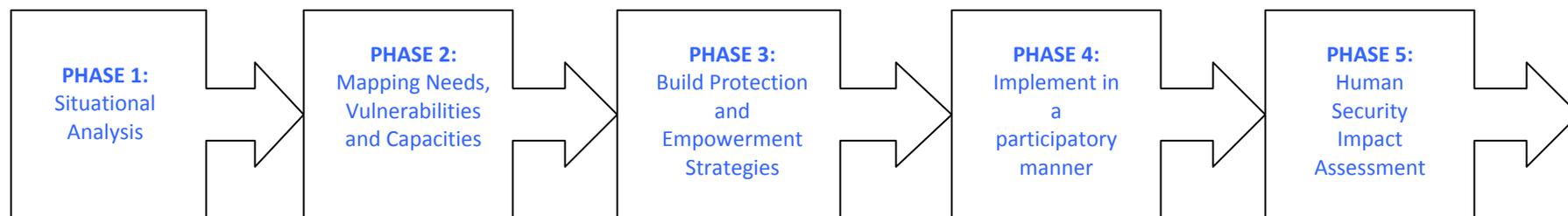**Designing a human security programme/project**
Human Security Unit

From an operational perspective, human security aims to address complex situations of insecurity through targeted, collaborative and sustainable measures that are **(i) people-centered, (ii) comprehensive, (iii) context-specific, and (iv) prevention-oriented**. These principles are subsequently applied in the **protection and empowerment framework** that further guarantees the development of appropriate responses/policies in view of a particular threat.

There are five phases for designing, implementing and evaluating a human security programme/project. Each phase requires a set of tools that provide the needed analysis and information to ensure the integrity of the human security programme/project.

| PHASE 1: Situational Analysis | → | PHASE 2: Mapping Needs, Vulnerabilities and Capacities | → | PHASE 3: Build Protection and Empowerment Strategies | → | PHASE 4: Implement in a participatory manner | → | PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment | → |

This document provides guidelines and templates for designing a human security programme/project (phases 1-3), and does not provide guidelines on implementing the programme/project nor on the human security impact assessment. Please see the Human Security Handbook for more information on phases 4 and 5, which can be accessed at:
http://www.un.org/humansecurity/sites/www.un.org.humansecurity/files/human_security_in_theory_and_practice_english.pdf

<u>**PHASE 1: Situational analysis**</u>

The goal of this phase is to identity the root causes and the manifestations of a particular threat on the human security of a particular population.

WHY?
➢ Describe the situation from a human security perspective.
➢ Understand the root causes of the situation and from where they originate (international or regional dynamics, national or local factors, etc).
➢ Identify the manifestations of the threat and its impact.

HOW?
1. Describe the situation from a human security perspective and outline the root causes at various levels: global, regional, national, local (communities and individuals).
2. Provide the latest quantitative and qualitative measurements of the different HS domains of the population.
3. Identify the manifestations of the threat and its impact on different groups/communities as well as on the State and institutions across HS domains.

1. Describe the situation from a human security perspective and outline the root causes

	Causes (structural or behavioral)
Global level	
Regional level	
National level	
Individual & community level	

2. Measurements of the overall human security of the population: The situational analysis is obviously developed from research and data that you have already collected or to which you have access. You may identify areas for which you will need further information for the specific context you are examining. Identifying both quantitative and qualitative human security measurements will support you in deepening your analysis, and the information gathered will provide a baseline for the development as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. (Remember, the seven HS domains are indicative and therefore, you may modify them as appropriate).

HS domains	Quantitative indicators/data	Qualitative indicators/data
Economic security		
Food security		
Health security		
Environmental security		
Personal security		
Community security		
Political security		

3. Identify the manifestations of the threat across HS domains and their related impact on different groups and communities as well as on the State and institutions.

Manifestations of the threat on HS domains	Impact on groups & communities	Impact on the State & institutions
Economic security		
Food security		
Health security		
Environment security		
Personal security		
Community security		
Political security		

PHASE 2: Mapping needs, vulnerabilities and capacities

The goal of this phase is to delve deeper into the specific context in order to better assess the most critical and pervasive human insecurities, identify the most vulnerable groups and communities, and capitalize on or strengthen local/national capacities.

WHY?
➢ Identify the most critical and pervasive insecurities that should be tackled by the programme/project. (Ensures that goals are people-oriented and responsive to the specific and actual needs and vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable groups and communities.)
➢ Develop an inventory of local/national capacities, resources and assets that should be built upon through the programme/project:
   o those that were used in past situations to address insecurities;
   o those that have not been mobilized; and
   o those that need to be (re)introduced/strengthened.
➢ Recognize the gaps in the existing protection and empowerment infrastructure.
➢ Highlight the range of actors and sectors that should be mobilized in an integrated manner.

HOW?
Using the Human Security Framework for Needs/Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis:

➢ Map insecurities vis-à-vis capacities:
   o Identify needs and vulnerabilities per HS domain.
   o Identify resources and capacities at different levels (especially those at the level closest to the most vulnerable groups/communities)
➢ Identify the possible interconnections between the insecurities and the root causes (from the previous situational analysis).
➢ Identify gaps in the protection and empowerment infrastructure.
➢ In consultation with the most vulnerable groups/communities, develop priorities based on their actual vulnerabilities and capacities, with a focus on what is needed in a way that builds on (or strengthens) their human security in a resilient, sustainable and prevention-oriented manner.

Human Security Framework for Needs/Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis

Insecurities (HS domains)	Needs/Vulnerabilities		Capacities
	Local level: Sub-group*	Local level: Sub-group*	

* You should disaggregate by relevant groups as necessary (e.g. by gender, age, ethnicity, etc)

PHASE 3: Building protection and empowerment strategies

The goal of this phase is build strategies/responses that incorporate the five HS principles and apply the protection and empowerment framework.

WHY?
➢ Ensure that the strategies are directly drawn from the human security situational analysis and the mapping process undertaken in the previous phases. Furthermore, ensure that the strategies address the most critical and pervasive insecurities of the most vulnerable groups/communities in an integrated and prioritized manner.
➢ Engage the relevant stakeholders in the process of building the appropriate protection and empowerment strategies.
➢ Ensure coherence among the different aspects of the overall strategy and the actors involved. In addition, ensure coherence over time (define short, medium, long term strategies/outcomes).
➢ Assess the potential externalities across HS domains and across groups in order to avoid negative impacts and to multiply positive impacts.

HOW?
Apply the Protection and Empowerment Framework:
Protection:
➢ What protective mechanisms (institutions, norms, policies, etc) exist to address the insecurities?
➢ What is lacking in terms of protective mechanisms and could be established/strengthened to address the insecurities?
Empowerment:
➢ What empowerment mechanisms (assets, strengths, capacities, resources, local practices, etc) exist to address the insecurity?
➢ What is lacking in terms of empowerment mechanisms and could be developed/strengthened to address the insecurity?
Protection and Empowerment:
➢ Are there interlinked HS domains that should be addressed through an integrated protection and empowerment framework?
➢ How can the protection and empowerment strategies be connected in order to be mutually reinforcing?
➢ Be aware of the potential positive and negative externalities on other HS domains (or groups).

Based on (i) the most critical and widespread insecurities (ii) the actual needs and vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable groups and communities, and (iii) local/national capacities, assess the protection and empowerment infrastructure (including what exists and what is lacking for each identified HS domain).

What protective mechanisms exist to address the insecurity? (per HS domain)	What is lacking (in terms of protection) and could be established to address the insecurity?	What empowerment mechanisms exist to address the insecurity?	What is lacking (in terms of empowerment) and could be established to address the insecurity?

Develop the strategies by identifying those interlinked HS domains that should be addressed through an integrated protection and empowerment framework. Ensure that the protection and empowerment strategies are mutually reinforcing.

Goal/objectives as per priority area	Protection component: Activities to strengthen or develop protection mechanisms	Empowerment component: Capacities to be strengthened or developed at the individual & community level