

# United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security



Today, across the globe, complex challenges undermine or derail the prospects for development of billions of people. The devastating impacts of climate change and natural disasters destroy countless lives and livelihoods. Fragility, conflict and violence menace far too many, and are contributing to the largest number of displaced people in over 70 years. The potential for pandemics looms large, threatening lives and placing considerable stress on social, political and economic systems. And persistent poverty and inequality continue to limit the choices and opportunities of marginalized individuals, and undermine their efforts to participate in and contribute to their societies.

Created in 1999, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) has developed responses to complex challenges that have become a touchstone for the reorientation and reform of the United Nations. In strengthening the UN system's ability to work together and better deliver for people, particularly at the country

and community level, the Fund has shown that the multilateral system can be proactive, effective, efficient—and worthy of trust.

**The UNTFHS is a fund for our times and tomorrow's challenges. Its proven framework to realize thriving societies has never been more valuable and needed than now.**



## Why invest in the UNTFHS?

The UNTFHS is a tool for our future, helping to proactively orient UN system programming at the country level to areas and communities where crises could erupt and derail sustainable development. It provides a framework to help overcome deeply entrenched obstacles to integrated action and guide the development of partnerships that meaningfully harness the expertise of diverse stakeholders, including local communities.

A consistently sound investment offering strong value for money, the UNTFHS provides seed funding against which additional resources are mobilized, leveraging nearly \$1.60 in countries for every \$1 it invests. Increasingly, additional investments come from local and national governments as well as bilateral and multilateral donors.

# How does the UNTFHS make a difference?

A pioneer of integrated programming, the UNTFHS is an essential and powerful instrument for the UN system and its partners. The Fund's distinct contribution lies in its 20-year track record of delivering tangible improvements in people's daily lives, its flexibility in allowing priorities to be set based on realities on the ground rather than

institutional mandate, its attention to reaching the most vulnerable communities and people, its emphasis on tackling the root causes of insecurity and instability, and its proactive engagement in stemming the emergence of crises and mitigating their impacts.

## The Fund plays a vital role by:

### Responding to diverse risks

Each country and community face a unique constellation of challenges – from poverty to climate change and disasters, displacement, food and health insecurity, and crime and violence. The breadth and flexibility of the UNTFHS allows UN Resident Coordinators to seize opportunities and target integrated support towards multidimensional risks and vulnerabilities as they manifest at the local level.

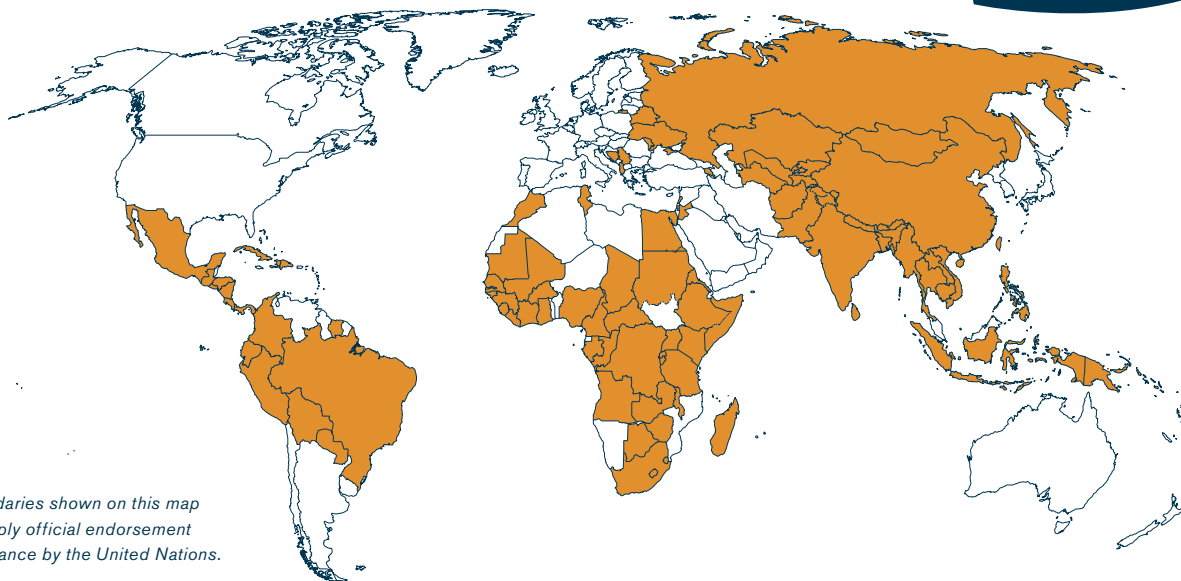
### Driving integrated responses

Recent UN reforms are only the beginning of change. Adapting to today's new realities means shifting the way the UN system works together, particularly at the country and community levels. This requires mechanisms like the UNTFHS that can guide and finance joint analysis, planning, programme implementation and monitoring, which are necessary to tackle complex challenges, and promote partnerships across humanitarian, development and peace action.

The UNTFHS  
has supported nearly

**296**

regional and national  
programmes involving more  
than 100 countries.



*The boundaries shown on this map  
do not imply official endorsement  
or acceptance by the United Nations.*

## Focusing on prevention

While the Secretary-General has called for integrating prevention into all aspects of the UN system's work, an important financing gap remains, particularly in the link to sustainable development. The UNTFHS helps to close this gap, including in responding to emerging, protracted or neglected issues that have not yet become full-blown crises, yet erode prospects for sustainable and inclusive development.

## Creating conditions for transformation

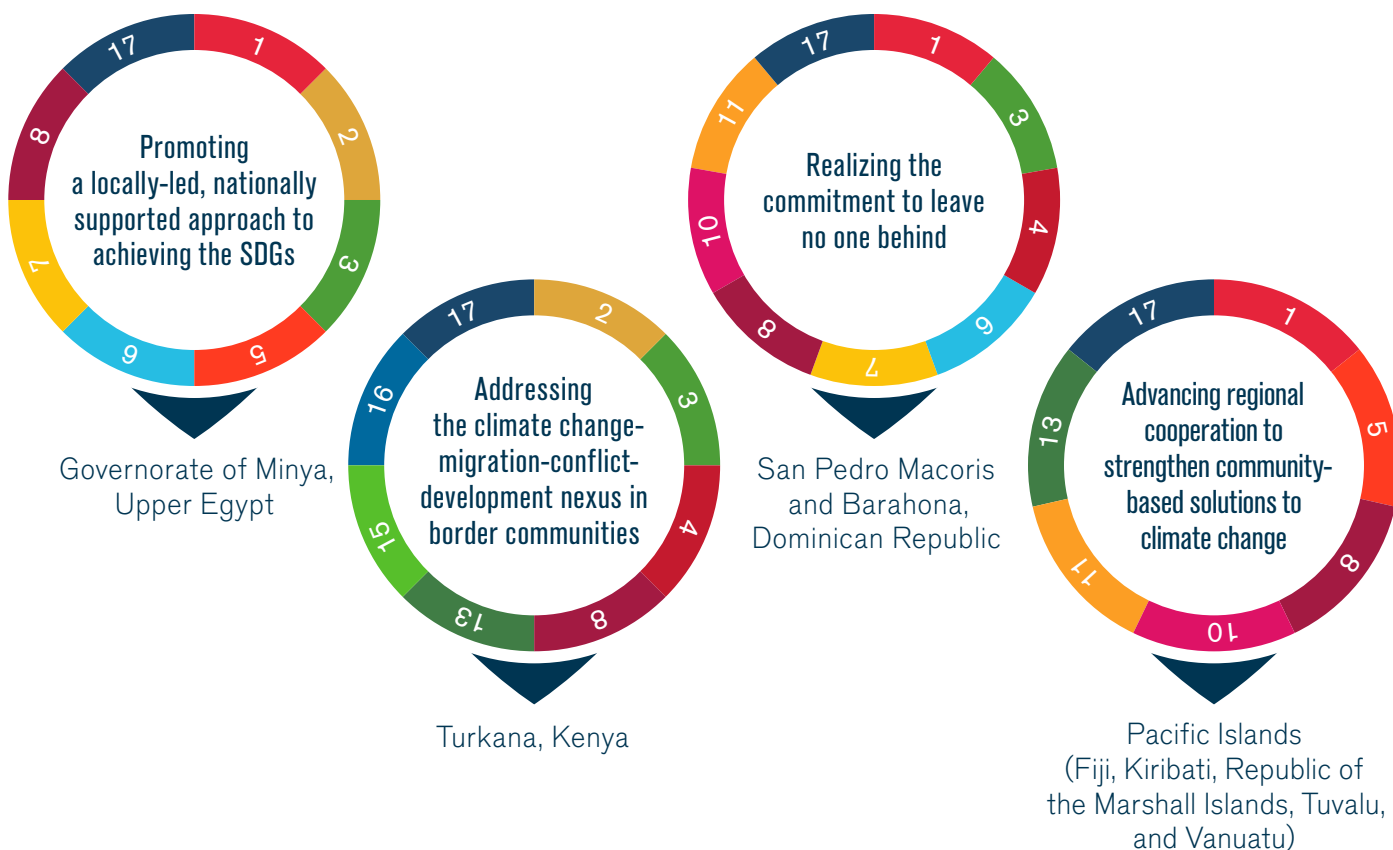
Realizing the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda requires hybrid strategies that both shield people from threats and enable them to develop their resilience to difficult conditions. The protection and empowerment approach advanced by the UNTFHS helps establish processes that link policy to community-based action across sectors, ultimately creating conditions for greater inclusion, sustainability and scale-up.

## Advancing regional initiatives

The borderless challenges of the 21st century mean regional cooperation must be a central feature of our efforts. With longstanding experience in this area, the UNTFHS is focusing attention on programmes that link regional cooperation to national and local implementation. This sharpens the focus on common priorities, enhances knowledge-sharing and creates an environment that accelerates local progress on peace and development.

## Promoting ambitious change to achieve the SDGs

Responding to the interconnected nature of the SDGs is imperative for achieving the 2030 Agenda. An analysis of UNTFHS programmes since 2010 reveals how the human security approach guides the development of comprehensive responses that have addressed, on average, six to seven SDGs per programme in an integrated manner.



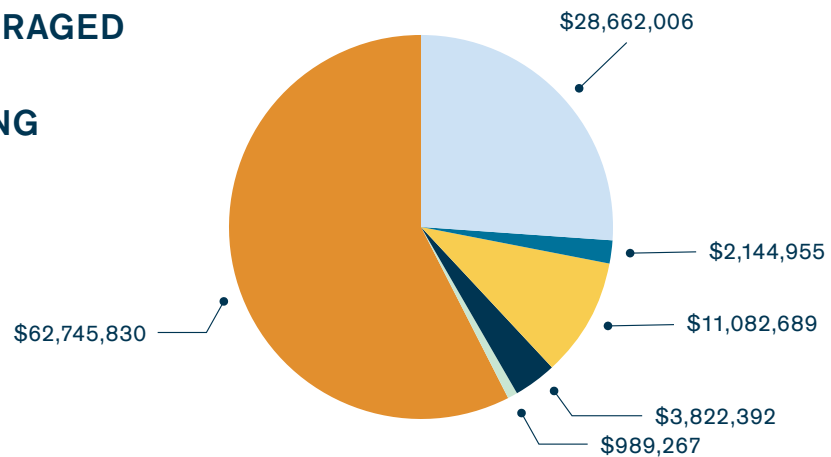
# Pooling of resources at the country level

The UNTFHS has been at the forefront of multi-partner pooled funding within the UN system, leveraging an additional nearly \$110 million at the country level since 2014 through its seed funding. Pooling these resources expands the reach and impact of UNTFHS programmes, allowing UN Country Teams to tackle complex and multidimensional challenges at a larger scale than would otherwise be possible. In addition, it helps to engage

partners more deeply in programme outcomes thereby laying the foundation for replication and scale-up of successful initiatives. Increasingly, UNTFHS programme activities are being taken to scale through alternative resources, including the investment of local and national governments, as well as contributions from bilateral and multilateral donors.

## NEARLY \$110 MILLION LEVERAGED AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL WITH UNTFHS SEED FUNDING

- UN
- Bilateral
- Multilateral Fund
- National Government
- Other
- Private Sector



## Governance

The UNTFHS is managed by the Human Security Unit (HSU). The HSU draws its strategic direction from and reports to the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Human Security. It also benefits from the oversight of the Advisory Board on Human Security and the partnership of a broad range of Member States.

As a central answer to the challenges we face, from conflict to climate change and migration, human security is absolutely crucial.

—UN Secretary-General António Guterres