

# Strengthening Human Security by Enhancing Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate-Related threats in Ngororero District



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Rwanda

**Duration:** January 2016 to September 2018

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP; UNFPA; WHO; UNICEF; IOM; UN-HABITAT

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs; Ministry of Health; Rwanda Water and Sanitation Corporation; Ngororero District Authority

**Total Budget:** \$5,017,141 (UNTFHS: \$1,999,004, pooled funding: \$3,018,137)

**Key Words:** Resilience; climate change; food security

## BACKGROUND

Rwanda has had to cope with a wide range of insecurities in the past decades. Nowadays, it is mostly threatened by a range of natural hazards including floods, landslides, droughts, and earthquakes. Climate change has exacerbated these threats with extreme weather potentially costing the Rwandan economy 1% of its GDP by 2030. Small landholding farmers are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation reducing agricultural productivity and undermining food and nutritional security. The Ngororero district

where the majority are subsistence farmers, is the second poorest in Rwanda and 79% of its total area is susceptible to landslides. The majority of households across the district live in isolated rural settlements and informal dwellings. As such, this programme is a pioneer in the local implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Ngororero District and serves a model for replication and scale-up of initiatives for the rest of the country and the region.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this programme is to enhance resilience and improve disaster risk management of vulnerable communities through an integrated, multi-sectoral and community-based approach. The programme is centered around four objectives: (i) to reduce the impact of natural disasters to communities and their livelihoods through risk mitigation measures and enhanced preparedness; (ii) to decrease vulnerability to disasters and climate-related threats by providing access to alternative livelihoods and skills

development to broaden options for income-generation; (iii) to facilitate access to improved hygiene and sanitation services, primary health care, maternal and reproductive health services as well as prevention and management of sexual and gender-based violence in disaster-prone communities; and (iv) to disseminate lessons learned and best practices of the programme to promote replication and sustainability as well as mainstream the human security approach in disaster risk reduction and management.

### BENEFICIARIES

The programme directly benefits 61,143 people in Sovu and Kabaya Sectors out of which 32,746 are women. District and Sector Officials and about 50 relevant technical staff at national level benefit from the project as well. In addition, 10,000 people benefit

from the water, sanitation and hygiene services supported by this project. About 420 households benefit from disaster-resilient while another 200 individuals directly benefit from the skills development and business coaching.



## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- (i) The programme improved the economic security of vulnerable youth by conducting a comprehensive labour assessment in the district which included women and youth. So far, 220 youth have benefitted from vocational training skills and provided with business coaching to set-up small enterprises. By giving an alternative source an income to diversify earnings, beneficiaries are able to build resilience and reduce their risk to external shocks.
- (ii) The capacity of early warning systems was improved through cooperation with local district officials. Equipment and training to improve data

collection and analysis was also conducted to enhance the systemic resilience of the district and implement a prevention-oriented approach to disaster risk reduction.

- (iii) The programme also improved the hygiene and sanitation of over 8,000 people through the construction of latrines and an awareness-raising campaign on sanitary practices in partnership with local community organizations. The mobilization of community facilitators spearheading the campaign has led to the wide dissemination of information for improved hygiene both at home and at work.

## APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

This programme is an innovative pilot for the local implementation of disaster risk reduction to build and strengthen community resilience. It provides concrete and sustainable benefits to communities most at risk from natural disasters and climate-related impacts. Initiatives include protection mechanisms such as enhancing the capacity of the district authorities in mitigating climate risks, improving disaster preparedness and enhancing delivery of basic services as well as empowerment measures to develop the capacities of individuals and communities to make informed choices.

This programme is the first time that six UN implementing agencies worked closely together with four government partners under the “One Rwanda Initiative”, capitalizing on each partner’s comparative

advantage and serves as an impetus for the integration and mainstreaming of the human security approach across the work of the UN as a part of UNDAP implementation.

By mapping out the needs of beneficiaries and assessing the pervasive challenges faced, the programme provided evidence-based initiatives and important benchmarks for the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes. Facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the security threats to communities, the human security approach highlights the interdependencies of insecurities in the Ngororero District and ensures coherence across the interventions in Rwanda and presents this programme as an example of the merits of an integrated and multi-sectoral approach in the African context.