

**THE EFFORTS OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)  
IN IMPROVING HUMAN SECURITY STABILITY IN SOMALIA 2010-2017**

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**ABSTRACT**

In Human Development Report (HDR)1994, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced a new dimension of human security concepts. The report examines that international threats divided to 7 categories, there are: food security, environmental security, health security, community security, personal security, economic security, and politic security. Then, along with the end of cold war, the human security become one of the important issues in international relations studies.

In the other hand, Somalia is a country in the Horn of Africa that well-known as country with low score of humanitarian indicator. The low humanitarian indicator was a result of prolonged civil war conflict that appears in Somalia. Besides that, Somalia also suffers from poor governance, chronical disease, famine, drought, and mortality rate. Of course, these things are regarded as the threat of human security stability of Somalia. Therefore, as the United Nations (UN) development agency, UNDP promotes partnership with Somalia government and carry out strategic programs/projects that aim to improve human security stability of Somalia in 2010-2017.

The purpose of this research is to know the strategic efforts conducted by UNDP in overcoming the security threats in Somalia by providing several programs or project in assisting Somalia to improve its human security stability. Thus, to achieve the research goal, the writer will use the concept of International Organization and Human Security.

**Keyword(s): UNDP, Human Security, Somalia**

## **Background**

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is one of the biggest international organizations under UN (United Nations). The beginning of the establishment of the UNDP actually began through the establishment of UN Expanded Program of Technical Assistance or well-known as EPTA, that aimed for economic development in 1950. After the establishment of EPTA, the demands of developing countries for the technical and financial assistance to developing their country have increasingly developed, so that the UN finally decided to set up another body that functions as an EPTA supplementary body, the Special Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED). Then, UNDP was created in 1965, when the general assembly merged the EPTA and SUNFED become one body (Pease, 2010). The UNDP works to exterminate poverty, to protect human rights, to save the planet in over 170 countries and territories and to assist them so they can sustain their development result and progress. This organization is seen as an organization that carries out the main tasks of the United Nations, helping and in addition to the realization of world peace and world security (UNDP, 2018).

At the beginning of 1990, UNDP launched the Human Development Report (HDR) with the purpose of putting people first in the development process. In these annual reports, UNDP links development to human security by exploring different dimension and perspectives (Pease, 2010). Since then, UNDP is more aware of the issue of human security. One of the biggest challenges for UNDP is the preservation of human security over the world. Indeed, human insecurity becomes a major threat for the human sustainability.

Since in the early of 1990s along with the end of cold war, the concept and idea of human security has been developed and become an important issue and main topic in international relations studies. Then, in the 1994, Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), human security is described as “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want”. Human security covers seven aspects of individual security, namely economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security (Susetyo, 2008, p. 4). Therefore, through the Human Development Report in 1994, UNDP takes apart over the world directly to overcome the human security issues.

In the other hand, Somalia is part of the Horn of Africa in the region of eastern Africa same as Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti. Somalia borders with the Aden gulf, the Indian ocean, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Somalia becomes one of the countries that got attention from UNDP since there are a lot of problems and crisis regarding human security.

Somalia has low score for humanitarian indicators, it is because Somalia suffers from the poor governance, prolonged internal conflict, development retardation, poverty and economic decline, the spread of chronically disease, the social and gender inequality, then the environmental degradation. Despite facing civil war, drought, and famine Somalia faces the raise of mortality number. Somalia has high fertility number as well as the large proportion of people who lived in reproductive age which affected to the increase of population growth, where more than 60% of population in Somalia is younger under 25 years old with each generation being larger than the prior one. Then, the fertility rate becomes one

of the highest in the world where a woman can have 6 children. Even though the number of fertility has reduced since the 1970s (CIA, 2018).

In addition, the absence of a functioning central government, Somalia has not developed a national development strategy. The Recovery and Development Program (RDP) is considered the main framework for international support for Somalia. However, Long-standing political instability and the absence of effective governance have had a negative effect on human development, especially in Central and South Somalia. Although accurate and reliable socio-economic data is still lacking, the poverty rate is high with an estimated 43 percent of the population living on less than one dollar per day. Poverty is more prevalent in rural areas, where unresolved conflicts, prolonged droughts, lack of economic resources, and lack of infrastructure have made many people helpless.

The fact that Somalia faces a lot problem makes a huge impact toward the security stability especially human security. Drought, famine, civil war, pirates, economic decline, chronically disease, poverty and other crisis that appear will destruct human sustainability in Somalia. Thus, those crises impact to a new major problem of Somalia. Then, it becomes a threat especially for human security stability.

Therefore, the writer takes this as an important and urgent issue to discuss. Indeed, UNDP does not keep silent seeing the condition of Somalia. As an international organization UNDP here plays a big role to change the condition of Somalia. Therefore, in this term, the writer will discuss what effort that UNDP takes to improve human security in Somalia since 2010 until 2017.

## **Theoretical Framework**

To answer the research question on what are the efforts of UNDP in improving human security stability in Somalia, the writer will use two concepts. The two concepts to facilitate in answering and analyzing the effort of UNDP in improving human security in Somalia, namely:

**International Organization Concept,** an International organization is a term in international relations that shows the existence of cooperation in some countries formed through an organizational movement, whose purpose can be general or special. In addition, A. Le Roy Bennett (2002) explains that international organizations as a means of cooperation of countries, which can bring benefits to members who join in it. An international organization is also required to be a facilitator as a channel of communication with the government because if problems occur, it can be easily solved. In addition, international organizations are also well-known as independent institutions to carry out the necessary activities, among others such as human social activities, assistance for environmental conservation, restoration of historical monuments, peacekeeping operations, and others (A. LeRoy Bennett, 2002).

According to A. LeRoy Bennet (2002), in his book he mentioned that there are three roles of international organizations in general namely:

- a. A forum to promote cooperation and reduce the intensity of conflict among members. In other words, an international organization contributes to the creation of cooperation between countries or actors. With the existence of an international organization, the

country is expected to be able to interact regularly to create a good order and be able to solve the existing problem.

- b. As a mean of negotiation to produce mutually beneficial and fair decision among members.
- c. Independent institution to carry out the necessary activities such as human social activities, assistance for environmental conservation, restoration of historical monuments, peacekeeping operation and other necessary and other useful activities.

The involvement of UNDP in Somalia is in line with the concept of international organization. The UNDP take a part in dealing with human security issues in Somalia. Then, UNDP's action is regarded as a problem solver who strive to overcome the human security issues in Somalia. The writer suspects if UNDP conducts necessary activities as well as human social activities, which could be delivered by some programs that assist in improving human security in Somalia.

**Human Security Concept**, the first statement on human security appeared in Human Development Report in 1994, the annual publication of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The report argued that:

“The concept of security has for too long been interpreted narrowly: as the security of territory from external aggression, or as protection of the national interest in foreign policy or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust. It has been related more to nation-states than to people”. (UNDP, 1994)

According to Shahrbanou Tadjbaksh (2007), argues that the use of human security for foreign policy of a country is a chance for mid-power countries to obtain status and attention

from international regime. Meanwhile, despite the freedom from fear and freedom from want idea, the broad school argues that the concept of human security also concerns and awareness about the important part of human being development. One of the scholars of broad school is Thakur, he believes that human security is more concern about people protection from critical life-threatening dangers, regardless the origin of the threat either it is a natural event or anthropogenic activities, whether from direct or structural. Despite Thakur, there is Alkatiri who was the former member of the Commission on Human Security in 2003. Alkatiri argues that the main objective of human security is the protection of the human being vital core in live ways that advance and enhance human freedom and human fulfillment.

The intervention of UNDP in Somalia has a big role in protecting the human vital core of Somalian. The existence of UNDP gives a good impact toward Somalian, where the Somalian can enjoy the freedom of fear from any kind of physical violence, and as well as they enjoy freedom from want where they avoid from the threat of socioeconomic or under development.

### **Methodology of Research**

The research method that the writer uses is qualitative research. Qualitative research can be interpreted as a series of activities or the process of capturing information from natural conditions in the life of an object, associated with solving a problem, both from a theoretical and practical point of view. In other words, the data obtained in qualitative research cannot be obtained from the static calculations or various things that use numerical calculations, but by using explanations or certain reasons related to the problems contained in this study. As

well as data collection methods will be carried out by collecting data in literature such as printed books, journals, papers, online newspapers or website sources that are relevant to the problems discussed in this study.

### **Scope of Research**

In this research, the writer will focus on the involvement of UNDP in Somalia since 2010-2017. Where in 2010, UNDP runs a strategic global program called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in responding to the crisis that occurred in Somalia. At the same time, UNDP also contributes particularly in Northern Somalia through several supports such as the establishment of an effective community police force, functioning basic justice system, small arms control, and mine action capacity. Meanwhile, the limit of the research is in 2017 where the UNDP follow up run the previous program, MDGs with the new program, namely the 2030 Sustainable Development goals as a response to overcome the crisis over the world especially Somalia. Therefore, the writer believes the program that established by UNDP during that period will affect despite becoming significant progress for Somalia but also improving the human security stability in Somalia.



## **Result of Research**

### **UNDP Promotes Joint Program with Somalia Government**

UNDP Somalia works through the partnership with the Federal Government of Somalia, Puntland Government and Somaliland, non-governmental organization and even civil society of Somalia as one of efforts to overcome the human security instability in Somalia. There are two examples program that reflected to the improvement of human security.

- Enhancing Climate Resilience program of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems
- UNDP Project for Community Security

**Enhancing Climate Resilience program of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems** In 2012, UNDP has joint program with Terra Nuova. Terra Nuova is an international non-governmental organization that focus on promoting sustainable socio-economic development initiative that covered in various Africa countries, and Latin American countries. The project between UNDP and Terra Nuova is aimed to strengthen the livestock industry through improving food security and to conduct the experiment of the biogas production of animal waste to provide energy.

The program of Enhancing Climate Resilience was launched in 2015 and 2018 is the estimated end program. The priority of this program is to promote sustainable development and natural resource management by developing legal and regulatory frameworks and building capacity in key Natural Resources Management (NRM) institutions. In addition, this

program is in line with one of the implementation of 17 goals of SDG, which is concern about the strategic action to deal to fight against climate change and its impact.

There are two outcomes of Enhancing Climate Resilience first, policies plan and tools reviewed, revised, developed, adopted and implemented by the government to mainstream and enhance adaptive capacity and mitigate the risks of climate change on vulnerable communities and critical ecosystem services. Second, Models of community and ecosystem resilience developed and implemented in pilot areas selected in consultation with government and community stakeholders.

**UNDP Project for Community Security**, since 2011 UNDP Somalia started to implement a new five-year program. The new five-year program compromise two main program, they are: first, Governance and Rule of Law (GROL), and second, Poverty reduction, and Environment Protection Program (PREP). Under the GROL program, UNDP provides the Community Security Project (CSP) which in line with the frame of Peacebuilding and State-building Goals (PSGs). The CSP project has two values of PSG, the inclusive politics and the justice.

This project consists of three main pillars. First, quality conflict analysis and research that takes into account the needs of Somali communities are made available for peace and security related programming. Second, community-based reconciliation that includes healing collective trauma, social and economic rehabilitation, integration and reparation. Third, youth empowerment and participation in building peaceful society. The implementation of CSP was covered in three strategic regions there are, South Central Somalia, Puntland, and Somaliland.

In addition, CSP concerns about Community Based Reconciliation and Trauma Healing (CBRTH), this initiative targets community sector groups such as elders, youth, women, spiritual leaders, the business community and refugees and complements other local initiatives designed to address conflict and extremism at the grassroots level. Since the beginning 2015, At least 900 community members (50% women, 50% men) in the 4 districts covered in Beletweyne, Baidoa and 2 in Kismayo benefited from increased social reconciliation through community dialogue and trauma healing sessions (UNDP, 2015).

### **UNDP Strategic Program in Responding Human Security Threats**

**Piracy Trials Program and Alternative Livelihoods to Piracy (ALTP) Project**, UNDP program to response the piracy was established since 2011 under the Piracy Trials Program 2011-2014. The proposal of the Piracy Trials Program is part of a joint program between UNDP's Government & Legal Regulations Program and the UNODC Anti-Piracy Program. The piracy trial program was carried out in South Central Somalia within 4 years.

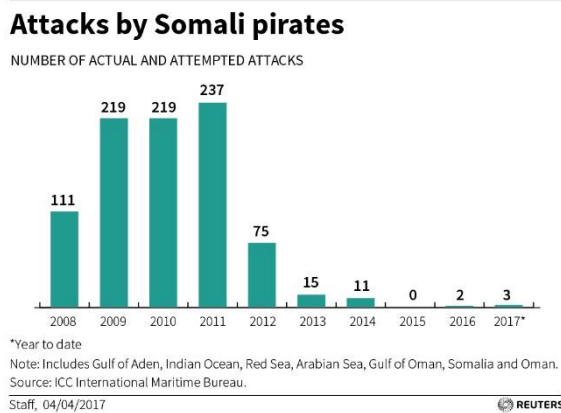
Under the 2011-2014 Piracy Trials Program, UNDP supports and enhances the Somali justice system to prosecute suspected serious crimes such as piracy in accordance with legal processes and international standards, especially the right to a fair trial. To the extent that this program has swarmed 157 piracy suspects who have been tried using legal aid in Puntland.

In the Piracy Trials Program in Somaliland and Puntland, UNDP and UNODC provided 4 kinds of support, namely: first, long-term legal training for judges and prosecutors and providing special equipment to support court sections mandated to hear piracy cases. Second,

UNDP and UNODC support legal assistance for vulnerable groups including individuals accused of serious crimes. Third, UNDP is supporting UNODC to develop case management and tracking systems in priority courts. And fourth, support for overcoming court security/judges/prosecutors in Puntland after the attack.

As a result, with the joint program for piracy trials, the total number of incidents caused by pirates based in Somalia continued to decline, from 20 in 2013 to 12 in one-year period from October 2014 to October 2015. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the figure was a significant decrease from 78 reported in 2007 when Somalia-based piracy was very common, and in 2011 there were 237 ships targeted by Somali pirates. The total number of large commercial ship sailors held hostage by Somali pirates stood at 26 in October 2015, compared to 37 in October 2014 (The Trust Fund Secretariat Department of Political Affairs United Nations, 2015). As well as description of the figure below:

**Figure 1 The Number of Somali Pirates Attacks**



Source: Reuters – “Somali Pirates Hijack First Commercial Ship Since 2012”. *Published online at [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)*. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-somalia->

[hijack/somali-pirates-hijack-first-commercial-ship-since-2012-idUSKBN16L0EW](https://www.uskbn16l0ew.com/hijack/somali-pirates-hijack-first-commercial-ship-since-2012-idUSKBN16L0EW) [online source].

However, to conclude, the effort of piracy project of UNDP has an immense role in fight against the piracy. The effort also has significant result in reducing piracy attack in Somalia water. The project consists of several strategies such as training for police officers, improving legal justice and law as well as providing rehabilitation of the people who affected by piracy. In addition, the waterway in Somalia is one of strategic routes in international trade. So, it is not surprised if the waterway is used as an opportunity for robbers and pirates to seize the commodities within the ship. In addition, there is the possibility of illegal drugs transfer conducted by certain actors through the water way. Therefore, the efforts of UNDP in counter the piracy are regarded as the attempts to protect human security where the civil society of Somalia are free from the threat of piracy attacks and free from the spread of illegal drugs that endanger Somalia civil society.

**UNDP Contribution on Health and HIV Aids**, around 2.1 million Somali people cannot access adequate health services. Even Somalia is also noted as the worst malnutrition sufferer in the world. Somali children face challenges from the day they are born, lose their lives due to diseases such as Malaria, Diarrhea, and Pneumonia. Simple vaccinations such as Measles and Polio are also not facilitated, this also has fatal consequences because it can increase the mortality rate in Somalia. To help and overcome this problem UNDP together with WHO and UNICEF have developed the “Health and Nutrition Programme” which aims at improving health and nutrition, especially for women and children in Somalia.

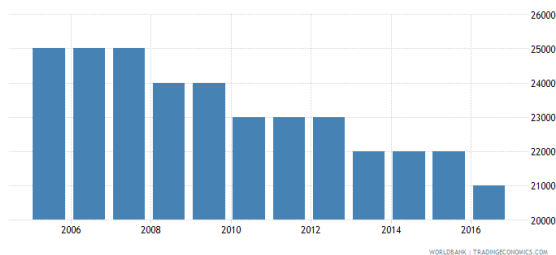
As part of its efforts to improve and support the health system, UNDP and WHO, have collaborated in facilitating the development of health policies in Somalia, this was launched from 2013 to 2016 with a focus on strategic planning in the health sector, strategies for human resource development and women's reproductive health. The program has provided access to quality health and nutrition services for more than 700,000 children under five years and 335,000 pregnant and lactating women. It has also added services to Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care provided at two hospitals in South and Central Somalia in Banadir and Galgadug, and two hospitals in Puntland in Garowe and Gaalkacyo, and seven other maternity homes (UNDP, 2019).

Aside from the program stated above, UNDP and UNAIDS also collaborated in a relief program for patients suffering from HIV/Aids in Somalia. In the early 1980s the emergence of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus, this infectious disease spread rapidly throughout the continent. It was noted that in 2011 nearly 32,000 Somali people had HIV. In the effort to raise awareness of the disease and help people understand the HIV/Aids virus, in 2013 UNDP conducted special training for 40 members of the Somali special protection unit and journalists from 9 local radio stations in Somalia. UNDP also gives the opportunity for people who live with HIV/AIDS to access public services. In other endeavors, UNAIDS and UNDP worked with three National AIDS Commissions in Somaliland, Bargal, and South Central Somalia in advocates to increase efforts to control the spread of disease, and treatment and care for infected people.

There are four main strategic priorities that conducted by UNDP in delivering HIV/AIDS project, there are: a). Strengthening the coordination capacity of the national Aids

Commission to promote coherence and coordination at regional and national levels through our support for Regional Working Groups (RWG) to avoid duplication and ensure that all HIV work is harmonious. b). Supporting the creation of an environment that supports and helps the government to resolve HIV/AIDS policies in each zone infected with the virus, and also protects the rights of living people infected with HIV/AIDS. c). Strengthening districts in responding to communities against HIV/Aids in Somalia. This is needed to link the work being done at the national level for people at the regional and district levels, and to ensure the participation of various stakeholders throughout the government as well as with civil society and the private sector in HIV/AIDS issues. UNDP introduced an initiative called "Conversational Communities" in Somalia to help strengthen districts and communities in response to HIV/AIDS and d). Promoting and encouraging the involvement of civil society participation in planning, implementing and evaluating AIDS responses, especially by supporting people living with HIV, women's groups, and vulnerable and marginalized groups affected by Aids (UNDP, 2019). Thus, the result of the UNDP program has big contribution in reducing the number of Somali adult who living with HIV. As well as the figure below that shows the decline in HIV victims (Adult age 15+) from year to year:

**Figure 4.3 The Number of Somali Adults (15+) who Living with HIV**



Source: Trading Economics – “Somali Adults (Ages 15+) Living with HIV”. *Published online at tradingeconomics.com.* Retrieved from <https://tradingeconomics.com/somalia/adults-ages-15-living-with-hiv-wb-data.html> [online source].

The effectiveness of program and project that are provided by UNDP has immense role in improving human security stability of Somalia. The program of climate change has the potential to decrease the number of chronic and sudden threats to human security through natural disasters management, protection of ecosystem services and increased access to natural resources. Then, the project on community security as one of the elements of human security has succeeded in providing security for the people of Somalia in handling piracy eradication in Somalia. In addition, the improvement of health services and health responses also have a significant result for the improvement of human security. Therefore, it can be concluded that the programs/projects carried out by UNDP have had a successful impact on improving human security in Somalia.

## **Conclusion**

Somalia is part of the Horn of Africa in the region of eastern Africa same as Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti. Somalia borders with the Aden gulf, the Indian Ocean, Ethiopia, and Kenya. In the era of colonialism, the region of Somalia was divided into five regions: Italian Somalia (now's Somalia), British Somaliland (now's Somaliland), French Somaliland (now's Djibouti), and other fragments of territory now belonging to Ethiopia and Kenya. Shortly after achieving independence in the mid-1960s, British Somaliland or commonly called Somaliland chose unification with Somalia, forming the Republic of Somalia.



With the collapse of Siad Barre's regime in 1991, Somalia fell into a very fragile condition. This affected the fall of important areas in Somalia which were taken over by warlords and clan leaders. At least in the last 20 years, Somalia has been experienced various kinds of problems such as armed conflict, violence and lawlessness which has resulted in large-scale internal displacement and a dramatic decline in the human security of millions of people.

So in order to respond the human security instability in Somalia, UNDP as a development agency of the UN has a responsibility to protect the main core of human being to live freely without any repression or violation of a human being. Actually, since the Human Development Report in the 1994, UNDP described that human security is covered into seven aspects of individual security, there are: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. Those seven components merged into two basic principles of human being namely "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want".

The program launched by UNDP to respond the environmental degradation was Enhancing Climate Resilience. The result of the project was the implementation of developed National Climate Change Policy, the establishment of District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) in Afgoye, Jowhar, Guriel & Blamable that take a charge for preparing and implementing targeted disaster preparedness plans in response to predicted climate change. Before Enhancing Climate Resilience program, UNDP has established similar program alike climate resilience in 2012. At that time UNDP has joint program with Terra Nuova that concern on livestock production and the use of animal waste for alternative

energy that help to guarantee the protection of environment. Meanwhile, UNDP also establishes several traditional water reservoirs that useful for the availability of clean water, good sanitation and hygiene.

In addition, UNDP also launched the community security project in 2011. The project supports the government to formalize a joint framework under the Community Security and Peace Building Policy in Somalia to institutionalize partnerships between state actors and civil society. District safety committees were formed in all regions aimed at empowering communities to monitor and reduce violence. In the second field, the project carried out community-level safety and security assessments in five districts and supported the Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention to pilot a monitoring framework and conduct field research.

In 2011, UNDP has strategic project in responding the piracy that exist in Somalia. The project was the Piracy Trials Program it was collaborated with UNODC. Here, UNDP is responsible for the enhancement of Somalia legal justice systems by providing training for the Somalia local judiciaries as well as providing training for security officers in dealing with the piracy. And as a result, during one-year period of the program, the number of incidents of piracy is declined. Besides that, UNDP provide the rehabilitation for vulnerable youth that influenced by piracy.

Meanwhile, UNDP is also aware about the health security in Somalia since around 2.1 million Somali people cannot access adequate health services. Even Somalia is also noted as the worst malnutrition sufferer in the world. In 2013 to 2016 UNDP and WHO have collaborated in facilitating the development of health policies in Somalia, with a focus on

strategic planning in the health sector, and the strategies for human resource development and women's reproductive health. The program has provided access to quality health and nutrition services for more than 700,000 children under five years and 335,000 pregnant and lactating women. In addition, UNDP and WHO built the two hospitals in South Central Somalia, and two hospitals in Puntland, and seven maternity homes.

To conclude, the involvement of UNDP as an international organization in Somalia has an immense role in promoting the partnership, in this case is through joint program with the Somalia government. The partnership of joint program is regarded as the strategy to overcome the human security instability in Somalia that caused by prolonged conflict and several events that drive to insecurity in Somalia. In addition, UNDP carries out the necessary programs/projects that aims to improve and protect the human security. Then, the donor, international aids and the contribution of UNDP at least has significant effect to ensure the security of Somali people in term of environmental security, community security, and health security.

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