



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Mali

Support to human security in Northern Mali through building the resilience of youth and women

Background information

Between January 2012 and June 2013, northern regions of Mali endured months of conflict. Vulnerable communities in Timbuktoo, Gao and Kidal bore the brunt of violent clashes between armed groups and Government troops as people were forced to flee their homes and young people feared recruitment by rebel groups. Moreover, the conflict exacerbated existing insecurities with some 4.6 million people already at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition, and unemployment rates at 55%. As a direct consequence of the conflict, the struggling local economy has stagnated, livelihood opportunities are limited and households struggle to purchase the food they need as prices continue to rise. Furthermore, basic social services such as education, sanitation and health facilities have rapidly deteriorated and there is a worrying increase in sexual and gender-based violence, with the number of HIV cases and other sexually transmitted diseases on the rise. While incidences of violence continue to erupt in the region, the signing of the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement gives hope for peace. However, the transition towards durable peace and sustainable development must begin by healing the scars of conflict and addressing the underlying causes of unrest in northern Mali.

Goals and objectives

The programme goals are to consolidate peace and stability, diversify economic opportunities, and promote social and economic recovery in crisis affected regions of northern Mali. Specifically, the programme seeks to: (i) provide sustainable economic opportunities for the most vulnerable groups, in particular youth and women; (ii) improve access to basic social services including clean water, sanitation, health care and education; and (iii) build community resilience to future crisis by promoting peaceful coexistence and integrating the human security approach in Mali's development and recovery programmes.



DURATION

April 2016 — March 2019



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, ILO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, Youth and Citizen Construction, CSOs, Territorial Collectives



BENEFICIARIES

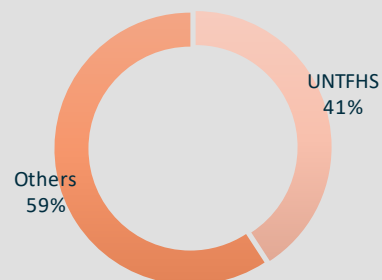
44,000



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 5,114,749

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme is supporting over 4,000 people directly and around 40,000 indirectly in Timbuctoo, Gao and Kidal, with a specific focus on young people involved in armed groups, women, displaced people and their host communities. Six UN agencies will work in partnership with nine specialized Government ministries as well as local Territorial Collectives and civil society organizations.

Applying the Human Security approach

Since threats to peace and stability are seldom singular in nature, the root causes and the interplay between multiple threats require the need to overcome the organizational obstacles that separate humanitarian relief from long-term development. Through the application of the human security approach, the programme offers an innovative framework to support the transition from emergency relief to sustainable development in northern Mali.

First, by placing people at the center of analysis and by promoting a participatory and inclusive household and community survey, the programme engages key stakeholders such as, IDPs and returning refugees, ex-combatants, youth, women and girls, in addition to Government agencies and civil society organizations to actively participate and take ownership of the post-conflict peacebuilding process. As a result, immediate recovery needs and long-term development priorities are identified by those most affected by the conflict in Timbuctoo, Gao and Kidal, resulting in greater commitment by these groups to the consolidation of peace and the long-term social and economic rehabilitation of their communities.

Moreover, by proactively considering the root causes of the conflict, the programme highlights the long-term solutions that will be needed in order to prevent the re-occurrence of future conflicts. For example, the provision of basic social services, such as, sanitation, water, health care and education, as well as the diversification of economic opportunities are identified as critical to reducing marginalization and social exclusion. Meanwhile, training community leaders on leadership and reconciliation, while empowering youth to participate in community development and conflict management, are found to be instrumental in fostering social integration and deterring those most likely to return to violence.

Whereas planning in times of crisis tend to be loosely coordinated and focused on individual solutions, the programme by addressing the root causes of the conflict brings together the combined expertise of six UN agencies as well as the resources and commitment of the Government, local authorities, civil society and the affected population. This enhances the UN system-wide coherence, strengthens the comprehensive response needed, and improves the overall resilience and long-term stability of the communities emerging from conflict in northern Mali.



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