

Support to Human Security in Northern Katanga through early recovery and capacity-building of local populations in prevention and resolution of conflicts in the territory of Nyunzu



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Duration: November 2013 to October 2015

Implementing UN Agencies: UNDP; FAO; UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Local Governments; local and international NGOs; community-based groups; agricultural cooperatives

Budget: \$5,000,000 (**UNTFHS:** \$3,206,871.32 **Others:** \$1,793,128.68)

Key Words: Post-conflict peace building; returnees; IDPs; livelihoods; community reconciliation; basic social services; conflict-affected communities; capacity-building

BACKGROUND

Between 1998 and 2006 violence among armed groups in Northern Katanga triggered the displacement of some 180,000 persons across the province and into neighbouring Zambia and Tanzania. Although the dissolution of the main armed groups in 2006 represented an important step towards stabilization of Northern Katanga, the situation remains fragile and volatile. In late 2013, a further humanitarian emergency erupted in the region as rebel groups destroyed 600 homes and displaced an additional 400,000 people. Consequently, the presence and influence of residual armed rebel groups continues

to jeopardize people's personal security, especially women and children who are often the target of gender-based violence and forced recruitment into rebel armies. In addition to the sporadic eruptions of armed violence, conflict between communities over land ownership is creating inter- and intra-communal tensions as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) begin to return home. Meanwhile, the spread of mining activity in the region is fuelling further conflict, while the abandonment of agricultural activities in favour of mining is having a devastating impact on food security and the local economy.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project's goal is to strengthen human security in Northern Katanga's Nyunzu district through integrated and targeted interventions that support socio-economic recovery while empowering conflict-affected communities to participate in the reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. Specifically, this goal will be achieved by: (i) building the capacities of local leaders

and communities to manage and resolve conflicts; (ii) restoring livelihoods, economic and agricultural activities and expanding the assets of returnees, IDPs and members of the host communities; and (iii) increasing access to and quality of social services as well as improving local infrastructure.

BENEFICIARIES

The project is expected to directly benefit a total of 255,600 people in Northern Katanga. This includes 150,000 people benefiting from capacity building of local leaders and communities in conflict management and resolution. Furthermore, 12,500 people will

benefit from the restoration of livelihoods and agriculture, and an additional 93,100 people will receive access to improved social services and community infrastructure.

APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

By underlining the interconnected nature of the many threats that confront conflict-affected communities in Nyunzu, the human security approach promotes a comprehensive and integrated response that can address the full range of daily challenges faced by these communities. For instance, activities to revitalize the local economy and increase agricultural production activities will restore people's livelihoods and improve food security, while basic social services and infrastructure will be rehabilitated such as health centres, primary schools, feeder roads and irrigation systems. Advancing such a multi-sector and comprehensive approach will also promote greater collaboration between UN agencies and result in a more focused and cost effective use of resources.

Additionally, capitalizing on the lessons learned from a previous UNTFHS-funded project in the country's Ituri region, the project is conducting a community-level analysis that carefully assesses local conditions in Nyunzu and takes into account the needs of the participating communities as expressed by the participants themselves. In doing so, the human security approach puts vulnerable people, including women, children and returnees at the centre of the project design, which allows them to play a fundamental role in determining their own priorities as well as implementing and monitoring the project's

activities. This not only ensures that the most appropriate interventions are pursued, but also enables the participating communities to actively contribute to and assume ownership over the project. Moreover, in developing the capacities of community members to prevent and resolve conflicts and to build sustainable livelihoods, the human security approach fosters community empowerment and helps strengthen local capacities to counteract community tensions and reduce the likelihoods of conflict.

Since these interventions are embedded in the local context, partnerships with local and provincial Government agencies are paramount to the success of this project. Accordingly, the implementing UN Agencies work in tandem with local Government partners and recognize the importance of reinforcing local authorities' management skills and governance structures through capacity building and training. By providing the necessary technical assistance and training to local and national counterparts, the human security approach forges multi-level partnerships, which enhance the operational effectiveness and the sustainability of the project and its goal to facilitate longer-term socio-economic recovery and to improve social cohesion within and between communities in Nyunzu.