

# **FIRST HUMAN SECURITY AWARDS HONOUR SIX UN INITIATIVES ADDRESSING MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISKS, BUILDING RESILIENCE, AND ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LASTING PEACE**

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*Six award-winning United Nations initiatives demonstrate that the Human Security approach can meet the complex challenges of our time.*

**New York, 22 June 2026:** The co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Human Security, the Permanent Missions of Costa Rica, Japan and Senegal to the United Nations, together with the United Nations Human Security Unit (HSU), celebrate the **2026 Human Security Awards**, recognizing six outstanding United Nations initiatives that have successfully translated the Human Security approach into tangible improvements in people's lives across the world.

Presented at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the awards recognize programmes that have demonstrated excellence in addressing interconnected risks and vulnerabilities through integrated, people-centred and preventive solutions that advance sustainable development, peace and human dignity.

## **PROTECTING PEOPLE, MANAGING RISKS: WHY HUMAN SECURITY MATTERS TODAY MORE THAN EVER**

The inaugural Human Security Awards are being launched at a time when the world faces an unprecedented convergence of interconnected risks. Climate change, conflict, displacement, health emergencies, food insecurity, and economic instability are affecting communities across regions, often reinforcing one another, deepening existing vulnerabilities, and undermining stability and development progress.

As these challenges become increasingly interlinked, there is growing recognition that effective responses must be equally integrated, risk-informed and human-centered. The initiatives recognized through the Human Security Awards demonstrate how the human security approach addresses interconnected risks in a manner that strengthens resilience, enhances stability, and promotes sustainable solutions that respond to the vulnerabilities people and governments face.

The decisions made today, in how resources are allocated, partnerships are built, and successful approaches are scaled, will shape prospects for peace, development, and human wellbeing for years to come. The challenge ahead is not only to identify effective solutions, but to ensure that they can be adapted and expanded to meet the scale and complexity of today's global challenges. The Human Security Awards seek to highlight and support efforts that are helping to advance that objective.

## **HUMAN SECURITY AWARDS 2026: SIX PROGRAMMES, ONE VISION: PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE, BUILDING RESILIENCE & DELIVERING IMPACT**

The six award-winning programmes demonstrate Human Security in practice:

**ECUADOR** (UNDP, UNODC, UN Women – funded by UN Peacebuilding Fund):

The Capacities for Peace, Security and Violence Reduction project addresses the interconnected drivers of violence and exclusion, strengthening community resilience and expanding opportunities for safer, more secure futures.

**GHANA** (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNEP, UNV – funded by UNTFHS and partners):

The FOREST Okyeman initiative restores degraded ecosystems while creating livelihoods, improving health and food security, and expanding opportunities for women, children and youth.

**NEPAL** (FAO, UNFPA – funded by CERF Anticipatory Action Window):

The Anticipatory Flood Response protects lives, livelihoods and essential services before disasters strike, turning early warning into early action.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS** (IOM, ESCAP, ILO, OHCHR – funded by UNTFHS and the Government of New Zealand):

The PCCMHS programme links local priorities, national strategies and regional cooperation to address the multidimensional impacts of climate change, mobility and development on Pacific countries and communities.

**SENEGAL** (UNDP, IOM, UNHCR – funded by UNTFHS):

The Human Security initiative in border regions brings communities, local authorities and partners together to address shared risks, strengthen resilience and prevent crises before they escalate.

**SYRIA** (UNDP, UNHCR – funded by UNTFHS):

The area-based recovery programme helps returnees and conflict-affected communities rebuild livelihoods, restore essential services and lay the foundations for long-term recovery and stability.

The first Human Security Awards recognize practical solutions already delivering impact across the world and reaffirm Human Security as a foundation for a more stable, prosperous and equitable world for all.

Presented at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the award ceremony will be held as a special event of the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Human Security and will bring together Member States, UN leaders, development partners and practitioners to showcase innovative approaches to addressing multidimensional risks and building resilience in an increasingly uncertain world.

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### **About Human Security**

The concept of Human Security emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War and was introduced globally through the 1994 Human Development Report and later refined by the Report of the Commission on Human Security.

It was later endorsed through UN General Assembly Resolution 66/290 (2012), which provides a common understanding of Human Security as an approach to address widespread and cross-cutting threats to survival, livelihood and dignity.

Human Security is a people-centred, prevention-oriented and comprehensive approach that seeks to protect and empower individuals and communities facing critical and pervasive threats. By addressing interconnected risks and vulnerabilities, Human Security contributes to sustainable development, peace, resilience and human dignity.

In an era defined by complex risks, Human Security offers a pathway towards a more stable, peaceful and prosperous future for all.

### **THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH**

A practical example of the human security approach can be seen in responding to the needs of communities affected by prolonged drought. Rather than viewing drought solely as an environmental or agricultural challenge, the human security approach examines how drought affects people's lives across multiple dimensions that are critical to sustainable development, resilience, peace, and human dignity.

The loss of crops and income may lead to food insecurity, deteriorating health, school dropouts, displacement, and growing tensions over scarce resources. These risks do not occur in isolation; they interact and reinforce one another, creating a cycle of vulnerability that can undermine resilience, social cohesion, and stability.

The human security approach begins with the insecurities people face and brings together actors from different sectors to address them in an integrated and people-centred manner. It combines measures to protect people from immediate threats—such as food assistance, healthcare, and social protection—with efforts to empower communities through livelihood support, climate adaptation, local participation in decision-making, and strengthened coping capacities.

Crucially, the objective is not simply to deliver services across multiple sectors, but to understand and address the interconnected causes and consequences of human insecurities. By tackling risks in a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing manner, the approach helps reduce vulnerability, strengthen resilience, and expand people's opportunities to lead safe, productive, and dignified lives.

This emphasis on both protection and empowerment, together with a focus on the interdependence of risks affecting people's lives, is what distinguishes the human security approach and makes it a practical and effective instrument for addressing today's complex and evolving challenges.

### **About the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)**

The **UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)**, established in 1999, has been central in translating the human security approach into action worldwide, supporting the UN system in working better together. It supports integrated and multi-sectoral initiatives that address interconnected risks and vulnerabilities affecting people and communities. The Fund has

evolved into an instrument for driving integrated, human-centered and preventive initiatives that can be replicated and taken to scale by governments and their development partners.

Since its founding, the UNTFHS has supported **more than 325 programmes in over 110 countries**, plus regional and global initiatives, reaching more than 108 million people worldwide.

The Fund has also leveraged **more than US\$116 million in additional resources** through co-financing and partnerships, amplifying the impact of its grant funding beyond its own direct contribution.

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