



**United Nations Trust Fund  
for Human Security**

# ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Integrating human security in development programming for building resilience to address multi-dimensional risks in Asia and the Pacific

## Background information

The Asia-Pacific region is highly exposed to natural hazards such as storms, floods, earthquakes, and droughts. These challenges are exacerbated by structural and social vulnerabilities, including in countries like Nepal and Bangladesh, where disasters disproportionately affect poor and marginalized communities. The resulting impacts – heightened food insecurity, poverty, and resource scarcity – can limit opportunities and drive large-scale displacement to informal settlements in urban areas. These interconnected challenges place significant demands on local governments, requiring them at times to allocate resources to disaster response and recovery, delaying progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopting comprehensive, context-specific human security solutions that bridge humanitarian assistance and development efforts can help strengthen resilience to the increasing risks posed by natural disasters.

## Goals and objectives

The programme aims to promote the application of the human security approach to build resilience and address multi-dimensional risks in the Asia-Pacific region. To this end, it will: (i) develop a replicable methodological framework that can be applied by governments, UN agencies, and development partners to operationalize the human security approach; (ii) enhance the institutional capacity of two pilot countries, Nepal and Bangladesh, to apply the framework in their development programming; and (iii) increase awareness and interests in the wider Asia-Pacific region to integrate human security in development planning.



### DURATION

March 2024 — September 2025



**UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**  
UNDP



### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), national governments, development partners, civil society, private sector, and academia



### BENEFICIARIES

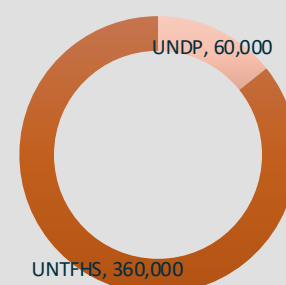
Over 50% of the population in Nepal and Bangladesh



### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 420,000

### POOLING OF RESOURCES



## Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the programme include national policymakers, representatives of UN agencies, development partners, and vulnerable communities in the pilot countries who participate in the consultative portfolio development processes. Using the methodology developed, the programme indirectly benefits populations vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and/or climate change in Nepal and Bangladesh.

## Applying the Human Security approach

Natural disasters not only deepen poverty and inequality but also push vulnerable populations into high-risk areas with limited social capital. At the same time, they strain government resources, making it harder to invest in long-term sustainable development. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic, people-centered approach that recognizes the complex realities faced by vulnerable communities and advances strategies that combine policy and institutional change with community-driven solutions.

By applying human security to UNDP's risk-informed development framework, this programme creates a regionally tailored tool that helps governments and development actors operationalize human security in disaster-vulnerable countries across the Asia-Pacific. With a multi-sectoral approach that prioritizes partnerships, prevention, and inclusivity, the framework bridges the gap between humanitarian and development efforts, ensuring more comprehensive and sustained impact.

At the community level, the programme strengthens resilience by fostering inclusive, participatory decision-making. Marginalized communities play a central role in identifying their own needs and shaping responses, ensuring solutions are both effective and locally relevant. Multi-stakeholder consultations amplify community voices in disaster risk mitigation, while targeted capacity-building workshops equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to address human security challenges in their own contexts. Through these efforts, the programme not only empowers individuals but also strengthens social cohesion, enhancing collective preparedness for future crises.

At the policy level, the programme complements these grassroots efforts with top-down protection mechanisms. It supports governments and development practitioners in addressing interconnected human security risks and designing policies that respond directly to people's needs. By fostering knowledge-sharing, leadership development, and cross-sectoral collaboration, the initiative drives innovative partnerships and co-creation. This approach ensures strong local ownership and long-term commitment to sustainable, people-centered solutions that safeguard the survival, livelihoods, and dignity of vulnerable populations across the Asia-Pacific region.



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