dilemma of insufficient funding and coordination of the reconstruction process where the principle of sustainability should have a central place. Czechia could share the **lessons learnt from its economic transition and its accession process** in the EU.
- The war in Ukraine conducted in a very **harsh winter climate** brings new challenges. There should be **flexibility in funding** which would enable smooth moving between different assistance phases adapting to the stages of the conflict.
- **Humanitarian assistance** should also address the situation of underserved vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs), especially the elderly and the disabled and single mothers.
- **Keeping sufficient public support is vital** to ensure long-term donor engagement. The Czech government should carry out thoughtful and not only proclamatory steps in this sense but also effective integration of people fleeing war in Ukraine. The **expertise of Czech CSOs** from activities to accommodate the Ukrainian high educational system to western standards should be used.
- **Czech businesses** interested in the reconstruction of Ukraine focus mainly on heating, environmental technologies, decontamination, waste and water treatment, agriculture, engineering, or reconstruction of industrial plants.
- Due to the **rising energy costs**, many **companies are currently postponing their investment** in technologies and equipment. There is also **uncertainty about the possibility of investing** in partnerships with Ukrainian companies. **Czech businesses would welcome the setting of an informal platform** in Czechia composed of civil society organisations, businesses, NGOs, government and the EU to ensure effective cooperation focusing on info sharing, matchmaking and networking.
- **The principle of localisation** for a sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine, applied by international CSOs, should also be followed by Czech (and other foreign) businesses, which should search for local counterparts, strengthen their capacities, and transfer technologies and innovation to them.
- **The reconstruction** process must be agreed upon and **build on lessons from reconstruction failures in many post-conflict or post-disaster settings**. Localised solutions, quality governance, good community participation, and civil society engagement should be supported, respecting unique situations in each region and considering environmental aspects and issues of social cohesion and community level of peacebuilding.
- Human capital should be considered. Up to 40 % of university students are outside of Ukraine. Donors should support **the development of capacities of local CSOs** damaged by the war, enabling them to coordinate and agree on priorities and jointly promote them to decision-makers.
- **Ukrainian CSOs call for a better and green reconstruction of Ukraine**, based on a decarbonised economy, using the best available technologies and practices, following a set of principles ([here](#)), and in compliance with EU policies and procedures. Efforts to ensure good donor coordination and to set a multistakeholder “reconstruction” platform have not been sufficient, and the international community should assist the Ukrainian government in this sense.
- In **rebuilding the Ukrainian agriculture sector**, Ukrainian CSOs recommend rethinking its current orientation towards export since it did not improve the local people's situation but increased the power of agroholdings and resulted in land and natural resources grabs. The **focus should be on the rural population** that works mainly informally but is very resilient and shows the sustainability and development path.



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE

- The most crucial task in ensuring that people are resilient is to make sure we fulfil their rights.
- To take the rights-based approach to resilience, we need to empower people as rights holders in situations where their rights are undermined and address the root causes.
- Official Development Aid (ODA) and Development Cooperation are among the most important ways to avoid crises spinning out of control and to address the root causes.
- We need to have a development system that builds resilience to shocks before the humanitarians come in. What we need is investment in local food systems, education, health and protection services.
- We need to make sure that the development spending is made and used for the right purposes. It means that it is not inflated by spending it on in-country refugee costs.
- It is important to build resilience and not just one strength within the system. We must stop focusing on a single sector. We need integrated programming that addresses all the needs together.
- Mechanisms such as the Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) should allow improved collaboration and alignment of donors' agendas towards joint programming.
- Supporting and funding civil society is more important than ever as there is a very diverse civil society that is pushing and supplementing the states, calling them to account.
- To implement the Triple Nexus and the resilience, it is necessary to approach the processes more practically, based on the experience from the field, local feedback, and knowledge.
- We must ensure that development does not stop when conflicts and fragility occur. Improving the cooperation between Development and Peace is the way forward.
- For building local resilience, supporting organised civil society is crucial. Donors should have a specific policy and a dedicated budget line for this purpose.
- The EU (incl. Team Europe Initiatives) should facilitate funding and coordination at a local level and adopt comprehensive guidelines for EU Delegations' engagement with CSOs.
- Regarding the Triple Nexus, solid coordination between the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace actors as well as joint planning, joint analysis, joint advocacy strategy, integration of Peace element and appropriate financing are key to its successful operationalisation.
- Connecting all actors, from CSOs, academia, private sector, and official authorities, both on the donor side as well as the beneficiary side, generates added value for local people who develop skills, live from their lands and use their resources.
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), even though it is humanitarian and intended to mitigate shocks, needs a developmental framework for its implementation and a long-term scale-up. Therefore, the funding must be in place.
- The involvement of local communities in the design and delivery of any DRR, DRM (Disaster Risk Management) programmes is essential. It is the only way we will be able to transfer the ownership and have a hope of sustaining the approaches or scaling up in the future.
- Complex solutions should be an instrument tackling all aspects of poverty caused by protracted crises.
- We also need to have a complex overall approach. Working through local communities' partners such as community-based organisations (CBOs) and churches gives a chance to adapt more flexibly, adopt the holistic approach and support the communities in a more efficient way.
- Concerning the Green cities programmes of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) we prefer to speak about a complex approach to cities. First, to look over all the sectors and issues, then pick up one that will increase the citizens' quality of life.

- We should avoid trying to solve social problems with technologies which are not appropriate. We should be looking for "soft technologies" that can be created by local communities themselves or for "soft measures", to change habits.
- A conflict is perceived as being all over the place. But in fact, it is happening in limited territories, and there are many places where we should still be doing the programming and a lot more recovery programming.
- There is extremely little preparation time in very quick scale-up conflicts such as Ukraine. Surveillance efforts and information provision are probably the best way to build some "resilience" or at least communities' coping and adapting capacity.
- The war in Ukraine conducted in a very harsh winter climate brings new challenges. There should be flexibility in funding which would enable smooth moving between different assistance phases adapting to the phases of the conflict.
- Keeping sufficient public support is critical to ensuring long-term donor engagement. Efficient integration of people fleeing war in Ukraine should be part of these efforts.
- Czech businesses would welcome the setting of an informal platform in Czechia composed of civil society organisations, businesses, NGOs, government as well as the EU to ensure effective cooperation focusing on sharing of information, matchmaking, and networking.
- The principle of localisation for a sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine, applied by international CSOs, should also be followed by foreign businesses, which should search for local counterparts, strengthen their capacities, and transfer technologies to them.
- The reconstruction process must be agreed upon and build on lessons from reconstruction failures in many post-conflict or post-disaster settings. Localised solutions, quality governance and good community participation, engagement of civil society should be supported.
- In rebuilding the Ukrainian agriculture sector, Ukrainian CSOs recommend rethinking its orientation towards export and focusing instead on the rural population that works mainly informally but is very resilient and shows the sustainability and development path.

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The material was published within the project "Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world Third Trio EU Presidency Project" funded by the European Union and Sida. Project is implemented by CONCORD Sweden; Coordination SUD; the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS); and CONCORD Europe. Its content does not represent the views of the donors and does not create any liability on their part.