

## INTRODUCTION

**S**trengthening Human Security in the Border Communities of Turkana, Kenya is a three-year project aimed at addressing the human security concerns of pastoralists in Turkana county of northern Kenya living in extreme hardship and vulnerability to numerous threats. The project, to be undertaken in the context of UN inter-agency coordination, will be implemented by UNDP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNICEF, ILO and OCHA, in partnership with local community-based organizations, peace committees, local governments and the Governmental National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)

Development of the project, which is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), was based on a two-and-a-half-year (July 2009 – March 2011) assessment and consultation with pastoralists in the Turkana – Karamoja region. It is based on extensive inter-agency community consultations in the context of the Security in Mobility initiative (SIM)



Young Turkana herder grazing cattle

project which promotes integrated and comprehensive interventions that link relief to development in pastoralists' communities.

The UNTFHS offers a unique funding source that is integrated, holistic and multi-sectoral which is aptly suited to addressing the multi-faceted problem faced by the communities in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in Kenya. The National Policy for the Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), launched in 2004, calls for the revitalization of the ASALs through economic growth and poverty reduction measures.

The focus of the project is strengthening the resilience of the dominant livelihoods in the face of natural disasters and other shocks, while providing alternative coping mechanisms through co-ordinated, sustainable interventions in the livelihoods, food security, education and health sectors.

Considering the mobile nature of pastoral border communities, the project will target the most vulnerable of the Turkana Central population as well as selected neighbouring cross-border communities by providing opportunities to interact in a peaceful manner through joint trainings and establishment of joint markets and trade opportunities. Approximately 273,268 people in the Turkana District are targeted by the project.



## Why Turkana:

Turkana region is one of the conflict hotspots of the larger Karamoja region and suffers from a 'climate change-migration-conflict-nexus' where recurring severe drought cycles leads to increasingly frequent out migrations of pastoralists within Kenya and across the border, in search of water and pasture for livestock. This in turn leads to rising levels of violent inter-ethnic conflict throughout the region over scarce resources. The growing insecurities and conflict, overlapping with frequent natural disasters, create an environment in which pervasive gaps to protection from critical threats and lack of empowerment to develop resilience to these threats endanger the viability of pastoral livelihoods.

The larger Turkana region experiences frequent, successive and prolonged droughts which has seen a rise in the number of people in need of food aid over the last five.

However, this project will target the most vulnerable population among the marginalized in Turkana Central as well as identified vulnerable

populations across neighboring cross border communities.

The communities targeted by the project are predominantly nomadic pastoralists who rely on livestock rearing which necessitates internal

and cross-border migration. These communities have been impacted severely by drought hence the need for an integrated approach towards building resilient livelihoods.

### Expected impact of project:

The project aims at improving the socio-economic situation of the target population, stabilizing fragile livelihoods and preventing disasters by building community resilience to frequent climatic, environmental and insecurity shocks, and promoting inter-communal peace in the region.

### Project objectives include:

- Expanding people's livelihood choices through support for livelihood diversification.
- Ensuring access to basic healthcare for the communities with special emphasis on the most vulnerable, especially women and children.
- Promoting peace and preventing recurring conflict among targeted communities through the provision of early warning information and support for peace building activities,
- Increasing access to basic education for pre-school and primary school-aged children.

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## United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS): *STRENGTHENING HUMAN SECURITY IN THE BOR- DER COMMUNITIES OF TURKANA, KENYA*

