



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Lebanon

Empowering Urban Communities: A Human Security Toolkit for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Background information

Lebanon has been facing governance challenges, a lack of comprehensive development planning, and significant economic and financial constraints. These challenges, compounded by shocks within and beyond its borders, have left local communities increasingly vulnerable. Urban areas, in particular, have been impacted by unplanned growth and large refugee inflows, resulting in higher rates of poverty, food and health insecurity, dwindling resources, and heightened social tensions, among other challenges. Vulnerable populations – including refugees, migrants, economically disadvantaged Lebanese citizens, women, and youth – are disproportionately affected. These pressing issues necessitate urgent action to mitigate insecurities, strengthen local capacities, and enhance access to reliable data for targeted strategies. Such efforts will enable evidence-based, community-driven solutions that foster sustainable and inclusive development for Lebanon's urban communities.

Goals and objectives

The overarching goal is to empower vulnerable local communities to address multisectoral and multidimensional risks by enhancing their access to human security-focused community engagement frameworks. The programme's objectives include: (i) developing a people-centered, community-led, evidence-based toolkit to identify insecurities and assess the needs and priorities of vulnerable urban communities; (ii) empowering local communities and actively engaging the most vulnerable segments of the population in local decision-making processes, enabling them to become agents of change; and (iii) enhancing the capabilities of national and subnational government officials to engage in community dialogue and institutionalize the human security approach in local development planning.



DURATION

March 2025 — February 2027



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

The Ministry of Social Affairs, municipalities, local NGOs and civil society



BENEFICIARIES

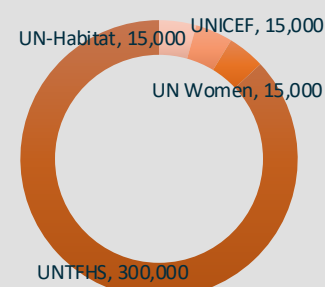
150,000



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 345,000

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme is expected to directly benefit over 150,000 individuals including vulnerable populations such as women, youth, and host and refugee community members. Additionally, it will build the capacities of the local government authorities, including council members, representatives from local NGOs, civil society, and staff members from the Social Development Centers under the Ministry of Social Affairs, through the development and dissemination of the human security toolkit. Lebanon's broader population will indirectly benefit from the implementation of the toolkit across various localities, as part of the programme's scale-up strategy.

Applying the Human Security approach

The human security approach is critical to addressing Lebanon's challenges because it comprehensively responds to the multiplicity of challenges that create insecurity and prioritizes the perspectives of local communities, enabling inclusive and multisectoral solutions. By placing vulnerable populations, such as women, youth, and refugees, at the center of planning, the approach establishes a bottom-up process that expands opportunities for people and builds social cohesion. For example, the programme will engage diverse stakeholders in developing toolkits for neighborhood profiling to facilitate the establishment of community hubs that provide social services, foster a sense of ownership, and engage local groups in collaborative efforts, which are essential for sustainable development.

By addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities, the human security approach ensures that solutions are comprehensive and targeted. The programme's toolkit, for instance, will analyze insecurities and local priorities using data collected through grassroots NGOs and community networks. This ensures that the needs of vulnerable populations are accurately represented in local decision-making processes. For example, the programme will collect gender-specific data to propose viable, data-driven solutions that promote gender equality, and will build more resilient and cohesive urban communities in Lebanon.

The approach also emphasizes collaboration between host and refugee communities, fostering social cohesion and collective problem-solving. Through participatory assessments and joint planning, the programme will create an evidence-based understanding of shared challenges and opportunities. This collaborative framework encourages diverse groups to work together in identifying and implementing sustainable solutions. The establishment of community-led centers will serve as hubs for dialogue, capacity-building, and consensus-building, strengthening solidarity and resilience among community members. Ultimately, the human security approach transforms vulnerable populations into active agents of change, capable of shaping their futures through collective action.



www.un.org/humansecurity



humansecurity@un.org



[@UNHumanSecurity](https://twitter.com/UNHumanSecurity)



[@UNTFHS](https://www.facebook.com/UNTFHS)



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security