Human Security

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Key driving forces in the emergence of human security

- The evolving security threats -- natural and man-made disasters; conflicts and internal violence; massive displacements; health related risks; sudden economic and financial downturns; human trafficking; etc. -- have resulted in revisiting old concepts and recognizing human insecurities as a major challenge to peace, security and long-term development.

- Conventional frameworks do not account for diversity of today’s threats: Threats that move beyond traditional notions of security -- where both States and people are seriously challenged.

- Moreover, these evolving threats, not only challenge the individuals/local communities but all too often spill-over into national, regional and international security threats.
With human insecurity as a major challenge to peace and long-term development, and with the majority of the world’s population continuing to live in extreme and vulnerable circumstances, in 2005, the UN World Summit Outcome document (A/RES/60/1), para 143, recognized “that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential … “

This agreement was pivotal in **galvanizing interest** (particularly at the UN) in the notion of human security and its application.

It also led to a **clear distinction between the R2P and the human security agendas** at the UN.
What is human security?

- It is a people-centered concept and as such it looks at the most critical and pervasive threats below which the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals are seriously threatened.

- Furthermore, it highlights a set of elementary freedoms that are at the vital core of life - - “freedom from fear,” “freedom from want,” and “freedom to live in dignity.”

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<tr>
<th>Freedom from fear</th>
<th>Freedom from want</th>
<th>Freedom to live in dignity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Threats to the safety of people (i.e., all forms of violence)</td>
<td>Threats to basic needs (i.e., economic, social and environmental aspects of life)</td>
<td>Threats to fundamental human rights</td>
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Human security emphasizes the triangular relationship between security, development and human rights and considers these to be the building blocks of human and therefore national security.

**Freedom from fear**
Conflicts, small arms, crime

**Freedom from want**
Poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation

**Freedom to live in dignity**
Intimidation, identity-based discrimination
Furthermore, as a mutually reinforcing concept, human security complements and builds upon each of these concepts. Subsequently, human security considers threats that not only result from external aggressions but also insecurities that are due to sudden downturns as well as persistent structural problems.
The application of human security

The application of human security rests upon **five principles**, as well as the protection and empowerment framework.

**The five human security principles are:**

- **People-centered** (addresses the most critical and pervasive threat to a particular community and engages them in the process of strengthening their capacities to address the threat)
- **Comprehensive** (considers the broad set of conditions and actors that give rise to the threat and its impact on the different HS domains … economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, political, etc.)
- **Multi-sectoral** (identifies +ve inter-linkages between HS domains and develops multi-sectoral solutions based on multi-actor partnerships)
- **Context-specific** (takes into account the local, national, regional and global dimensions of the threat and solutions)
- **Prevention-focused** (addresses root causes and promotes structural <at all levels> and behavioral changes that can help prevent the crises from arising in the future)
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.

The protection and empowerment framework

- **Protection** (top-down)
  - Refers to norms, processes and institutions required to protect people from critical and pervasive threats.
  - Recognizes that people face threats that are beyond their control.
  - Requires protecting people in a systematic, comprehensive and preventative way, including the establishment of the rule of law, good governance, accountability and social protection instruments.
  - The necessary protective measures should be considered at all levels (individual, local, national, regional, global).
Empowerment (bottom-up)

- Strategies that enable people to develop their resilience to difficult situations.
- Aims at developing the capabilities of individuals and communities to make informed choices and to participate in solutions that not only ensure human security for themselves but also for others.

- Based on the HS 5 principles and the protection and empowerment framework, different tools are utilized in order to focus attention on current and emerging threats; identify root causes; support early warning systems; and help mitigate the impact of these threats.

- Moreover, the application of human security promotes multi-stakeholder responses that are targeted, realistic and efficient ... as well as, strengthens local ownership, state-society relations and the resilience of societies to current and future threats.
Overall steps for human security programming

PHASE 1: Situational analysis

PHASE 2: Mapping and analysis of ‘needs, vulnerabilities & capacities’

PHASE 3: Build strategies

PHASE 4: Implement in a participatory manner

PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment
Phase 1: Situational analysis

- Outlines the root causes and the level of threat: whether global, regional, national, local (communities and individuals)
- Identifies the manifestations of a particular threat on different HS domains and its impact on people/communities as well as on the State and institutions.

What does this phase achieve?
- Highlights the root causes and the level of threat.
- Contextualizes the needs and vulnerabilities of the impacted people/communities.
- Describes the existing protection and empowerment infrastructure.
Overall steps for human security programming

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PHASE 4: Implement in a participatory manner

PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment
Phase 2: Mapping and analysis

- Helps identify the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities (plus resources) per HS domain; the possible +ve inter-linkages between these different domains; and the gaps in the existing protection and empowerment infrastructure.
- In consultation with impacted population and national counterparts, develops priorities based on the actual vulnerabilities and capacities.

What does this phase achieve?

- Highlights the most serious insecurities (HS domains/sectors) that should be tackled. (Ensures goals are people-centered and response to their specific needs and vulnerabilities.)
- Provides an inventory of local capacities, resources and assets that should be built upon.
- Identifies gaps in the existing protection/empowerment infrastructure.
- Highlights the range of actors and sectors that should be mobilized in an integrated manner.
Overall steps for human security programming

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PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment
Phase 3: Building strategies

- Builds strategies/responses that incorporate the 5 HS principles as well as the protection and empowerment framework.
- Outlines short, medium and long-term strategies/outcomes even if they will not be implemented in a particular programme.
- Assesses the potential +ve and -ve externalities of strategies.

What does this phase achieve?

- Takes advantage of available expertise, shares knowledge, pools resources, and improves the efficiency and effectiveness of responses.
- Builds coherence and ensures complementarities among strategies.
- Identifies measures that address current/future gaps in the protection infrastructure and builds upon existing capacities to ensure local ownership, sustainability and resilience. It does this in a mutually reinforcing way that strengthens state-society relations and cultivates a culture of public discourse, prevention, early warning, and collective action.
Overall steps for human security programming

PHASE 1: Situational analysis

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PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment
Phase 4: Implementation

What does this phase achieve?

- By meaningfully engaging local actors, the implementation phase builds upon existing local capacities and resources in a sustainable manner.
- Provides space for local leadership to emerge and taps into untapped local potential that can further ensure national ownership and resilience.
Overall steps for human security programming

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PHASE 5: Human Security Impact Assessment
Phase 5: Human Security Impact Assessment

- While this is a component of the evaluation process, it can also be used before, during and after a given programme.
- BEFORE: To assess the –ve and +ve externalities of proposed strategies and to enhance their multiplier potential.
- DURING: To garner lessons learned from failures and successes and to allow for adaptability/flexibility of strategies when necessary.
- AFTER: To evaluate against impact and sustainability (i.e., relevance, effectiveness and efficiency).

What does this phase achieve?
- It goes beyond assessing interventions against typical input-output programme management indicators (e.g., whether delivery was done, on time, budget spent, etc.)
- Instead, it focuses attention on the human security of those directly effected.
The added value of the human security concept

- It is a practical and comprehensive approach to addressing the multi-dimensional threats facing people today.

- It focuses attention on the root causes and impacts of threats on people and, as a result, it promotes responses that are targeted and contextually relevant.

- It links top-down with bottom-up responses that ensure local ownership, resilience and sustainability.

- It brings together the relevant actors in an integrated manner and therefore it promotes coordinated responses and information sharing mechanisms that help identify the most effective and efficient responses to both current and future threats.
Overview of the UNTFHS

- From 1999 to 2006, the UNTFHS was funded solely by the Government of Japan. Since 2007, the Governments of Greece, Mexico, Slovenia and Thailand have also contributed to the Fund.

- The main objective of the UNTFHS is to support projects carried out by UN organizations and when appropriate, in partnership with non-UN entities, to advance the operational impact and the added value of the human security concept.

- Projects are distributed globally with priority given to countries and regions where insecurities of people are most critical and pervasive.
As of 30 November 2011, 202 projects in over 70 countries have been approved by the UNTFHS.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Key funding criteria for the UNTFHS

- Providing **concrete and sustainable benefits** to people and communities threatened in their survival, livelihood and dignity.

- Taking into account the **people-centered, comprehensive, multi-sectoral, context-specific and prevention-oriented** aspects of the human security concept.

- Implementing the “**Protection and Empowerment**” framework by comprehensively including both top-down protection and bottom-up empowerment measures.

- Promoting **partnerships with local entities** (government and non-governmental) and encouraging implementation by these entities who will have the most direct impact on improving the overall human security situation, and can also ensure ownership and sustainability.

- Concentrating on those areas of human insecurity that are currently neglected and avoiding **duplication with existing programmes** and activities.
Having a pilot and innovative nature which could be replicated in other regions or countries through other sources of funding.

Promoting inter-agency planning and implementation based on the comparative advantage of the applying organizations so as to advance the operational impact of the project.

Examples of thematic areas supported to date:

- Lack of protection and empowerment mechanisms for those who are exposed to physical violence, discrimination and exclusion as a result of inequities in treatment, human trafficking, etc.
- Natural hazards and their related consequences on access to basic social services, economic security and communal vulnerability.
- Post-conflict reconciliation, reintegration and recovery with the aim to prevent the recurrence of conflicts.
- Urban violence and its impact on health, education, economic, personal and community security.
Lessons learnt from UNTFHS funded projects

- Clear recognition that threats to human security are multi-dimensional and therefore require multi-sectoral/multi-actor design & implementation.

- While challenges remain on the ground for multi-agency/integrated projects, nevertheless, human security is a practical and policy-oriented approach that helps define actions and priorities based on local realities and capacities.

- General consensus that the human security approach provides important opportunities for:
  - strengthening relations among relevant stakeholders (including UN organizations, the public sector, and local communities);
  - promotes an improved understanding of the insecurities (as well as expectations);
  - results in more targeted, efficient and effective responses; and
  - allows for a stronger culture of prevention (and also responsibility by all).
For more information on human security, please visit http://ochaonline.un.org/humansecurity

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