

# Strengthening the Nexus between Peace, Development, Humanitarian Affairs and Human Rights for an Accelerated Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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# Brief Overview: Nexus in Context

- Traditional Approaches to humanitarian assistance ***fail to realise sustainable improvements in pressing developmental contexts***. Priorities, structures and functions of international actors revisited, with proactive AU governance reforms to realise Agenda 2063.
- World Humanitarian Summit 2016 and UN S-G Guterres' emphasis on Peace as key, the ***New Way of Working*** (NWOW) encourages interlinkages instead of silos to: ***improve resource and skill utility, reduce humanitarian needs, promote new partnerships, better operational financing, prioritise strategic development in long game planning and maximise compound gains*** via stakeholder-specific comparative advantage.
- The NWOW is still a work in progress.
- Nexus evolution – the notion of ***binding together***, the connection/s between different elements. In the current study, such an ***inter-linked way of working between pillars*** is called the 'nexus approach'. It evolved from an initial ***dual humanitarian-development*** nexus to the ***triple nexus*** with ***peace*** upfront and broadened to include ***human rights***. Albeit not a traditional nexus pillar, ***governance is heavily implied as cross-cutting*** (Pathways for Peace).
- “Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development.” - UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (21 September 1998)

# OSAA STUDY MODEL: Governance at the core of the interlinkages



# Study Methodology & Timeline

## Process

- Desk Review commenced 10/2020
- DESA SDG Indicator Analysis
- OSAA Nexus Survey: 182 views, 51 responses 28% response rate, 28 (52%) states and 33 (61%) countries in Africa
- Modelling of Actual versus Perceived Performance
- Application of Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) Theory

## Outcomes

- ✓ Draft Manual and Study Report with Recommendations 03/21
- ✓ Validation and Capacity Strengthening Workshops 06/2021
- ✓ Finalisation of Manual and Study Report – 07/2021
- ✓ Presentation of Study 03/2022 and 10/2022

# Key Findings: SDG Indicator Analysis

**Performance Heat Maps:** relative improvement over time, followed by Correlational Matrix for links between related SDG indicators and a Probe for relationships of significance

**Best Process Indicators:** Partnerships (SDG17), Clean and Affordable Energy and Decent Work (SDGs 7 & 8), Reduced Inequalities (SDG10)

**Worst:** Decent work (SDG8), Life Below Water (SDG14) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG10)

**Best Means of Implementation Indicators:** Life On Land (SDG15), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6) and Good Health and Well-being and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDGs 3 & 9)

**Worst:** Life On Land (SDG15), No Poverty, Decent Work and Reduced Inequality (SDGs 1, 8, 10) and jointly Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG9) and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6).

**Process Indicators:** No poverty (SDG1) most heavily related to all other SDGs (significantly to 3,4,7,11,16), while SDG2 and 10, Zero hunger and Reduced inequalities highest significance  $p < 0.001$ .

## **Means of Implementation Indicators:**

Highly significant relationship between SDG2 and 15 (Zero Hunger & Reduced Inequalities)  
- moderate correlation between SDG13 and 17 – Climate Action & Partnerships for the Goals.

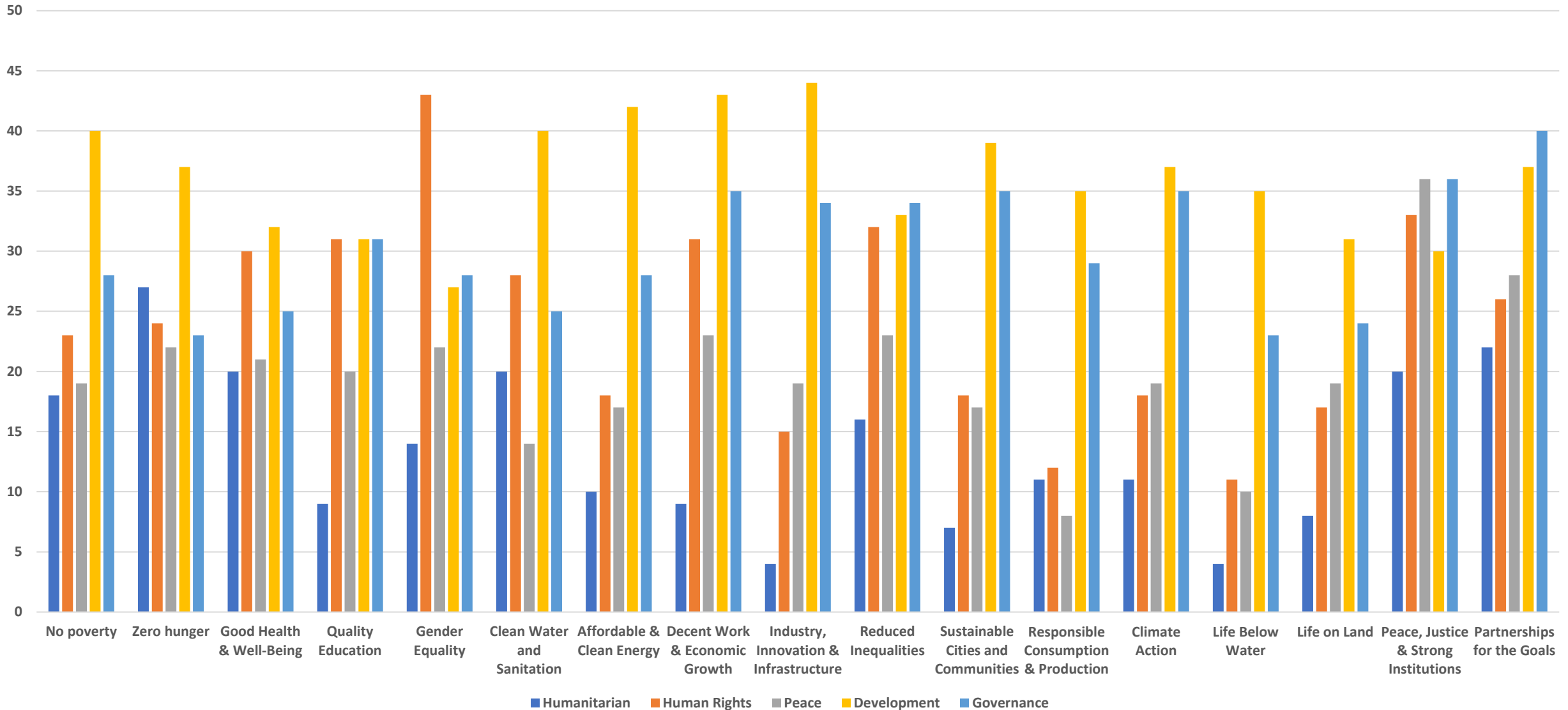
SDGs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	1																
2	-0.10526	1															
3	0.296447	0.101655	1														
4	0.341379	-0.11763	0.265799	1													
5	0.054813	0.189071	0.028635	-0.14437	1												
6	0.966475	-0.02285	0.308768	0.297144	0.013495	1											
7	0.348193	-0.02122	0.220317	0.105793	0.032965	0.359716	1										
8	0.082415	0.046048	0.249461	0.025695	0.14035	0.088679	0.249422	1									
9	0.106157	0.245726	0.101701	-0.16151	0.018646	0.151408	-0.00634	-0.0392	1								
10	-0.18104	0.435748	0.139622	0.058118	0.348315	-0.08454	0.050067	0.000594	-0.00869	1							
11	0.275477	0.021802	0.414603	0.310731	-0.07924	0.261931	0.001759	0.003527	-0.0544	0.084859	1						
12	-0.31644	0.097803	-0.24546	-0.5651	0.006562	-0.30341	-0.40399	-0.09185	-0.12029	0.016877	-0.25359	1					
13	-0.08492	-0.12716	-0.01598	-0.10655	-0.04173	-0.02359	-0.09358	-0.02784	0.201333	0.074776	-0.06913	0.158422	1				
14	0.091804	-0.10103	-0.03883	-0.11764	0.042096	0.032352	0.096188	-0.00051	0.107835	-0.12943	0.058946	-0.00166	0.02636	0.02636	1		
15	0.030245	-0.01503	-0.02912	-0.14577	0.137186	0.057423	0.03118	-0.22203	0.133084	-0.0022	0.033329	-0.02615	0.097444	0.11052	0.031893	1	
16	0.367292	0.085782	-0.0197	0.204529	-0.09298	0.340941	0.00832	-0.21564	0.011731	-0.19839	0.279312	-0.42599	-0.23269	0.285712	0.031893	0.002504	1
17	-0.1061	0.034099	0.106658	-0.27833	0.408449	-0.11905	-0.05875	0.267237	0.040536	-0.02804	-0.06564	-0.14018	-0.06911	0.00747	0.002504	-0.07788	1

# Key Findings: OSAA Survey

- **37% of participants** largely unfamiliar or *unfamiliar with the NWOW*, while a **further 20%** neither familiar nor unfamiliar, *confirming an information and awareness gap on the nexus*.
- *The predominant absence or infrequency of reference to the nexus indicates the value of* strengthening capacities of *policy-makers in designing and implementing policies*.
- **Top ranked: integration of areas to increase cooperation** (44 responses), followed closely by increasing strategic coordination and synergy (43) and improved efficiency (42), with enhanced communication (36) in fourth place.
- A **staggering 82%** of the sample identified the **relevance of governance** to make the interlinkages approach work.
- Countries mainly report a **“50/50” capacity** for implementation, then a **“limited” and “very limited”** capacity.
- **58% reported a National Coordination Mechanism** or related Process. **Most popular was the National Development Plan**, followed by Policy and Programme Development, an Inter-ministerial Forum/Task Team, then National Budgeting.
- **Most frequent issue: Budgetary support and fragmented financing**, followed by Political Will and Divisions between Actors, Weak Institutions, Poor Communication and Coordination, a lack of Whole-of-Government approach.

# Promotion of SDGs by area/pillar:

Tick which area(s) promote/s the achievement of each SDG - Humanitarian, Human Rights, Peace, Development & Governance





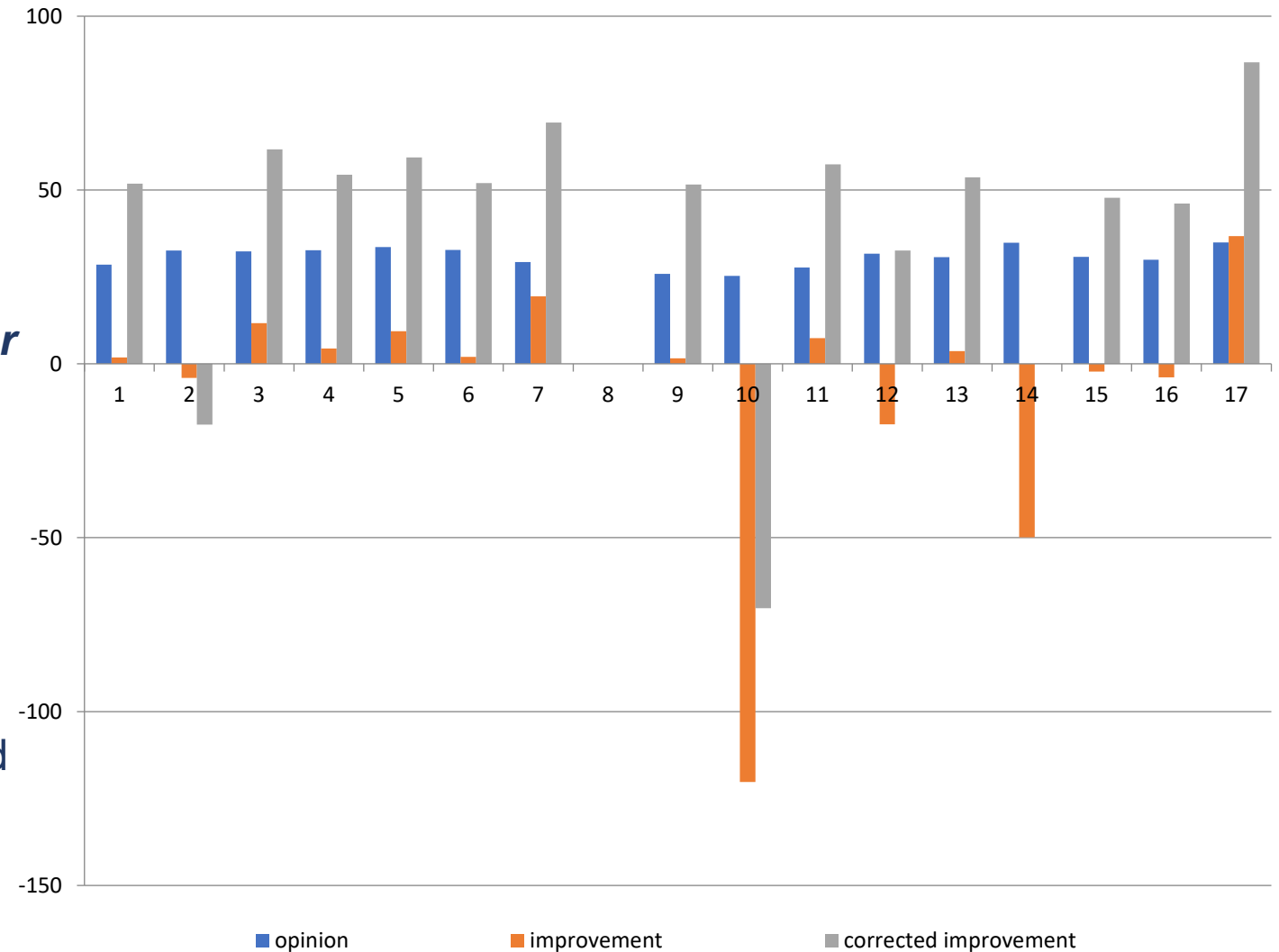
# Key Findings: OSAA Survey (cont.)

- **Development** is the pillar *most implicated in achieving SDGs*, followed by Governance, Human Rights and then Peace. The *least implicated* area is **Humanitarian Work**, lowest for 14 of the 17 Goals.
- Of the SDGs, Goal 1- **No Poverty- far ahead** (23), followed by Quality Education (7) Good Health and Wellbeing and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (4); *least important is Goal 17* (18), Goal 14 (14) and Goal 11 (4).
- **Ranking country performance** on the SDGs, responses are *largely negative* in terms of assessing progress.
- **Prioritisation of pillars** for SDGs: **Governance**, then Peace, Development, Human Rights and finally, *far below, Humanitarian*.
- The **Africa We Want**: “A *prosperous* Africa”, then “An Africa of *good governance*” and, “A *peaceful and secure* Africa” and “An Africa whose *development* is *people-driven*”. **Conflict, instability and insecurity, Social and Economic Inequalities** and **Political challenges** are the *greatest obstacles* to **Africa’s aspirations** and **SDGs**, reinforcing how *difficult* these *threats* are.
- Top 3 scores aggregated reveal that **Good Governance** holds the *biggest opportunity for the SDGs*, followed by Promoting Development and Growing the Economy, then Gender Equality and Building Peace tied in third place.
- COVID-19: *Positive effects dwarfed by the prevailing largely negative and negative effects of the pandemic*.
- Overwhelmingly, participants favoured *greater exposure* to **nexus** approach and *capacity-strengthening* activities, actioned by sub-regional workshops, training manual and subsequent online OSAA/IDEP course.



# Key findings: Actual versus perceived performance

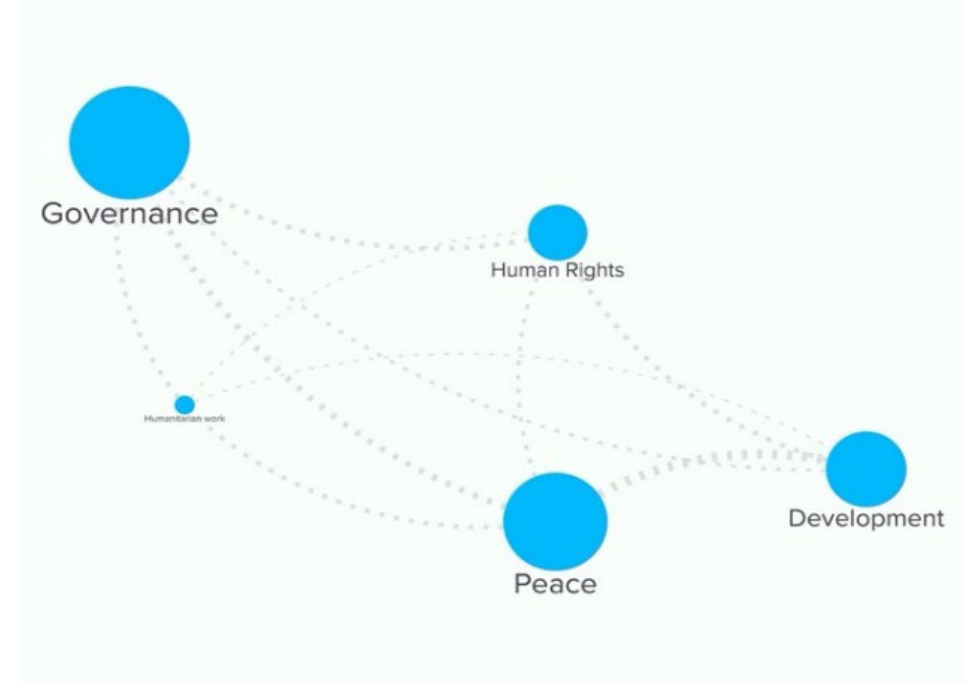
- Comparison of survey participants **perceptions** of countries' SDG performance and **actual performance** (relative improvement) using SDG Indicator Analysis.
- Comparison helps guide policy innovation, development and implementation to best target priority areas. Participants have a **lower opinion of progress** in Africa **than improvement in reality**.
- Poorest improvement: Reduced Inequality (SDG10) (-70%), then Zero Hunger (SDG 2) (17%), both of which seem to be backsliding.
- Gender Equality (SDG5) at 59% borders good performance, Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG3) at 61.7% and Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) midway at 69.5%.
- Best improvement: Partnerships for the Goals (SDG17), 86.7% in the “very good” zone.



Marked relative improvement on Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8) but excluded from the above due to sensitivity of relative changes.

# Key Findings: Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) Model

- A CAS consists of more than the sum of its individual parts, resulting from emergent properties that exist through their interactions (Rogers *et al.*, 2013). Critically, SDGs represent such a system (Nilsson, 2016). CAS theory recognises their relational constitution and complex causality (Preiser *et al.*, 2018), while applying weightings, interconnections and directionality enables design of a Causal Network (Niemeijer, 2006).
- The Nexus is a CAS. As the system is contextually dependent and constantly adapting, its design gives the audience utilising the model the ability to be its master. CAS unveils the connectivity between the interlinkages and links to SDGs, while the Cross-Impact Matrix, completed by participants, shows which elements have the largest and smallest positive effects on the system (Weitz, 2018). The ability to isolate how pillars interact with each other and impact on which SDGs has profound implications for mapping and related policy development.
- Based on weighted rankings from Survey Participants, Governance ranks most highly Overall, followed by Peace and then Development, while Human Rights is substantially smaller, and the Humanitarian Pillar is marginal. (Diagram to scale, see Right)
- Regarding strength of interlinkages between pillars: Peace and Development first, then Peace and Governance, with a tie between Development and Human Rights, and Governance and Human Rights. Weakest link shared by Humanitarian with Human Rights and Humanitarian With Development.



# Key findings: CAS Model (cont.)

- Note importance in this model (below) by node size of each SDG; the larger, the more significant.
- The 5 top-rated SDGs are No Poverty, Quality Education then Good Health, and thereafter, Zero Hunger and Clean Water.
- The 5 least-rated SDGs are Life below Water, then Partnerships for the Goals, Life on land, Responsible Consumption and Sustainable Cities.

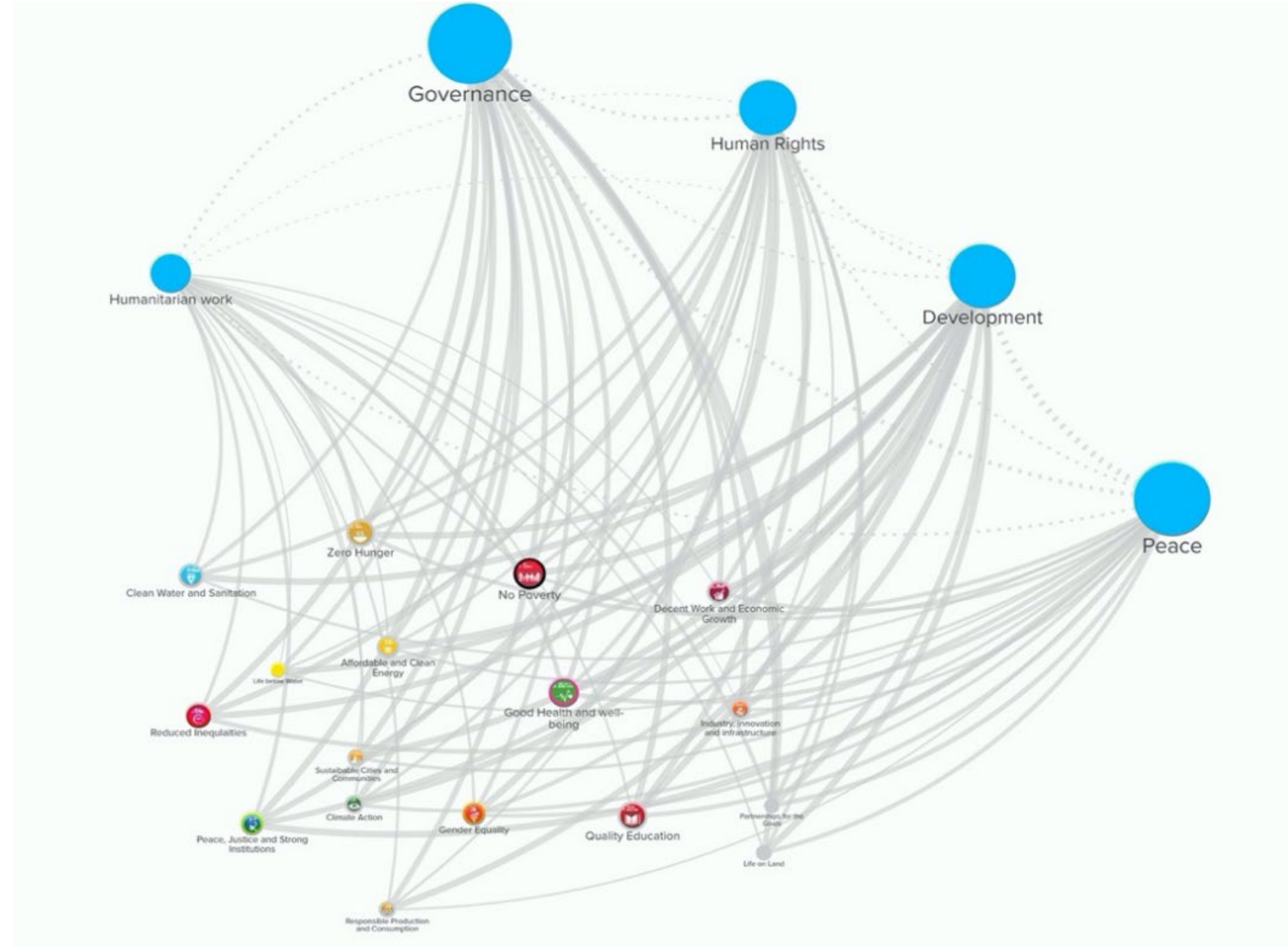


SDG Importance Ranking: Overall Position	SDG Number and Description	Peace Rank (weight)	Humanitarian Rank (weight)	Development Rank (weight)	Human Rights Rank (weight)	Governance Rank (weight)
1	1. No Poverty	4 (0,5)	4 (0,5)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,6)	2 (0,7)
4	2. Zero Hunger	3 (0,6)	2 (0,7)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,6)	3 (0,6)
3	3. Good Health and well-being	3 (0,7)	4 (0,6)	1 (1,0)	4 (0,6)	2 (0,8)
2	4. Quality Education	2 (0,6)	3 (0,3)	1 (1,0)	1 (1,0)	1 (1,0)
9	5. Gender Equality	4 (0,5)	5 (0,3)	3 (0,6)	1 (1,0)	2 (0,7)
5	6. Clean Water and Sanitation	5 (0,4)	4 (0,5)	1 (1,0)	2 (0,7)	3 (0,6)
8	7. Affordable and Clean Energy	3 (0,4)	4 (0,2)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,4)	2 (0,7)
6	8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	4 (0,5)	5 (0,2)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,7)	2 (0,8)
11	9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure	3 (0,4)	5 (0,1)	1 (1,0)	4 (0,3)	2 (0,8)
7	10. Reduced Inequalities	3 (0,7)	4 (0,5)	1 (1,0)	2 (0,9)	1 (1,0)
13	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	4 (0,4)	5 (0,2)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,5)	2 (0,9)
14	12. Responsible Production and Consumption	4 (0,2)	3 (0,3)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,3)	2 (0,8)
12	13. Climate Action	3 (0,5)	4 (0,3)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,5)	2 (0,9)
17	14. Life below Water	3 (0,3)	4 (0,1)	1 (1,0)	3 (0,3)	2 (0,7)
15	15. Life on Land	3 (0,6)	5 (0,3)	1 (1,0)	4 (0,5)	2 (0,8)
10	16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	1 (1,0)	4 (0,6)	3 (0,8)	2 (0,9)	1 (1,0)
16	17. Partnerships for the Goals	3 (0,7)	4 (0,6)	2 (0,9)	3 (0,7)	1 (1,0)

The model (right) enables us to consider the relative positioning of the various pillars as they relate to each SDG. This Ranking is helpful to determine the importance of each area to policy development and implementation per Goal.

# Key findings: CAS Nexus Model for Africa

- We can visualise the overall CAS Nexus model for Africa, pillars and SDGs combined.
- Thicker lines refer to stronger relations (solid lines for pillars to SDGs and broken lines for pillars to pillars).
- Node sizes are all to scale, meaning that the model holds pillars relative to SDGs in proportion to their relevance based on participant reports.
- Note: further modelling by sub-region, e.g. North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa produces uniquely different CAS models, significant for policy design.



# Issues to Nexus Implementation identified at Workshops

## **1. Climate Change, Conflict, Transboundary issues and other response constraints:**

UN DRR Report (2021) and UN-OHRLLS impact on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs. In West Africa and Sahel, transboundary conflict and crime also problematic.

## **2. Additional challenges:**

- i) Normative planning and monitoring frameworks – synergy and coordination;
- ii) Resource and capacity constraints;
- iii) Lack of coherent longer-term financing and onerous conditions of IFIs;

## **3. Cross-pillar collaboration, Coordination, Implementing the New Way of Working and Positive Nexus Examples:**

Regional and sub-regional coordination important; AUDA-NEPAD TLS; SADC Centre for Humanitarian Action, PDU Sahel, IGAD CEWARN

## **4. Examples of working towards the Nexus from non-conflict contexts:**

Ghana, Botswana, Tunisia, Mauritius.

## **5. COVID-19: Challenge and Opportunity**

- COVAX and pandemic response and recovery lessons, development actors strive to create value-chains and a more integrated multi-sectoral approach.

# Policy Recommendations to Strengthen Nexus Implementation

- 1. Implement the nexus approach across all levels – from local level participation to global governance**
- 2. Focus on knowledge production, awareness-raising and capacity building**
- 3. Adopt an Adaptive, Collaborative and Coordinated Approach**
- 4. Promote coherent, integrated and flexible assessment and financing frameworks**
- 5. Nurture good governance and strong institutions**



Merci pour votre attention

Thank you for your attention

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