

**2022** SPECIAL REPORT

**New threats to human security  
in the Anthropocene**  
Demanding greater solidarity



# Inequalities and the assault on human dignity



People are worried about:

Discrimination, violence, and violations of human rights parallel **horizontal inequalities**.



Inequalities

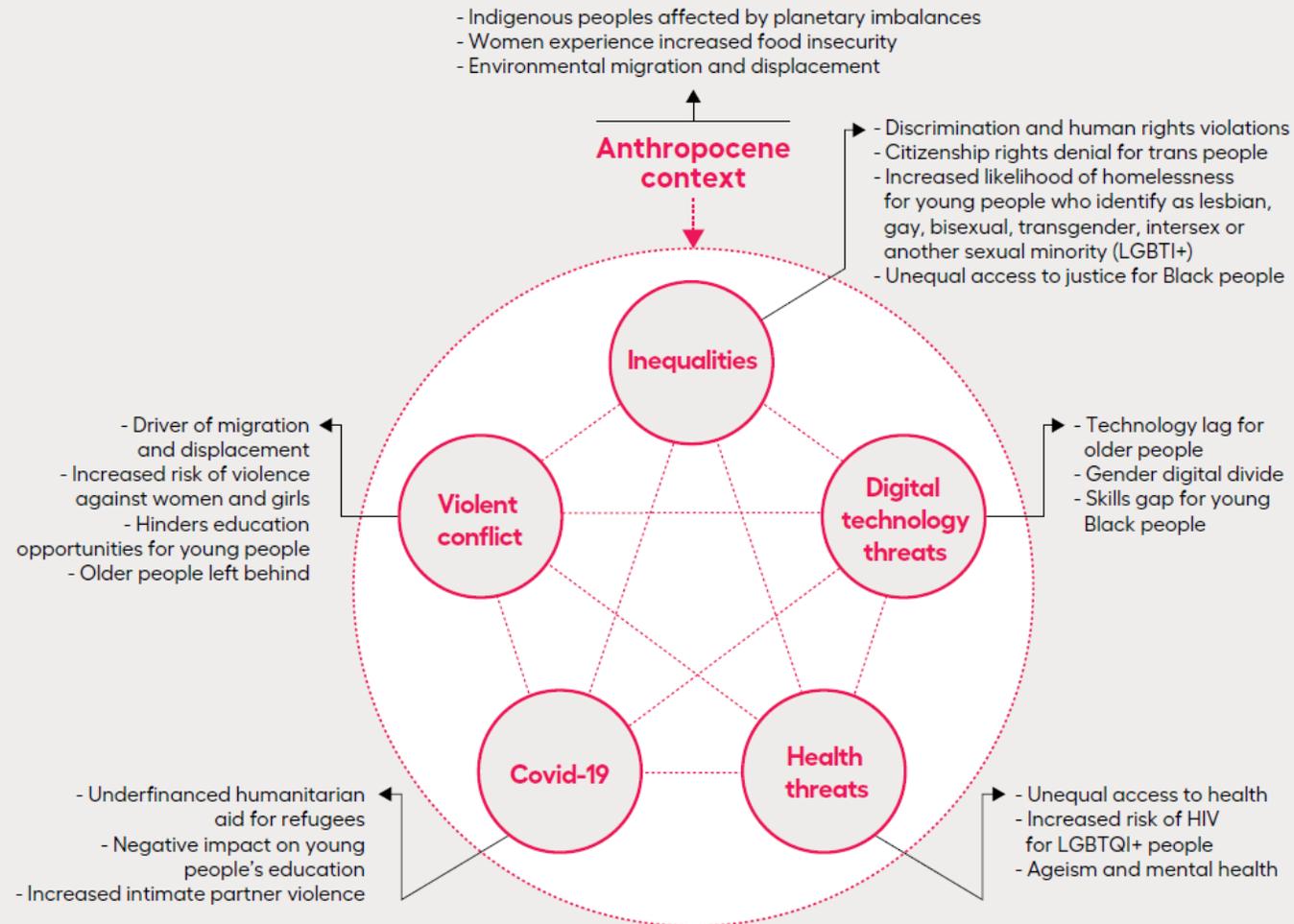
Women, black peoples, indigenous peoples, children, youth, people on the move, LGBTI+ people all experience violations of their human rights through exclusion, discrimination and violence.

# Horizontal inequalities undermine human dignity

- Dignity lies at the heart of human rights.
- Recognition that everyone has inherent worth, solely by virtue of being human.
- Human rights set necessary conditions for what we owe to each other.
- When considering human security account for all voices and enable their agency.

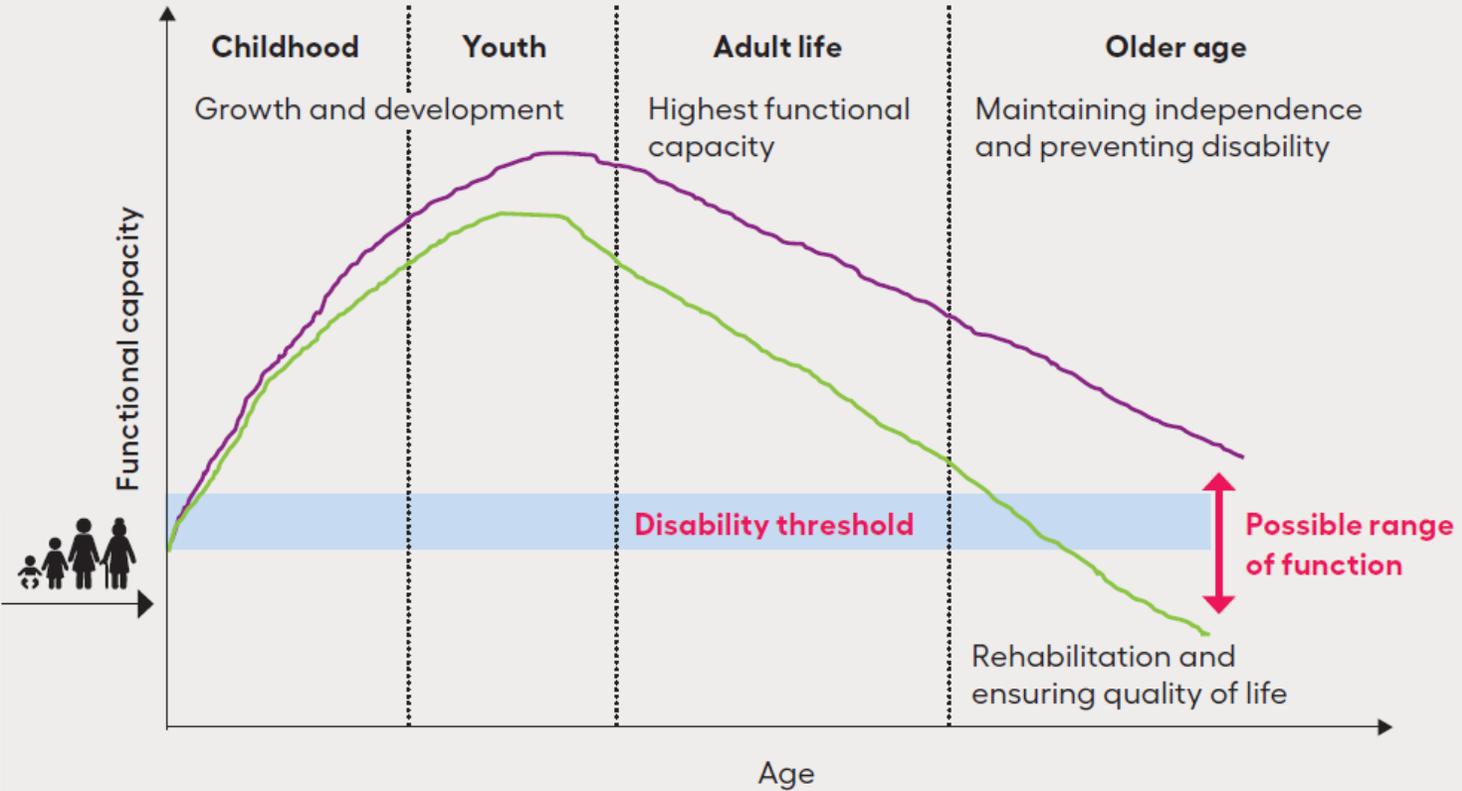


# Different groups of people experience new threats to human security differently





# Threats to human security along the lifecycle



Source: Human Development Report Office, adapted from Kalache and Kickbusch (1997) and WHO (2002).

# People on the move can be forced to follow paths of human insecurity



- Threats to human security are increasingly driving migration and displacement.



- Journeys of migration and displacement are filled with uncertainty and insecurity.



- Immigrants and refugees often face many sources of insecurity in destination points.



# Inequalities in power across race and ethnicity hurt everyone's human security

- Analyzing race and ethnicity dynamics offers an opportunity to uncover assumptions, **colonial legacies and power relations**.

Black peoples and indigenous peoples keep being excluded from opportunities, lacking rights recognition, and representation.

They are heavily affected by limited access to productive resources, racial discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices, repression of cultural identity and lack of political representation.

# Gender inequality is one of the most widespread horizontal inequalities

Increased poverty and food insecurity



Economic insecurities: lower earnings, lower savings, worse working conditions



Less protection and resilience for basic rights

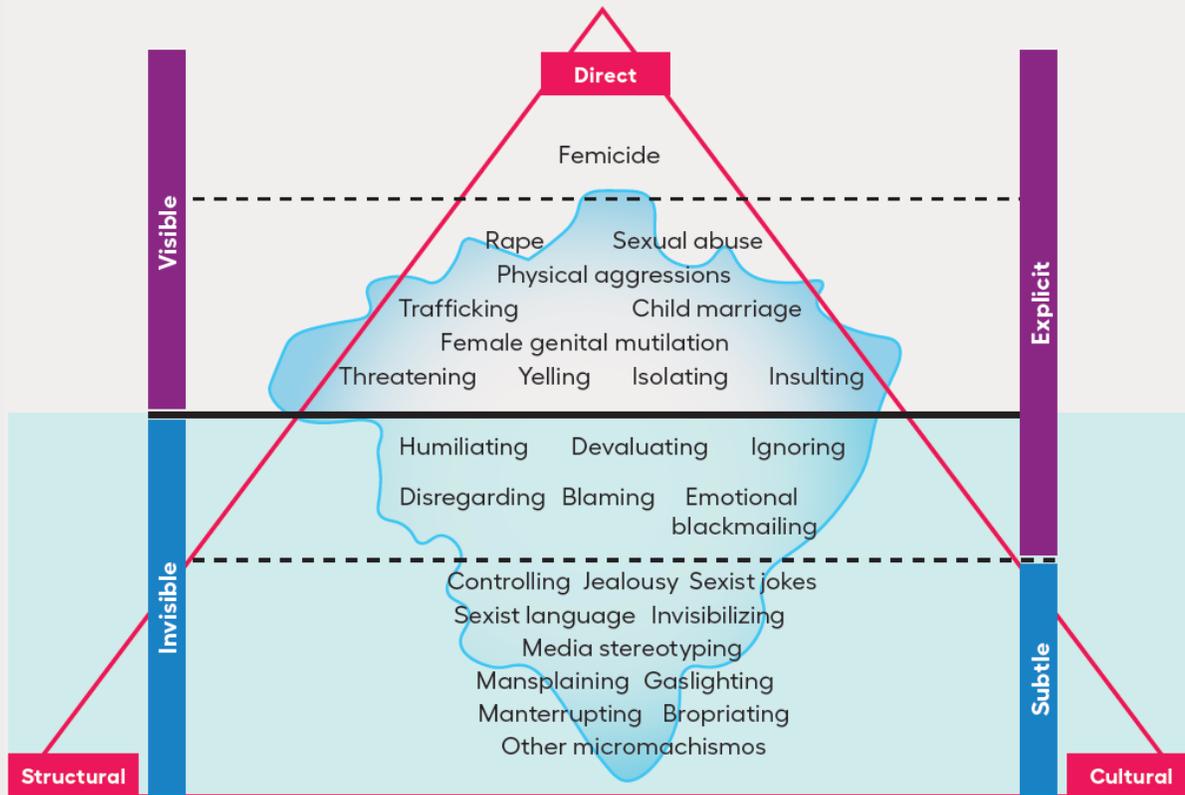


Photo by UNDP Guatemala  
2020

# Violence against women and girls is the most obvious manifestation of deep power imbalances



Different forms of violence against women and girls:  
Linking the iceberg model to the violence triangle



Fear of violence is a common experience for women everywhere (27 % of ever-married/partnered women ages 15–49 years have experienced IPV)



Violence is typically underreported because of stigma, denial and mistrust

Source: Human Development Report Office based on Amnesty International and Galtung (1990).



# Ending discrimination against different expressions, behaviours and bodies enhances human security for all



Lack of right to full citizenship



Discrimination in access to basic services



Increased likelihood of homelessness



Human rights violations and increased risk of violence



Increased health risks

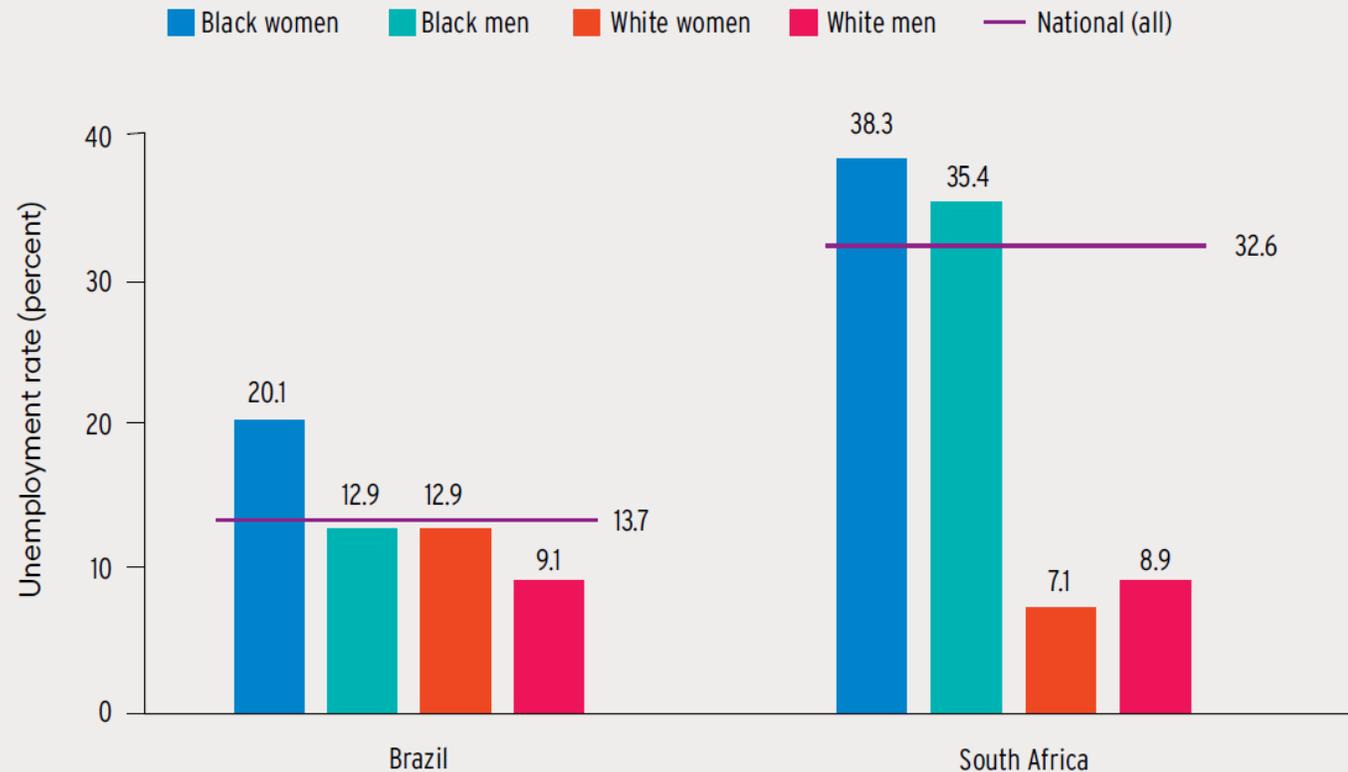


Lack of global and national statistics and data on gender identity and sexual orientation

# A focus on agency helps incorporate intersectionality in human security



Black women had higher unemployment rates in Brazil and South Africa in 2021



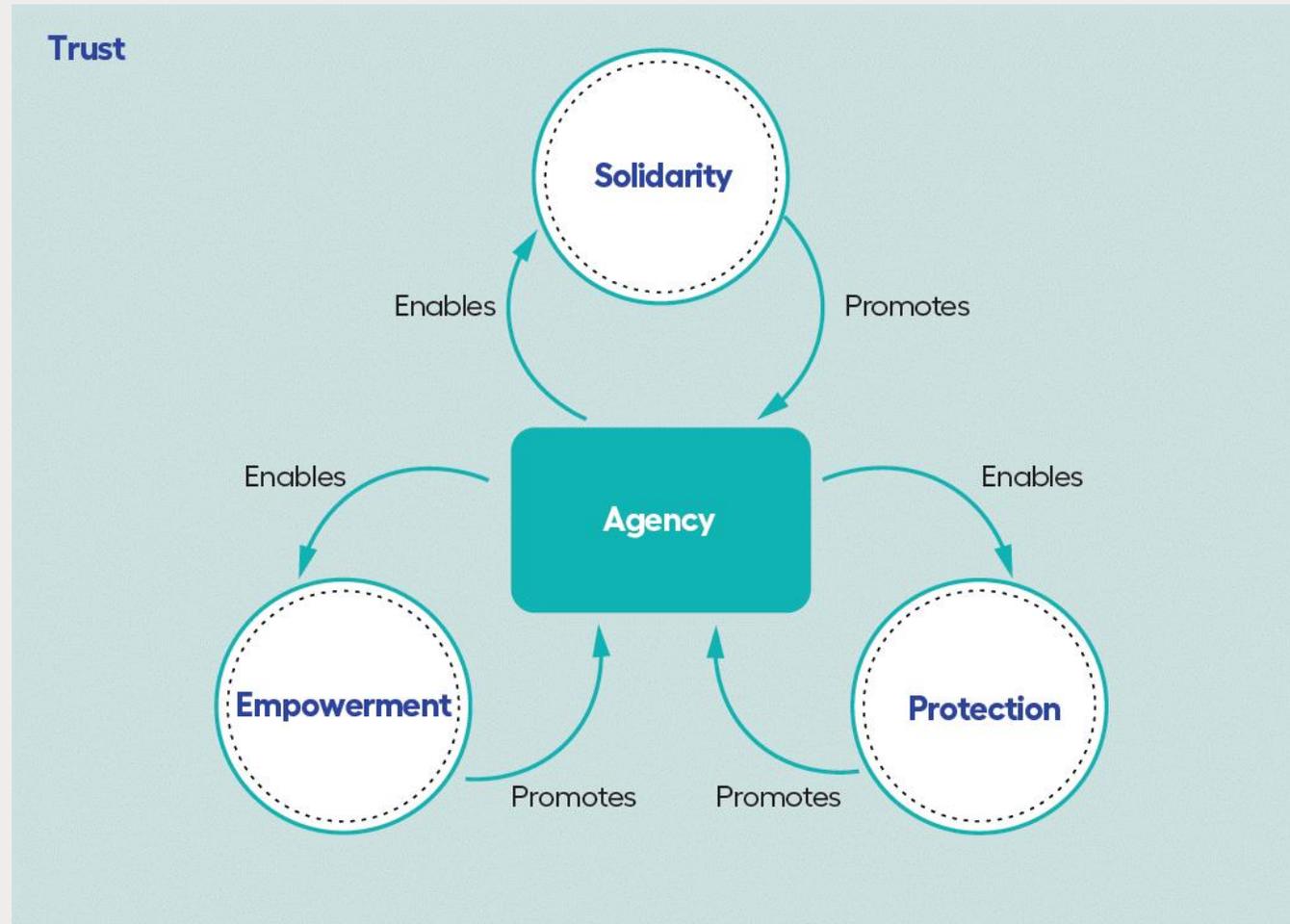
Source: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) and Republic of South Africa Department of Statistics.

# Greater solidarity: Towards human development with human security

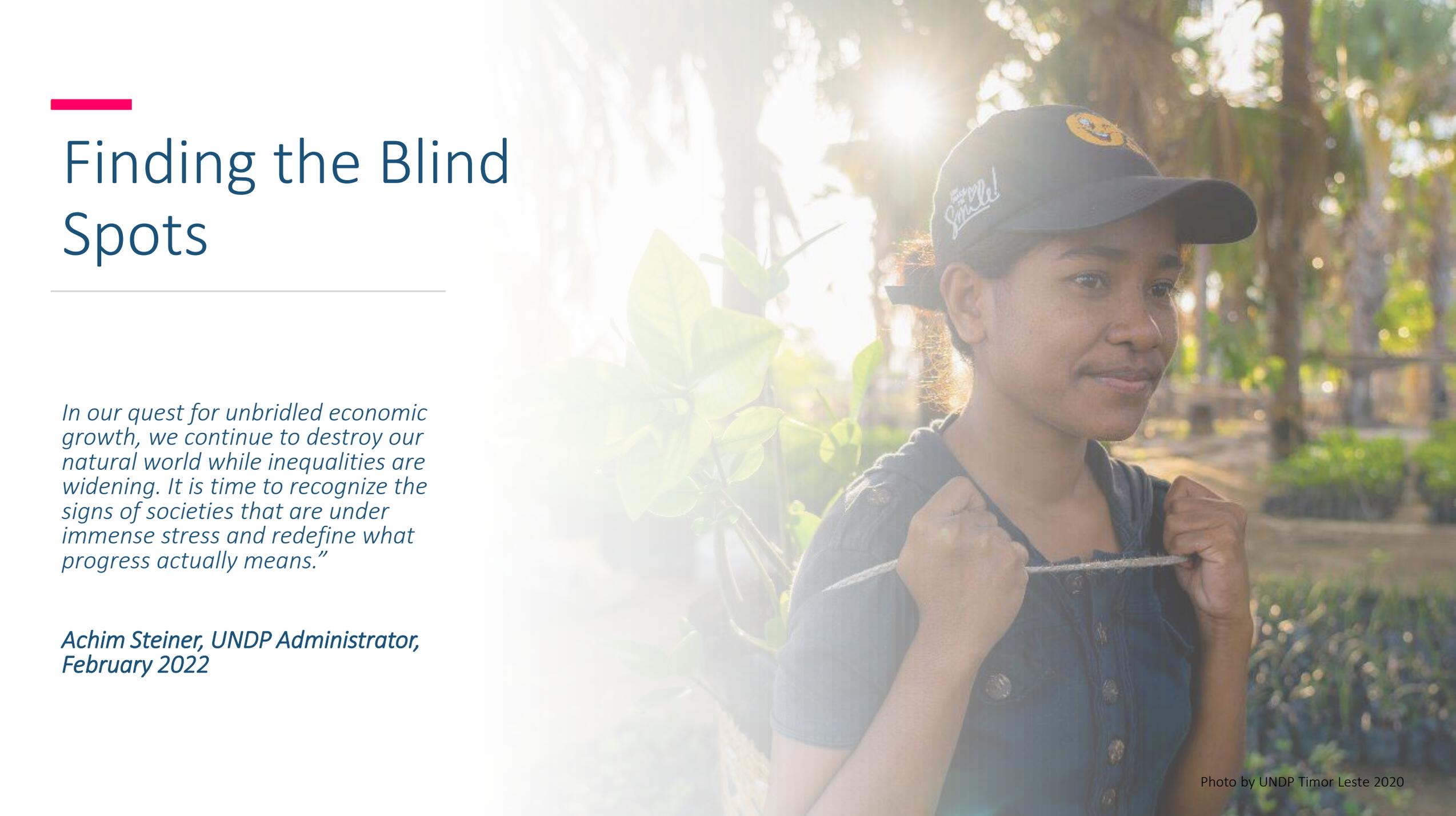


- How can we break the spiral, as we **tackle these threats** and recover the 5 years of development lost to Covid-19?
- The interconnected threats we face demand a **new approach to human security**.
- A community can only be **secure** if adjacent communities and natural systems are too.
- We must expand the human security concept, to consider, not just **interdependence** across people, but also between people and the planet.

*Our new world demands a new approach to human security and to development, centered on the restoration of our planet and global solidarity.*



Source: Human Development Report Office.



# Finding the Blind Spots

*In our quest for unbridled economic growth, we continue to destroy our natural world while inequalities are widening. It is time to recognize the signs of societies that are under immense stress and redefine what progress actually means.”*

*Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator,  
February 2022*



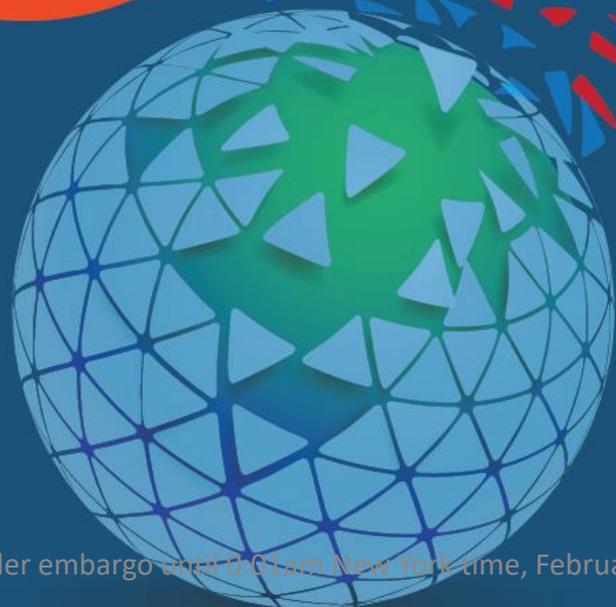
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