

Human security project for the prevention of violence and vulnerability reduction for the most vulnerable inhabitants of Antananarivo



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Madagascar

Duration: May 2011 to April 2014

Implementing UN Agencies: UNFPA; UNICEF; UN-HABITAT; OCHA

Other Implementing Partners: Municipal departments; national and international NGO's; local training centres; community-based organizations

Budget: \$2,864,960

Key Words: Poverty reduction; health; environment; urban violence; urban communities

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, the cumulative effect of frequent natural disasters, the global economic and food crises, and the extended political crisis has severely threatened the human security situation in Madagascar. At the same time, the relentless pace of urban migration has concentrated the country's population in the capital, Antananarivo, where over 70 per cent of the

population lives in informal settlements. Of these, approximately 60 percent are subs-standard settlements or slums in which inhabitants live in unsafe and unhealthy conditions and are exposed to growing discrimination and marginalization. The ongoing crisis, if not addressed, can result in new vulnerabilities and greater suffering in the future.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To improve the human security of the most vulnerable populations in Antananarivo, the project seeks to: (i) establish community-based mechanisms and networks to empower communities to manage the reduction of economic, sanitary, environmental and personal insecurities; (ii) support the establishment of local instruments to prevent and reduce violence and reinforce personal security; (iii) improve living conditions through the continuous delivery of basic

services and a more stable economic base; and iv) anticipate the risks of deterioration through monitoring and preparedness at the city-level. As a result, the project aims to provide concrete and sustainable benefits to the target beneficiaries by lowering exposures to threats such as violence and illness; promoting a more peaceful and communal living environment; and enhancing business and employment opportunities.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targets the most vulnerable people living in Antananarivo and its outskirts by directly involving

25,000 people and benefitting at least 150,000 people in 25 neighbourhoods



Credit: UN-HABITAT



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APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

By applying a context-specific human security analysis, the project, in close consultation with the participating communities and the relevant authorities, has identified personal, economic, environmental and health insecurities as the main determinants of human insecurity in Antananarivo. Subsequently, an integrated and comprehensive human security strategy that targets communal violence, unemployment, inadequate basic services, infectious diseases, and the impact of natural hazards was established as priority activities to be supported by the project. By identifying these priorities and by bringing together a diverse network of stakeholders, the implementation of the project has resulted in the development of a coherent cooperation mechanism that capitalizes on the wide-ranging expertise of UN agencies, the knowledge and capacities of the participating communities, and the commitment of the Government. To target the full spectrum of threats that cut through every aspect of life in Antananarivo's informal settlements, and to ensure that activities supported by the project are sustainable, the need for implementing the human security's mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment framework was highlighted during

the design of the project. For example, top-down protection mechanisms that address the inter-linkages between the spread of disease, waste management, violence, and healthcare are implemented in combination with bottom-up measures that include the priorities of partners at the community level. As a result, activities identified by the project are better targeted to the real need, vulnerabilities and capacities of the participating communities.

Furthermore, by building on existing capabilities, the project empowers communities to establish networks that promote greater participation in community-based activities. Subsequently, through developing community preparedness strategies, the project strengthens the capacities of communities to provide early warning and to mitigate the impact of current and future natural disasters. The cumulative impact of these measures is resulting in a proactive community culture that is united in improving the resilience and in safeguarding the human security of the participating communities. Such an approach is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of the improvements in the lives of vulnerable urban communities in Antananarivo.