

# Applying the Human Security Concept to Stabilize Communities in Canton 10



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Duration:** September 2013 – August 2016

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP; UNHCR; UNICEF; IOM

**Other Implementing Partners:** Local municipalities; Centers for Social Welfare; Red Cross

**Budget:** \$4,542,925 (UNTFHS: \$2,500,001, Others: \$2,042,924)

**Key Words:** Refugees; IDPs; reconciliation; education; livelihoods

## BACKGROUND

After four years of fierce fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, tens of thousands of lives were lost and approximately 2.2 million people were displaced from their homes. At the same time, essential infrastructure and social services were destroyed and cultural and religious monuments were desecrated. While visible progress has been made towards rebuilding the country's social, economic and political structures, seventeen years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, the country's transition from conflict to sustainable peace remains incomplete and fragile. As a result, significant parts of the population remain insecure. In particular, vulnerable groups such as internally

displaced people (IDPs), returnees and ethnic minorities are unable to exercise their economic, social and culture rights and access basic social services, such as education and healthcare, as well as stable employment opportunities. Today, finding durable solutions and encouraging peaceful co-existence for the remaining IDPs and refugees, as well as for those who have returned to their pre-war homes, is critical to erasing the legacy of war and ensuring that the significant gains already made towards Bosnia and Herzegovina's stabilization and development will not begin to unravel.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the project is to eliminate community, personal and economic insecurities which threaten to undermine peace and development in Canton 10. This will be achieved by (i) enhancing the capacity of local authorities to design and implement participatory and comprehensive local development plans that address critical gaps in existing services; (ii) conducting local assessments of inter-ethnic violence and developing training modules for law enforcement and social

services to better respond to and prevent incidences of violence; (iii) establishing community safety operational plans to address local safety risks, such as unexploded ordinances, road maintenance and environmental hazards while promoting intra-community dialogue; and (iv) empowering local communities through employment generation activities.

### OUR PARTNERS

Focusing on previously over-looked municipalities in the northern region of Canton 10, the project will directly address the needs of 10,960 beneficiaries including returnees and other vulnerable households,

as well as Government institutions and civil society organizations. It is envisioned that all 55,000 citizens of Canton 10 will be indirect beneficiaries of the project's activities.



Credit: UNDP



Credit: UNDP

## APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

As a consequence of long-standing political and social cleavages in Canton 10, neglected and vulnerable populations in the region's northern municipalities continue to face economic, health, personal, community and political insecurities in their daily lives. To date, stand-alone initiatives have had limited impact on the complex and interlinked root causes that drive insecurity and marginalization in Canton 10, thereby making sustainable and long-term impacts less likely. Subsequently, the project applies a comprehensive human security framework to address the gaps in service provision in a more integrated and sustainable manner. For example, economic opportunities for vulnerable communities are strengthened through vocational training and activities to improve the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises. At the same time, capacity building for municipal authorities, police officers, social workers and teachers as well as the provision of essential equipment will ensure minority groups and displaced people can access essential social services, while peace education and violence prevention will be promoted within schools and communities.

To ensure that these activities are based on the needs and aspirations of displaced and returning populations as well as the receiving communities, the project was developed through extensive consultations with returnee associations, civil society organisations and minority groups, as well as municipal authorities and other international agencies operating in the region. Additionally, to foster local ownership, both Government and non-governmental stakeholders actively participate in the project Steering Committee. Such an approach nurtures State-society relations as the capacity of municipal authorities is strengthened so that they may assume their responsibility to provide equitable protection and to support the entire population, while local communities and civil society organisations are empowered to engage with authorities and better express their needs. By working together, the Steering Committee members can develop a shared action plan to address the systematic gaps in current municipal policies and services and bring a positive and lasting change to the lives of vulnerable and neglected communities of Canton 10.