Facilitating Durable Solutions in Somalia

Experiences from Midnimo-I and the Application of Human Security

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

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Photo 1: Children Playing on Donkey Cart, Beledweyne / WHO Somalia

Photo 2: Woman Preparing a Meal, Beledweyne / WHO Somalia

Foreword

Across Somalia, a vicious combination of conflict and natural disaster such as draught and flooding have caused 2.6 million persons to leave their home in recent years. Nearly half, 1 million, are displaced in central and southern Somalia, namely in Jubaland, South-West and Hirshabelle.

With the vast majority of Internally Displaced Persons residing and intending to remain in urban areas, the efforts to provide Durable Solutions must be ramped up.

The Midnimo (Unity) project contributed to this effort by developing Durable Solutions for displacement-affected communities. Funded and supported by the United Nations Trust for Fund Human Security and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, UN-Habitat and the International Organization for Migration jointly implemented a comprehensive set of activities and pilot projects.

Grounded in the Human Security approach, Midnimo-I worked closely with affected populations in order to empowered communities and local governments to drive their own, context-specific Durable Solutions.

This handbook tries to distil tools and lessons from the many diverse experiences, successes and areas for improvement of other and upcoming Durable Solutions projects. Through Human Stories, it offers a platform for programme participants and beneficiaries to share their personal experiences.

Intended as a work in progress, the handbook sheds light on what effectively are steps towards more streamlined Durable Solutions programming. By placing Human Security at the heart of the United Nations' strategy for Durable Solutions, it considers human mobility as a key factor of human insecurity. It unpacks how Human Security can serve as a valuable lodestar to increase the impact of operational work, strengthening the humanitarian development and peace building nexus.

Not at last, the handbook aims to provide a wide range of stakeholders, with UN agencies at the forefront, with practical ideas to integrate the Human Security approach when devising strategies and advocating for Durable Solutions.

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Intro

1.1 BACKGROUND

Halima Hassan Samow, a 43-year old mother, sells groceries in her newly constructed market shed in Madina Village, which allows her to support her five children. A few villages away, Mukhtar, his wife and their ten children move into the family's new permanent home in Midnimo Village. 500km north, all the way across Jubaland, youth from the displaced and the host community in Dolow compete in a friendly football match. All the while, in the neighbouring South West State, a drum performance sees community members dancing together in the streets of Baidoa.

These experiences of displacement-affected persons show how, since the formation of the federal government in 2012, Somalia has made substantial advances towards peace and security. Nevertheless, the persistence of destabilising factors such as violent extremism, natural disasters, clan-, land- and resource-based conflicts, weak governance, and new and protracted displacement continue to threaten Human Security. Somalia's towns and cities, although often strained for resources, have become the primary destination for displaced persons, offering hope for improved living conditions.

Faced with varying forms and levels of human insecurity, individuals and communities living in South Central Somalia have been contributing to the bottom-up provision of a range of essential services for their local communities. Adding to this, the growing capacity of the federal and local governments has allowed the public sector to step up to serve the local population, increasing top-down protection. Midnimo-I was designed to leverage the strength and potential of both local communities and governments by applying the Human Security approach to the facilitation of Durable Solutions.

This handbook will explore how this was done in the following chapters:

- **Chapter 2 – Context** provides facts and figures and an overview of existing strategies, plans and initiatives.
- **Chapter 3 – Tools** outlines how different project components contributed to the facilitation of Durable Solutions and Human Security in South Central Somalia.
- **Chapter 4 – Way Forward** gives recommendations for mainstreaming Human Security into Durable Solutions programming.

1.2 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Human Security

"Human Security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people."

(General Assembly resolution 66/290)

Human Security is the desired condition of being free from fear, free from want and free to live in dignity, as much as it is a proven analytic framework and a practical/ operational approach to achieve said condition. The concept of Human Security emerged after the Cold War and was first defined in the 1994 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report. Human Security is a distinct way of thinking about security that signifies a departure from the traditional view of protecting the state to protecting the person. By placing individuals and groups at the centre, Human Security is grounded in the complex realities of everyday life.

The Human Security approach is designed to analyse local realities by focusing on the multiple forms and root causes of human insecurity. The seven nonexclusive and inexhaustive security categories are economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security.

Premised on the notion that crises are complex and entail multiple threats to people's physical, mental and social wellbeing, the approach seeks to uncover the interrelated and often mutually exacerbating nature of the different forms and root causes of human insecurity. Human Security complements humanitarian efforts by recognising that long-term solutions that are cognisant of local capacities and resources, are a precursor of sustainable results and prevention of recurrence of crises.[1]

Applying the Human Security approach can significantly enhance the contribution of programmes and projects to the local and global realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Sendai Framework for Disaster
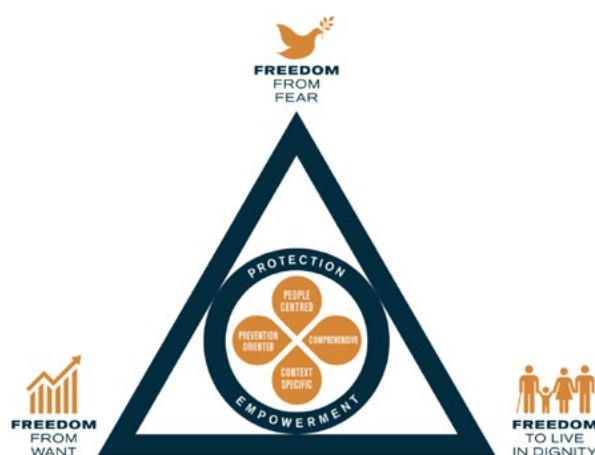

Figure 1: Human Security Visualisation / UNTFHS

People-centred	• Inclusive and participatory. • Considers/engages/ensures the participation of individuals and communities under stress in defining their needs, vulnerabilities and capacities in responding to their insecurities. • Collectively determines which insecurities to address, and identifies priorities and available resources, including local assets and indigenous coping mechanisms. • Manages expectations and strengthens social harmony.
Comprehensive	• Comprehensive analysis of root causes and manifestations of a particular threat across the different components of Human Security. • Develops multisectoral/multi-stakeholder responses by promoting dialogue among key actors from different sectors/fields/communities/ groups (includes actors and sectors not previously considered relevant to the success of a policy, programme or project). • Helps to ensure coherence and coordination across traditionally separate sectors and fields thereby strengthening resilience. • Assesses positive and negative externalities of each response on the overall Human Security situation of the affected community(ies).
Context-specific	• Requires in-depth analysis of the targeted situation. • Focuses on a core set of freedoms and rights under threat in a given situation. • Enables the development of more appropriate solutions that are embedded in local realities, capacities and coping mechanisms. • Takes into account local, national, regional and global dimensions and their impact on the targeted situation.
Prevention-oriented	• Identifies risks, threats and hazards, and addresses their root causes. • Focuses on preventative responses that are proactive and not reactive.
Protection and empowerment	• Combines top-down norms, processes and institutions, including the establishment of the rule of law, good governance, accountability and social protection instruments, with a bottom-up focus in which inclusive and participatory processes support the important roles of individuals and communities as actors in defining and implementing their essential freedoms. • Helps identify gaps in existing frameworks in order to mitigate and wherever possible pre- vent the impact of these deficits on broader development, peace and stability both within and across countries. • Encourages participatory processes, reinforces peoples' ability to act on their own