

Human Security United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and Delivering as One

Recent reviews on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations affirm that fragmented responses most commonly adopted by the international community are not keeping pace with the challenges of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. These reviews have called for a more integrated United Nations system that can effectively close the ongoing deficits in peace, development and human rights around the world.

The human security approach supports this aim. By tackling insecurities comprehensively, it can deepen the impact of Delivering as One, which recognizes the significant benefits that a more coordinated United Nations system can provide. A focus on human security strengthens the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights, and stimulates more meaningful partnerships among United Nations entities by combining existing tools to accelerate delivery, limit duplication and maximize the reach of scarce resources.





Solving complex challenges

In today's increasingly interconnected world, dangers can spread rapidly within and across countries. They threaten people's lives, and put the foundations of nations and the global system under unprecedented stress. In such a world, peace, sustainable development and the protection of human rights require the power of combined expertise and commitment.

For the United Nations, operating within narrow thematic silos is no longer enough. The time is past for the conventional single-agency style of planning and programme implementation that leads to overlap, loss of synergies and competition.

The human security approach highlights what is in fact the United Nation's unique position to Deliver as One. Human security brings diverse entities together to find comprehensive solutions to pressing development and humanitarian challenges, such as exclusion and abject poverty, natural disasters, violent conflict and protracted crises, forced displacement and public health pandemics, among other issues.

By viewing these challenges in their entirety, human security steers solutions that are people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented. These strengthen the protection and empowerment of people and communities, and cut the root causes of insecurities. Based on inclusive processes where those affected by insecurities voice their concerns and aspirations, the application of human security ensures that responses are prioritized and targeted, thereby achieving greater impact and sustaining lasting changes in people's lives.

For a range of UN country teams as well as UN regional commissions, the human security approach has produced rich, robust analysis that advances the implementation of Delivering as One. In line with the Agenda 2030 imperative for inclusion, human security

has drawn attention to neglected populations and persistent areas of insecurity. It has guided well-prioritized programmes of support that meet short- to medium-term goals, and prevent risks from escalating into crises.



Unleashing the power of partnerships

Working together through the human security approach involves much more than United Nations entities simply conducting business jointly, side by side, but separately. It entails recognizing the strengths that accrue from true partnerships where different entities create synergies with far greater power to resolve today's complicated problems.

By keeping attention on outcomes defined by measurable improvements in people's lives, human security provides United Nations entities with space to assess, analyse, plan and understand how they can best come together to Deliver as One. At the same time, each entity, within Delivering as One, can articulate its own unique contributions to realizing human security.

Programmes under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) have shown how human security breaks down organizational barriers. In Tajikistan, United Nations entities are collaborating under an innovative initiative to take on multiple challenges in a remote, underserved region of the Rasht Valley. By combining experts from across the United Nations system, the programme has been able to begin revitalizing agriculture, infrastructure and social services, while restoring economic and food security. This has led to improvements in sustainable energy, drinking water, irrigation systems and agricultural productivity, as well as greater access to health care and education. At the same time, conflict management activities have contributed to the restoration of a more peaceful and inclusive region.

These interventions are providing the broad spectrum of measures required in responding to a complex situation to which no single entity can respond alone. Participating communities along with the Government have welcomed these results and have requested replication of the programme in other regions of the Rasht Valley.



Bridging the pillars of the United Nations

Human security, with its strong focus on people and the full range of insecurities they face, provides a practical and policy-oriented approach to integrating peace and security, development and human rights. These three pillars of the United Nations correspond to the three primary and integrated aims of human security—to free people from fear, want and indignity. Traditionally, activities under each pillar have taken place separately, but through the human security approach, they are increasingly brought together, including as part of Delivering as One.

For example, in the north-western region of the United Republic of Tanzania, conflicts in the neighbouring countries of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda took a severe toll on vulnerable border communities faced with an increasing number of refugees. Accordingly, six United Nations entities, with support from the UNTFHS, applied the human security approach to develop a comprehensive programme to promote peaceful co-existence among refugee and host communities, reverse the proliferation of small arms, safeguard natural resources, improve food security and foster life skills among vulnerable populations.

The programme was considered unique in the country, closing the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development assistance. By combining their technical knowledge, implementation capacities and comparative advantages, the participating United

Nations entities succeeded in helping people in a highly fragile environment find durable solutions to the challenges they faced, resulting in greater improvements in their daily lives, preventing the emergence of new insecurities and raising people's aspirations for a brighter future.



Boosting operational effectiveness

Human security has boosted the operational effectiveness of the United Nations system and Delivering as One by requiring inter-agency joint situation analysis, programme design, implementation and monitoring. UN country teams across the world have reported that human security interventions are more coherent and result in more efficient use of scarce resources.

Those making the most of the operational effectiveness of human security have systematically incorporated the approach in the principles, guidelines and mechanisms used for integrated planning. For example, in the State of Palestine, experience with applying the human security approach has led to a deeper understanding of how communities and social groups experience different types of threats and vulnerabilities. This provided evidence for why and how different United Nations and non-United Nations entities should come together, leading to greater integration of environmental, economic, security and political responses, and their articulation in the first United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2013.

Similarly, following a pilot initiative funded by the UNTFHS in Uzbekistan, human security has become the overarching framework to address the inter-related environmental, social, economic and health impacts of the Aral Sea disaster, not only for Uzbekistan, but also as part of a regional initiative, The International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.



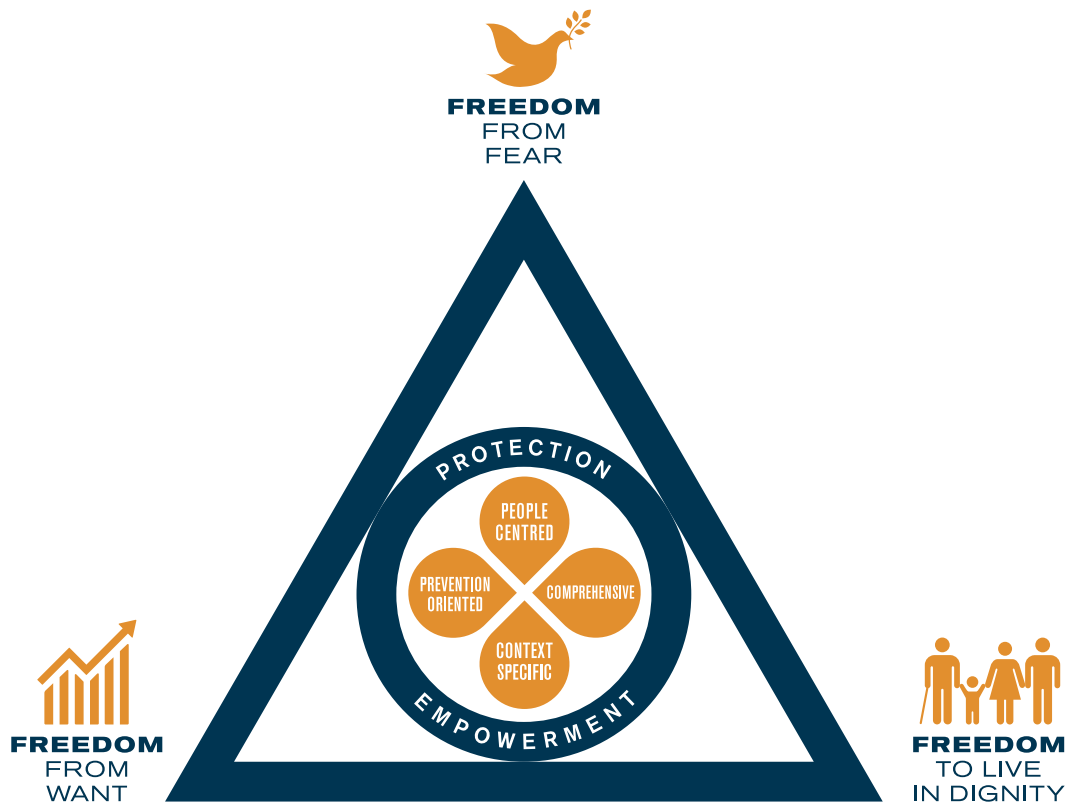
Supporting national plans

Human security can be instrumental in enhancing the use of the recently adopted Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One, specifically in implementing the One Programme pillar. One Programme encourages all members of a UN country team to deliver results together under one nationally owned strategy. By highlighting connections among various insecurities, and the ways that national outcomes are linked and mutually reinforcing, human security enables teams to pursue programmes that are both oriented towards the achievement of national development plans and are best placed to promote meaningful improvements within countries.

As an example, in the Dominican Republic, the UN country team is applying the human security approach to meet the multiple needs of Haitian migrants and

their descendants. A comprehensive protection and empowerment framework has led to the establishment of an effective coordination mechanism involving UN agencies, the Government and civil society partners. They are simultaneously addressing the full range of insecurities faced by Haitian migrant communities, including access to education, basic health care, food security, resilience to natural disasters, skills training and small-business assistance, as well as support to obtain essential identity documents. Partners have found they can better identify interrelated needs of the most vulnerable individuals, and now endorse the human security approach as the most appropriate way to ensure the rights, safety and well-being of Haitian migrants and their descendants.

In short, in a world where challenges are multidimensional, responses cannot be successful in isolation. Solutions demand the combined expertise of the United Nations system. The UNTFHS and the human security approach complement and bolster the efforts of the United Nations system to Deliver as One.



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