



UNIDO's Contribution to Human Security

Projects Funded by the
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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FOREWORD



UNIDO's mandate, as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, is to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

Industry is vital for job creation, sustainable livelihoods, food security and inclusive growth, and, ultimately, for eradicating poverty. In order to allow a better life and prosperity for the millions who remain excluded from a dignified human existence, the world needs to grow its industries in an inclusive, sustainable and resilient manner.

UNIDO has been active in mitigating the consequences of armed conflicts and natural disasters by securing, restoring and developing livelihoods and productive capacities for affected populations, which is known to be a gap during but also after the humanitarian operations. UNIDO's interventions lay the basis for stable societies and sustainable growth. For us, human security is a key development issue.

This brochure shows UNIDO's long-standing cooperation with the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and presents a series of brief descriptions of UNIDO activities that have been supported by the trust fund, to show how UNIDO, working with governments, UN agencies and local communities, contributes to the improvement of human security by developing the full potential of people in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized Chinese characters, positioned above the printed name and title.

LI Yong

Director General

UNIDO'S APPROACH TO HUMAN SECURITY

The inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) approach departs from the past models of development. It emphasizes the need to consider the impact of industrial development on economic growth, on communities and society, and on the environment. Inclusive and sustainable industrial growth contributes to shared prosperity for all segments of society, including young people and women, as well as for rural and urban communities. By generating employment and income opportunities, it will contribute to human dignity as well as social equity and cohesion, allowing the development of stable societies, and the achievement of the many developmental objectives that the international community is seeking to achieve, foremost of which is the eradication of poverty.



In September 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted General Assembly resolution 66/290 which provides an outline of what constitutes 'human security'. Human security is a holistic approach to address widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of people, recognizing the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights.

UNIDO strengthens the ability of individuals and vulnerable groups of people to reduce risks, threats and vulnerabilities, ensuring that there is no interruption in livelihoods and productive activities. It also integrates energy, health and environmental security concerns that affect people's productive capacities into its activities. UNIDO assistance ensures that the restored livelihoods and productive capacities will be as free as possible from future risks and vulnerabilities, and as green as possible. No human life is free from downside risks and shocks, but with higher resilience and reduced vulnerability, people are better able to cope with them and recover faster.

Interventions by different units and branches of UNIDO at headquarters and in the field are coordinated for synergies and an effective comprehensive approach. Activities in targeted sectors are linked to provide a comprehensive package tackling multiple human insecurities. This approach promotes inter-sectoral collaboration within UNIDO as well as with bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, finance institutions, private sector, academia and civil society. UNIDO ensures that all stakeholders engage actively in the development process - another dimension of inclusiveness UNIDO emphasizes.



UNIDO AND THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security was created in 1999 with initial support from the Government of Japan. The trust fund has since received contributions from the Governments of Greece, Malta, Mexico, Slovenia and Thailand. Its aim is to promote human security by financing comprehensive and integrated programmes by United Nations agencies and their partners to mitigate risks, prevent crises and strengthen the resilience of people and communities around the world. Programmes funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security demonstrate the added value of the human security approach and aim to extend its usage and awareness both within and outside of the United Nations system. The trust fund is managed by the United Nations Human Security Unit which reports to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.



Since 2003, UNIDO has implemented a series of projects worldwide under the trust fund. The projects address a wide range of human security situations, from recovery after armed conflicts and natural disasters to problems that constitute a structural threat that endangers people's lives through increased productivity, better employability, livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities but also through improved health, environment and access to energy. Brief summaries of these projects can be found in the back pocket of this publication. UNIDO works closely with the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security to improve the lives of vulnerable and marginalized people and communities around the world.

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AFGHANISTAN

A RURAL REGION RECOVERS



Long years of war have destroyed communities, their means of living and rural infrastructure in most of Afghanistan. In areas where the situation has been stabilized, local people need outside help to rebuild the agricultural economy and to develop alternatives to opium-poppy cultivation.

In a project that covered 43 villages in the Ghazni and Herat provinces, UNIDO's primary focus was on people directly involved in food production: small farmers and women. The project improved their technical and business skills and facilitated their access to modern technologies for agricultural production. Rural providers of essential services - blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, masons and extension workers – benefited in a similar way from the project. Special attention was given to the inclusion of former combatants.

For the project's success, intensive involvement of the local population was essential. This was achieved through the existing village and community organizations and women's groups established by the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, the main partner in the field. The interventions were closely linked to the Committee's micro-finance project, stimulating existing local business and creating new business ventures. Afghan partners included the Ministry of Agriculture and local authorities. Some 10,000 people benefited directly from the project. Food security was increased and youth were able to gain income by providing rural services such as blacksmithing, carpentry and masonry. Hundreds of women participated in tailoring and food processing micro projects.

Project title: Assistance in reducing the humanitarian deficits of war-affected rural communities through increased agricultural productivity and the promotion of auxiliary income-generating activities.

Duration: 2005-2006.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



ARMENIA

THE TRANSITION TO A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL



Armenia has overcome the turbulent times of the 1990s and has enjoyed many years of sustained economic growth. However, the disruptions caused by transition to the market economy, armed conflict and natural disasters were such that more than one-fourth of the population has been living below the poverty line. Life has been particularly hard for refugees, internally displaced persons, women and other vulnerable groups.

Supporting the Government's efforts to eradicate poverty by 2015, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); as coordinator, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), joined forces with the local government and private and civil society partners and developed a multi-faceted intervention encompassing infrastructure rehabilitation, provision of quality health care and promotion of sustainable income opportunities.

Concentrating on local communities in the Kotayk and Gegharkunik regions, UNIDO's work has been focusing on restoring local infrastructure, improving access to clean energy supply and fostering new business opportunities. The local communities of Kasakh, Pambak and Geghamasar enjoyed a refurbished sport hall for the communal kindergarten, functional kitchens for the Refugee House, a new communal agriculture-machinery garage and an overhauled water-pipeline. The village of Geghamasar is now served by a newly constructed biogas plant.

Fostering business opportunities was pursued through training and the establishment of a seven-year SME-supporting Fund, which is still in operation. Some 103 would-be and existing entrepreneurs enhanced their knowledge on managing small businesses. Since October 2011, some 86 loans have been disbursed for a total value of some USD 415,000, which is nearly a third more of the original endowment of the Fund. Women accounted for some 22 percent of the loans disbursed. Although women have been less forthcoming in seeking external finance, they performed as well as men. Some 27 percent of them increased their revenues by at least 30 percent, and another 20 percent between 10 and 30 percent.

Project title: Sustainable livelihood for socially vulnerable refugees, internally displaced and local families.

Duration: 2009-2012.

Implementing branches: Agri-Business Development Branch/Energy and Climate Change Branch/Europe and NIS Programme.



BANGLADESH

VILLAGES BUILD A HEALTHY FUTURE



Arsenic is poisonous. It can cause skin diseases, anaemia, liver enlargement, various types of cancer and other health problems. Under certain conditions, arsenic occurring naturally in the soil finds its way into ground water. Most districts in Bangladesh use ground water containing arsenic as it is the only available source of drinking water. In such cases, drinking water taken directly from wells poses a serious threat to public health.

With the support of the UNTFHS and cooperating with Ministry of Industry, other relevant institutions such as the Department of Public Health and NGOs, UNIDO has addressed the problem on a pilot basis in two districts with the highest levels of arsenic poisoning: Hajiganj and Shahrasti.

The project used a broad approach to the problem. Simple arsenic removal units, many of them produced locally, were distributed to 1,500 households, and 20 community-level arsenic removal units were transferred to local ownership. Posters, discussions, folk song shows, film and TV helped to make local population aware of the issues. Medical and laboratory support were improved. Health improved rapidly in the communities and income-generating activities were stimulated. Based on the lessons learned, UNIDO, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Bangladesh, is preparing a proposal for the creation of national capacities to remove arsenic from drinking water and improve medical treatment.

Project title: Improving human security by mitigating arsenic poisoning.

Duration: 2006-2008.

Implementing branch: Environmental Management Branch.



EGYPT

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES FOR BETTER INCOME GENERATION



Egypt has been hit hard over the past years due to political turmoil and economic instabilities. High levels of youth unemployment and growing numbers of labor returnees from Libya have put additional pressure on the Egyptian economy. In its transition towards higher levels of prosperity and human security, UNIDO, in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, is working on improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities in Upper Egypt, a region that hosts the largest concentration of poorest villages across the country.

Implemented in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Local Development, the “Human Security through Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt – HAYAT” Project empowers local and mainly agriculture-based communities in the districts of Maghagha and El-Edwa in El-Minya Governorate. This is achieved by adopting a comprehensive development approach that integrates the targeted communities in planning and decision making processes through the newly created Human Security Forums.

HAYAT’s ultimate aim is to improve the socio-economic well-being of the most vulnerable households in El-Minya Governorate by creating local ownerships of productive projects. To reach better outcomes of income generation and job creation, HAYAT focuses on developing several interrelated local sectors of relevance to the local communities, whether it is agricultural extension, small-scale processing and value addition, supporting neighborhood upgrading and entrepreneurship initiatives, promoting rural village savings and loan associations for women, providing job counselling services for unemployed youth or assisting micro, small and medium enterprises and linking them to bigger markets.

HAYAT has kicked off in June 2013 and is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security Fund (UNTFHS), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Government of Japan. The program is jointly implemented by UNIDO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Project title: Human Security through Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt (HAYAT).

Duration: 2013-2016.

Implementing branches: UNIDO Regional Office in Egypt/Agri-Business Development Branch



GHANA

BUILDING A NEW LIFE FOR LIBERIAN REFUGEES



Ghana hosts many refugees from armed conflicts which took place in other African countries. In the refugee camps, people have few opportunities to earn money and living conditions are poor. When refugees become involved in the economic life of local communities, this can lead to potential conflicts: local people compete for economic opportunities and resources that are limited.

The problems are complex and therefore required joint action by different agents. Building on earlier work by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR), UNIDO was the lead agency in a project aiming to improve overall conditions in the Buduburam and Krisan refugee camps and enable refugees to create viable small businesses back home or locally. Nearby communities were actively involved, and their standards of living also improved. UNHCR and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) were two other UN agencies that were involved in the implementation. This team of the three UN agencies cooperated with government institutions, NGOs and camp-based organizations and village communities.

While the other United Nations agencies focused on improving the health and sanitation infrastructure and increasing agricultural productivity, UNIDO trained people in vocational skills and entrepreneurship skills for them to become self-reliant by starting commercially viable economic activities, which enabled them to gain self-esteem and self-confidence. Almost 80,000 refugees and host community members directly and indirectly benefited from the project.

Project title: Assistance to the refugees of the UNHCR settlements in Buduburam and Krisan for their repatriation, local integration and resettlement through micro- and small-scale enterprise development.

Duration: 2006 – 2010.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



GUINEA

SOLVING PROBLEMS THROUGH SELF HELP



Armed conflict in Liberia and Sierra Leone has in the past driven many people from these countries across the border into Guinea. The influx of refugees has put heavy pressure on local communities, which also had to cope with internal migration following domestic unrest. Cross-border trade was disrupted for years. Making a living became very difficult in the border region and social tensions increased.

From 2005 to 2011, the project started to create conditions for the development of non-farming activities in three prefectures of the border region (N'Zérékoré, Lola and Yomou). Through training in a range of technical and business skills, supplemented by literacy courses, the project has reached more than 6500 people and promoted the establishment over 100 entrepreneurial self-help groups and associations.

Refugees, internally displaced persons and host community members attended workshops together. Participants reported that they could improve productivity and profitability, establish new enterprises, create supplemental income and jobs, or introduce new products. Internally displaced persons and refugees are returning to their communities equipped with new skills. Many trainees of host communities have been able to buy land, build houses and open bank accounts.

Three community based production centres were established with the participation of the communities and support from UNHCR. They are equipped to provide the entrepreneurial and technical skills upgrading programme, and operated by the community. Two youth centres and one primary school were rehabilitated in cooperation with the communities and WFP; Young men were trained to produce bricks and founded their group enterprise.

Project title: Quick impact programme for refugee zones: community based production centres and community rehabilitation projects with skills upgrading in Forest Guinea.

Duration: 2005-2011.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



INDONESIA

WORKING FOR RECONCILIATION



Between 1999 and 2004, Indonesia's Maluku Islands were devastated by waves of ethnic and religious violence which destroyed schools and medical facilities and led to the collapse of the local economy. Thousands of people lost their lives, 40,000 homes were destroyed and the number of displaced persons reached hundreds of thousands.

Since July 2005, UNIDO has implemented a pioneering strategy to support the islands' reconstruction and reconciliation process. In a joint initiative with the local government, it set up the Maluku Technology Centre to harness the great potential of local commodities such as sago palm starch, bamboo, and eucalyptus and coconut oils. Training was mainly community-based and bone fruit as island artisans became adept at using new technologies, expanded the range of their products and increased their value. Project staff and their trainees organized the Maluku Cultural and Small-Industry Product Festival, an event which, besides being a showcase for the project's achievements, gave hundreds of participants from various communities a deeper awareness of their common heritage.

Building on the positive results of these efforts, a project expansion further stimulated village development in Ambon City, Kabupaten (regency) West and South Seram. UNIDO, as the lead agency, cooperated with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration. The Maluku Provincial Government and civil society organizations were intensively involved in project execution.

Project title: Overcoming ethnic and religious conflicts through economic development in the Maluku Islands.

Duration: 2009-2012 (Building on earlier projects undertaken since 2005).

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

DELIVERANCE FROM OPIUM DEPENDENCE



Lao People's Democratic Republic is among the world's poorest countries, with nearly one quarter of its population earning less than one US dollar a day. In rural areas, the scourge of poverty is compounded by a widespread dependence on opium-poppy cultivation and addiction to illicit drugs.

In 2006, UNIDO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) started a joint project aimed at creating alternative income generation opportunities in three districts of the Oudomxay Province. A major initial challenge was the treatment and rehabilitation of hundreds of villagers affected by the use of opium and other illicit drugs. This social task was intertwined with the economic aspect of the project, whose main objectives were crop diversification and adding value to agricultural commodities. Twenty-two villages with a total population of 36,000 received assistance. Within the framework of UNIDO's assistance, more than 30 Village Productivity Groups were created and around 1,000 people have meanwhile been trained in basic agro-processing and community development. Products such as sesame oil, handmade paper, brooms, and bags knitted from natural fibres are produced and sold.

A key role in the transformation of the local economy is now played by the Productivity and Marketing Centre in Oudomxay City, a much-needed link between remote villages and the markets for products. The beneficiaries are now able to sell products to tourist markets even in the capital city, and have gained direct market exposure during the Lao Handicraft Festival.

Project title: Social and economic rehabilitation of former opium poppy-growing communities – alternative livelihood development.

Duration: 2007-2010.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



MALAWI

GRASS ROOTS ACTION FOR SELF RELIANCE AND HEALTH



The main feature of agriculture in Malawi is the predominance of subsistence farming practiced on small plots with antiquated tools and methods. A disastrously high proportion of households affected by infectious diseases, most notably malaria and HIV/AIDS, further reduces productivity and imperils food security.

UNIDO's project helped thousands of households in poor rural areas of the Salima District to overcome the threats to their livelihoods. The recipients of assistance included women, who head almost one-third of the households, and over 1,000 orphans. The main aim of the support package was to improve productivity by upgrading traditional means of production, such as ox-drawn ploughs and carts, horticultural implements, treadle pumps, post-harvest equipment and various hand tools.

An extensive training programme, tuned to the immediate needs of the most disadvantaged groups, emphasized vocational training for orphans in such fields as wood working, tailoring, metal fabrication and automotive mechanics. Around 11,000 people participated in the training, and many groups in which people pool their skills and tools for local development have been created. Local craftsmen can now supply the upgraded production equipment. Between 2006 and 2008, the village and productivity groups generated earnings of more than \$ 50,000. The rudimentary rural health infrastructure was improved by the provision of water boreholes and bicycle ambulances. This, together with a diversification of the diet resulting from the horticultural activities, has led to a reduction of various diseases in the villages.

Project title: Empowering poor rural communities with labour-saving technologies for increased labour productivity, food production and income generation.

Duration: 2005-2008.

Implementing branches: Agri-Business Development Branch/Industrial Policy and Private Sector Development Branch.



SRI LANKA

OVERCOMING MAN-MADE AND NATURAL DISASTERS



The long years of war between the Government and the Tamil Tigers have destroyed society, economy and infrastructure in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Hundreds of thousands of people fled the fighting. The regions - once food exporters with thriving business communities - experienced food shortages and economic decline; household incomes have dropped far below the national average. Thousands of households are headed by widows. The 2004 tsunami was another devastating blow.

The return of stability to the regions has made it possible to address the many complex problems. UNIDO contributes to rebuilding local communities in the Trincomalee and Batticaloa areas by promoting community-based initiatives for social integration and economic activities (including the establishment of self-help producers' groups) and reviving agriculture through the introduction of mechanization. To support this, UNIDO also encourages the establishment local business development services.

The primary focus of project activities is on those who have suffered most: refugees, women and small farmers. The project also helps ex-combatants to make a new start in life and stimulates local food processing, tool making repair and maintenance. To take advantage of the many other initiatives to rebuild these regions and create synergies where possible, UNIDO works together with the District Chamber of Commerce and Industry and coordinates its activities with NGOs, other United Nations and bilateral bodies as well as Government agencies. By the end of the project, about 3,000 households will have benefited from it; another 3,000 could benefit from equipment sharing, which is encouraged by the project.

Project title: Support for sustainable livelihood recovery among the conflict affected population in the north and east regions through improved agricultural productivity and community-based entrepreneurship.

Duration: 2006 - 2009.

Implementing branches: Agri-Business Development Branch/UNIDO Regional Office in Thailand.



SUDAN

UNITED IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Armed conflict and recurrent drought have severely affected the mostly rural settlements in the Nuba Mountains region in southern Sudan. Large numbers of people have been displaced and the breakdown of socio-economic structures is widespread.

In early 2004, an improvement in security conditions prompted UNIDO to launch a Community Livelihoods and Rural Industry Support (CLARIS) project covering some 40 villages in the vicinity of Dilling and Kadugli. Village development committees were established to promote participation and community building. Agricultural production was revitalized by improving local capabilities to manufacture and repair tools and machinery. Appropriate post-harvest and food processing technologies were introduced with the additional benefit of creating more profitable and less time-consuming occupations for women. Improved revenue streams in the region have also revived commercial activities. By the end of 2006, over 6,000 households had seen a marked improvement in their living standards. Finally and most significantly, training and other CLARIS activities brought together former rivals in the civil war, and thereby served the project's larger purpose of building confidence and fostering peace in the region.

With support from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund and the Government of Sudan, a follow-up phase of the project is currently expanding activities to other areas in the same region.

Project title: Revitalisation of agricultural productive capacities in post-conflict zones by promoting participation and community building for food security and poverty alleviation, Nuba Mountains Region.

Duration: 2004-2007.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



THAILAND

PARTNERING FOR INTEGRATED LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Mae Hong Son province is a remote and mountainous province located in Northern Thailand. The poverty incidence is high and the situation is compounded by the presence of different ethnic groups, including migrants and refugees, many of which have little access to social and economic services. In collaboration with the Royal Thai Government, ten UN Agencies that includes UNIDO joined hands to improve the quality of life and reduce poverty among local communities in Mae Hong Son Province. The UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son is a multi-faceted three-year programme which commenced in 2010 in accordance with the UN Partnership Framework for Thailand (UNPAF 2007-2011). To address the human security needs and priorities of the province, the programme was carried out through a three-pronged approach of: 1) Enhancing productivity, diversifying the economic base and promoting small scale businesses for income generation; 2) Promoting sustainable management of natural resources; and 3) Increasing opportunities in accessing social services, such as health and education for the vulnerable populace.

UNIDO was the lead UN agency in increasing productivity and promoting small scale businesses for income generation. The activities were designed to increase skills and capacities in food and textile sectors of targeted groups through systematic identification of high impact value chains, establishing linkages among the key actors, and overcoming key constraints to promote business opportunities and growth. More specifically, through its value chain approach, UNIDO prioritized and assisted five sub-sectors namely soybean, sugarcane, coffee, garlic and textile, handcraft in nine sub-districts of Mae Hong Son Province. About 200 rural based operators were supported, enhanced skills, knowledge on product development, marketing management, value chain, and rural entrepreneurship development. In addition, small local business operators including women entrepreneurs benefited from the provisions of equipment to increase productivity. At the institutional level, about 100 business development services (BDS) providers were capacitated to better support the growth and competitiveness of key provincial sectors as part of the overall interventions of UNIDO.

Project title: United Nations Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son.

Duration: 2010-2014.

Implementing branches: UNIDO Regional Office in Thailand/Agri-Business Development Branch.



UGANDA

MENDING THE FABRIC OF A WAR-TORN RURAL SOCIETY



For over two decades, the West Nile Region of Uganda was devastated by fierce fighting between Government forces and various rebel groups. The truce reached in April 2002 allowed the Government of Uganda to expand its efforts to reintegrate tens of thousands of army veterans and former rebels into civilian life.

Started in April 2006, UNIDO's Skills for Peace and Income (SKIPI) project soon became a central component of the national reconciliation and recovery campaign. The project was carried out in the villages of Yumbe District, where hundreds of ex-combatants, their dependants and deserving members of the communities at large were trained in masonry, metal working, carpentry, garment making, food processing and other marketable skills. Upon graduation, they have received tool kits as a start-up support for their business. A vocational infrastructure consisting of four Community Productivity and Training Centres and a central facility in Yumbe Town were established in close cooperation with the project's local partner, the Participatory Rural Action for Development.

Over 1,200 SKIPI beneficiaries have acquired skills for economic self-reliance and successful reintegration in this war-torn rural society. The great majority of them are now financially independent; one-third are women. They have also spread their knowledge and skills among family members and friends – a rough estimate shows that this has almost doubled the number of beneficiaries from training. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the 2002 peace agreement, a number of Peace Festivals were held, which helped to reinforce Yumbe's progress on the path to reconciliation and recovery.

Project title: Multi-skills training and community service facilities for sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation -reintegration of ex-combatants and former rebels.

Duration: 2006-2010.

Implementing branch: Agri-Business Development Branch.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Bordering on countries which have suffered from long years of civil war, the northwest of the United Republic of Tanzania is host to hundreds of thousands of refugees. Inevitably, the region has become unsettled. Local communities have been badly affected by the proliferation of arms, crime and violence against women. There was a real danger that the situation in these poor, vulnerable communities would worsen.

With the Government's National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction as a framework for action, the United Nations responded with a multi-agency initiative to enable communities in the region to build a better future. It increased the ability of local government to cope with human security threats; improved education, health and environmental protection; and increased food security.

UNIDO, working closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and local stakeholders, helped local farmers and women to set up or strengthen processing associations. Through nutritional education, value chain analysis, technology transfer and the establishment of demonstration centres for food processing technologies, the project also helped to reduce post-harvest losses and to improve the availability and quality of processed food. Potential markets for locally made higher value added products were identified and the use of sustainable energy for agro-processing was promoted.

Project title: Strengthening human security through sustainable human development in Northwestern Tanzania.

Duration: 2005-2007.

Implementing branches: Agri-Business Development Branch/UNIDO Field Office in the United Republic of Tanzania.





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