



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Bolivia

Restoring Human Security for Youth in the Chiquitania Region to Promote a Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery that Leaves No One Behind

Background information

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990, the Jesuit Missions of Chiquitos have been an important cultural and economic resource for the region through sustainable tourism. In recent years, however, the Chiquitania region has faced a series of disasters that are undermining the resilience of communities and local economic development. Environmental degradation, uncontrolled fires, unsustainable mining practices, and extensive cattle ranching have negatively impacted agricultural production, access to fresh water, community cohesion, and tourism. This further deepened food and economic insecurities in the region, pushing young people to migrate to cities in search of better opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these trends, particularly a strong contraction in tourism, heightening the vulnerabilities of young people and other disadvantaged populations in the region.

Goals and objectives

The programme aims to strengthen the human security of young people affected by COVID-19 and environmental crises in the Chiquitania region. To this end, key objectives of the programme are to: (i) improve disaster risk management strategies of the government and civil society organizations using the human security approach; (ii) increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes through the establishment of multistakeholder platforms; (iii) empower young people from the heritage municipalities to lead actions aimed at enhancing their livelihoods and community development.



DURATION

February 2023 — November 2024



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UN-Habitat, ILO, UNESCO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Asociación Civil Plan Misiones



BENEFICIARIES

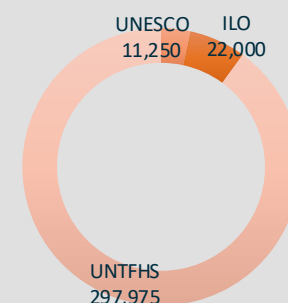
212,348



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 331,225

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits young leaders by strengthening their capacities to meaningfully participate in decision-making spaces and policymaking processes at the subregional level. Departmental and Municipal Governments also benefit as participants of the Civil Association Plan Misiones, advocating for the incorporation of human security in local public policies. As a result, the population of the Chiquitania, which consists of 212,348 people, benefits from increased economic opportunities, strengthened social protection, natural resource preservation and enhanced disaster risk reduction strategies.

Applying the Human Security approach

Strengthening the approach to disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels requires collaborative engagement between the government, private sector, civil society and local communities. With its focus on the empowerment of people, human security draws attention to areas where local capacity can be enhanced and promotes networks of action that foster ownership and participation. To this end, the programme establishes early warning mechanisms that are developed and managed from the bottom up with a view toward ensuring that strategies and measures related to disaster risk reduction are locally driven and responsive to local needs.

Building on what exists at the local level, the programme collaborates with Escuela Taller, a local network that promotes sustainable tourism and job creation. This collaboration facilitates the mobilization and training of young leaders in human security, economic empowerment, disaster risk management, climate action, and the safeguarding of cultural heritage. These empowered youth are then connected with local authorities to discuss challenges in their communities and formulate comprehensive solutions, creating avenues for youth to contribute to inclusive and sustainable local development.

Creating meaningful transformation requires linking community-based solutions to policy and institutional change to upstream and sustain positive outcomes. In this regard, the programme also focuses attention on enhancing the capacities of national and local authorities. Through the development of (i) SDG Voluntary Local Reviews by municipal governments; (ii) a comprehensive assessment of the capacities of civil society, the private sector, and local public institutions; and (iii) a multidimensional analysis of the needs and challenges in the region, the programme supports authorities to elaborate targeted, evidence-based and forward-looking solutions to the needs and future risks.

These initiatives together also create structured processes of engagement that strengthen solidarity among diverse actors, including between the government and residents of the Chiquitania. This ensures a robust governance framework that is both participatory and preventive, increasing the prospects for better managing disaster risks and accelerating sustainable development at the local level.



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