

# Establishing social cohesion between displaced person and their host communities in Sila region



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Chad

**Duration:** January 2014 to December 2015

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP; UNFPA; UNICEF

**Other Implementing Partners:** Local Governments; local and international NGOs

**Budget:** \$ 3,082,750.00

**Key Words:** Post-conflict peace building; IDPs; water; sanitation; livelihood; women

## BACKGROUND

Despite its abundant natural resources, Chad remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Thirty years of constant violence and conflict have resulted in massive internal displacement that has spurred tensions between host communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs). One of the most conflict-affected areas is the Sila region, located in the semi-

arid Sahel region south of the Sahara desert and vulnerable to droughts, water scarcity, climate change, competition over scarce resource and growing tension among communities. Additionally, lack of strong local governance has further aggravated the supply of food, the management of water and the overall health status of the communities in the Sila region.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Implemented in the Sila region, the project by reinforcing top-down mechanisms with bottom-up solutions, addresses the multiple and interrelated challenges faced by the communities in the region. More specifically, the project aims to (i) increase access to safe water, food, health care and education; (ii) reduce poverty and enhance opportunities for better employment through the provision of trainings

on vocational skills and agricultural practices; (iii) reinforce the rule of law and other support mechanisms in order to protect the human rights of vulnerable persons, regardless of legal status, origin or gender; and (iv) strengthen the social cohesion between IDPs and the host communities so as to prevent a relapse into conflict.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project directly engages 8,500 people in the Sila region as well as communities in the regional capital Goz-Beida to participate in training sessions and benefit from increased employment opportunities. In

total, 80,000 members of host communities and IDPs will benefit from better health, education and sanitation services, along with strengthened local governance capacities and an improved legal system.



## APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

People in the Sila region face a number of insecurities in their daily lives, including, the lack of basic social services, food insecurity, water scarcity, social tensions and weak local governance structures. Given the complex and the diversity of these insecurities, a number of UN agencies are collaborating to respond to the human security challenges in the region. Capitalizing on their respective expertise and their comparative advantage, the project ensures that interventions by the UN system are coordinated, comprehensive and executed in a timely manner. Moreover, in addressing areas of human insecurity previously not attended to, the project addresses gaps in the overall human security situation of the communities and as such avoids duplication with, or detracting from, existing initiatives.

Among the insecurities identified, water scarcity appears to be one of the major factors fuelling tensions among groups. Moreover, since water scarcity contributes to crop failure, it is also interrelated with increased anxiety over the deteriorating food and economic status of communities in the Sila region. Subsequently, by placing the lack of water and its impact on other domains of human security at the centre of analysis, the project highlights the importance of a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response in addressing the multiplicity of challenges faced by the people of the Sila region. To this end, the project, by introducing stronger water management, increasing access to water facilities and improving local governance, reduces competition over water and

contributes to improving food and economic security, while preventing a relapse into conflict and violence.

While insecurities are interrelated, they are also specific to the context in which they appear. Therefore, to ensure that the project addresses threats facing communities in a context-specific manner, a series of consultations with community leaders and local Government representatives provide the basis for the design and the implementation of the project. Accordingly, the project implements interventions that are context-specific and rely on available local assets and resources thereby empowering the participating communities through activities prioritized by them.

Lastly, to ensure that bottom-up participatory mechanisms are strengthened, the project establishes partnerships with local actors, including farmers' organizations and women's groups. In particular, community members are trained and equipped in order to assume the responsibility for delivering basic services. Subsequently, local ownership is strengthened and the long-term sustainability of the project is ensured. Meanwhile, by strengthening the capacities of community members and leaders on issues such as human rights, decision-making, and conflict mediation, the project also contributes to the peaceful resolution of possible conflicts between IDPs and host communities and ensures greater social cohesion among diverse groups. Together the combination of these elements, embedded in the human security approach, serve to reduce risks and accelerate progress towards achieving a life in dignity, with peace and development.