

Operationalizing the Triple Nexus Approach in conflict and fragile settings: Reinforcing national actors to advance collective outcomes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities

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Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my sincere pleasure to join you this afternoon.

I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to provide an overview of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security and its contribution not only as an important analytical framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but also as a powerful tool to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus so urgently needed.

For many, our world today is an insecure place, full of threats on many fronts.

Despite enormous investments in promoting peace and stability, conflicts continue to undermine every aspect of the human family, driving millions of people from their homes and woefully undermining the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.

Similarly, every week, we are confronted by the devastating consequences of climate change. When natural disasters hit, their impact is direct and perilous, threatening every aspect of what it means to enjoy human security, from the loss of social and economic security to the menace that comes when daily routines, personal networks and community bonds are broken.

And while scientific progress has been beneficial in some areas of the human experience, the solidarity we had hoped to be the hallmark of the IT revolution has been hijacked by misinformation and growing divisiveness, breaking kinships of unity and solidarity from the local, to the national, regional and the global.

Tragedies, when they overlap, can grow exponentially, spilling into all aspects of our lives, destroying entire communities and crossing national borders.

Yet every crisis is also an opportunity to review, reflect and do better.

The UN Trust Fund for Human Security provides some invaluable lessons.

As defined by the United Nations General Assembly, human security is a people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented approach to strengthen the protection and empowerment of people faced with widespread and cross-cutting challenges.

At its core, it is rooted in the notion that threats to people's survival, livelihood and dignity are seldom singular in nature.

Rather, a mix of factors come together to generate situations that are often complex, interlinked and cascading.

In such a world, operating within narrow silos is ineffective, flawed and costly.

Instead, what is required is a holistic and integrated framework that brings together all key stakeholders from governments to civil society – including those responsible for political leadership, public safety, emergency relief, rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction, and longer-term development.

Moreover, human security is premised on the recognition that long-term sustainable results are more likely to be generated by activities that go beyond responding to an immediate crisis and address the root causes and the evolving dynamics behind current and future risks and challenges.

As such, human security underscores the need for joint analysis, planning and implementation amongst different sectors and entities, and provides the rationale and evidence on how best to prevent and mitigate crises and lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

The benefits of such a framework are many as demonstrated through programmes supported by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

First, as a people-centered and context-specific framework, analyses based on the application of human security provides evidence-based information to design tailor-made responses that reflect the particular circumstances of a given country.

Specifically, a focus on human security encourages the assessment of the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of people and institutions in a disaggregated manner, allowing for a more detailed understanding of the trend, level and distribution of risks at the local, sub-national and national levels.

Second, by assessing risks and vulnerabilities, an emphasis on human security ensures that preventive, adaptive, and mitigating measures are integrated into policy planning and response frameworks, thereby strengthening long-term resilience and safeguarding sustainable peace and development.

Notably, the application of human security forms a comprehensive schema for considering the root causes and the wide-ranging consequences of current and emerging risks and crises, thus compelling policymakers and practitioners to maximize synergies between humanitarian relief, disaster risk reduction, development assistance, and peacebuilding efforts.

Third, to safeguard the added value of the triple nexus, human security ensures an inclusive transition to sustainable development where the benefits of early warning and the dividends of peace and prosperity are shared in a transparent and inclusive manner.

For example, by promoting multistakeholder platforms, human security helps coordinate efforts, pool resources, combine data collection, limit duplication, and ensure that people are at the heart of collective decision-making, priority-setting, planning, and delivery.

Fourth, the application of human security underlines the inclusion of protection efforts – such as the provision of public safety, essential basic services and the rule of law – with empowerment measures that strengthen the capacities, unleash the entrepreneurial talents, and enhance the resilience of local communities and those most vulnerable.

Together, this mutually reinforcing top-down and bottom-up approach offers a coherent roadmap to end humanitarian need and minimize the space in which societies may relapse into crises as they transition to long-term peace and sustainable development.

Excellencies,

Our partnership with our colleagues at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States go back a long time, the most recent example of which is the successful preparation and launch of a regional report entitled, *Advancing the SDGs in Conflict-Affected Countries in the Arab Region*.

The consultative process resulting in the findings and recommendations of the report are exemplary of what is needed to manage risks, reduce vulnerabilities, and promote coherent and forward-looking strategies to safeguard the transformative promise of the SDGs.

And while the report was launched only a little over a year ago, nevertheless, we find ourselves in an increasingly complex world where no one country or region can alone respond to the growing multifaceted crises we are all facing.

It is therefore imperative that we redouble our efforts – and pool our resources, know-how and expertise – to enhance human security and deliver hope for a more resilient, peaceful and prosperous future where all people and especially those most vulnerable can live in peace and prosperity and fully realize their human potential.

We stand ready to take these commitments forward, and I thank you for your attention.
