



# Paraguay

## Strengthening Human Security in Four Central Municipalities at the Paraguayan Chaco

### Background information

The Chaco region in Paraguay faces severe challenges, including low levels of development exacerbated by insufficient rainfall and recurrent flooding. With the region being one of the driest areas in Latin America, its population faces a significant water deficit worsened by adverse climate effects. This has resulted in a decreased capacity for the population to adopt resilience-building strategies in response to these climate change-related risks. Beyond climatic factors, the region grapples with the intersection of old and new insecurities, including the impact of global economic shifts on land use and acquisition. This leads to escalating competition for resources, driving out-migration and deepening socio-economic inequalities, which further hinders the food production and development prospects.

### Goals and objectives

The programme aims to craft a multi-sectoral and replicable model for development to protect and empower marginalized communities in vulnerable conditions in the Chaco region. To this end, the programme's key objectives are to: (i) strengthen the local government's capacities to deliver quality healthcare and safe water; (ii) ensure adequate nutrition for the most vulnerable groups; (iii) increase resilience to droughts and floods through awareness-raising on disaster risk reduction; and (iv) improve livelihood protection through the promotion of fair trade and employment.



#### DURATION

October 2014 – June 2017



#### UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNDP, WFP, PAHO



#### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Secretariat of National Emergencies, Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, National Institute for Food and Nutrition, Ministry of Agriculture, Relevant Municipalities, and NGOs



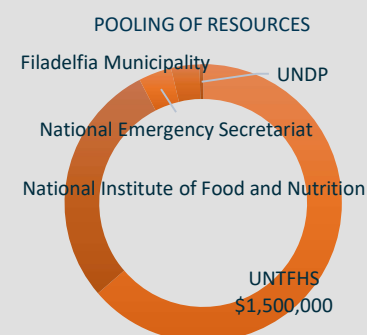
#### BENEFICIARIES

15,000



#### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 2,354,200



# Beneficiaries

The programme reaches 15,000 people who benefit from strengthened food security, improved access to healthcare, enhanced disaster risk reduction, and increased livelihood opportunities in the districts of Teniente Irala Fernandez, Puerto Pinasco, Filadelfia, and Mariscal Estigarribia. In addition, the entire population of the four target districts indirectly benefit from the implementation of inclusive development strategies.

## Applying the Human Security approach

Challenges at the intersection of climate change, poverty, water scarcity and indigenous rights require a comprehensive approach firmly rooted in the reality of challenges on the ground. By adopting the human security lens, national and sub-national governments can better understand how the needs and vulnerabilities of indigenous and other communities in the Chaco are interconnected in order to design responses that both overcome current obstacles while also preparing for future risks and shocks. Given the impacts of external shocks such as economic dynamics and climate change on the local context, a multidimensional and multilevel approach is required.

By building on the traditions, capacities and assets of local communities, the programme promotes a more sustainable approach to development progress. It begins by fostering community participation in decision-making, establishing intersectoral development tables that bring together government officials and civil society representatives. These platforms help enhance coordination among actors from different sectors and strengthen synergies with other initiatives at the local level. Furthermore, by promoting the inclusion of indigenous organizations at these tables, the programme ensures that the solutions formulated are aligned with the most vulnerable groups' needs and resources. As a result, these multi-stakeholder platforms support the empowerment of indigenous communities as local leaders, enhance social cohesion, and strengthen intercommunal relationships.

These intersectoral development tables facilitate the design of community projects to enhance livelihood opportunities and improve living conditions. Initiatives to rehabilitate water systems and increase agricultural productivity, such as the revitalization of the honey processing plant in Mistolar, help reinvigorate the local economy and provides vulnerable communities with job opportunities while fostering food security. Likewise, the establishment of vegetable gardens in schools, coupled with capacity-building trainings on nutrition for communities, lead to strengthened food security, increased income generation, and enhanced agricultural production.



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