



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

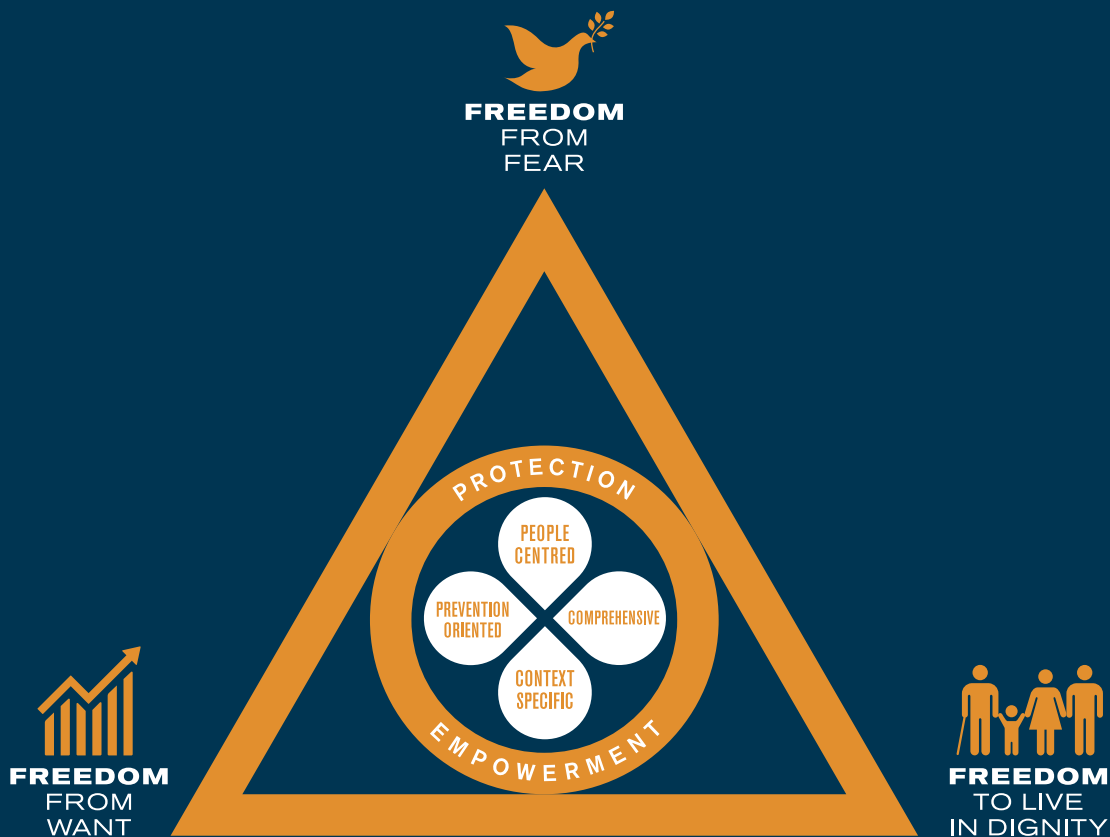
The Human Security Unit

The Human Security Unit is the United Nations champion of human security. Established in 2004, the Unit is charged with raising awareness and encouraging global action so that through human security initiatives, all people can eventually live free from fear, want and indignity.

Applying the human security approach strengthens societies, builds social cohesion and fosters resilience among some of the most vulnerable, marginalized people in the world. The approach breaks down multiple threats that might otherwise escalate, and helps governments and people solve problems in ways that are

proactive and inclusive. With food, decent work, quality services and a sense of safety and dignity, people can commit to building their communities and planning for a better future.

The human security approach is centred on people and specific to the contexts in which they live. Oriented around the prevention of risks and the pursuit of comprehensive solutions, it integrates the agendas of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. In doing so, it provides a universal, highly relevant framework for a wide range of 21st century challenges, including those articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Raising Awareness, Galvanizing Momentum

The Human Security Unit has propelled growing recognition of the value of human security and greatly enhanced its application around the world. A series of practical tools and training modules have backed increasingly sophisticated and high-impact initiatives in complex situations where human security has proven value—among them, post-conflict peacebuilding, the transition from humanitarian emergencies to sustainable development, threats to vulnerable communities from climate change and natural disasters, the multiple insecurities faced by the urban poor and irregular migration.

The Human Security Unit leads the mainstreaming of human security across the United Nations, where diverse bodies use the approach as an analytical lens to assess and develop integrated responses to interrelated threats. Most of today's development or humanitarian challenges arise from multiple factors that are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. These require greater coordination, both across the United Nations system and in partnership with other actors.

To encourage the application of the human security approach by a broad network of people at the local, national, regional and international levels, the Human Security Unit helps broker collaborations among Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental and civil society actors, academic institutions and the private sector. Their combined expertise and abilities magnify impacts, and instill a shared determination to sustain and advance gains that are made.

Within the United Nations, the Human Security Unit has been at the centre of consensus-building that in 2012 led to the landmark General Assembly resolution 66/290. In it, for the first time, UN Member States agreed on a common global understanding of human security. More recently, the Human Security Unit has been instrumental in setting up the Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Security, which in 2015 agreed on the Framework for Cooperation for the System-wide Application of Human Security. The Framework guides a voluntary partnership among United Nations entities to systematically apply the principles underpinning the human security approach, both at headquarters and in country operations.

Guiding the Human Security Unit

The Human Security Unit draws its strategic direction from the Office of the UN Secretary-General and from the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Human Security. It also benefits from guidance from the Advisory Board on Human Security, an independent body of distinguished international experts known for their breadth of knowledge on and commitment to human security.

The Human Security Network, a group of approximately a dozen Member States with a strong dedication to promoting human security within the United Nations, further enriches the work of the Human Security Unit and provides additional political support.

Showing the Way Forward: The UN Trust Fund for Human Security

The Human Security Unit pioneers innovative ways to demonstrate the benefits of the human security approach through its management of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS). The UNTFHS supports projects that draw on the combined expertise of the United Nations system, and bring diverse partners together to collaborate with Governments in addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of local communities.

Projects provide concrete and sustainable benefits to people and communities facing threats to their survival, livelihoods and dignity. They employ integrated strategies that respond to specific situations of human insecurity, strengthen social harmony, and are oriented towards the prevention of crises as well as the promotion of long-term development. The coupling of protection and empowerment measures fosters local ownership, ensures sustainability, and contributes to productive State-society relationships.

Since its establishment, the UNTFHS has supported over 220 programmes in more than 90 countries, including regional initiatives. These have helped reduce the likelihood of conflict, overcome obstacles to sustainable development, and promote the realization of human rights for all. Recent projects, for example, have empowered people to participate in local development in Egypt, and helped people in rural areas of Pakistan safeguard their livelihoods and reduce disaster risks. A project in Peru tackled the root causes of urban crime and violence. Another in Serbia has deepened social cohesion, including through improved public services.

Increasingly, UNTFHS projects are designed as catalytic prototypes that demonstrate the immense practical benefits of human security's transformational, people-centred responses. By delivering changes in people's lives and across their communities, projects make the case for scale-up or replication, and show the way for the United Nations to expand the use of human security across the entire Organization and beyond.

Learn more: www.un.org/humansecurity/
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