

Humanitarian SDGs: Interlinking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Agenda for Humanity

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ABSTRACT

The humanitarian-development divide has long been a contentious debate in both academia and government. Despite the recent surge in the cost, frequency, duration and severity of humanitarian crises, humanitarian and development disciplines and communities of practice have continued to operate in silos. This article aims to bridge the humanitarian-development divide by interlinking the Agenda for Humanity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The newly proposed context-conflict-contingency model of humanitarian-development connections constitutes the conceptual foundation, which is then tested by the findings of the network analysis of the 169 SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda and the 5 responsibilities, 24 transformations and 32 core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity. The basic premise is that if policy makers can locate the linkages between the two agendas, they can more readily think about how certain SDG targets can work towards the achievement of both development and humanitarian goals. Steps that lead to operational guidelines for doing so are not covered in this article. They could be the topic of the next research agendas.

JEL Classification: D74, D78, J18, O19, O20, O21, Q01

Keywords: sustainable development, Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, development, development planning, humanitarian-development divide, conflict, conflict resolution, crisis management, peace, policy formulation, public policy.

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I Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the outcome of an intergovernmental negotiation adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015 towards “leaving no one behind” (A/RES/70/1). The Agenda for Humanity, on the other hand, is a framework of action that came out of the World Humanitarian Summit of May 2016, which sought to build on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda. It focused on “working together differently to end (humanitarian) needs” (A/70/709; OCHA 2018). Interlinking the 169 SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda with the 5 responsibilities, 24 transformations and 32 core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity¹ warrants first a conceptual understanding of the humanitarian-development divide, and second, it calls for a systematic pairing of the targets contained in each agenda based on their meaning.

The humanitarian-development divide is nothing new. As early as the 1990s, scholars argued that humanitarian assistance and socioeconomic development should complement each other to be more effective. Many insisted that short-term relief of urgent survival needs should not hurt long-term capacity development. They pointed at the perils of institution building such as corruption amidst war and famine, which were found to fuel each other (Athorpe 1997) and to compound economic distress and strife (Gaile and Ferguson 1996). In the 2000s, sociologists showed how the use of local resources could expand the scale and scope of humanitarian action to support humanitarian aid (Daudelin and Seymour 2002). They drew attention to the rising role of local and non-governmental organisations in providing both humanitarian and development assistance (Okumu 2003).

The blurring lines between the development and humanitarian mandates of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders continue today (Bandarage 2011; Ferreiro 2012). The current debates about the power of localization and the instrumental role of participatory design thinking and social entrepreneurship to provide ethical services to the poor in crisis situations (Schwittay 2014) are a good example of this continuity of focus on the humanitarian-development intersections. What is unique about today’s situation is the frequency and intensity of crises culminating in development challenges, hence the need for a systemic understanding of the interactions of humanitarian and development objectives. Some preliminary work on teasing out the linkages between the two fields by the Sustainable Development (SDSN 2016) stays perfunctory (more on this in Section 3). A more in-depth analysis of the humanitarian and development goals backed up by a conceptual model of bridging the humanitarian-development divide can thus be useful for both scholars and policy-makers.

On conceptual grounds, a quick review of the humanitarian-development literature reveals three common parameters:

- i. *contextual* factors including the soaring (humanitarian and developmental) needs of a variety of individuals, communities, organizations, institutions and (sub)national governments;
- ii. *conflict* being increasingly linked with specific governance failures rather than subsumed under a broader crisis management paradigm; and
- iii. *contingency* perspectives based on prevention and early warning, extending beyond social protection and safety nets.

¹ On Agenda for Humanity, see the webpage provided by OCHA at <https://agendaforhumanity.org/> The dataset including the 5 core commitments, 24 transformations and 32 commitments can be downloaded as an Excel table at <https://agendaforhumanity.org/explore-commitments/indv-commitments>

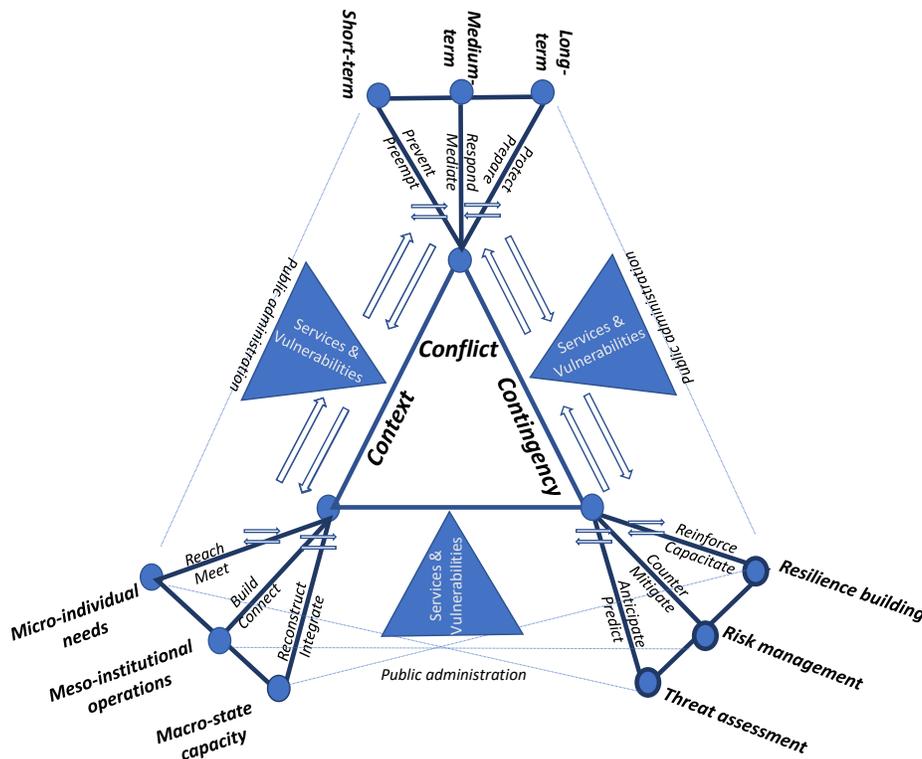
II A conceptual analysis: Context-conflict-contingency model of humanitarian-development connections

The three distinct yet cross-cutting parameters (context, conflict and contingency) are equally relevant to humanitarian and development fields. Context is about a better understanding of the environment in which crises occur. It entails considering and assessing the different needs of a variety of actors and entities acting at different levels of governance (micro, meso, macro). Conflict is about an in-depth analysis of the root causes of crises of different durations and impact (short, medium and long-term). Contingency is about seeing crises from a threat, risk and/or resilience perspective rather than as discrete, uncertain events. Context, conflict and contingency parameters of humanitarian-development interlinkages can be connected among each other through a focus on vulnerabilities and services (Figure I).

Context is particularly important in cases where multiple crises at different levels of administration converge to produce dissimilar challenges for individuals, households, communities and institutions with different developmental attributes. Many humanitarian crises, for instance, engulf only some parts of the society and not others. Developmental challenges spawned by these crises permeate different segments of the population and institutions unequally, depending not only on the capacity and flexibility to bear and withstand shocks, but also on many other elements ranging from environmental concerns to intergenerational equity.

One example where the significant role of context in interlinking humanitarian and development challenges is visible comes from the Central African Republic. The relatively low degree, yet the persistent nature of conflict

Figure I
Context-conflict-contingency model of humanitarian-development linkages



Source: Author's analysis.

Note: The interlinking factors of services and vulnerabilities imply a public administration perspective since public servants and public institutions, particularly at subnational levels, are the first responders to crises, attending citizens before, during and after conflict.

in this country has engendered questions about the appropriateness of continued humanitarian assistance even though many developmental indicators would unequivocally call for an emergency response (SDSN 2016). Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Ethiopia also display contextual attributes where either the duration of conflict and/or the level of development have born the question of whether both humanitarian and developmental assistance can be provided to different target populations. Therefore, what is needed is a granular focus on the different levels of conflict--micro, meso and macro, when addressing humanitarian and developmental needs of the vulnerable populations and institutions.

Conflict has long been on the radar of development and humanitarian activists, although often as part of an overall crisis paradigm rather than as a governance failure. The focus on the intersection of temporal and cross-cutting dimensions of conflict in relation to governance strategies is relatively recent². Today, the average duration of a humanitarian appeal for funding coordinated by the United Nations is seven years. 90 percent of appeals for humanitarian financial assistance carry on for at least three years (OCHA 2017). 86 percent of humanitarian funding goes to conflict-driven, and not entirely disaster-caused, calamities (IDS/Sussex 2018). Refugees fleeing war or persecution spend 17-20 years on average in refugee camps (UNHCR 2018). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction takes a comprehensive approach to disaster management including natural and environmental along with economic, physical, social and cultural dimensions. Such factors further point at the entanglement of the humanitarian and developmental causes.

The need to understand the root causes of a conflict in terms of governance failures necessitates holistic, long-term and nonlinear perspectives on prevention and preparedness as well as on response and recovery. Under this understanding, protection no longer supersedes anticipation or pre-emption. Rehabilitation is not enough and must be complemented with long-term post-conflict reconstruction with focus on service delivery (UNDESA 2010). Vivid examples can be drawn from Jordan and Lebanon where declining official financial flows have preceded the current refugee crisis, putting significant strains on national budgets once the crisis erupted (Gonzalez 2016). The recently established Global Concessional Financing Facility is an example of coordinated international response to the humanitarian and development dimensions of the migration crisis in middle-income countries (Keller 2017).

Contingency is increasingly part of humanitarian and development action agendas. Risk-informed joint planning is a must for humanitarian first-responders as well as for national governments, development specialists, donor agencies, regional and international finance and development institutions, and local and national actors and institutions (Earle 2016). Contingency and risk approaches in humanitarian-development intersections are not confined to sectoral areas such as healthcare, food security and nutrition, involuntary displacements and migration (Strachan 2017). They extend to more structural and cross-cutting issue areas, including particularly infrastructure, consumption and production, urban planning, community empowerment and resilience building (Chamla, Luo and Idele 2018).

Examples of identifying threats, assessing risks, mitigating or eliminating vulnerabilities by building capabilities, strengthening community advocacy and promoting innovation can be found in many countries. The 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan has given birth to the country's Fundamental Plan for National Resilience prepared by the National Resilience Promotion Office under the Cabinet Secretariat. The Urban Resilience Projects in Bangladesh's Social Management and Resettlement Policy Framework have combined planning and emergency response mechanisms with critical capacity building needs and structural resilience

² The nature and degree of conflict is also important yet is not explicitly included into the model here since most conflicts change in their nature (spilling over different areas and generating new ones through time) and degree (falling and rising through time), both affecting the duration of the conflict, which is included in the analysis.

for vulnerable communities. Particularly prominent in these initiatives were sectors such as transport, housing, water and sanitation and waste management, to name a few. Other examples of contingency approaches to humanitarian and development challenges come from Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia where refugees, with support from the UNHCR-led Solutions Alliance, have become agents of change—for themselves and for their host communities (Samuel Hall 2016).

The context-conflict-contingency model proposes two common cross-cutting threads: (i) the public administration focus on service delivery—because all populations in both conflict and non-conflict situations should have access to basic public services, and (ii) the emphasis on vulnerabilities; because leaving no one behind is not only a humanitarian but also a developmental principle.

Vulnerability assessment consists of making sure that the services are provided effectively and inclusively to all relevant individuals and groups of population while also ensuring that service delivery is resistant to fraud and abuse. Locating the vulnerable and getting a full panorama of the specific and often intersecting liabilities may require the effective use of a variety of methods including exposure, threat, likelihood and gap assessment based on national census data, community surveys, heat maps and other technical tools including Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing and big 3D data (UNDESA 2018b).

Profiling, stress tests, and risk identification are some of the approaches used equally by both humanitarian and development specialists and practitioners in assessing vulnerabilities and designing services. For example, the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Programme in Lebanon, implemented by the Lebanon Cash Consortium of six non-governmental organisations, determines beneficiary households by calculating their per capita monthly expenditure in relation to a range of variables, including the disability-adjusted dependency ratio. It considers all people with disabilities as ‘dependent,’ and categorizes them as affecting the household’s vulnerability to the same degree, regardless of their gender, age, needs, skills and capacities (Pearce and Lee 2018).

As shown in these examples, and as also illustrated in Figure I, the context-conflict-contingency model posits that micro-individual needs in short-term conflicts are best met with a focus on prevention by assessing threats. It suggests that meso-level functional or organizational development can best be supported with medium-term risk management frameworks based on effective combinations of risk mitigation and transfer techniques. Long-term protection, on the other hand, goes together with structural state capacity, preparedness and resilience building. Research has corroborated that securing quick gains while restoring basic functions of the State and simultaneously progressing toward sustainable peace and development require national ownership with engagement on the part of all relevant stakeholders and groups, particularly minorities, women, youth and their organisations (UNDESA 2018).

The proposed context-conflict-contingency model is flexible and can be adapted to countries’ own needs in line with their unique situations. For example, facing one or more expectedly short-duration conflicts in a context where state capacity is already well established with all or the main governance institutions fully functioning, policy-makers can consider (medium-term, meso-level) risk management rather than either (short-term, micro-level) threat assessment or (long-term, macro-level) resilience building. Likewise, handling a protracted conflict in a context where individual needs are direly pressing might require an initial, subnational threat assessment before a full-fledged, country-wide initiative of resilience building. A short-term threat assessment in such conditions can be used to buy the time to mobilize resources and devise a longer-term risk strategy. Preparedness to protect against long-term conflicts can, in other words, converge with prevention and pre-emption³.

³ The double sets of small arrows across all three sub-dimensions associated with the context, conflict and contingency dimensions allude to this circular relationship between the three dimensions--of context, conflict and contingency.

A conceptual framework is a useful didactic tool. It synthesizes and summarizes otherwise an indigestible load of disparate information into bits of easily decipherable and interconnected data. One helpful way to substantiate a conceptual framework is by examining if it can effectively reflect and explain empirical observations. Working from this assumption, the following section undertakes a content analysis of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets juxtaposing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the 5 responsibilities, 24 transformations and 32 core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity. The immediate objective is to find the linkages between the two agendas through a key term analysis ensconced in meaning (Section 3), and then to link these findings with the concept-conflict-contingency model (Section 4) to assess the viability of the latter in explaining humanitarian-development linkages.

III A network analysis: Linking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Agenda for Humanity

The Agenda for Humanity includes 5 core responsibility areas, 24 transformations and 32 core commitments to alleviate suffering, reduce risk and lessen vulnerability⁴. As part of the Secretary General's Report, One Humanity, Shared Responsibility (A/70/709), it seeks to build on the commitments made by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Cognizant of the salient overlaps between the two agendas, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has classified the SDGs and SDG targets with humanitarian connotations in a Background Document prepared for the World Humanitarian Summit of May 2016. Table I enumerates these findings (SDSN 2016).

SDSN (2016) does not provide any justification for its classification of humanitarian SDGs. This section therefore undertakes the task of in-depth examination of the links between the Agenda for Humanity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To do that, first, it identifies a host of key terms associated with each one of the 169 SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 24 transformations and 32 core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity. Second, the analysis accounts for (i) direct linkages, i.e., verbatim overlaps between words and meanings across both development and humanitarian contexts; and for (ii) indirect linkage, i.e., non-verbatim overlaps between synonyms or adjacent concepts in either developmental or humanitarian context (such as participation and inclusion, equity and equality, war and conflict)⁵. Thirdly, interconnections are tabulated (Table of the Annex) and mapped (Figure II)⁶.

4 Please see Agenda for Humanity at https://agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Agenda_for_Humanity-24_Transformations_Diagram.pdf. 32 Commitments can be downloaded as an Excel table at <https://agendaforhumanity.org/explore-commitments/indv-commitments>

5 Open source network analysis software is applied to tabulate the direct and indirect linkage counts. For more on social network analysis, see Greene, D. (2018).

6 The transformations and core commitments overlapping and close in meaning categorized under each one of the five responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity were lumped together within their respective responsibility categories. While doing the network analysis, it became apparent that several transformations and core commitments are closely interconnected across, and not only within, their responsibility areas. A within-Agenda for Humanity network analysis can thus be carried out before undertaking a network analysis with the SDGs. Likewise, similar intra-network analyses of the SDG targets which have been carried out by scholars and practitioners can be used to verify and increase the understanding of synergies among the SDG targets and with the Agenda for Humanity. This analysis does not extend to the SDG indicators. They could be the next steps in research.

Table I
Humanitarian SDGs by the SDSN

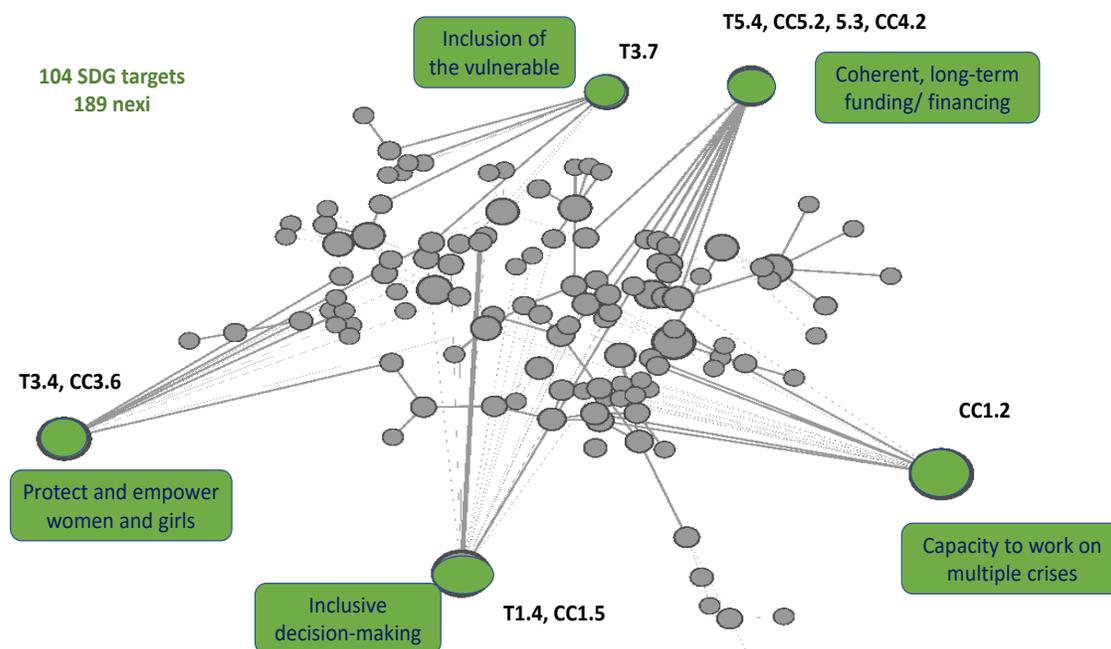
| Relevant Goal | Relevant Target |
|--|---|
| Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere | 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters |
| Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture | 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round |
| | 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons |
| Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages | 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDs, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases. |
| | 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks |
| Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls | 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation |
| Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements and inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations |
| Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts | 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries |
| Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels | 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death reates everywhere |

Source: SDSN (2016): p.3-4.

This method is subject to interpretations in some cases. For instance, SDG16.9 on *Providing legal identity for all, including birth registration* is categorized as an indirect linkage to transformation 3.3 on ending statelessness because, although there is no verbatim overlap of terms, birth registration, legal identity and statelessness are closely related concepts" to concepts like birth registration, legal identity and statelessness are closely related. SDG 8.8, 10.7, 17.18, in contrast, make a verbatim reference to migration and are classified as direct linkages to transformation 3.2 (on migration) and the core commitment 3.3 (on migrants' host communities, among others). CC3.2 on refugees and internally displaced people and CC3.4 on refugees, however, are not categorized as direct or indirect linkages since they do not make explicit references to migration and migrants; instead, they refer specifically to the legally distinct groups of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs).

Figure II

Agenda for Humanity-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development network analysis: the most connected transformations and core commitment areas⁷



Source: Author's analysis.

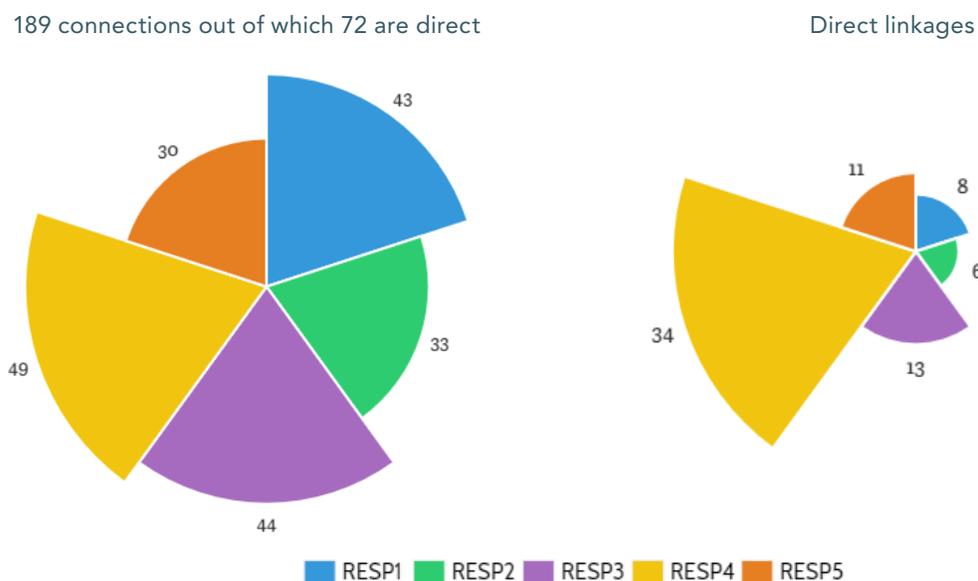
Note: List of acronyms:

- T1.4—Inclusive decision-making and developing solutions with and for people
- T3.4—Empowering and protecting women and girls
- T3.7—Including the most vulnerable and addressing other groups and minorities in crisis settings
- T5.4—Shifting from funding to financing outcomes to prevent fragmentation
- CC1.2— Improving capacities to work on multiple crises simultaneously
- CC1.5—Sharing good practices and lessons, being inclusive in decision-making
- CC3.6—Empowering women and girls as change agents and leaders
- CC4.2—Enabling coherent financing that avoids fragmentation that avoids fragmentation by supporting collective outcomes
- CC5.2— Empowering national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing available to them
- CC5.3— Promoting and increasing multi-year unearmarked and flexible humanitarian funding

The analysis finds 189 linkages across 104 SDG targets between the Agenda for Humanity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. From a humanitarian perspective, coherent financing, capacity building against crises, empowerment of women and inclusive decision-making are the focus areas where connections occur the most. Responsibility areas 1, 3 and 4 are most connected with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while responsibility areas 2 and 5 are less so. This is expected, since the latter are more specifically about war and humanitarian issues than the former three, which are about conflict, leaving no one behind

⁷ In Figure I, CC4.2 on coherent financing under responsibility 4 is combined with T5.4, CC5.2, CC5.3 on coherent (multiyear, flexible) funding under responsibility area 5. This is done for reasons of conceptual overlap between CC4.2, CC5.2 and CC5.3. For acronyms see the Note to Figure II and the Table of the Annex.

Figure III
Humanitarian Responsibilities—SDG Targets



Source: Author’s analysis.

Note: To see the SDGs and SDG targets associated with each responsibility, please refer to the Table in the Annex.

Note: RESP1: Prevent and end conflicts; RESP2: Respect rules of war; RESP3: Leave no one behind; RESP4: Work differently to end need; RESP5: Invest in humanity

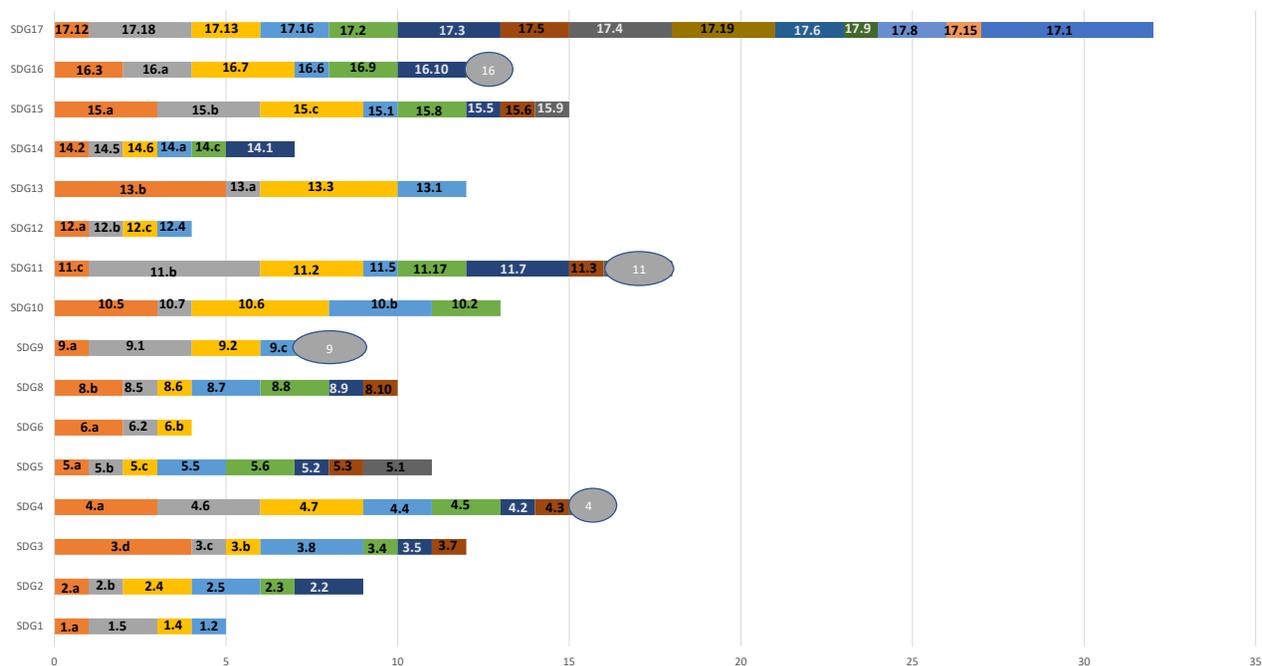
and sectoral issues. Responsibility 4 on *Working differently to end need* is the responsibility area that is most related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Figure III)⁸.

From a developmental perspective, the SDG, which by far presents the highest number of connections to the Agenda for Humanity is SDG 17 on the *Means of implementation including financing for development and partnerships*. It has 32 linkages of which 11 are direct. SDG 17 is followed by SDG 11 on cities and human settlements with 18 connections to the Agenda for Humanity of which 5 are direct. The only SDG not found to present visible connections to the Agenda for Humanity is SDG7 on energy.

The three SDG targets that present the highest number of connections with the Agenda for Humanity (each with 5 connections) are SDG 11.b on *Increasing the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and developing and implementing, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management*; SDG 13.b on *Promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities*; and

⁸ The transformations and core commitments which do not represent a visible link to the 2030 Agenda are CC1.4 on the root causes of conflict, T2.1CC2.2 on protection of civilians during war (Responsibility 1); T2.5 on rules of war and CC2.2 on explosives and military infrastructure (Responsibility 2), T3.1CC3.1&CC3.2CC3.4CC3.5 on displacement; CC3.8 on gender and humanitarian programming and policy (Responsibility 3). It is interesting to note that the item most relevant to the humanitarian development divide, i.e., T4.3 on transcending humanitarian-development divide (Responsibility 4), was also found not to be directly associated with any SDG target since no SDG target makes verbatim references to the divide as such.

Figure IV
SDG targets with linkages to the Agenda for Humanity



Source: Author’s analysis. Associated transformations and core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity are shown in Table/Annex.

SDG 17.1 on *Strengthening domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.*

The highest number of connections does not mean that these connections are the most important ones. Four SDGs (shown in grey bubbles in Figure V), i.e., SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education, SDG 9 on resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation, SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements, and SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies contain principal keywords (‘inclusive’ and ‘resilient’), which are used to assess direct convergence between the two agendas. They can therefore prove to be qualitatively more relevant to the humanitarian-development connections than other SDGs or SDG targets that display higher counts of linkages.

Similarly, certain SDG targets are directly related to the Agenda for Humanity because they make verbatim references to the same concepts, and they do so exactly in the context of crisis management, conflict prevention and for humanitarian and human-rights related purposes—rather than in general and for development purposes only. For instance, SDG targets such as 1.5 on resilience of the poor and extreme events and 11.5 on disaster risk management can be as relevant to the humanitarian-development connections as can SDG11.b, which has the highest count of verbatim connections to the Agenda for Humanity, in addition to its explicit focus on the Sendai Framework of Action for Disaster Reduction.

Figures V and VI juxtaposes the SDGs with total (direct and indirect) and direct linkages to humanitarian commitments. SDG 17 on *Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership*

Figure V
All SDG-Agenda for Humanity linkages

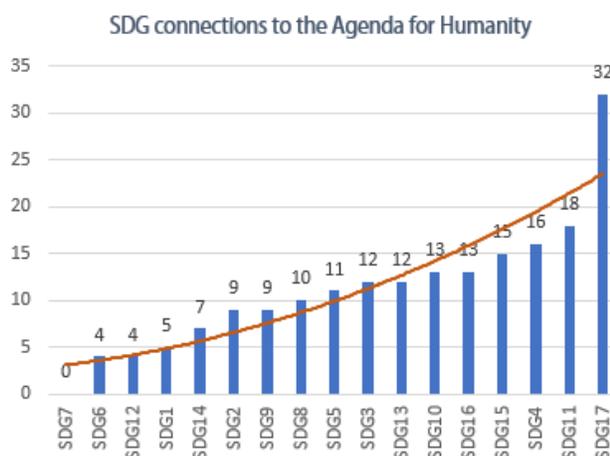
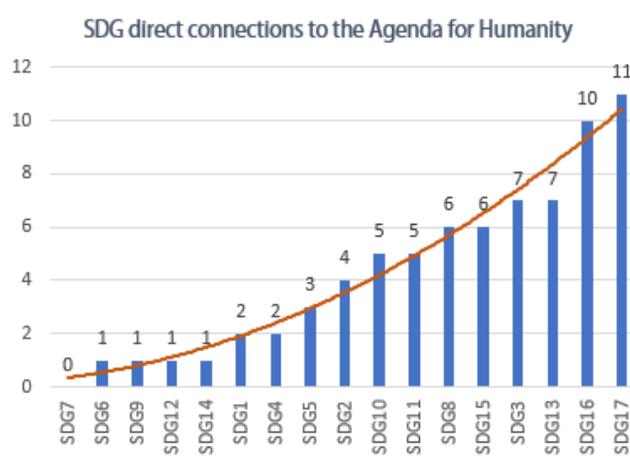


Figure VI
Direct SDG-Agenda for Humanity linkages



Source: Author’s analysis. Direct SDG Targets can be seen in detail in the Table and Figure found in the Annex.

for sustainable development (11 direct linkages) and SDG16 on *Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels* (10 direct linkages) are the two most directly related SDGs to the Agenda for Humanity.

IV Connecting findings of the network analysis with the conceptual model

The findings of the network analysis of the Agenda for Humanity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can constitute a test case to see if the previously introduced context-conflict-contingency model is viable. If the ‘context’ (micro-meso-macro levels), ‘conflict’ (short, medium, long term duration), and ‘contingency’ (threat, risk, resilience) model cross-cut by a focus on vulnerabilities and services is valid, then it should be possible to parse out the humanitarian SDGs detected in Figure II⁹ across the context, conflict and contingency pillars with a main focus on vulnerabilities, services or both. Table II shows the outputs of such exercise.

The methodology consists of parsing out the 104 humanitarian SDG Targets detected in the preceding analysis in terms of their context, conflict and contingency attributes. This is done in a similar fashion to the network analysis and through a key term search as described in Section 3 on page 7. The context category focuses on the humanitarian SDG targets that refer to individuals and communities (micro), to organizations or institutions (Meso), and those that refer to state, government or higher regional and global levels (Macro). The conflict category categorizes humanitarian SDG targets that put emphasis on immediate prevention versus those that refer to post-conflict response and those that refer to long-term capacity building and protection. The contingency category contains the humanitarian SDG targets that make references to threats,

⁹ Please see Table in the Annex for a comprehensive listing of SDG targets that are found to be linked with the Agenda for Humanity.

Table II
Context-conflict-contingency model tested by SDG target-T&CC connections

| Level of Analysis | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | | | | | Agenda for Humanity |
|----------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|--|---|
| | Context | | | | | |
| Level of Analysis | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | | | | | Agenda for Humanity |
| | Conflict | | | | | |
| Level of Analysis | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | | | | | Agenda for Humanity |
| | Contingency | | | | | |
| Individual/Micro | V | S | V-S | None | | T2.2CC2.3CC2.4, T2.3CC2.5, T3.6, T3.7 |
| | 3.c | 16.3 | 2.2 | 16.7 | | |
| | 4.4 | 16.9 | 4.5 | | | |
| | 4.6 | 16.10 | 4.6 | | | |
| | 8.5 | | 9.c | | | |
| | 8.6 | | 11.2 | | | |
| | 9.2 | | 11.7 | | | |
| | 11.5 | | | | | |
| | 13.b | | | | | |
| | 14.6 | | | | | |
| 17.12 | | | | | | |
| Institutional/Meso | V | S | V-S | None | | T1.4CC1.5, CC3.8, CC4.2, CC5.2 |
| | 5.5 | 6.b | 1.4 | 10.5 | | |
| | 9.2 | 16.3 | 4.a | 11.b | | |
| | 9.a | 16.10 | 11.3 | 15.a | | |
| | 10.6 | | 11.7 | 16.7 | | |
| | 10.2 | | 17.4 | | | |
| | 10.b | | 17.6 | | | |
| | 15.b | | | | | |
| | 17.1 | | | | | |
| | 17.2 | | | | | |
| 17.3 | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | | | |
| 17.16 | | | | | | |
| Structural/Macro | V | S | V-S | None | | CC1.4, T2.4CC2.1, T2.3CC2.5, CC2.6, T3.2CC3.3, T3.5, T4.1, CC4.7, T5.1, CC5.1 |
| | 1.5 | 4.7 | 4.2 | 2.5 | | |
| | 5.2, 5.3 | 6.b | 4.a | 8.9 | | |
| | 4.4 | 16.3 | 5.6 | 10.7 | | |
| | 4.6 | 16.10 | 17.2 | 12.4 | | |
| | 5.1 | | | 12.b | | |
| | 8.8 | | | 14.5 | | |
| | 15.9 | | | 14.c | | |
| | | | | 15.1 | | |
| | | | | 15.6 | | |
| | | | 15.c | | | |
| S-T Prevention | V | S | V-S | None | | T1.2CC1.1, T1.1CC1.3, CC2.3 |
| | 3.c | 16.3 | 2.2 | 16.7 | | |
| | 4.4 | 16.9 | 4.5 | | | |
| | 4.6 | 16.10 | 4.6 | | | |
| | 8.5 | | 9.c | | | |
| | 3.d | 8.10 | 2.2 | 2.4 | | |
| | 6.a | | 6.2 | 2.5 | | |
| | 10.b | | 11.2 | 13.1 | | |
| | 12.a, 12.c | | 11.3 | 13.3 | | |
| | 13.b | | | 15.c | | |
| 14.a | | | 15.4 | | | |
| 16.a | | | 17.19 | | | |
| 17.1 | | | | | | |
| 2.a | | | | | | |
| 17.8 | | | | | | |
| 17.9 | | | | | | |
| Medium-Term/Response | V | S | V-S | None | | CC1.2, CC4.1 |
| | 4.6 | | 1.2 | 10.5 | | |
| | 5.1 | | 2.3 | 15.a | | |
| | 5.b, 5.c | | 4.3 | 17.13 | | |
| | 8.7 | | 5.a | | | |
| | 8.8 | | 11.2 | | | |
| | 9.a | | 11.7 | | | |
| | 10.2 | | 17.4 | | | |
| | 10.6 | | | | | |
| | 10.b | | | | | |
| 13.b | | | | | | |
| 15.b | | | | | | |
| 17.1 | | | | | | |
| 17.2 | | | | | | |
| 17.3 | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | | | |
| Long-term/Protection | V | S | V-S | None | | T3.1CC3.1&CC3.2CC3.4CC3.5, T3.4CC3.6, T5.4CC5.3, T5.3 |
| | 1.5 | | 3.8 | 2.4 | | |
| | 3.d | | | 11.b | | |
| | 9.a | | | 11.c | | |
| | 17.8 | | | 13.1 | | |
| | 14.2 | | | | | |
| | 1.5 | 9.1 | | | | |
| | 3.d | | | | | |
| | 9.a | | | | | |
| | 17.8 | | | | | |
| Threat | V | S | V-S | None | | T4.2, CC4.5 |
| | 3.d | | 3.4 | 2.b | | |
| | 17.1 | | 3.5 | 13.3 | | |
| | | | 17.18 | 14.1 | | |
| | | | | 15.5 | | |
| | | | | 15.8 | | |
| | | | | 17.19 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Risk | V | S | V-S | None | | CC4.3, CC4.4, T5.2CC5.3 |
| | 3.d | | 3.8 | 11.b | | |
| | 10.6 | | | 16.7 | | |
| | 13.b | | | | | |
| | 17.8 | | | | | |
| Resilience | V | S | V-S | None | | CC4.6, T5.2CC5.3 |
| | 1.5 | 9.1 | | 2.4 | | |
| | 3.d | | | 11.b | | |
| | 9.a | | | 11.c | | |
| | 17.8 | | | 13.1 | | |

Source: Author's analysis. The red boxes refer to those SDG targets that can be found across all three context, conflict and contingency categories. Green boxes denote those SDG targets that are repeated across two categories with dark green indicating dual repetition (within one category and across two categories), and light green, indicating one repetition only (no within-category repetition but repetition across two categories). Orange means cross-level repetition within one category. Blank cells are not repeated. Note: V stands for vulnerabilities. S stands for services.

risks, hazards, shocks, disasters and resilience. Vulnerability analysis assesses the humanitarian SDG targets with respect to whether they contain the word ‘vulnerable’ or semantic equivalents like ‘marginalization’ or ‘discrimination.’ It also evaluates if SDG targets make reference to one or more vulnerable groups or those prone to vulnerability such as the elderly, youth, children, women, disabled, indigenous, minorities, as well as Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, (Landlocked) Developing States. The analysis gauges a service-focus based on whether the humanitarian SDG targets make references to services, such as access to education, health, decent employment, transportation, information, etc.

This exercise finds that although most humanitarian SDGs focus on vulnerabilities as expected (70) and that many do so on services (45), either together with vulnerabilities (33) or without (12), there is still a sizeable group of humanitarian SDG targets that this exercise finds as containing neither a vulnerability nor a service focus (27 when double-counts are accounted for)¹⁰. This finding could be an indication that the proposed humanitarian-development model of context-conflict-contingency cross-cut by vulnerabilities-services is incomplete.

To further investigate whether the conceptual model and the findings of the network analysis can be reconciled with each other, this analysis undertook a closer reading of the 27 humanitarian SDG targets found not to be associated with a vulnerability or a service focus. This analysis showed that most of these SDG targets are about policies to instil equitable and/or internationally agreed standards to benefit all people. Their focus therefore is not explicitly on services but on policies, which are necessary to design, implement and control services. Also, instead of vulnerable groups, they stress all people.

One exemplary SDG target that was grouped in the no service-no vulnerability (none) category is SDG 13.3 on *Improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning*. Clearly, this target is about an institutional process that will produce services to mitigate vulnerabilities. The vulnerability-service focus, in other words, is implicit. Another SDG target grouped as no service-no vulnerability is SDG 14.1 on *Preventing and reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*. This target implies several initiatives and services, which will benefit the most vulnerable coastal communities. Once more, service and vulnerability foci are implicit.

Based on these findings, one can conclude that all or most of the 27 SDG targets categorized as neither as service- or vulnerability-focused are about policies to formulate and offer services for all, including the vulnerable. They can thus be safely merged with either the service or vulnerability areas depending on their implicit emphasis on one or the other. Another option to improve the proposed conceptual context-conflict-contingency model could be to add a third cross-cutting parameter of *policies*. It would thus be context-conflict-contingency

¹⁰ Please note that just because a given SDG target was categorized under services does not mean that it lacks a focus on vulnerabilities, and vice-versa. For instance, SDG 5.c (Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of “gender” “equality” and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels) was categorized solely under the vulnerability area, but it presupposes services embedded in gender equality and empowerment. Likewise, SDG 8.10 (Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all) was classified under service focus area, and not vulnerability, even though access to banking and financial services benefit first and foremost the vulnerable and those left behind.

model cross-cut by vulnerabilities-services and policies¹¹. Further research can investigate the applicability of the conceptual model by using it to assess relevant empirical cases of humanitarian-development connections.

V Conclusion

The analysis undertaken here has shown that although the humanitarian-development divide is not found verbatim in any SDG target, the 189 linkages detected across 104 SDG targets are significant. SDG 17 on financing for development, SDG16 on peace, justice and institutions, and SDG11 on sustainable cities are particularly relevant to the intersection of humanitarian-development fields.

Depending on the sectoral focus, several SDG targets, such as SDG3 on health and wellbeing, SDG4 on education, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 15 on the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, can also be very useful connectors between developmental and humanitarian perspectives. SDG5 on gender equality and empowerment is particularly important since it is part of inclusive decision-making, capacity building, and crisis management, the three overlapping areas detected between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda for Humanity (Figure II).

The proposed context-conflict-contingency model interlinked by vulnerability and service (and possibly also policy) focus areas associated with public administration can constitute a useful tool in calibrating the types and levels of humanitarian-development connections. Contextual layers, conflict durations and contingency types can very well intersect and overlap with each other depending on the unique attributes of any given humanitarian crisis and the specific developmental challenges they present. One would hope that the proposed model clarifies possible combinations of humanitarian and development strategies by shedding light on the humanitarian SDG targets with linkages to the Agenda for Humanity.

Is it possible for policy-makers to most productively link their implementation, monitoring and reporting efforts entailed by their humanitarian and development commitments? Would awareness about the specific connections between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda for Humanity bring developmental and humanitarian communities of practice and fields of study closer together?

This analysis **cannot** provide definitive answers but can constitute a first step towards linking theory with practice in reframing the humanitarian-development divide. Further research can delve into the steps to translate the detected humanitarian-development synergies into operational guidelines. Further research can also examine connections with sustainable peacebuilding since many humanitarian-development linkages are often and highly relevant to peace.

¹¹ One observation based on Table II is the frequent overlap between a host of SDG targets both within a given conceptual category and across its different levels of analysis and across two of categories (green cells). Three SDG targets that appear across all three conceptual categories of context, conflict and contingency (red cells), are: SDG 9.a (resilient infrastructure), SDG 10.6 (voice in decision-making) and SDG 17.1 (domestic resource mobilization). They are relevant to all three contextual-conflict-contingency dimensions of humanitarian and developmental SDG targets. It is also possible to see some degree of overlap across levels of analysis (orange cells). This is because, as indicated in the first section of this article, it is possible that certain SDG targets concern individual, institutional and/or structural levels of analysis with short-to-medium and to long-term frameworks of action and for managing threats, risk and building resiliency in different combinations. It is interesting to note, for instance, that SDGs 16.3 and 16.10 appear at the micro, meso and macro-levels of analysis in the contextual layer because promoting rule of law and providing access to justice for all, and ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, make references to all three levels of governance—individual and community, national and global.

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ANNEX

Annex Table

Agenda for Humanity-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development linkage mapping

| Agenda for Humanity | | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Connecting terms | Number of connections (Direct & Indirect) |
|--|--------------------|--|--|---|
| RESPONSIBILITY 1 PREVENT & END CONFLICT | T1.2, CC1.1 | SDG 3.d, 13.3 | Early warning | 0+2=2 |
| | CC1.2 | SDG3.d, 2.4, 13.1, 13.3, 16.a, 2.a, 6.a, 8.10, 11.3, 12.a, 13.b, 14.a, 15.c, 15.4, 17.1, 17.8, 17.9, 17.19, | Capacity in crisis | 5+13=18 |
| | T1.1, CC1.3 | SDG16.a, 5.5, 14.1, 15.5, 15.8, 17.15 | Leadership to prevent crisis | 1+5=6 |
| | T1.4, CC1.5 | SDG5.5, 16.7, 4, 4.A, 6.b, 9, 9.2, 10.2, 10.6, 11, 11.3, 11.7, 11.b, 16, 17.6, 17.16 | Inclusive decision-making | 2+14=16 |
| | T1.3 | SDG17.13 | Investing in stability | 0+1=1 |
| 43 connections of which 8 are direct | | | | |
| RESPONSIBILITY 2 RESPECT RULES OF WAR | T2.4, CC2.1 | SDG16.3, 16.10, 5.6, 12.4, 14.5, 14.c, 15.1, 15.6 | International law | 2+6=8 |
| | T2.2, CC2.3, CC2.4 | SDG8.7, 3.c | Rapid humanitarian aid, medical assistance, healthcare worker protection | 2+0=2 |
| | CC2.3 | SDG3.8, 3.b | Access to essential medicines | 0+2=2 |
| | T2.3, CC2.5 | SDG16.3, 16.10, | Speaking out against violence | 2+0=2 |
| | T2.4 | SDG10.6, 16.6, 17.18, 17.19 | Accountability | 0+4=4 |
| | CC2.6 | SDG4.7, 4.a, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | Preventing gender violence | 0+5=5 |
| 23 connections of which 6 are direct | | | | |
| RESPONSIBILITY 3 LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND | T3.2, CC3.3 | SDG 8.8, 10.7, 17.18 | Migration | 3+0=3 |
| | T3.3 | SDG16.9 | Stateless | 0+1=1 |
| | T3.4, CC3.6 | SDG5.1, 5.a, 8.8, 8.8, 11.2, 1.2, 2.3, 4.3, 4.6, 5.b, 5.c, 10.2, 11.7, 13.b | Protect, empower women and girls | 5+9=14 |
| | T3.6 | SDG2.2, 4.4, 4.6, 8.5, 8.6, 8.b, 13.b, | Empower adolescents, youth | 0+7=7 |
| | T3.4, CC3.7, CC3.9 | SDG3.7, 3.8, 5.6 | Universal access to (sexual and reproductive) health | 0+3=3 |
| | T3.5 | SDG4.7, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6., 4.a | Education for all (children, youth) | 1+5=6 |
| | T3.7 | SDG4.5, 11.2, 11.5, 16.9, 9.2, 9.c, 11.7, 14.6, 16.7, 17.12 | Inclusion of the vulnerable | 4+6=10 |
| 44 connections of which 13 are direct | | | | |

(cont'd)

HUMANITARIAN SDGS: INTERLINKING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE AGENDA FOR HUMANITY

| Agenda for Humanity | | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Connecting terms | Number of connections (Direct & Indirect) | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| RESPONSIBILITY 4 | T4.1 | SDG2.5, 6.b, 8.9, 12.b, 15.9, 15.c | Reinforcing local systems | 6+0=6 | |
| | WORK DIFFERENTLY TO END NEED | CC4.1 | SDG2.2, 2.5, 6.2, 10.b, 11.2, 12.c | Responding to immediate (humanitarian) needs | 0+6=6 |
| | | CC4.2 | SDG9.a,10.5, 10.6, 10.b, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5 | Coherent financing | 11+0=11 |
| | | T4.2 | SDG2.b, 3.4, 3.5, 14.1, 15.5, 15.8, 17.1 | Anticipating, preventing crises | 7+0=7 |
| | | CC4.3 | SDG11.b, 13.3,13.a | Risk and climate change | 3+0=3 |
| | | CC4.4 | SDG13.b | Local risk, climate, disaster management | 1+0=1 |
| | | CC4.5 | SDG3.d, 13.3, 17.18, 17.19 | Early warning, investing in data | 4+0=4 |
| | | CC4.6 | SDG1.5, 2.4, 9, 9.1, 9.a, 11, 11.b, 11.c, 13.1, 14.2 | Resilience | 1+9=10 |
| 49 connections of which 34 are direct | CC4.7 | SDG1.5 | Local efforts and natural disasters | 1+0=1 | |
| RESPONSIBILITY 5 | T5.1 | SDG13.b, SDG15.c | Invest in local capacity | 2+0=2 | |
| | INVEST IN HUMANITY | CC5.1 | SDG1.a, 11.b, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1, 17.3, 17.16 | Mobilizing resources | 0+7=7 |
| | | T5.2, CC5.3 | SDG3.8, 3.d, 11.b, 17.8 | Risk-conscious investing | 4+0=4 |
| | | T5.3 | SDG17.13 | Invest in stability | 0+1=1 |
| | | T5.4, CC5.3 | SDG17.4, 9.a, 10.5, 10.6, 10.b, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.5 | Coherent (multiyear, flexible) funding | 1+10=11 |
| | | CC5.2 | SDG1.4 | Access to finance, empowering local humanitarian action | 0+1=1 |
| | | 30 connections of which 11 are direct | T5.2, CC5.3 | SDG8.b, 10.5, 17.6, 17.8, | Global instruments of resilience and urgent needs |
| | Connected SDG targets | 104 out of 169 SDG targets (53 SDG targets directly connected) | Total connections: | 189 (72 direct) | |

Source: Author's analysis. Bold SDGs and SDG Targets denote direct linkages. Orange cells demonstrate the transformations and/or (associated) core commitments of the Agenda for Humanity with the most SDG connections. This table provides the detailed metadata analysis used to construct Figure III.

Annex Figure
Agenda for Humanity-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development direct linkages

