United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Somalia

Achieving Local Solutions to Displacement Crises in Somalia: a Human Security Approach to Durable Solutions
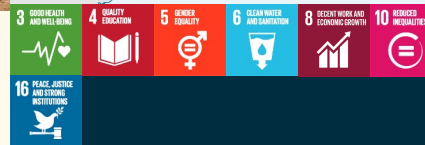
Background information

For centuries, the Somali way of life has been shaped, altered and defined by mobility amongst different population groups, with over 70% engaged in seminomadic pastoralism. While there has been progress towards recovery and stability since the formation of a new government in 2012, human insecurities from economic to food, health, environmental, political, personal and community remain entrenched and compounded by structural factors related to governance, inequality, marginalization and exclusion.

At the same time, over the course of more than two decades of conflict, access to land, tenure, and more broadly settlement has become the central issue affecting the country's security and stability, influencing its trajectory towards long-term recovery and sustainable peace and development.

Goals and objectives

Applying the human security approach in combination with support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the programme focuses on localized, community-driven interventions with the goal of empowering communities and enabling local leadership to identify the root causes and drivers of conflict and displacement. Through participatory and inclusive activities, and based on a human security neighborhood profiling, the programme addresses human insecurities in a comprehensive manner and seeks to facilitate the sustainable return, recovery, integration, and peaceful co-existence of displaced populations.

DURATION
September 2017 - June 2020

UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
IOM, UN HABITAT, UNOPS

OTHER KEY PARTNERS
Jubaland Administration, local authorities, relevant line ministries, traditional leadership actors
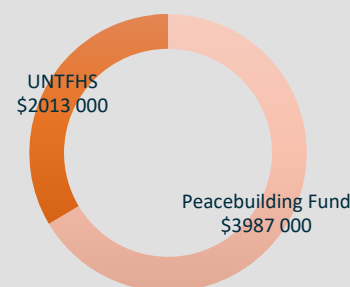
BENEFICIARIES
88,682

TOTAL BUDGET
US$ 6,000,000

POOLING OF RESOURCES

UNTFHS
$2013 000

Peacebuilding Fund
$3987 000

Beneficiaries

The programme benefits 88,682 persons including IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities in the Kismayo and Afmadow districts of Jubaland State, who will gain from strengthened social cohesion, increased participation in decision-making, and better access to basic social services including land tenure. In addition, the Jubaland authorities will benefit from capacity-building activities to mainstream human security into urban and local planning processes that address critical needs and lower vulnerabilities.

Applying the Human Security approach

Promoting durable solutions for displaced populations in the Somali context requires the combined inputs of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors, focusing on localized interventions that are inclusive and promote the protection and empowerment of displacement populations. Based on bottom-up community support, combined with top-down political leadership, the application of human security supports and builds the capacity of both local communities (bottom-up empowerment) and governments (top-down protection) to identify and address multidimensional factors contributing to displacement and human insecurities.

As a result, the programme calls for a comprehensive, locally-led analysis of the root causes, risks, and capacities of the affected populations. This includes a thorough examination of the drivers of displacement and human insecurities, in addition to risk and hazard mapping, SWOT analyses, and assessment of community capacities. Since the identified challenges must be targeted in a contextual, targeted, and complementary manner, the programme focuses on how different insecurities affect specific groups and how their capacities differ to ensure that no one is left behind.

By considering the multidimensional drivers of human insecurities – from economic to food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political – communities not only identify drivers of instability but also discuss, plan, and implement activities that help mitigate the impact of current and future risks and challenges.

Complementing the support provided by humanitarian and development partners, human security tools and methodologies are applied to motivate displaced groups, host communities, and local leadership to take ownership and control over their own solutions. This is achieved through dialogue and a participatory conflict and resource demographic mapping, thereby resulting in community-driven recovery initiatives that are in accordance with priorities defined by the participating communities and the government at the local and national levels.

Ranging from urban profiling to land legislation, community action planning, women's groups, and small-scale public works projects, different components of the programme are designed to facilitate durable solutions by comprehensively addressing all forms of vulnerabilities and human insecurities related to displacement. As a result,

- Urban Profiles are developed showing the benefits of planning approaches that consider displaced and host communities as part of a united urban space.

- Community Action Plans (CAPs) are established as a participatory, bottom-up planning process in which local governments and communities, including vulnerable and marginalized groups such as IDPs, returnees, and women, analyze their current situation and choose a shared vision to prioritize development initiatives that facilitate social cohesion and fulfill their basic needs and rights.

- Women's Groups are organized into thematic committees through which they address issues of health and empowerment of women, women's rights, small business entrepreneurs, and water and sanitation. By embracing women's equal and meaningful participation as idea-givers, decision-makers, and executors, their knowledge and awareness of local urban spaces are leveraged to understand and address challenges more comprehensively.

- A Handbook on the "Application of Human Security for Durable Solutions in Somalia" is developed, compiling lessons learned and best practices that can be brought to scale in Somalia and elsewhere.

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