

# SNAP PROCESS

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT



## Security Needs Assessment Protocol A Programme Design Service

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The Security Needs Assessment Protocol (SNAP) is a project of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva, Switzerland. SNAP is developing a programme design service for agencies working to build community security, or else design their own development or humanitarian programmes in contexts of community insecurity.

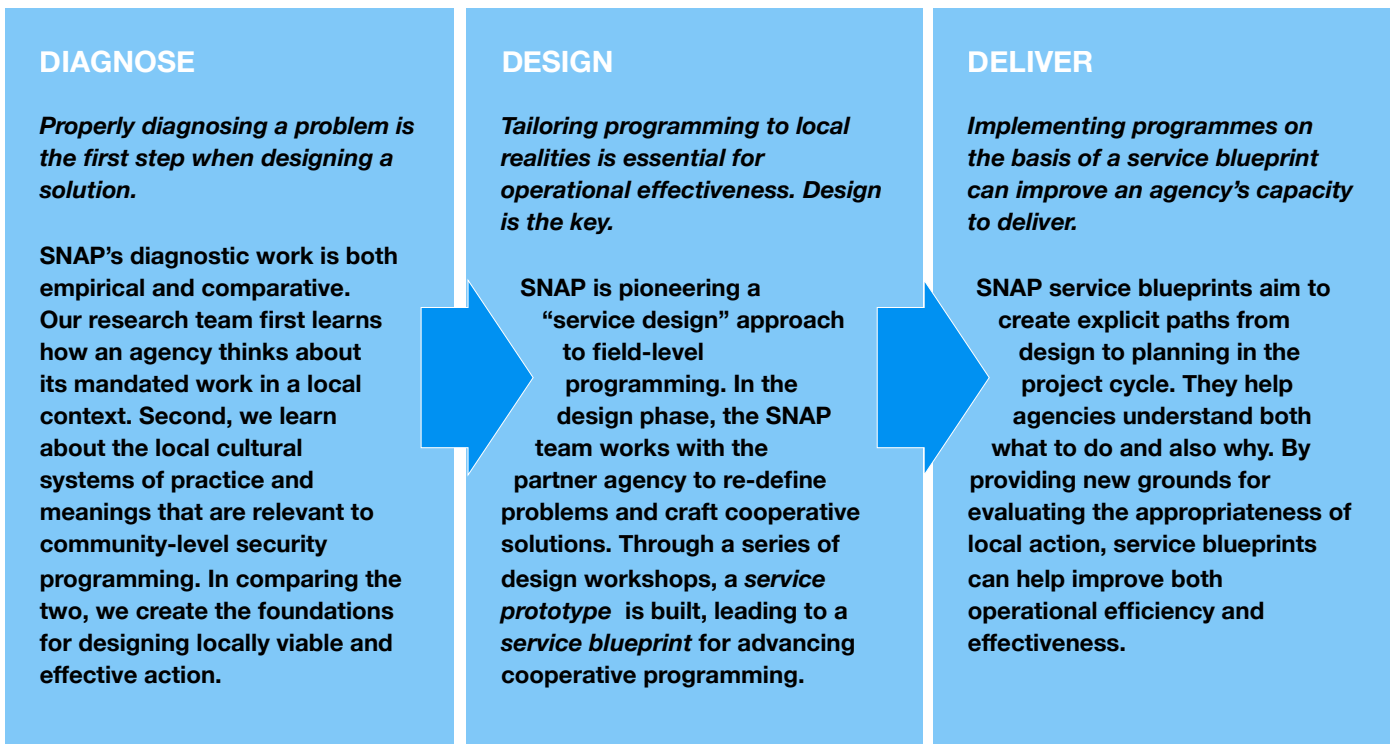
Recognizing a gap between “best practices” and actual field-level realities, SNAP is structured as a “best process” approach to programme design. The process begins with the assumption that effective programming for local communities starts with local knowledge, and that local knowledge is best applied through an innovative process of service design.

## A Three-Step Process

Local-level security problems are often addressed through the language of international agreements and the logic of policy instruments.

But staff working in communities know that these internationally-agreed terms and their definitions don't always align with local realities and the way people make sense of their own problems. This can make the alignment between best practices and local contexts difficult.

SNAP helps operational agencies overcome this challenge through a three-step best process approach to security-related programming:



## From Knowledge to Action

SNAP works with international, national, and local researchers in a rigorous and highly collaborative ethnographic research process as its primary investigative technique. This approach allows us to generate reliable cultural data relevant to specific programming problems in a relatively short period of time. This local knowledge is then used as the basis for the design of services. SNAP's pioneering application of service design to security-related operations brings this knowledge directly to decision makers in their own project cycles, making for greater impact.

## Contact

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