



Dear colleagues and friends of human security,

2019 has been an eventful year for human security, marked both by significant milestones and important reminders that the survival, livelihood and dignity of people must be at the heart of our actions.

We began the year by celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 1994 Human Development Report that introduced the concept of human security to the world stage. It was also the 20th anniversary of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), a proven mechanism to break down siloes and overcome fragmentation, encourage new ways of thinking and partnering, and address complex challenges that arise from a broad range of interconnected factors that undermine our aspiration to live free from fear, want, and indignity. Sadly, we ended the year by bidding farewell to a pioneer of human security, Madam Sadako Ogata, whose leadership and vision placed human security at the top of local, national, regional and global agendas.

In this winter edition of the Human Security Newsletter, we highlight some of the contributions of the UNTFHS and its many partners across the globe. These initiatives provide concrete lessons on how to advance the 2030 Agenda and its goal to leave no one behind; accelerate progress on the SDGs from the ground up; develop the African Human Security Index as an essential component for strengthening and monitoring progress on Agenda 2063, including the 'Silencing the Guns by 2020' initiative; and ensure inclusive peace and development at this pivotal moment of transition in Sudan.

We look forward to sharing the results of these ongoing programmes and future human security initiatives in upcoming newsletters.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2020.

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***In Memoriam* - Honorary Chair of the Advisory Board on Human Security Sadako Ogata**

In October, the world said goodbye to Madam Sadako Ogata, an inestimable leader whose efforts to relieve the suffering of people indelibly changed international assistance and the work of the UN.

In 1991, at a time when few women occupied senior UN positions, she became the first female High Commissioner for Refugees, transforming the agency by expanding its role to support the millions of refugees who had crossed borders as well as those who were internally displaced. During this time, Madam Ogata became convinced that a new framework was necessary that placed people at the center and promoted more proactive and collaborative action to ensure their safety, livelihood and dignity.

Dedicated to advancing human security, Madam Ogata led its development into a practical approach as Co-Chair of the Commission on Human Security and subsequently, Chair of the Advisory Board on Human Security. The recommendations outlined in the Commission's landmark report *Human Security Now*, published in 2003, continue to resonate today with relevant guidance on how to integrate our fragmented efforts to protect and empower people exposed to severe and complex threats, including bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Following the report, Madam Ogata guided the mainstreaming of human security into the work of the UN and helped redefine how we come together to better deliver for people. The UNTFHS will continue to take forward the important work started by Madam Ogata, and elaborated by many others, through advancing the application of human security within and beyond the UN system.

Read the [Secretary-General's statement on the death of Sadako Ogata](#)



Madam Ogata addressed the high-level event on human security on 8 May 2013. Photo credit: UN Photo/ Rick Bajornas

Leaving No One Behind Through the Application of Human Security

With income inequality on the rise since 1980, the 2030 Agenda reflects a renewed determination among Member States to break the cycles of disadvantage and inequity hindering sustainable development for all. To disentangle the complex factors that contribute to exclusion and realize the pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB) requires that governments and the UN system strengthen their capacity to design and systematically implement targeted strategies that will fast-track progress among those furthest behind within a comprehensive approach to national development.

To this end, the Human Security Unit (HSU) is developing a technical guidance note to provide the UN system, policymakers and practitioners with practical and evidence-based guidance on analytical, planning and partnership processes that help operationalize the commitment to LNOB. Based on the UNTFHS's 20 years of experience addressing the multifaceted challenges facing those most vulnerable, the technical guidance note outlines how the human security approach can help unpack the underlying economic, social, geographic and political factors leading to marginalization; highlight capacity and resource gaps as well as enabling factors for more effective policy and programmatic responses; and identify key actors with responsibility to take action at different levels, including local communities and excluded groups.

From participatory and inclusive Human Security Forums for community planning in Upper Egypt to community mobilization, volunteerism and collaboration across different levels of governance in Uzbekistan, to strengthening cross-border partnerships to support mobile indigenous communities in Costa Rica and Panama, the technical guidance note highlights lessons learned and good practices from diverse contexts and incorporates rich case studies to help translate the vision of LNOB into concrete action on the ground. It will serve as a complement to the interim [operational guide](#) on LNOB published in April 2019 by the UN Sustainable Development Group. The technical guidance note will be released in early Spring 2020.



Human security overcomes the barriers that impede marginalized sections of the population from falling further behind. Photo credit: UNCT Uzbekistan



To ensure no one is left behind, the human security approach provides practical steps to develop more contextualized, participatory, and integrated responses to chronic and emerging challenges to development. Photo credit: UNCT Albania

Putting People at the Center of Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Accelerate the SDGs

To support a more ambitious response to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level, the High-Level Exchange Forum on [*Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works*](#) was held in Banjul, The Gambia on 27-29 October 2019. Organized by the Government of The Gambia, the Senegalo-Gambian Permanent Secretariat, the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team in The Gambia, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and the International Peace Institute, the Forum brought together 70 leaders from national and local governments, the UN system, local champions and entrepreneurs, and youth and women leaders from Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, as well as bilateral and regional entities to deepen the discussion, identify good practices and foster new ideas on how to accelerate progress on the SDGs from the ground up.

Both timely and of utmost importance, the Forum was structured to provide a model for a different way of working that puts the local at the center of multi-stakeholder engagement in order to lay a stronger foundation for achieving the SDGs. By ensuring diverse participation, it created a unique platform for sharing experiences and knowledge that go beyond traditional forms of cooperation towards the multi-level, multidisciplinary dialogue necessary to overcome the complex obstacles to sustainable development. This generated awareness of existing capacities, knowledge and initiatives that could be leveraged in each country and within the subregion to strengthen the delivery and scale-up of successful and innovative local solutions. In addition, it enabled a broad and inclusive conversation on how internal and external actors can come together to design SDG strategies that include people as drivers of sustainable development and community transformation.

A high-level event will be held in New York in late Spring 2020 to launch the report,

highlighting the good practices and lessons learned from the Forum, and to share follow-up action to accelerate sustainable development at the local level across the West African subregion and beyond.



H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray, Vice President of The Gambia delivered the keynote address at the opening of the High-Level Exchange Forum in Banjul on 27 October 2019.



Participants shared successful local solutions and identify the capacities and resources of various actors that could together accelerate progress on the SDGs.

Developing the African Human Security Index (AHSI)

Africa's achievements over the last few decades are significant. In many countries and communities, economic growth has firmly taken root. At the same time, notable strides have been made in social and human development, and reforms in governance have changed the political landscape. These gains however have not been experienced everywhere and they remain uncertain and potentially reversible due to widening inequalities, as well as exposure to economic, political, social and environmental shocks that can undermine stability and weaken sustainable development.

To safeguard and bolster development progress across the continent, Agenda 2063 recognizes the inherent interconnections between peace and security, socio-economic development, good governance and social inclusion. It represents a comprehensive and integrated framework that captures these broad dimensions and further outlines the interlinked actions necessary to achieve The Africa We Want, including the development of the African Human Security Index (AHSI) as an essential component for strengthening and monitoring progress on Agenda 2063 and the '[Silencing the Guns by 2020](#)' initiative.

Under the leadership of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office for the African Union and the UNTFHS are collaborating on a programme to support the development of the AHSI. To be launched at a High-Level Dialogue on the sidelines of the AU Summit in January 2020, the proposed programme will pilot the index in two to four countries, with the aim to refine and codify it for application across the continent. As a contextualized index, the AHSI will provide strategic orientation based on a clearly defined methodology and rigorous analytical framework that can be tailored and applied in diverse national contexts and aligned with national development plans towards the overall goals of Agenda 2063.



Recovering from conflict in South Kordofan: A human security approach for the most vulnerable

Sudan is at a pivotal moment of transition and on the long road to socio-economic recovery. In this period ahead, the international community has a key responsibility to support the Government and people of Sudan with comprehensive responses that promote social cohesion, address multi-dimensional insecurities, empower people and leverage opportunities on the ground.

In this context, the UNTFHS is initiating a new and timely programme in Sudan's South Kordofan state, which has been a hotspot of armed conflict in recent decades. Bringing together UNMAS, IOM, UNOPS, FAO, WHO and UNICEF in partnership with government and civil society partners, the programme is providing the type of comprehensive and integrated support necessary to bolster stability and plant the seeds of development in Abu Kershola and Dalami. By providing a framework to engage a range of stakeholders from diverse sectors and institutions based on an in-depth understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of the local population, with a focus on those groups most in need of support, the human security approach is particularly valuable for bridging humanitarian, development and peacebuilding action.

In this programme, the clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war combined with activities to expand the availability of and access to essential services for host communities and internally displaced people and to enhance social cohesion and local capacities for conflict resolution and violence reduction will provide the foundation for social and economic life to begin to flourish. Moreover, participatory and inclusive engagement of local populations with the broad range of local, national and international partners will help equip them to sustain a positive trajectory towards stability and sustainability development moving forward. Lessons from this programme will inform efforts to implement the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Sudan and beyond.



A deminer searching for landmines in South Kordofan in January 2018. Photo credit: UNMAS Sudan

Upcoming Events in 2020

Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Human Security Business Partnership (London)

High-level Dialogue on the African Human Security Index (Addis Ababa)

Launch of UNTFHS programme for the Caribbean Region and Human Security Training (Barbados)

Inaugural meeting of the new Advisory Board on Human Security (New York)

Expert group meeting on Measuring Human Security, Human Development and Inequality in the Context of the SDGs (New York)

High-level Event on Human Security (Cairo)

Ancillary meeting on Human Security at the Kyoto Congress for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto)

High-level Meeting on Localizing the 2030 Agenda through Human Security (New York)



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