



# HUMAN SECURITY IN ACTION

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United Nations Trust Fund  
For Human Security



[humansecurity@un.org](mailto:humansecurity@un.org)

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## Bringing Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies to Local Communities in Haiti

**Déréal, Haiti** - The town of Déréal in Northern Haiti is at risk of increasing social, economic and environmental insecurities due to recurring disaster losses, excessive deforestation, and poor land management. With support from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), the programme employs a comprehensive and people-centred approach to assess the interlinkages between these and other human insecurities.

Based on an integrated response by UNDP, UNESCO, and UN Women, the programme is empowering local communities to prepare and respond to disasters in partnership with Haitian authorities. Activities include training workshops for women-headed households and civil society, engaging youth volunteers and schools to design and implement community disaster risk reduction plans, and enhancing the capacities of national authorities to coordinate across sectors and devise gender-sensitive plans that leave no one behind.

Clérilia Michel and her six children are residents of Déréal and lost most of their possessions during hurricane Irma. Through the UNTFHS programme, Clérilia actively works to support the construction of gabions to prevent landslides. These mitigation efforts fortify the safety of her community, which is dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry. It also highlights the role of individuals in addressing the interlinked multi-dimensional impacts of natural disasters.

Clérilia is also delighted with the contributions of the programme on her life and her community. “The programme immediately allowed us to earn money to meet some of our basic needs. We received assistance in cultivating gardens and implementing soil protection and conservation measures to reduce our risk to flooding and landslides.” Clérilia firmly believes in her ability to contribute in the fight against environmental degradation and climate change. “It’s my

duty to work to look after us. My gender nor my age can be an obstacle,” she adds.

This programme presents the first effort in Haiti to tackle the root causes of insecurities related to natural disasters through the human security approach. It provides technical support to Government stakeholders to improve and localize disaster reduction plans and reinforce protection mechanisms. At the same time, it works with local women’s organizations, youth, and volunteers like Clérilia to allow her and fellow Haitians to effectively prepare for recurring natural disasters, and build long-term resilience to safeguard their development gains.



*Clérilia Michel is one of 30,000 beneficiaries that were empowered by the UNTFHS programme through the implementation of local disaster risk reduction plans. (Credit: UNDP)*