

The UN Trust Fund for Human Security: Making an Impact

Established in 1999, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security has funded projects on migration due to economic drivers, violence, environmental disasters, and persistent and abject poverty. Human security projects illustrate the complexity of these issues and the need to address them in a people-centred, comprehensive and integrated fashion. By combining institutional policies and processes with community-based empowerment responses and actions, projects have drawn attention to the risks and insecurities faced by vulnerable groups and communities and have promoted responses that aim to address gaps in the management of migration so as to benefit both migrants and their host communities.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Reducing Multiple Sources of Vulnerability

Around 200,000 Haitian migrants, Dominicans of Haitian descent and Dominicans live in *bateyes*, poor, isolated communities established for workers in the Dominican Republic's sugar cane industry. With the industry in steady decline, residents of the *bateyes* face a slew of vulnerabilities, ranging from unemployment and a lack of official documentation to threats from natural disasters. For nearly 33,000 people in two particularly affected regions, both migrants and poor Dominicans, the Trust Fund has helped address these multiple forms of insecurity. Nutrition has improved through community gardens, and health through expanded facilities and awareness campaigns. Community-based legal advisors have assisted people to navigate the legal system and obtain documents such as birth certificates required for some levels of schooling. Vocational training and support to microenterprises have provided opportunities to learn skills and pursue new livelihoods. Local emergency response and early warning systems are part of ensuring that if disasters strike, people are more resilient and equipped to recover.

MEXICO

Humanizing Migration Through a Safer Journey

For impoverished people in Central America, beset by high crime rates and natural disasters, the route to safety and well-being seems to lie north. Each year, hundreds of thousands embark on a 1,500-mile journey that takes them through southern Mexico. Along the way, they encounter additional hardships, with many becoming victims of organized crime or experiencing tense encounters with local communities. These issues require multisectoral, integrated actions by all actors responsible for protecting vulnerable migrants and ensuring their survival and dignity. A Trust Fund programme uses a participatory framework that brings the United Nations system together with local government departments, relevant national ministries and civil society organizations to provide sustained, comprehensive and people-centred assistance. Measures include an expanded number of shelters and systems to refer the most vulnerable migrants to specialized services. Local cultural events have become opportunities to reach host communities with messages about peaceful co-existence and the rights of migrants.

Learn more: www.un.org/humansecurity/
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MOLDOVA

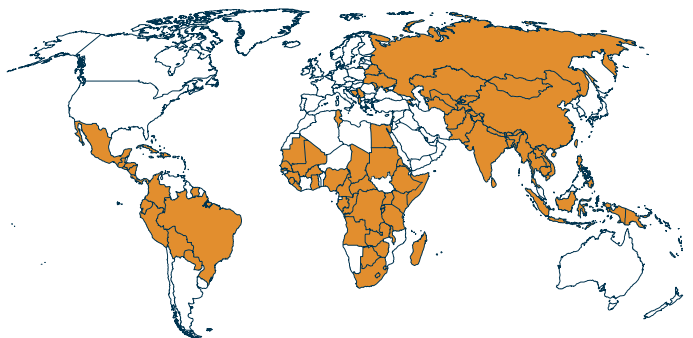
Protection and Empowerment Stop Gender-Based Violence

Pervasive poverty and gender discrimination have led many young women in Moldova to turn to sex traffickers in search of a living. Other forms of gender-based violence persist in high rates of domestic abuse, despite legal sanctions. A Trust Fund programme has helped extend a comprehensive package of legal and other essential services to curb these violations and protect women at risk. The Centre for Protection and Prevention has institutionalized multidisciplinary assistance and coordination at the local level. Local legislation has been tightened and aligned with national statutes. Awareness campaigns reaching the most disadvantaged rural areas have empowered people with better understanding of the issues at stake as well as their legal and human rights.

SOMALIA

Forced to Flee, but Now Equipped to Resettle

Over 400,000 Somalis have fled for other parts of the country due to continued armed conflict, violence and lawlessness, often encountering a lack of essential services and limited options to earn a living. A Trust Fund programme aimed at improving the human security of over 11,000 displaced people has helped secure land for permanent resettlement, provide jobs training, and upgrade services, such as for clean drinking water. Steps to strengthen understanding of the legal rights of displaced people among government officials have been accompanied by those to ensure people themselves know and understand how to claim their rights. Engaging both host communities and displaced people in implementing the programme has broken barriers and instilled a new sense of how working together delivers benefits for both groups.



Migration and Human Security



Issues at Stake

We live in a world on the move. Today, almost 3 per cent of people live outside their country of birth. Some have migrated in search of better opportunities. Others flee from crises imposed by conflict or disasters, or from abject poverty. For many migrants, leaving one country for another can be a complex process fraught with risks.

Those faced with the most perilous conditions in their country of origin are most at risk. People who have long been impoverished, or suffered from discrimination and violence typically have limited abilities to protect themselves from the worst threats. In their desperation to move, they may accept whatever options seem open.

This can mean taking on crippling debts or turning to smugglers or unscrupulous labour recruiters. Some embark on long journeys by foot over dangerous terrain, while others crowd on to leaky vessels that may sink at sea. A number will fall victim to human traffickers. Many will reach borders only to experience new forms of discrimination and abuse.

All migrants have human rights. These rights must be upheld in all countries, whether migrants are in the country of origin, transit or destination.



The dangers of the journey may be followed by additional risks once migrants arrive in a new place, particularly for those with limited skills and assets. They may find jobs—but only those that other people do not want because they are poorly paid and hazardous. Even low wages may be withheld. Jobs can be withdrawn with no notice or assistance, and labour rights denied. Migrants without legal standing in particular are prone to exploitation.

Forced Migration in an Insecure World

In recent years, multiple crises from conflict to natural disasters have resulted in human displacement at a level unknown since World War II. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, by the end of 2014, 59.5 million people all over the world were forcibly displaced. Up 16 per cent over the previous year, this was the highest number ever recorded.

The sheer scale of forced migration has spurred growing recognition that Governments, international organizations and others need to orchestrate better-planned responses. These need to not only meet the most basic, immediate needs, but also respond to the many risks and vulnerabilities that displaced people face.



Applying the Human Security Approach

The human security approach takes a comprehensive methodology to identifying and responding to a cross-section of risks faced by people on the move. As such, it can play an invaluable role in managing migration in today's world, including in light of recent Agenda 2030 commitments.

Viewing migration through the human security lens highlights the social, political and economic dimensions of those on the move. This provides a comprehensive, nuanced basis for advancing the benefits of migration, while mitigating and preventing its risks. Within a framework of protection and empowerment, a focus on human security helps strengthen institutional mechanisms that protect and empower migrants and the communities that host them to live free from fear, want and indignity.

Four principles underpin the human security approach. First, it is people-centred, geared towards ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of all people, including migrants, displaced individuals and host communities. Second, it is comprehensive, ensuring that policies and actions respond to the diverse and interacting risks affecting migrants, displaced individuals and host communities. Third, it is context-specific, considering the root causes and specific manifestations of diverse and interacting insecurities. Fourth, it is prevention-oriented, taking proactive responses to current and future risks in order to enhance the benefits of migration and displacement, while preventing new crises from erupting.

AGENDA 2030 ON MIGRATION

Agenda 2030 commits all States to ensure the human rights of all migrants and “leave no one behind.” It recognizes that international migration is a “multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination,” that “coherent and comprehensive responses are required,” that migrants’ participation should be ensured, and that migrants, regardless of their status, as well as refugees and internally displaced persons are vulnerable people in need of empowerment. Their needs are reflected across the goals and targets.

Agenda 2030 includes specific commitments to end human trafficking against women and children, and to cooperate internationally “to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, refugees and displaced persons.” It affirms that such cooperation should “strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees.” It includes a commitment to “the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship” and recalls “that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.”

