STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW IN CRISIS-AFFECTED AND FRAGILE SITUATIONS
UNDP provides support to nearly 170 countries, about 40 of which are affected by crisis and have received rule of law support through the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations.

UNDP’s rule of law assistance is carried out with the generous support of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Qatar, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Please reference the “Financial Information” included in the 2015 Global Programme Annual Report, Eight Years On, for a complete picture of the contributions received over the last eight years. UNDP also recognizes that our work would be meaningless without the dedication and commitment of our national partners. We look forward to continuing this joint endeavor in the years to come.
This Country Profile Pamphlet accompanies the 2015 Global Programme Annual Report, *Eight Years On*, presenting detailed country-by-country assistance provided, programmes implemented, and results achieved in 2015 in the following countries: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo (UN Administered Territory), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Yemen. Additionally, Financial Snapshots depicting the 2015 budget for each country programme are provided in the back of this pamphlet.
BACKGROUND

Afghanistan completed its first year of the “Transformation Decade” in 2015. The government has put in place a reform agenda, endeavored to strengthen its economic integration, and reactivate a peace process. However, the state still faces many significant and complex challenges.

The country’s security situation worsened as the conflict between government forces and anti-government elements grew in intensity and scope, and violence occurred between other armed groups on Afghan territory. In 2015, Afghanistan saw 11,002 civilian casualties, the displacement of 335,000 civilians, and an increasingly difficult operating environment for humanitarian actors.

The political landscape also grew more contentious with the formation of political opposition groups who increased pressure on the government to address the struggling economy, high unemployment rate, and rising levels of conflict-related displacement and civilian casualties. Furthermore, tensions within the government slowed progress on key appointments, some of which are essential to the delivery of the national reform agenda and to addressing challenges in security, the rule of law, and governance.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Under the Law and Order Trust Fund, UNDP established two new projects fund structure to strengthen Afghanistan’s ability to maintain law and order: 1) the Support to Payroll Management project, 2) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police Development project. Additionally, UNDP continued support broader reform efforts through the Justice and Human Rights project.

In line with the Support to Payroll Management project, UNDP focused on strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to independently manage all payroll related operations and functions. In 2015, the trust fund made timely salary payments monthly to approximately 144,000 Afghan National Police officers and 5,924 central prisons guards in all 34 provinces, enabling the Ministry to maintain a growing police force and presence on the ground. The national Electronic Fund Transfer coverage also expanded to 86 percent of the police force and the Web-based Electronic Payroll System is now operational in 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

Increasing public trust in the police in Afghanistan is being achieved through UNDP’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police Development project, which aims to increase and enhance the engagement of police with local communities on security issues. In 2015, UNDP trained 260 community policing (E-Mardumi) officers, as well as engaged 620 community members in police-community consultation workshops in four provinces and 360 community members in district safety and security committees in three provinces.

UNDP also strengthened the Ministry of Internal Affairs’s leadership and institutional capacity to manage police reform. For the first time, the Ministry adopted a unified monitoring and evaluation framework, developed with UNDP support, to ensure effective implementation of the Ministry’s five-year strategy. An internal review process also identified performance problems and improvement targets for business process re-engineering, aimed at improving the Ministry’s and the Afghan National Police’s key administrative and support services.

UNDP further supported Emergency Help Desks, which registered 31,000 cases from the public across the country and referred them to the relevant departments within the Ministry of Interior Affairs for action and follow-up. The 119 call centers serve as a major channel for the public to report their complaints against the police, regarding misuse of authority, corruption, and human rights violations. UNDP also completed a comprehensive analysis of the existing complaints mechanisms within the Ministry of Interior, with a strong focus on complaints affecting women. This analysis will lead to strengthened internal control.
and accountability within the Ministry and the national police and enhanced security for women.

In 2015, UNDP supported the recruitment of 580 female officers and their training at the Sivas Police Academy in Turkey. The officers were successfully deployed across Afghanistan and work to promote respectful, gender-aware, and non-violent behavior within the police. This has increased female police officers in the national police from 2,145 officers in April 2015 to 2,630 in December 2015. Furthermore, UNDP supported 270 female police officers to develop an Action Plan for the Police Women’s Council that ensures equal opportunity for career development, improved working and service conditions, and strong protection measures against workplace harassment and violence.

UNDP continued to enhance police services to better meet the particular needs of female victims through dedicated units, such as Family Response Units. To date, 179 Family Response Units have been established in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The units serve as a first point of contact within the police to mediate or refer cases to appropriate institutions for victims of violence against women, thereby improving access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Through the Justice and Human Rights project, UNDP continued to support the expansion of the Legal Aid Grant Facility to operate in eight provinces. In 2015, the grant facility provided legal aid to 1,904 men and 319 women, in which 159 cases related to violence against women. The number of defense lawyers who are registered with the grant facility increased from 265 in 2014 to 455 in 2015 and UNDP facilitated the training of 237 of the lawyers on the Criminal Code, family, and inheritance rights.

Quality law reform is also being achieved through the Justice and Human Rights project. UNDP built the capacity of the Human Rights Support Unit and the Legislative Department (Taqnin) of the Ministry of Justice to ensure that newly drafted laws or laws under revision are in line with Afghanistan's international human rights obligations. In 2015, the Human Rights Support Unit analyzed 14 laws and seven conventions for human rights compliance. UNDP also assisted the unit to organize 11 workshops for the human rights focal points of line ministries as a sustainable option for the government to develop rights-based policies and strategies. Furthermore, UNDP supported the completion of the Rule of Law Indicators Study, which provides a baseline to measure the performance of rule of law institutions and will help inform decision making for Afghanistan's justice sector reform in the future.

2015 concluded UNDP’s second phase of the Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan project. Together with national partners, UNDP designed the successor project, the Afghanistan Access to Justice Project (2016 - 2019), with the overall goal of ensuring increased and sustainable access to justice, in particular for women, children, prisoners, and pre-trial detainees.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

UNDP’s efforts to support rule of law reforms in Afghanistan have been adversely affected by insecurity, lack of institutional capacities, and a vast array of challenges still faced within the sector that require long-term support.

Moving forward, UNDP will strengthen the capacity and coordination among justice institutions in order to achieve sustainable rule of law gains. UNDP will also place particular focus on supporting the implementation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women law and establishment of a pilot Elimination of Violence Against Women Court. UNDP will continue to bolster the Ministry of Justice's legislative drafting and human rights capacity. Additionally, UNDP will hand over the payroll management responsibilities to the Ministry of Internal Affairs by December 2016, as well as provide continued support to strengthen institutional arrangements within the Ministry for reform and professionalize the police.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- The Law and Order Trust Fund provided 144,000 national police officers and 5,924 central prisons guards in all 34 provinces with monthly salary payments.
- 1,580 new female officers received training from the Sivas Police Academy in Turkey.
- Community oriented policing mechanisms reached 980 community members and 260 police officers.
- 1031 ex-combatants of the insurgent forces were reintegrated.
- Over 1,400 citizens have been engaged in peace discussions through the High Peace Council and Provincial Peace Committees.
- The Legal Aid Grant Facility provided legal aid to 1,904 men and 319 women, including in 159 cases of violence against women. 455 defense lawyers are now registered with the grant facility and 237 of the lawyers received specialized training.
- The Human Rights Support Unit analyzed 14 laws and seven conventions on human rights compliance.
BACKGROUND

Following the political unrest in Bahrain in 2011, the King appointed the Bahrain Independent Commission on Inquiry to investigate and report on the events that took place in Bahrain from February 2011, and the resulting consequences. The commission on inquiry’s recommendations, published in November 2011, centered on the need to resolve key human rights issues and reform the government. A national commission was created to oversee the implementation of the recommendations, and a series of constitutional amendments were endorsed in 2012 following a national dialogue. In line with the Bahrain Independent Commission on Inquiry’s recommendations, Parliament was given a more visible role within the government, and the National Institute for Human Rights was enhanced to carry out additional responsibilities in line with the Paris Principles. Additionally, efforts were made to consolidate Bahrain’s human rights infrastructure; today, this is comprised of the National Institute for Human Rights, the Ombudsman (established in 2013 and the first of its kind in the region), the Prisoners’ and Detainees’ Rights Commission, and a Special Investigations Unit. Each of these reforms are expected to enhance independent oversight.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP has supported the government of Bahrain to implement the Bahrain Independent Commission on Inquiry recommendations, including the transfer of the investigations of torture allegations from the Ministry of Interior to a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) in the Public Prosecution Office. This support rests on two pillars; improve governance and technical capacity, and support operation within a clear communication strategy.

In line with the first pillar, UNDP supported the SIU to review its case management policy and create a database that reflects all information of the current cases under investigation introduced in the database. Additionally, UNDP provided support to help orient the SIU within the framework of the Istanbul Protocols, including on its technical and substantive requirements, international standards of due process, plea bargaining, legal amendments, and internal organization/structure of the SIU. Support was also provided to implementing recommendations for improving crime scene management, custody of evidence, and protection of individuals involved in the investigations including both witnesses and members of the SIU. UNDP also conducted a formal assessment of the capacities and gaps of the forensic services available to the SIU, to help initiate the SIU’s reform processes.

Responding to the need for a clear communication strategy, UNDP also evaluated media activities and programmes at the SIU and proposed a draft Outreach Strategy, proposing both immediate and mid-term activities. The Outreach Strategy is currently with the SIU for consideration.

Finally, in a dedicated workshop on Istanbul Protocols, the Chief Prosecutor of the SIU provided a detailed overview of the progress of the Unit since its creation, including the cases brought to trial that have utilized the SIU’s investigations according to the standards of the Istanbul Protocol.
CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The SIU has no similar counterpart in the Arab Region, which means exchanging experience and lessons learned from the Arab region is not available. More broadly, these reforms to date have done little to change the situation between the government of Bahrain and the opposition. At the end of 2014, the first parliamentary election since the 2011 events signaled hope for positive change during the 2015-2018 legislative term. However, after failing to reach an agreement with the government prior to these elections, the main opposition parties boycotted them, rendering the participation rate in the general election at 52.6 percent.4

While challenges such as these remain, the SIU can serve as an example of best practice for the Arab region that can enhance the understanding necessary to establish similar models throughout the region in the coming years. Additionally, the direct application of international standards to this new entity will help in assessing the adaptability of these standards to specific contexts.

Moving forward UNDP will continue its work with the SIU to develop an Outreach and Communication Strategy to increase awareness of the public and enhance confidence in the work of the unit. A dedicated forum to share SIU progress with the media and the civil society is currently under development. UNDP will also continue to provide policy advice on international best practices to further align the SIU’s to Istanbul Protocol, and to promote increased attention to victims, witnesses, and their rights amongst the Judicial Police.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» The Istanbul Protocol was adopted as the main international framework for the work the Special Investigation Unit.
» A systematized inclusion of scientific and forensic evidence within case files took place.
» An improved Case Management System is installed and properly used by the Special Investigation Unit.
» A Communication Strategy was adopted to improve the accountability and transparency of the Special Investigation Unit.
BACKGROUND

Despite two decades of relative peace, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) still feels the negative economic and social effects of the 1992-1995 war. The Dayton-mandated complex constitutional structure is highly cumbersome and has resulted in political deadlock, socioeconomic inequality and lack of investment, and high levels of corruption. Because of this, consensus on how to carry out reforms – including those required for BiH's integration into the EU – has yet to be reached. The ongoing discussions on the EU Country Strategy (2014-2017) are promising in this regard, but more needs to be done to achieve meaningful progress toward implementing the whole of the reform agenda.

In June 2015, the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the EU and BiH entered into force to guide relations between the two entities and establish a framework for BiH's reform agenda. However, the national judicial system and human rights institutions lack the capacity necessary to transform into modern, effective institutions that can, for instance, adequately provide and promote equal, impartial access to justice, or address the backlog of war crimes cases more efficiently. A recent EU Progress Report also underscored that services such as victim witness support and the provision of free legal aid remain limited. Furthermore, BiH's Ombudsman has come under international scrutiny regarding the need to be more independent and to improve their functionality in order to efficiently promote human rights and ensure that the rule of law is respected.

Against this backdrop, UNDP continues its partnership with the Bosnian authorities to reinforce the judiciary, ensure equality, and improve the efficiency of a system which still hinders full reconciliation from taking root throughout the country.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's support to justice and rule of law in BiH has been carefully tailored to enhance judicial efficiency and improve human security through engaging actors at all levels in promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and human rights education. Prioritizing sustainability and national ownership, UNDP continues to support efforts to address the current lack of trust in judiciary system and to safeguard its independence, effectiveness, and accountability. To these ends, UNDP maintained its support to the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform and National War Crimes Prosecution Strategies in 2015. UNDP planned reform measures and their implementation in accordance with country needs and worked to address the gaps and weaknesses of the judiciary system to enable the country to meet its international obligation and to build effective, politically independent, and impartial access to justice.

Because of the complex political environment and governance structure, UNDP in 2015 also worked closely with civil society to ensure access to justice and outreach in areas where government support is still lacking. This partnership continues to grow, including through Micro-grant Capital Agreements, and UNDP has significantly expanded territorial coverage and increased access to free legal aid services. These efforts enabled better delivery of justice and human rights protections for vulnerable groups; in 2015, a total of 21,969 people (11,637 women and 10,332 men) received free legal aid services. Additionally, increasing referral mechanisms and networks are now
linking free legal aid with UNDP’s established victim witness support providers to help ensure adequate support to traumatized individuals, whose exposure to proceedings can lead to re-traumatization and stigmatization. In 2015, victim witness support was extended to 16 fully operational offices, covering 70 percent jurisdiction and supporting over 1,600 beneficiaries.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Unresolved tensions, largely relating to ethnicity, are ever-present in both communities across the country, as well as in the political sphere, and require concerted reconciliation efforts. Of particular concern is the lack of legal certainty and adherence to the basic principles of transparency, accountability, and equal treatment under the law.

The expansion of free legal aid and victim witness support services is critical to ensuring equality before the law in BiH. However, the current national resources and capacities to ensure this expansion are lacking. Furthermore, combating and processing cases related to gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence from the 1990’s conflict has been difficult, given the lack of harmonized legislation and effective case processing mechanisms. The poor and vulnerable, especially internally displaced people, are unable to access their rights in the process of reintegration. The continued development of an efficient free legal aid system is crucial for remedying this discrimination and social exclusion and serves as a strong platform for advocating for harmonized legal frameworks that support access to justice for all.

Building on past experiences in the rule of law and human rights areas in BiH, UNDP will continue working to enhance judicial efficiency and improve human security. UNDP will also continue to support reconciliation and peacebuilding, including through a wide-range of judicial and non-judicial measures aimed at dealing with the past and the legacy of gross human rights violations, as well as by providing access to justice to the whole population.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The capacities of the free legal aid agency of Sarajevo Canton were strengthened in response to a 35 percent increase in demand. 4,504 legal aid services provided in 2014 increased to 6,973 services in 2015.
- 11,637 women and 10,332 men received free legal aid services in all types of cases and court proceedings across BiH.
- Free legal aid outreach to vulnerable groups, women, and children was extended in the most remote areas including the Birac Region and East Herzegovina through micro-grants and six mobile teams, in which 372 new beneficiaries received free legal aid services.
- Justice For Children trained 35 free legal aid practitioners to ensure adequate treatment of children and juveniles.
- Free legal aid and victim witness support centers were provided with micro-grants to enhance access to justice and free legal aid for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other socially excluded groups. The centers established three mobile teams and entered into cooperation with 12 social welfare centers at 17 locations in four cantons.

*UNDP launched the "Choose Life Without Weapons" campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aiming to collect illegally possessed small arms and light weapons.*
In 2015, President Pierre Nkurunziza’s decision to run for a third term in office triggered a severe political, human rights, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Burundi. The recent crisis is the latest manifestation of a protracted conflict that has plagued the country for decades. Many identify exclusion, whether it is political, economic, social and or geographic, as being at the heart of the current crisis.

Beginning in April 2015, the security situation deteriorated, and serious human rights violations increased during the persistent political impasse. Extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as rape and sexual violence were regularly reported, notably targeting human rights defenders and journalists. National authorities were reported to have not investigated or prosecuted most of these grave human rights violations. Security forces were accused of using torture and other ill-treatments against arrested and detained individuals. Hundreds of people have reportedly been killed since April 2015, while more than 200,000 Burundian citizens have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

The political crisis aggravated an already substandard socio-economic situation, resulting in increased humanitarian needs throughout the country. Approximately 700,000 people are now food-insecure, and nutrition rates are reaching emergency levels.

Similarly, the fragile health system is experiencing increasing pressure.


ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Prior to the outbreak of the crisis, UNDP supported national efforts to improve access to justice, and the human rights situation, as well as community security. The performance of criminal justice institutions to provide a remedy for citizens’ grievances and ensure due process was improved in eight pilot provinces with UNDP support (Ngozi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Gitega, Makamba, Bururi, Rutana and Muyinga).

UNDP undertook a broad range of activities in these pilot provinces, including the establishment of five Criminal Chain Technical Groups at the provincial level; the production of an operational plan to implement the recommendations of the Baseline Survey on the Penal Chain; establishment of synoptic “detentions in real-time” flowchart; and the provision of equipment to jurisdictions. As a result of these efforts to improve the functionality of the criminal justice institutions, 103 cases out of the 119 pending matters were adjudicated in newly established mobile courts, allowing individuals detained for several months – and some even for several years – to know their judicial fate. 50 detainees were released following 53 inspections of detention facilities. Residence courts tried 579 penal cases thanks to UNDP support to the prosecution office. The police investigated 219 sexual violence cases pertaining to 225 victims and referred them to the prosecutor’s office. Courts of residence executed 4,729 judgments, notably with the help of the 28 motorcycles donated by UNDP in the pilot areas.

However, interventions in the nomination process of magistrate to different jurisdictions greatly hampered the performance of these judicial institutions since the summer of 2015.

Following the crisis in 2015, UNDP suspended its support to community security and focused its efforts on assisting victims of the crisis, notably by providing legal aid and combating sexual and gender-based violence. UNDP provided holistic assistance through its implementation partners to 1,160 victims of sexual
and gender-based violence, 1,031 of which were female. This past year, civil society organizations operated twelve legal clinics, which opened in 2014 with support from UNDP, that provided legal services to 629 people, including 363 women. However, since October 2015, the delivery of legal aid services has been hampered by the suspension of these NGOs’ activities following their bank accounts being frozen by the General Prosecution Office.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Given this challenging context, UNDP had significantly less political and programmatic space in which to deliver its assistance in 2015; all UN non-essential staff were evacuated in May 2015.

The obstruction of judicial functioning by the executive, the departure of many civil society activists, the freezing of bank accounts of civil society organizations, and the suspension of support from international partners have hindered progress to respond to the crisis in Burundi. The current crisis has also pushed rule of law institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to be less effective as they are under increasing pressure from executive bodies. Moreover, non-formal structures, such as the youth league of the ruling political party, reportedly play an increasingly important role in the functioning of state judicial institutions.

In this context, the support in the police area has been suspended. The current context requires UNDP to prioritize efforts that foster dialogue and inclusive spaces, as well as assistance and protection activities at community level. This type of work, however, is complicated due to the difficulty in accessing potential beneficiaries, notably victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The international community has taken varied approaches to analyzing the crisis and its consequences, which has further complicated efforts to provide support to Burundi. UNDP will continue to adapt its rule of law programme in Burundi to the current context and challenges in order to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of the people.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» A total of 103 files out of 119 were adjudicated following the organization of mobile courts in the pilot provinces.
50 detainees released following 53 inspections of detention facilities and coaching missions.
» The prosecutor’s office tried 579 penal cases in courts of residence with the help of 46 representation missions.
» Courts of residence executed 4,729 judgments with the help of the 28 motorcycles donated by UNDP in the pilot areas.
» Twelve legal clinics operated by civil society organization provided legal services to 629 people, including 363 women. UNDP provided holistic assistance to 1,160 victims of sexual and gender-based violence, 1,031 of which were female.
**BACKGROUND**

In 2013, the Central African Republic (CAR) state collapsed, triggering a serious humanitarian and human rights crisis. Since gaining independence in 1960, the country experienced armed conflict and political instability which has resulted in one of the lowest human development ratings in the world. The crisis and the dynamics of conflict in CAR are characterized by profound inequalities and violence as the primary means of access to political positions and natural resources.

The presidential and legislative elections that took place in December 2015 marked the end of the political transition following the most recent escalation of conflict. Many hope that, after three years of sectarian violence, thousands of deaths, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, the vote will strengthen the country’s tentative peace. The population continues to look to a range of non-state actors – armed groups, churches and mosques, peacekeeping and humanitarian organizations – for protection. But while the security situation in Bangui significantly improved throughout 2015, despite an outbreak of violence in September, insecurity still prevails in rural areas. The conflict between armed groups has transformed, to a great extent, into a conflict among armed communities in the center of the country, notably between pastoralist and farming communities. In the West, armed groups are increasingly characterized by dynamics of disintegration and criminalization and are becoming a criminal threat to communities.

CAR also took important steps in the fight against impunity and the reconciliation process in 2015. The Bangui Forum, held in May 2015, resulted in the identification of a number of top priorities, including the fight against impunity. Building on this demand for justice, a law establishing the Special Criminal Court was adopted by the National Transitional Council on 30 May 2015. The adoption of the law strongly demonstrates the willingness of the transitional authorities to end impunity and put in place a structure to help the country break with past practices of inactive or corrupted justice. Pope Francis’s visit to CAR at the end of November, during which he delivered a message of peace for the country, was warmly greeted by the various communities. Overall, the society’s demand for peace is strong and has laid the foundation for peacebuilding.

**ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT**

UN rule of law assistance in CAR is provided jointly by UNDP, MINUSCA and UN Women – through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections since 2014. In 2015, the joint programme assisted the government in fighting impunity, reforming the justice sector, restoring basic services, and establishing the Special Criminal Court.

The country held its first criminal session in July 2015 – after more than five years without criminal hearings in the country – and sent the message that crimes in the Central African Republic would not continue to go unpunished. An unprecedented 132 people was judged, including 22 accused of belonging to the Ex-Séléka and 61 accused of belonging to the Anti-Balaka. This was made possible through six months of preparatory work and the introduction of innovative measures, namely: the provision of legal assistance to detainees; communication of results through a spokesperson position within the Appellate
Court; and preparation of jurors to avoid drop out before or during the session. Furthermore, 35 additional detention places were created in Bangui for high-security detainees at the Camp de Roux. This facility was, as a matter of fact, the only penitentiary facility where the detainees did not escape during the massive escape of detainees in Bangui in September 2015.

With UNDP support, a law creating a national Special Criminal Court to prosecute and adjudicate gross human rights violations was developed. A shared vision of the principles to establish the court was produced through national workshops with close to 100 representatives from the justice and internal security sectors, as well as from the civil society from all regions of the country. The national workshops defined the SCC as a transformative process for the rule of law institutions in CAR by applying new judicial practices to the entire justice sector, a break with the past legacy of violence and impunity through establishing a special committee, by Ministerial decree, to select and recruit the Special Criminal Court magistrates through a transparent procedure and including civil society as an observer for the first time in CAR.

UNDP also worked to strengthen the management and oversight mechanisms of internal security forces in CAR to increase the police and gendarmerie officers’ presence in Bangui and in the rest of the country. In partnership with UNPOL, UNDP established a system of attendance forms and renovated and equipped a building to host inspection services of the gendarmerie. In order to improve the security response to incidents, a joint command and coordination center for both the police and gendarmerie was also refurbished and equipped, and a committee was set up to define the center’s organization structure and procedures. The center enables operational coordination between police and gendarmerie and includes a crisis cell chaired by the Minister of the Public Security. Such a joint structure is a novelty in CAR and was achieved through numerous negotiations with national partners.

Lastly, the country undertook first steps to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNDP supported an advocacy strategy to stop SGBV cases from being dismissed by the courts; this included outreach activities aimed at reviewing the national criminal justice policy on SGBV. As a result of the advocacy work, the Ministry of Justice issued a circular recommending stronger severity in the judicial treatment of SGBV cases and focused attention on the respect of the survivor’s rights. In addition, a total of 100 community leaders were sensitized on SGBV along with judicial and medical personnel (magistrates, police officers, doctors, and psychologists) to create a pool of trained leaders that will form the basis for extended SGBV sensitization among the population in 2016.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

Supporting the fight against impunity and improving access to justice in a context of open conflict and political transition have been challenging, especially outside Bangui. The degradation of the security situation in September 2015 led to the closing of UN offices for a few weeks. Institutional instability has also appeared to be the norm with three ministerial reshuffles in the Justice and Public Security Ministries in 2015.

Aside from security concerns, the country’s citizens and institutions are deeply resistant to change; this poses another great challenge. For example, the process to establish the legal framework for the Special Criminal Court was quite long. The same can be said in the security sector where there is some reluctance to gather the resources of the police and gendarmerie, and maintain the civilian character of a gendarmerie which was, until 2013, under the control of the Ministry of Defense. However, the recovery efforts following 2013 crisis are increasingly being seen as an opportunity to foster institutional transformation that truly impacts CAR in a lasting manner. In order for these efforts to be successful, time and resources must be invested in inclusive and participatory processes; additionally, the place of civil society and victims in these processes must be enhanced.

To respond to these challenges, the United Nations must bring together its human, technical and financial resources and work collectively to sustain peace in CAR. The establishment of a joint MINUSCA/UNDP/UN Women Justice, Security and Human Rights Programme and team in CAR enables the UN to offer a single point of entry for national and international partners to engage in supporting the rule of law area.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- CAR held its first criminal session since 2010, during which 132 people judged, including 22 accused belonging to the Ex-Séléka and 61 accused belonging to the Anti-Balaka.
- With UNDP support, a law creating a national Special Criminal Court to prosecute and adjudicate gross human rights violation was developed; and a shared vision of the principles to establish the Special Criminal Court SCC was produced through national workshops with close to 100 representatives from the justice and internal security sectors, as well as from the civil society from all regions of the country.
BACKGROUND

Chad is one of the world’s poorest and most underdeveloped countries, ranking fourth-lowest on the 2015 Human Development Index. It is also beset by crises; in 2015, one in five people in Chad—more than 3 million people—needed humanitarian assistance. There are more than 370,000 refugees, returnees and displaced people in the country, most of whom (80 percent) are Sudanese refugees who have been in Chad for over 10 years. Food insecurity and malnutrition remain chronic, affecting one person in every four. The country faces recurrent and increasingly frequent natural disasters (floods, droughts, destruction of crops by pests) and potentially epidemic diseases that directly affect the living standards of the people and exacerbate their vulnerability.9

Chad continues to feel the effects of violence and terrorism perpetrated by armed groups in the Lake Chad Region, and conflicts and unrest in neighboring countries (Libya, Sudan, and the Central African Republic). In 2015, Chad suffered numerous attacks by Boko Haram—the deadliest terrorist group in the world10—after the country pledged military support for the fight against the Islamist armed group.

Moreover, Chad is threatened by the propagation of fundamentalism from three neighboring countries—Libya, Nigeria, and Niger—where radical groups influenced by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant are currently operating. The lack of job opportunities and the elevated school drop-out rates make girls and boys vulnerable to radicalization and recruitment by terrorist organizations. Notwithstanding these challenges, Chad continues to be a stalwart of regional counter-terrorism efforts. In October 2015, the UN Secretary-General commended Chad on its role in the fight against Boko Haram.

In terms of political governance, Chad has made some progress. The inclusive composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the National Framework for Political Dialogue, as well as the biometric registration of over 6.2 million voters, are important achievements.

However, the rule of law and the judicial system in Chad remain weak. The executive branch dominates the judicial and legislative branches of government and the political leadership heavily influences the courts. Civilian leaders do not maintain effective control over the security forces, which have been accused of acting with impunity. Prison conditions remain a concern, with some inmates held for long periods without charge. In July 2015, following a spate of suicide attacks by Boko Haram, the Parliament unanimously adopted an anti-terror law that, inter alia, re-introduced the death penalty and increased the duration for which terrorist suspects can be held without charge.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP seeks to help the government of Chad to strengthen the rule of law and create an environment where the judiciary, legislative and executive bodies—as well as civil society and the media—fulfill their mandates by promoting individual rights, especially women’s rights.

In the run-up to presidential elections in 2016, UNDP helped strengthen dialogue that resulted in the implementation of the National Framework for Political Dialogue and the introduction of biometric voter registration. Women’s leadership was promoted when, for the first time, two female candidates attempted to register for the presidential election—the Constitutional Court rejected their candidacies citing shortcomings with their applications.

At the decentralized level of the administration, UNDP strengthened the capacity of local officials in planning and the management of local affairs. At the judicial level, UNDP assistance helped give 1,000 people access to legal aid services as well as delivering justice to those charged with crimes through the establishment of new courts.

In the area of human rights, the National Human Rights Commission committed to complying with international standards. Advocacy efforts by partner agencies and UNDP led to the adoption of a law to prohibit and punish child marriage as well as to the ratification of the Maputo Protocol on the rights of women in Africa.

In the areas of peacebuilding, social cohesion, and conflict prevention, 150 inter- and intra-community conflicts were able to be resolved in 2015, particularly through the initiatives of 14 Local Peace Committees and community radio programmes. UNDP support helped to finalize the regulatory and legislative framework in the area of urban development and helped to create and launch activities in support institutions, including a Housing and Urban Development Observatory.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Moving forward in a context characterized by crisis, Chad faces numerous challenges that UNDP will work with the government to overcome. The capacities of local officials remain severely limited by the legal and institutional environment. The challenge is to build these capacities and also to increase access to justice for vulnerable people, including by making the new courts that have been established fully operational.

The National Human Rights Commission is not yet fully operational, and Chad is still lagging behind in integrating international human rights commitments into its legislation. Despite some advances, the application of laws protecting women’s rights remains a challenge. Also, Local Peace Committees remain poorly institutionalized and lack formal collaboration with legal institutions and the state Ombudsman.

At the end of 2015, UNDP launched a new initiative to raise people’s awareness of their rights and the legal protections available to them in Chad. UNDP will support the production of media awareness and information tools on people’s rights, especially as they relate to conflict, and on the legal and judicial mechanisms that are available for their protection.

Looking forward to 2016 and beyond, UNDP will work with the Government of Chad to strengthen the Parliament’s capacities to influence government action. Also, we will work to ensure that all instruments for peacebuilding, human security, and community resilience that have been tested in the eastern part of the country will be extended to the entire nation—especially to the Lake Chad region—in order to combat youth radicalization.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- 1,000 people accessed legal aid services and justice was delivered to those charged with crimes through the establishment of a new Court of Appeal (Mongo).
- 150 inter- and intra-community conflicts were able to be resolved by 2015, particularly through the initiatives of 14 Local Peace Committees and community radio programmes.
- Sixty-nine members of the internal security forces received training on human rights in eastern Chad, including 40 officers of the gendarmerie and 29 officers of the municipal police, leading to a marked improvement in policing.
BACKGROUND

The year of 2015 was a high point in Colombia’s history, as the country was preparing for the signing of a Peace Agreement with the left-wing guerrilla group, The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army (FARC-EP), in hopes of ending the over 50 years of internal armed conflict. The government has begun to address the legacy of the conflict, which has affected over eight million victims through massacres, disappearances, torture, and forced displacement. The ongoing peace talks not only present a real possibility of negotiating an end to the armed conflict but also of providing lasting solutions to the underlying conflicts that have affected generations of Colombians, particularly women, Afro-Colombians, indigenous people, youth, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex community.

Colombia has made substantial advances in the peace process through preliminary agreements on rural development, increasing political participation, tackling the problem of illicit drugs, carrying out transitional justice, ensuring victims’ rights, and coordinating demining efforts in several areas of the country. Violence has also continued to steadily decrease since the start of peace talks in Havana, Cuba in 2012. As of December 2015, Colombia had a homicide rate of 26 per 100,000 people – the lowest in the last 35 years. Similarly, the number of people displaced by the conflict has fallen by a third.

In an effort to facilitate transitional justice, the government and FARC-EP agreed upon and publicized a chapter of the peace agreement creating a “jurisdiction for peace” in 2015. This critical stage of the negotiations addressed the needs of conflict victims by proposing a comprehensive system, including a truth commission and several special judicial institutions, to facilitate justice, truth, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition. Additionally, Colombia enacted a law on femicide to tackle the ongoing epidemic of this crime. The law established a specific Victims Unit at the Attorney General’s Office to prosecute gender-based violence and ensure survivors’ rights to legal aid.

Colombia still faces a number of challenges despite this progress. This is in part due to the historically weak state presence in conflict-affected regions and the country’s focus on militarization and security more than on provision of basic social and justice services. These policies have exacerbated inequalities between rich and poor populations and further marginalized minorities like indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Furthermore, although violence generally has decreased, human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists have experienced an increased rate of aggression and threats. In 2015, the National Protection Unit registered 9,113 requests for protection by human rights defenders.

Insecurity, obstacles in accessing justice, drug trafficking and corruption also continue to be a concern. Parts of the population remain skeptical about the peace process and the successful implementation of the peace agreement and the generation of peace dividends for all. Civil society, and victims’ networks created across the country through consultations and participation in the peace process, now prove to be a solid space and advocates to rally the population around the future agreement and combat these concerns.
ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Colombia’s peace process has had unprecedented participation by victims of the conflict. In 2014, UNDP supported 10,000 people from 16 social sectors to have a voice in eight national and regional forums. The process was the first of its kind, including the testimonies of 60 conflict victims at the negotiating table in La Havana.

In 2015, UNDP increased these efforts to engage the broader population by facilitating dialogue about the peace process between government counterparts, media, and universities, in which more than 80,000 people participated. UNDP also supported approximately 100,000 Colombians in their active participation in peacebuilding initiatives by bringing together networks comprising of over 240 civil society organizations and 80 local and national governmental institutions in seven regions of the country.

Through the transitional justice programme, legal aid was provided to 594 victims of sexual violence (4.9 percent of victims registered with the Victim’s Registry on cases of crimes against freedoms and sexual integrity) and psychosocial support to 1,190 women from 70 municipalities. In addition, support was given to 3,096 victims, including 1,505 women, to be registered by the government’s Victim’s Unit for future assistance and reparations. Support was also provided to two women’s human rights organizations, which received collective reparations (the Displaced Women’s League and the Association of Indigenous and Peasant Women of Colombia).

Aiming at strengthening the capacity of Colombian law enforcement to apply more people-centered approaches, UNDP supported the undertaking of Citizen Security and Coexistence Need Assessments in the municipalities of Uribe, Puerto Lopez, and Acacías.

Additionally, UNDP was able to identify and provide input on critical issues on the political agenda in 2015 and has encouraged institutional and grassroots support for these ideas, resulting in cost-sharing with the government.

Over the years, UNDP has worked to establish innovative financing mechanisms that have enhanced the impact of funds by eliminating duplicative efforts for transitional justice and peacebuilding in Colombia. Coordination between different actors in the international community has been critical to the peacebuilding efforts in Colombia. Throughout UNDP’s engagement in Colombia, UNDP has led numerous programs coordinating international and state actors through creating work plans with agencies, such as OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women, to name a few.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

A main challenge in Colombia is the direct impact that the ongoing political negotiations have on ensuring transitional justice processes, as well as security and justice programs more broadly. UNDP has had to adapt to a fast-evolving political, institutional, and regulatory context, in which stakeholder priorities and systems frequently change.

In 2015, with the implementation of new strategies resulting from the first agreements between the National Government and the FARC-EP, a new Ministry of Post-Conflict assumed leadership in all areas related to the peacebuilding process and became a key partner for UNDP. The peace-building process is complicated by the geographic challenges of implementing programs and projects in distant regions of the country where the conflict is still ongoing.

Despite the challenges ahead, a key lesson from the peace process in Colombia has already been learned: promoting a culture of participation, accountability, and inclusion of voices of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in peace negotiations, seems to lead to more promising outcomes for the population and lays a foundation for sustainable peace.

UNDP will continue to support national authorities as well as civil society organizations as the peace talks conclude and the implementation of the peace agreement begins. UNDP’s ability to build partnerships and create a vast geographic presence in the country will enable rule of law programming to contribute to peacebuilding, justice, security, and the promotion of human rights in Colombia in the years to come.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- 594 victims of sexual violence received legal aid and 1,190 women in 70 different municipalities received psychosocial support.
- 3,096 victims, including 1,505 women, were registered with the Victim’s Unit to receive future assistance and reparations.
- Two women’s human rights organizations, the League of Displaced Women and the Association of Indigenous and Peasant Women of Colombia, received collective reparations.
- 80,000 people participated directly in activities to provide impartial information and provide opportunities for direct debate and discussion in the ongoing peace process, focusing on skeptical and indifferent sectors and marginalized populations, such as youth and women.
BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to experience persistent instability and underdevelopment. In 2015, the country ranked 176 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index. The government began to implement its decentralization policy of ‘découpage,’ which involves increasing the number of provinces by creating smaller, more manageable ones. This new administrative map and division of provinces is reportedly popular in eastern DRC, with the population hoping for a positive effect on the quality of services.

However, the dismantling of armed groups has stalled. The failure to deal with armed groups means crimes and attacks against the civilian population continue, in particular in Ituri, North and South Kivu, and Northern Katanga Province. The country is plagued by weak horizontal and vertical inequalities. High levels of poverty have caused the breakdown of relations between individuals and social groups, which has caused community conflict. Similarly, national and local institutions and some state representatives are not legitimate in the popular view, even despite the democratization process which launched in 2006. In eastern DRC, more than one in three people believe there is a high risk of violent outbreak in their communities during the upcoming elections.

After two years of paralysis, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights launched a reform process in December 2014. As part of these efforts, a national justice conference (known as the Etats-Généraux de la Justice) convened in Kinshasa from 27 April to 2 May 2015. This conference brought together nearly 300 prominent figures in the Congolese justice system. The combined efforts of national and local authorities in this reform process have helped DRC make progress in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The UN provides rule of law assistance in DRC mainly through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), UNDP, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. UNDP and MONUSCO work collaboratively in DRC, most notably through the Joint Justice Project and prosecution support cells, with efforts focussed in eastern DRC (South Kivu, North Kivu, and Ituri).

At the national level, the Etats-Généraux de la Justice assembled for the first time since 1996, with UNDP and MONUSCO support, and provided a new impetus for justice sector reform. Important progress was also made in investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating sexual violence cases and assisting victims of sexual and gender-based violence in eastern DRC. With UNDP’s continuous support on the issue, public perception on the performance of state institutions in the fight against sexual violence is now regarded the highest compared to other aspects of the government. In fact, 39 percent of the population has a positive perception of government efforts in the fight against sexual violence while 30 percent have a positive perception of improving security and 12 percent of the efforts to increase employment. According to official figures, the annual number of reported victims of sexual and gender-based violence fell 33 percent: from 15,333 in 2013 to 10,882 in 2015. Members of the Armed Forces of the DRC and other armed groups represented 42 percent of perpetrators of rape in 2014 compared with 71 percent in 2013. This figure is believed to have fallen even further in 2015, according to estimates from the Special Representative of the President on sexual and gender-based violence. In 2015, more than 522 sexual violence cases were adjudicated in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, thanks to improvements in coordination within the justice sys-
tem, as well as UNDP technical and operational support for prosecutions. UNDP supported the establishment of special cells within the prosecution offices in Goma and Mongbwalu, which led to the initiation of 363 proceedings in North Kivu and Ituri. Additionally, local community leaders referred about 25 percent of gender-based violence cases to judicial authorities. This was the result of UNDP’s active engagement with local communities and leaders through national and provincial strategies. An improved referral system with non-judicial services, enabled the provision of holistic care, including medical, psychosocial, legal and economic assistance, to more than 3,000 victims, with UNDP’s support. A total of 3,048 victims of sexual violence (3,029 female; 19 male) received medical and psychosocial support. Among them, 1,004 victims received socioeconomic reintegration support and 778 benefited from legal and judicial support through a joint project led by UNDP with the UN Population Fund, UN International Children’s Emergency Fund, the UN Joint Office for Human Rights. UNDP supported the establishment of a national database and eight provincial coordination frameworks, to collect data at the provincial level, which will serve to inform national and provincial policies on sexual and gender-based violence.

The efficiency of the Military Prosecution Office and judiciary police was strengthened through international expertise provided by UNDP that produced guidelines and tools and provided on-the-job support for investigations on gross human rights violations. For example, an index to map and prioritize serious crimes within the Military Prosecution Office was established and enabled the office to prioritize 17 serious crime cases for which current investigations had become stagnant. In addition, UNDP supported the creation of coordination frameworks that bring together criminal justice institutions every month in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri.

UNDP’s community security initiatives in the DRC have also led to positive results. For example, security perception improved in Bunia where UNDP is supporting community policing. In 2015, 39 percent of respondents feel safe walking alone at night, compared to only 31 percent in 2014.22 This improvement is partly a result of the deployment of 250 community police officers trained with UNDP support and the establishment of local community security platforms involving civil society groups, local authorities, and the police/gendarmerie.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The overarching peacebuilding narrative and subsequent strategies developed by the international community at play in DRC have led to a focus of support in the eastern provinces, which were affected the most by the 1993 and 2006 conflicts. Such focus on the victims of the conflict is crucial, but without a wider justice reform strategy, efforts risk ignoring the patterns of historical violence in DRC that are intricately linked to the state’s authoritarian past. There is a need for justice reform to put people and access to justice at the center, in order for justice institutions to effectively reduce injustices experienced by the population and improve the perception of the state. The Etats-Généraux de la Justice, in particular, should develop clear and specific objectives to achieve advances in judicial reform and deliver peace dividends to the population to demonstrate a break from the past. While the support of the international community is important to achieve these goals, such process should be strongly led by national partners.

While the collection and harmonization of data regarding sexual and gender-based violence remain a challenge, perception surveys indicate marked progress in combatting these crimes. The establishment of a holistic solution, comprising of medical attention, legal aid, and socioeconomic reintegration, is key to identifying victims and offering them opportunities for different types of support, including engagement in the criminal justice process.

With UNDP well-placed to take on the full responsibility for rule of law programming and support, MONUSCO began transitioning out of DRC in 2014. There is room for more synergetic collaboration between MONUSCO and UNDP during this transitional period. UNDP is progressively shifting the different projects to align rule of law efforts in DRC to a singular and coherent programme, and will push for such coherence to happen at all levels of the UN system, through a renewed Rule of Law Joint Programme.

KEY SUPPORT RESULTS

- The Etats-Généraux de la Justice convened for the first time since 1996, giving a new impetus to justice sector reform.
- 3,048 victims of sexual violence (3,029 female and 19 male) were medically supported and benefited from psychosocial support.
- More than 522 sexual violence cases were adjudicated in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri.
- Close to 25 percent of gender-based violence cases were referred to judicial authorities by local community leaders.
- The implementation of UNDP-supported community security programmes in Bunia helped perceptions of security to improve. In 2015, 39 percent of respondents would feel safe walking alone at night, compared to only 31 percent in 2014.
- Relatedly, 250 community police officers were trained and deployed; and local community security platforms involving civil society, local authorities and the police/gendarmerie were established with UNDP support.
BACKGROUND

In 1992, El Salvador’s 12-year civil war – which resulted in approximately 75,000 casualties – came to an end when the government and leftist rebels signed a peace treaty. This marked the implementation of substantial political reforms. Since then, El Salvador has worked to overcome a number of natural disasters, and has become a highly industrialized country; El Salvador is currently ranked 116th out of 188 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index. However, inequalities remain high – whether in life expectancy, income, education, or in the gender dimension.

Violence tops the list of concerns for Salvadorian citizens, as 66 percent of the population identifies insecurity as the country’s main problem. According to the National Civil Police, the country’s homicide rate increased to 103 per 100,000 inhabitants, with a total of 6,657 homicides in 2015. The largest share of homicides was registered among young men aged 18-30, with crimes committed predominantly by firearms. Sixty percent of homicides occurred in urban settlements with high levels of social exclusion; these areas, where the rate of young people who neither study nor work is higher than the national average, have a high concentration of gangs, easy access to firearms, and high levels of poverty and inequality. Additionally, impunity and sexual and gender-based violence continue to be prominent problems in the country. Femicide rates in El Salvador also rank as the highest in the region.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

To overcome these challenges, UNDP has supported El Salvador to undertake some of the most innovative and groundbreaking processes on prevention of violence and citizen security.

In 2014, UNDP supported the establishment of The National Council for Public Security and Coexistence, as a space for dialogue on proposals to improve the issues of insecurity in the country. Members of the National Council represent all political parties, as well as the private sector, religious organizations, and academia. In 2015, UNDP provided technical assistance to the National Council to facilitate the space of dialogue and monitoring for the implementation of El Salvador Seguro Plan. This plan is currently implemented in the 50 most violent municipalities of the country. This support builds on previous UNDP efforts to reduce violence through the development and implementation of models of resilient communities which have led to reduction of homicides rates at the municipal level.

UNDP also developed programs in 2015, which offer at-risk youth social, educational, and employment opportunities aimed at interrupting the cycles of violence in their communities. The program serves young people of both sexes, between the ages of 14 to 29, that have an affinity to gangs, dropped out of school, or have participated in violent activities, drug consumption, etc.

Beyond the flagrant problems of human rights violation and gender discrimination stemming from this violence, it is estimated to cost the country around 16 percent of its gross national product. In practical terms, that means that violence compromises the entire country’s annual tax revenues.
CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

One of the main challenges in El Salvador has been in convening different sectors in a polarized setting. It has been difficult to establish mechanisms for effective coordination between the numerous institutions involved in implementing national and local policies to prevent violence and crime, to assist and protect victims, and to ensure access to justice.

Designing and operationalizing appropriate information management mechanisms to conduct security situation analysis throughout the country have proved quite useful – both to the government and to UNDP. Such data has enabled the development of indicators on insecurity and vulnerability that foster targeted-programmatic efforts, in order to reach the most vulnerable geographic areas and populations.

Further efforts are needed to ensure that local-level initiatives and achievements contribute to the development of public policy at the national level. Support to initiatives that enable the social and economic reintegration of at-risk youth as a component of overall citizen security should continue to be prioritized at the municipal level.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue to support the National Council for Public Security and Coexistence to address the issues of insecurity in the country. UNDP will also increase efforts to support the process of implementation of the El Salvador Seguro Plan, by strengthening the capacity of the institutions responsible for the provision of security, justice, and services to victims, such as the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the National Police and Human Rights Ombudsman.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» The El Salvador Seguro Plan\textsuperscript{26} was developed through an inclusive dialogue process led by the National Council of Public Security, expected to lead to better coordination of security actors and to a reduction of violence.

» A program for at-risk youth was developed and implementation has initiated to interrupt the cycles of violence within their communities.
BACKGROUND

2015 was a landmark year for Guatemala: the country made great strides towards democracy, tackling impunity, and enabling the population’s voice to be heard in transitional justice processes, and creating a more transparent and equal society for all. However, Indigenous peoples, who makeup approximately half of the population, remain largely excluded. Insecurity, a culture of impunity, and lack of access to justice continue to be serious obstacles for the population, particularly for the poor and marginalized. Additionally, human rights defenders and journalists are particularly at risk of targeted violent attacks. Nevertheless, recent developments and judgments in high-profile cases are providing hope to the population, and bolstering an ever-louder call for more rapid reforms.

After being implicated by the UN-supported International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala in a million dollar public funds scandal, the President resigned in September. Both the President and the Vice-President were stripped of their immunity and charged in the corruption case “La Linea,” incriminating more than 35 government officials. The scandal unleashed deep social discontent with a political system that is seen as perpetuating clientelistic practices. Guatemalans took to the streets to peacefully demand justice, transparency and an end to corruption. Social movements put forward legal and political reforms to promote structural changes that have been pending since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996.

Since traditional politicians and the elite are considered largely to be benefitting from high-level corruption in the system, a former comedian and political newcomer – Jimmy Morales – was elected President in 2015, with almost three-quarters of the votes.

With the legacy of human rights violations committed during the civil war, several high-profile cases have reached Guatemalan courts in recent years. In 2015, a former Police Chief was sentenced to 90 years in prison, and investigations were concluded in a number of other cases in preparation for trials in 2016. Additionally, a third “high-risk court” was opened to hear cases of grave crimes, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Prosecutors have achieved important progress in solving cases of complex criminal structures regarding extrajudicial killings and corruption—due in significant part to the support the Attorney General’s Office has received from the supported International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala. However, much remains to be done to strengthen the independence and credibility of the justice system as a whole and to ensure that justice reaches the broader population and is responsive to the needs of the people.

Insecurity in the country remains alarming, especially in relation to violence against women. UNDP is supporting the implementation of the 2014 National Violence Prevention Policy; however, there remain challenges on its delivery at the local level.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Within the framework of an integral transitional justice programme, UNDP continued and intensified its support to families of victims of enforced disappearances whose remains were exhumed from the 21st Military Zone in Coban (now known as CREOMPAZ). By the end of 2015, of the over 580 bodies exhumed from the site in 2012, more than 90 had been identified using DNA technology. UNDP support includes psychosocial counseling, legal advice via civil society organizations acting as civil parties in the criminal investigation, as well as translation services via a community liaison officer. This support was complemented by support to the Public Prosecutors Office to strengthen the evidence base of the enforced disappearance case, and the facilitation of working groups between victims, civil society organizations, psychologists, and prosecutors, to promote effective coordination throughout the process.
To support the Attorney General’s Office and the justice sector, the Strategic Plan for the Public Ministry for 2015-2019 was finalized and launched, providing the Ministry with a road map for its internal institutional reform and strengthening, as well as its interaction with and coordination of the justice sector. UNDP is supporting the development of a policy of criminal prosecution as well as a national policy for human rights and transitional justice to aid in implementation.

Additionally, UNDP has supported the Constitutional Court with its bi-annual Strategic Planning to guide internal processes as well as launching a reform of procedural codes to promote access to justice to vulnerable people, especially indigenous peoples, women, and children. UNDP also continued to support Femicide Courts, especially in capacity building of judges at the national level through specialized training on the legal framework for violence against women.

UNDP provided support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence during the civil war through engagement with the National Victims Movement, which incorporates over 280 community victims’ committees, and its Women’s Committee in particular, which lobbies for adequate reparations in the transitional justice process.

Additionally, UNDP supported the Ministry of Governance to implement the National Policy for Prevention of Violence at the local level. UNDP also provided technical assistance for a digital information platform that organizes violence related data into a database at the national level for improved analysis, coordination, and ultimately evidence-based decision-making in the area of citizen security.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The achievements of the Public Ministry and the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala in prosecuting current and former high-level members of government, in both human rights and corruption cases has demonstrated that no one is above the law, and that progress can be made at dismantling even the most entrenched systems of corruption and impunity within the state. They also serve to highlight; however, grave structural problems within the justice system which contribute to high levels of impunity, such as lack of adequate guarantees of judicial independence and accountability, and lack of sufficient funding.

UNDP’s new rule of law programme currently in development to launch in 2016 will focus more on expanding justice and security services to all, including by working with the courts to identify potential interfaces with customary indigenous justice systems to ensure that indigenous peoples are not discriminated against and benefit from targeted justice services. UNDP’s two-pronged approach of both supporting institutional strengthening processes and providing bottom-up support to victims and civil society has proven successful and led to a more enabling environment for progress in criminal prosecutions, including in the Sepur Zarco sexual slavery case, which went to trial in early 2016. It will thus be continued and scaled-up in 2016, and shared as a lesson and model to be considered in other countries facing similar contexts and challenges of progressing transitional justice.

Guatemala is at a pivotal juncture in its history, with the opportunity to institutionalize deeper changes towards positive peace. However, the decrease in financial support from the international community to efforts related to transitional and criminal justice for both state institutions and civil society puts the country at a high risk of losing ground on the progress that has been achieved. As such, continued efforts towards resource mobilization will be critical and UNDP is committed to sustaining its efforts in Guatemala.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Families of victims of enforced disappearances received psychosocial counseling, legal advice via civil society organizations acting as civil parties in the criminal investigation, as well as translation services via a community liaison officer.
- By the end of 2015, of the over 580 bodies exhumed from the site in 2012, more than 90 had been identified using DNA technology.
- Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence during the civil war received support through engagement with the National Victims Movement.
- The Statistical Analysis Unit in the Ministry of the Interior was designed to include a component of civil society participation and the Information Technology Platform was operationalized.
- The Ministry of Governance implemented the National Policy for Prevention of Violence at the local level in order to translate its priorities into municipal level plans for violence prevention.
BACKGROUND

Guinea-Bissau is a low-income country, ranking 178th out of 188 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index. Chronic political instability has prevented development and economic growth to the extent that more than two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line, with populations outside of the capital having very limited access to basic social services. After a two-year transitional government, the general elections of 2014 put in place a technocratic government, which quickly gained the trust of the people and the international community. The government proceeded to implement reforms and create a national development vision and operational plan – “Terra Ranka,” meaning fresh start – for which donors pledged 1 billion Euros at a conference in Brussels in March 2015. The future for Guinea-Bissau was beginning to look promising and conditions were in place for major reforms in the state apparatus, particularly in the justice sector.

However, the government did not avoid the internal strife within the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, a relic from the liberation struggle. Tensions between the presidency and the government erupted in August when the President dismissed the government and named a new Prime Minister. Subsequently, the Supreme Court decreed the President’s dismissal of the government unconstitutional, giving a strong signal of judicial independence. For the first time in the history of Guinea-Bissau, security forces have not intervened in the political conflict and the presence of forces from the Economic Community of West African States Security Mission in Guinea-Bissau helped to prevent escalations. Meanwhile, the political conflict remains in deadlock and tensions continue.

The government’s plans and budgets were not recognized by the National Assembly, which effectively froze the entire governance structure in the country. This has prevented the majority of services from being provided to the population, further reinforcing Bissau-Guinean instability, the culture of impunity, intra-military and civil-military dynamics, extreme poverty, and social and gender inequalities. This instability benefits both external and internal vested interests related to drug trafficking, which further inhibits democratic governance and development.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Prior to the stall of the government in August, UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice to design the National Programme of Justice Sector Reform and Modernization, for the period 2015-2020, which was endorsed by the government with the participation of all stakeholders of the justice sector and civil society. The National Programme, without a functioning state, remains the only recognized framework for priorities for the justice sector in the country.

Before August, UNDP also strengthened the Ministry of Justice’s capacity to deliver universal access to free Legal Aid Services through five Centers for Access to Justice, which continue to be fully operational with UNDP support and have provided legal aid to a total of 7,675 people, including 1,653 women. Aiming to close gaps in the justice chain by increasing the capacity of the formal justice sector, UNDP funded the construction of two community courts in Canchungo and Mansoa, within regions where the Centers for Access to Justice are operating.
UNDP also supported the nationally owned Judicial Training Center throughout the year that has continued despite the government fall out. In 2015, the center finalized the second intake career course for Magistrates, and also effectively advocated with Superior Councils of the Magistracies and the Ministry of Justice to ensure Judicial National Institutions take full responsibility over all 10 newly appointed Magistrates. All newly appointed prosecutors have been placed and have received their salaries. The newly appointed judges are awaiting placement by the Supreme Court.

UNDP engaged in capacity building measures for judicial operators to ensure a more effective and expeditious justice service delivery in the field, as well as better case management and registry. The training center conducted a six-week capacity development programme, with UNDP support, composed of refresher training modules on Civil and Criminal Law. Specialized thematic modules tailored for the 16 Magistrates (judges and prosecutors) currently appointed at the Sectorial and Regional Courts. Additionally, for the first time, judicial operators from the field had the opportunity to develop their skills in several subjects related with their daily tasks in court. 16 court clerks and case managers from the Regional and Sectorial Courts received training in procedural law related subjects, which served to increase case management.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The main challenge in Guinea-Bissau is continuing to promote and strengthen the justice sector institutions and capacity to deliver services to the population in the context of the recurring political instability. Until the relapse into political crisis in August, a lot of progress had been made attributed to the national leadership with UNDP support. A key priority for Guinea-Bissau has been to strengthen coordination among justice sector actors, including courts, law enforcement, and legal aid; however, the political instability in the country has hampered progress.

Another challenge is the national financial ownership of the Centers for Access to Justice and the Judicial Training Center. The current political and institutional crisis has not allowed the government to assume the functioning costs of these two institutions through the state budget, despite much advocacy and efforts by both the international community and the Ministry of Justice itself.

Resource mobilization also remains a challenge to the implementation of the National Programme of Justice Sector Reform and Modernization, and for that matter all development efforts in the country. It is hoped that political and institutional stability will return and allow for the disbursement of funds pledged in Brussels, and thus the implementation of the respective National Programme of Justice Sector Reform and Modernization can begin. Despite this, UNDP has been able to mobilize further funds to support the justice sector and the continued functioning of the Centers for Access to Justice, to not interrupt justice gains made in the country while expecting a more stable future for Guinea-Bissau.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The National Programme of Justice Sector Reform and Modernization (2015-2020) was developed and validated. 7,675 individuals, including 1,663 women, benefited from legal aid services from the five UNDP-supported Centers for Access to Justice.
- Successful completion of the second intake career course for Magistrates, with Judicial National Institutions appointing the 10 new Magistrates.
- The national Judicial Training Center trained 16 court clerks and case managers in procedural law related subjects to increase case management at the Regional and Sectorial Courts.
- Construction of two Community Courts in Mansoa and Canchungo was completed in order to expand presence of the formal justice system in the country.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The main challenge in Guinea-Bissau is continuing to promote and strengthen the justice sector institutions and capacity to deliver services to the population in the context of the recurring political instability. Until the relapse into political crisis in August, a lot of progress had been made attributed to the national leadership with UNDP support. A key priority for Guinea-Bissau has been to strengthen coordination among justice sector actors, including courts, law enforcement, and legal aid; however, the political instability in the country has hampered progress.

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BACKGROUND

The year 2015 in Guinea (Conakry) continued to be marked by the Ebola epidemic. The epidemic severely affected the capacity of the state at large to function, continue its reform process, and provide services to the population. Certain courts did not hold a single session over the course of the year. Hence, pre-trial detainees continued to languish in prisons, and several prison mutinies resulted in escapes, reinforcing the general sense of insecurity and impunity within the country. Fortunately, the Ebola virus did not affect the prisons, which was a major risk factor and the Ebola epidemic was declared over in December. However, several isolated cases have occurred since and caution continues.

Guinea (Conakry) held presidential elections in September. The elections were marred by small eruptions of pre-election violence, resulting in about 10 deaths and deepening ethnic tensions and concerns about inappropriate action by the security forces. Nonetheless, the elections carried on without major strains were considered largely free and fair, and the President Alpha Condé was re-elected in the first round.

The fight against impunity and dealing with the past has been taken to unprecedented levels in the history of the country. UNDP and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and her Team of Experts support the panel of judges, charged with dealing with human rights violations during the 2009 stadium massacre in Conakry. To date, the panel has interviewed more than 400 victims and indicted 16 individuals. This includes the indictment of former President Moussa Dadis Camara, who was subsequently barred from participating in the presidential elections in 2015.

Guinea (Conakry) managed to advance in the justice sector reform process, despite the fact that the process for security sector reform continues to be backed with more political and financial commitment. After undergoing the Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in January, the government accepted recommendations addressing torture, enforced disappearance, unlawful detention, prison conditions, judicial and security reform, impunity within the security forces, and women’s human rights.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Through the provision of direct technical assistance, UNDP was able to facilitate the adoption and implementation of the national justice sector reform plan for 2015-2019. Further, legal advice resulted in concrete and overdue reforms, in relation to improving conditions for judges, supporting the Superior Council of Judges that sanctioned several judges for corruption and unprofessional conduct, and revising key legal texts to align them with international standards. Revisions were made on the penal code and the Code of Criminal Procedure to cancel the need for criminal sessions (cours d’assises), which cause significant delay, backlog, and extension of pre-trial detentions. UNDP also supported the drafting of the Code of Military Justice. Furthermore, the new law on judicial organization reviewed the judicial map, with the aim of bringing courts closer to the population, and created two new courts of appeal.

UNDP also continued to assist in security sector reform through direct high-level advice to the presidency, as well as through successful coordination of working groups on security sector reform, which bring together all national and international stakeholders.
UNDP’s support also resulted in the operationalization of the military justice system. UNDP built the capacity of security forces personnel in the four military regions of the country, including judges, lawyers, and the general military, through various trainings on the new legal framework and their duties and rights. The first sessions in the military justice courts continued to be postponed and did not occur during 2015.

UNDP is also supporting the institutionalization of gender perspectives within the defense and security sectors by reinforcing prevention and protection against gender-based violence. UNDP, in collaboration with other agencies, supported the establishment of Gender-Based Violence Units within police stations and gendarmerie units and reinforced police and judicial institutional capacities in the management and treatment of cases. Furthermore, UNDP supported the establishment of a coordination framework for Women, Peace, and Security through a restructuration and revitalization of the National Steering Committee on Security Council Resolution 1325.

Models of community policing developed with UNDP support continue to be implemented by national authorities and were scaled up to other municipalities and police stations by other international actors, such as the EU.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The Minister of Justice was reappointed under President Alpha Condé’s second term and both have stated their prioritization of justice sector reform. This political commitment coupled with the strong advancements in the fight against impunity through the work of the panel of judges has created an enabling environment for strengthened rule of law. However, financial resources are extremely insufficient for reform efforts to take root, with only 0.62 percent of the state budget going into the justice sector. Additionally, the majority of the international community’s funding over the past year has gone towards Ebola response and recovery.

The capacities of the Ministry of Justice to coordinate the justice sector and deliver services to the population are severely lacking. Populations outside of Conakry and vulnerable populations within the capital continue to lack access to justice. Case management is also lacking in Guinea (Conakry) making data difficult to analyze, but civil society and limited court and police figures estimate an excessive number of pre-trial detainees, some for up to 10 years with no access to legal aid. The challenge thus remains to mobilize financial and human resources to comprehensively reform the justice sector, in order to make the criminal justice chain function at the local and national levels, and provide access to justice for the entire population. These efforts will demonstrate in practice that the government is fighting impunity at all levels and has the capacity to deliver basic justice and security services.

It is key that state actors continue to deliver peace dividends to the population to build confidence in the government. For example, during the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic, the community police were able to intervene when health personnel were under attack, and raise awareness of the need for their interventions and foster trust within the communities. Such people-centered approaches by state actors that emphasize dialogue and interaction with communities at the local level have proven successful in Guinea (Conakry) and in this case, prevented the need for force by community police in most cases. UNDP in 2016 will continue to work to entrench this people-centered approach within broader reform efforts and training of police. UNDP will also double its efforts to support Guinea (Conakry) to mobilize much-needed resources for the justice sector and the fight against impunity.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- President Moussa Dadis Camara was indicted by the panel of judges for his role in the 2009 massacre in Conakry. The national justice sector reform plan was adopted and implemented by the government.
- Security forces personnel in the four military regions of the country received various trainings on the new legal framework and their duties and rights.
- Police stations and gendarmerie units established gender-based violence units.
- A coordination framework for Women, Peace, and Security through a restructuration and revitalization of the National Steering Committee on Security Council Resolutions on 1325 was established.
BACKGROUND

Haiti is characterized by weak governing institutions, a lack of transparency and accountability, and dysfunction within the justice and security sectors (such as the infringement on judicial independence, prolonged pre-trial detention rates, and prison overcrowding). Despite these challenges, notable progress has been made; including amongst others, the creation of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the establishment of a National Police Academy and the deployment of 12,000 police, equal numbers of women and men graduates from the Magistrates School, the dissemination of standardized police and judicial forms, the nascent development of a certification and evaluation process for judges, and the creation of a Judicial Inspectorate to review the efficiency and performance of courts.

However, much remains to be done. Judicial performance is generally considered to be very poor. Judges and prosecutors randomly appear to work, case backlogs have reached alarming proportions, and over 70 percent of detainees are being held in pre-trial detention. Serious problems exist relating to corruption, poor quality of legal representation and very limited resources to ensure redress following a miscarriage of justice. Confidence in the judicial system decreased after the earthquake, dropping from 43.1 points in 2008 to 36.2 in 2010. There have been little improvements in the system since 2010 and the subsequent confidence has remained low.

2015 was a year dominated by the electoral process, with almost daily street protests, demonstrations, barricades, and a government largely paralyzed by inaction. First-round legislative elections were held in August, with a second-round of presidential elections in October. Both proved inconclusive as charges of mismanagement and intimidation caused the third and final round to be postponed to 2016. As such, Haiti is currently led by an interim president and government with only a partially confirmed and installed Parliament. Moreover, given the fundamental political nature of rule of law support in Haiti, effective support from the UN can only take place with commensurate national appropriation by government authorities and coordinated targeted support from the international community, to address underlying (and at times, competing) interests and challenges.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Given the politically-charged nature of 2015, UNDP concentrated its interventions on three key justice institutions -- the Council of Superior Judicial Power, the Superior Court of Accounting & Administrative Disputes, and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security -- where there was active ownership, practical products, and measurable results.

UNDP was the go-to partner of the Council of Superior Judicial Power in 2015, seeking to strengthen its institutional capacities to plan, oversee, and instruct the country’s 1000+ magistrates and judges. The Council of Superior Judicial Power in Action was developed jointly by UNDP and the Council, which is a deliberate, detailed, and comprehensive institutional work plan to strengthen the operational and leadership capacities of the Council

In 2015, UNDP also conducted a comprehensive top-to-bottom institutional review of the Superior Court of
Accounting & Administrative Disputes, which for the first time, demonstrated the strengths, potential, and weaknesses of the Court, and proposed a practical way forward to operationalize changes for more effective outcomes. This diagnosis was well-received and constitutes the present-day road map for the Court. UNDP further supported the Ministry of Justice to standardize field-based inspections of prosecutors, helping them organize and manage their workloads. Finally, in 2015 UNDP, the UN Country Team, and MINUSTAH, with the help from the Global Focal Point on Rule of Law, began a series of consultations to prioritize and harmonize its work on rule of law, policing, corrections, and human rights. The result of this reflection was, for the first time in Haiti, the creation of a joint interim UN system-wide program (and corresponding budget) that pro-actively took into account lessons learned from past work, and prepared for the eventual withdrawal of MINUSTAH and transition to a future UN presence.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Critical gaps remain. The electoral process is far from concluded and risks dragging through 2016. The interim government is by nature, not permanent; hence, its actions and decisions, may not hold. Important draft laws on the criminal code, criminal procedure, legal aid, juvenile justice –the product of much UN effort and advocacy – risk remaining on the books, neither adopted nor implemented. Practical operational support to key aforementioned institutions risks falling to the wayside given political changes in leadership and uncertain buy-in of new ministers and decision-makers. Transparency and accountability in budget preparation and application remains a critical weakness. The enforcement and application of discipline and accountability measures to justice actors remain to be seen.

However, notwithstanding these serious challenges, the UN System’s joint integrated programme aims to impart a sense of coherence, measurable baselines and indicators, and conditionality with government and civil society counterparts. A disciplined and pragmatic approach putting responsibility squarely on the Haitian government is primary. Targeted, coordinated, and catalytic support from the UN and international actors is key. In 2016, the UN will increasingly take a leadership role in donor coordination and dialogue with the Haitian government via a Justice Round Table and sector-wide conversation with all actors.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Council of Superior Judicial Power in Action was developed jointly by UNDP and the Council, which is a deliberate, detailed, and comprehensive institutional work plan to strengthen the operational and leadership capacities of the Council.
- The Joint Interim UN Programme on Rule of Law, Policing, Corrections and Human Rights, was created, marking a concerted effort by the UN system to respond to the most urgent needs and provide comprehensive support to Haiti.
BACKGROUND

Despite increased human development and growth since the end of military rule in Honduras, the country remains low on the Human Development Index, ranking 131 out of 188 countries. Social, economic, gender, and racial/ethnic inequalities are high, and nearly half of the population lives below the poverty line. Despite a reduction in violence and homicide, crime, impunity and corruption are still rampant in the country. Human rights defenders and journalists are particularly at risk and many have disappeared or been killed in 2015. The government is increasing efforts to reform the security and justice sectors, but concerns remain about judicial independence and effective law enforcement.

Trust amongst the population in the state’s ability to provide security and justice is lacking; several high-level corruption scandals over the embezzlement of public funds have seen continuous demonstrations against the government. Some Hondurans called for the establishment of a court against impunity, similar to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

The country’s penitentiary system suffers from recognized inhumane conditions, including overcrowding, and low capacity by prison personnel to ensure adequate standards for inmates. In 2015, several new legal and policy developments to promote the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights took place under the government’s leadership.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In light of the threat and killings of human rights defenders, UNDP supported the development of the National Action Plan for Human Rights. Additionally, UNDP helped to draft and advocate for a law to establish protection for human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice operators. Furthermore, the government launched the National Council for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders on International Human Rights Day 2015. UNDP also supported the government to develop a national policy against racism and racial discrimination.

UNDP’s rule of law assistance in Honduras is targeted at both national and municipal levels and is provided in close partnership with other UN agencies, OHCHR in particular. At the national level, UNDP supported the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras to generate reliable information on crime and violence and the Ministry of Security to facilitate evidence-based planning and implementation of responses to the serious security situation.

At the municipal level, UNDP supported the implementation of the now government-led Safer Municipalities model in the five most violent municipalities in the country: Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Tela, La Ceiba y Choloma. This programme established local observatories of violence and put into action social cohesion initiatives and citizen security plans, including mediation units, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design-based social infrastructure projects, and other prevention initiatives targeting women and young people.

In an effort to improve criminal justice, security, and human rights standards in the corrections system, UNDP supported the consultations and finalization of the National Penitentiary Policy, which sets out a clear institutional reform process aimed at correction and reintegration of detainees and the reduction of violence in prisons, rather than punitive approaches. Additionally, the government established six local...
torture prevention boards composed of civil society and local public institutions, and visits to penitentiary centers were conducted by the National Torture Prevention Mechanism.

To apply a human rights-based approach, UNDP worked with both the national human rights state infrastructure, such as the national human rights institution, as well as civil society organizations to promote and protect the human rights of the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex community, persons with disabilities, and people deprived of liberty, amongst others.

UNDP also supported capacity building on human rights, including trainings to government staff and the judiciary on human rights standards, including the application of relevant standard operating procedures to protect children's rights, labor rights, as well as on the prevention and response to torture and indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples' rights. Furthermore, UNDP has worked with the Public Ministry on creating a "Manual for the process of investigation of human rights violations of indigenous and Afro-descendants peoples". UNDP additionally facilitated trainings on strategic litigation for the National Human Rights Institution, the judiciary, and civil society organizations. UNDP also engaged on the promotion of human rights of people with disabilities, helping the Ministry of Social Affairs’ Directorate for Persons with Disabilities to improve its procedures, thereby supporting the registry of 8,000 people with disabilities to claim their social entitlements.

UNDP also worked to enhance the government’s engagement with civil society. UNDP supported a network of the three main Honduran organizations of persons with disabilities, following a widely participatory process, to develop the Civil Society “shadow report” to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Way Forward

Civil society participation in the implementation and oversight of Local Security Plans through municipal security councils proved to be an effective tool in ensuring citizen ownership of both prevention and control strategies. In 2016, UNDP is expected to contribute to the participatory drafting of new evidence-based Local Security Plans in at least six new municipalities, selected among the 30 which experience the highest levels of violence in the country.

In cooperation with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNDP is currently engaged in the institutional strengthening of the municipality-based observatories of violence established by the government in the framework of its citizen security strategy. One of the major challenges the programme will face in 2016 is ensuring efficient knowledge sharing takes place between the university and the government.

The opening of an OHCHR office in Honduras in 2015 brings a new perspective to the work in the field of human rights by the UN system. In this sense, complementarities with OHCHR will be sought in order to ensure that UNDP delivers comprehensive rule of law and human rights support and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals where “no one is left behind.”

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» The Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras now periodically produces information on the situation of violence and insecurity in Honduras in order to support national and local decision making.

» The five most violent municipalities in the country count on evidence-based Local Security Plans for the Prevention of Violence and Promotion of Peaceful Cohabitation, which are implemented through annual work plans in cooperation with civil society organizations.

» UNDP provided roughly 1,500 people with access to alternative conflict resolution mechanisms.

» UNDP provided trainings with the Public Prosecutor of Ethnic Peoples and Cultural Heritage for 225 attorneys on ILO Convention 169.

» The government adopted the National Penitentiary Policy and six local torture prevention boards – composed of civil society and local public institutions – were set up and visits to penitentiary centers were conducted by the National Torture Prevention Mechanism.
BACKGROUND

In 2015, the security environment in Iraq continued to be complex and challenging, and reform of the justice and security sector remained a prerequisite for long-term stability and peace. The human toll of the conflict deepened with at least 3,855 civilian fatalities and another 7,056 wounded between 1 May and 31 October 2015. Civilians continue to flee their homes and communities, and the violence suffered by the population remained staggering. Since January 2014 over 3.2 million Iraqis have been displaced across the country.

In December 2015, the city of Ramadi was liberated from the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), after nearly seven months of intense fighting. Rebuilding newly liberated cities such as Ramadi, coping with returnee populations, and finding viable solutions to defuse ethnosectarian tensions continues to pose significant challenges in Iraq.

Falling oil prices and an already cash-strapped Iraqi economy have impeded the government’s ability to implement its reform agenda. The on-going fight against ISIL, declining economy, and escalating nationwide anti-corruption and reform protests by the public is further compounded by the lack of government consensus on the proposed political reforms by the Prime Minister Abadi and a growing political crisis. The best safeguard of Iraq’s future stability depends on its ability to guarantee the rule of law during this transition to post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Given this context, UNDP focused its efforts on responding to immediate justice and security needs posed by the on-going conflict in Iraq. UNDP consolidated its support to the government’s efforts on security sector reform through a new programming framework: Support for Security Sector Reform Phase II. With support from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Denmark, the programme works to address short, medium, and long-term priorities of the Iraqi security sector, ensuring that future reform interventions are coordinated constructively within one central framework while enhancing democratic governance of security institutions. For this purpose, UNDP is assisting the Government of Iraq through a well-established partnership with the Office of the National Security Advisor. During 2015, UNDP supported the Office of the National Security Advisor in the development of the government’s National Security Strategy, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 1 March 2016. The challenge now is to take the National Security Strategy forward through cross-ministerial teams and the development of an implementation plan.

In early 2015, the Office of the National Security Advisor also made a formal request to UNDP to support the government in developing a national security sector reform plan, as outlined in the National Security Strategy. UNDP worked closely with the Office of the National Security Advisor and the National Security Strategy committee (representing approximately 14 ministries and agencies from the Iraqi security and justice sector) to initiate the drafting process in priority areas. The committee identified lead reform priorities including: (i) Defense and Federal Security; (ii) Intelligence; (iii) Critical National Infrastructure; (iv) Democratic Oversight and Accountability; (v) National Security Architecture; (vi) Criminal Justice Systems; and (vii) Law Enforcement Systems.

At the same time, efforts were made to put in place oversight and accountability mechanisms for the Security Sector Reform Committee working with
civil society organizations and parliamentarians (e.g. the Security and Defense Committee and the Human Rights and Women’s Committee) to improve their understanding in this sphere and strengthen coordination through the development of a joint action plan. Moreover, UNDP progress on oversight and accountability aspects has contributed to the skills development and capacity building of approximately 30 Security Sector Reform Committee members; 25 Security and Defense Committee members and parliamentarians; 22 civil society organizations from Baghdad, Sulaimaniya, and Dohuk in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq; and an estimated 20 representatives from the Office of the National Security Advisor, the Al Nahraín Centre for Strategic Studies, and the Council of Ministers Secretariat.

Additional support and protection against violations of rights, such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), has been recognized as a priority to promote greater security for women and girls in Iraq. Therefore, UNDP has worked extensively to improve legal assistance to the displaced and most vulnerable through the provision of legal aid service delivery, specifically for women and girls. UNDP supported the establishment of 10 legal aid centers and 9 court-based legal aid help desks in five cities across Iraq: three in Baghdad and Basra, and six in Erbil, Sulaimaniya, and Dohuk in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Legal aid awareness raising activities are also conducted inside the internally displaced persons and refugee camps. An estimated 3,000 SGBV survivors from the displaced populations benefited from legal aid services, while approximately 5,000 individuals benefitted from public outreach activities on legal information and legal inquiry.

During 2015, UNDP also provided strategic guidance and technical support to the Independent Board of Human Rights to conduct a legal review in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as well as supported the drafting of the Protection from Domestic Violence Law. In addition, around 60 Independent Board of Human Rights officials received training to increase the effectiveness of their work; topics of the trainings included: international human rights treaty monitoring mechanisms, national human rights institutions, the Paris Principles, and the Independent Board of Human Rights role in national and international spheres.

Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Way Forward

The military operations that continued throughout 2015 significantly inhibited legal aid service delivery to displaced populations and led to protracted delays in project implementation. Additionally, due to the highly political and demand-led nature of the security sector reform work of UNDP’s programme in Iraq, UNDP has had to adapt and respond to challenging and rapidly changing contexts. This requires a high degree of strategic and operational fluidity, as well as careful planning to reflect changes and shifting priorities. Similarly, the highly volatile operational context requires regular review and revision of activity timelines. This can prove challenging in an environment with limited resources. The few numbers of expert staff in Baghdad have become greatly overstretched, with an increased workload and the need to respond to multidimensional challenges and competing priorities in the country programme.

Addressing the factors that prevent female survivors of SGBV amongst displaced populations from reporting serious cases of abuse is an additional ongoing challenge. There are significant levels of stigma within the communities that dissuade female survivors from bringing SGBV cases to the legal aid centers, especially when it comes to extreme cases of abuse. UNDP will continue to conduct outreach initiatives aimed at combatting this stigma for the provision of effective and accessible justice service for women.

During 2016, UNDP in Iraq is expected to extend its focus on developing comprehensive measures to advance national and local capacities to improve access to justice and to further develop the Iraqi justice sector. UNDP will continue to strengthen the rule of law amidst the complexities of the Iraqi context with the focus on the demand side, assisting directly those most affected by the conflict, including SGBV survivors, IDPs, refugees and returnees, and victims of gross human rights violations more broadly.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» The National Security Strategy was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 1 March 2016 and initiated a process to develop the Security Sector Reform Plan with UNDP technical support and facilitation of a broad consultative process with over 14 government ministries and agencies as well as civil society organizations.
» 10 legal aid centers for SGBV victims were established in Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Erbil, Sulaimaniya, and Duhok. 9 court-based legal aid help desks in 5 cities across Iraq were established to improve legal assistance to the displaced and most vulnerable through the provision of legal aid services.
3,000 SGBV survivors from the displaced populations benefited from legal aid services, while 5,000 individuals benefitted from public outreach activities on legal information and legal inquiry.
» Strategic partnerships were established with the Office of the National Security Advisor judiciary, civil society, Family Protection Units, and the Directorate for Combating Violence against Women.
» Sixty officials from the Independent Board of Human Rights were trained to ensure compliance with international norms and principles.
Rule of law support in Jordan is planned, designed and implemented to strengthen the response to the Syrian crisis and its repercussions in Jordan and, in particular, host communities in Jordan. UNDP’s Community Security and Access to Justice project is an integral pillar of the Jordan Host Communities Programme, with a special focus on vulnerable groups including women and girls. It is designed and planned in line with the government’s Jordan Response Plan (2016-2018) as well as national justice strategies and priorities.

Until a political solution is reached to end the war in Syria, civilians will continue to experience insecurity. The ongoing five-year conflict combined with the activity of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as well as other violent extremist groups, has collectively resulted in an increased influx of refugees. So far there are 664,102 refugees in Jordan; King Abdullah of Jordan stated that there is one Syrian refugee for every five inhabitants in Jordan. This influx of refugees is likely to increase as ISIL continues to exploit the power vacuum in Syria and commit gross violations of human rights.

The limitations of Jordan’s justice and security institutions are now only compounded by the impact of the crisis. For example, there is no mechanism to facilitate access to justice through legal aid in Jordan, courts suffer from increasing backlogs of cases, and courts are only available in main cities. These limitations restrict the timely and effective provision of justice and security services and impact community access to justice particularly in host communities, where the demands for legal counseling and advice, as well as for timely due process are high.

Competition over resources and employment opportunities has aggravated present inter-community tensions; tenant-landlord disputes, family and domestic disputes, and cultural differences have all increased community pressures and have created a potentially combustible situation. ISIL’s active mobilization and proximity to Jordan, Syria, and Iraq poses another major security risk to communities. In southern Jordan, recent demonstrations expressed sympathy with ISIL, which has recruited an estimated 2,500 people from the country.

Timely assistance is critical in developing community security and social cohesion. This assistance must strengthen capacities to prevent crime and reduce violence, as well to provide peaceful alternatives to dispute resolution to ensure stability through legal aid and counseling. These measures can help to increase access to justice in host communities.

Against this background and following close deliberations with national partners, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, the Public Security Directorate, and civil society organizations, UNDP’s Community Security and Access to Justice Project was designed to support community security and access to justice in host communities, while providing complementary and integral institutional and policy support to ensure the sustainability of interventions. Hence, the project addresses the priorities identified by the Government of Jordan to (i) address institutional gaps critical for effective community security and justice delivery and (ii) support increase national ownership in planning and designing programmatic interventions through joint assessments rolled out at the community level.

**ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT**

UNDP’s Community Security and Access to Justice project was launched in 2015 and undertook an in-depth inception phase to build on already-existing national partnerships. In support of community security-based initiatives, UNDP partnered with the Ministry of the Interior in assessing the capacities of the Community Peace Center and its compliance with international standards. The findings of the assessment resulted in the drafting of a human rights-based action plan, the establishment of an oversight mechanism and the roll-out of capacity building training programmes.
In response to ISIL campaigns targeting persons with disabilities, UNDP partnered with the Public Security Directorate in carrying out two “training of trainers” workshops to raise awareness on prevention of violent extremism and encourage critical thinking and community resilience. The participants included 25 translators for persons with hearing impairment (16 male and 9 female), who represented different regions in Jordan. The Public Security Directorate and the workshop participants jointly designed an outreach and awareness raising campaign in three pilot governorates (Zarqa, Irbid, and Mafraq) with a particular relevance for host communities and persons with disabilities.

In addition, UNDP supported two interactive community-level forums with the participation of community leaders, women and youth groups, academia, and religious leaders. These dialogues were intended to break silos by creating space for dialogue and interaction within communities, and elevate the voices of women and youth to community leaders and authorities. The participants identified security threats related to ISIL’s (and affiliate groups) systematic mobilization and provided recommendations for partnership with civil society groups to conduct intensive awareness raising campaigns at the grassroots level.

In the third quarter 2015, UNDP supported the initiation of two critical assessments to measure security needs and legal aid needs in host communities; the introduction of these assessments is an important exercise to fulfill the current need for updated baseline information. Furthermore, joint assessments are critical to increasing national ownership in identifying immediate needs and to gaining a better understanding of community-identified challenges. A joint coordination and oversight mechanism to oversee the introduction of assessments was agreed upon and established, comprised of representatives from the Public Security Directorate, the Criminal Justice Data Directorate, the Institute for Security and Strategic Studies and the Community Peace Center. Assessments will continue until mid-2016 and the outcomes of the assessments will feed into the results of the Jordan Conflict Development Analysis which covers six governorates, including three refugee communities. In addition, the assessment outcomes will serve to assist civil society and the Ministry of Justice in planning and designing a comprehensive legal aid scheme, particularly in in host communities.

UNDP’s Community Security and Access to Justice project confronted a number of challenges during its initial year. Politically, the prevention of violent extremism remains a sensitive area of focus that required strict due diligence. Therefore, UNDP is engaging with national and international partners to ensure the application of a human rights due diligence policy.

In addition, programme formation requires a solid body of data and baselines. Data is also required to increase national ownership of the immediate challenges, assessments and surveys are therefore prioritized and carried out jointly with national partners. This is to support national partners with creating adequate structures that are able to satisfy demand and provide effective justice services.

Resource mobilization was a major challenge in 2015, as was the lack of traction from the international community in supporting access to justice and security in host communities. Nevertheless, given the pressing need in host communities, UNDP will continue to advocate and engage international partners to raising awareness about the pressing need for assistance to enhance justice and security services and to convey the criticality of such support.

Building on the needs assessments described above, UNDP will continue to support community security and access to justice with community level interventions, including through the provision of legal aid, support for fast-track court systems, capacity building training programmes for the Public Security Directorate, and the gender-responsive community dialogues to build community resilience against violent extremism.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- UNDP partnered with the Public Security Directorate in carrying out two “training of trainers” workshops to raise awareness on prevention of violent extremism and encourage critical thinking and community resilience. The participants included 25 translators for persons with hearing impairment (9 female and 16 male), representing different regions in Jordan.
- UNDP-supported community-based dispute resolution mechanisms in Jordan aimed at increasing community resilience through creating space for inclusion and inter-communal dialogue. Two round-table discussions were held, comprising of 15 selected community leaders (4 female and 11 male), including religious leaders and civil society activists.
- Intensive advocacy and coordination was carried out to develop a comprehensive access to justice mechanism, including the deployment of an expert in support of the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association to reach a final draft of Standard Operating Procedures on legal aid to facilitate access to justice in Jordan.30
BACKGROUND

Since the adoption of the Constitution in 2008, Kosovo has made great progress in strengthening its institutions and towards the realization of an equal and just society. A legal framework to implement justice has been developed; however, certain aspects of the justice system still do not meet EU standards and corruption continues to undermine the effectiveness of institutions and hinder economic development. The high unemployment rate, especially among the youth, has resulted in a considerable number of people leaving Kosovo for Western Europe in search of economic opportunities.

Similar to regional countries, Kosovo is seeking further integration with the rest of Europe. In 2015, Kosovo concluded the Stabilisation and Association Agreement on October 27, 2015, but faced a setback when it was denied entry into the EU’s visa liberalization scheme. In recent years, the conditions for further integration with the EU have been strong drivers of reform within Kosovo. Improvements in the justice sector, human rights, and access to justice are a few of such conditions for Kosovo to be admitted to the EU. The EU itself has played a leading role in rule of law reform in Kosovo since the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo took over many of the rule of law functions of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in 2008, including the monitoring, mentoring, and advising of judicial and security institutions.

While progress has been made in many areas, recent assessments have called for further efforts to ensure that courts and prosecutors’ offices are effective, accountable, impartial, and free from political influence.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP’s rule of law programme in Kosovo targets the following areas: dealing with the legacy of the conflict, improving human security, and increasing access to justice for all. A well-functioning justice system is crucial to the success of all of these areas, making the justice component a prioritized area of development cooperation for UNDP Kosovo.

In 2015, UNDP contributed to strengthen and further professionalize justice actors. UNDP supported the development of guidelines in Albanian, Serbian, and English languages clarifying and unifying judicial practices in Kosovo. The guidelines promote the uniform application of laws by the Basic Courts and the Court of Appeals throughout Kosovo, thus furthering transparency and equal access to justice for all. In addition, UNDP supported the establishment of a library for the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Furthermore, as part of the revision and alignment of the Judicial Bar Exam with the existing legal framework of Kosovo, UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice in reforming and successfully launching a revised Judicial/Bar Exam Manual. The new Judicial/Bar Exam Manual is aligned with existing substantive and procedural criminal, civil, and administrative laws, as well as international and European standards on human rights. Finally, UNDP supported the Kosovo Judicial Institute’s Initial Training Program, which was offered to 28 prospective judges or prosecutors, of which 16 are now appointed as judges and prosecutors.

UNDP also supported efforts to improve policy development and coordination among various national institutions in the rule of law sector. UNDP supported the establishment of the Justice Coordination Mechanism, which has resulted in improved strategic planning, policy development, and coordination in the rule of law sector. Specifically, the Ministry of Justice, the Kosovo Judicial Council, and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council are now working closely to harmonize their legislative agendas, implement the Justice Dialogue, and integrate the judiciary in the north.
Furthermore, access to justice and provision of justice services continued as core components of UNDP’s work in the rule of law sector. UNDP has continued its efforts to support mediation in Kosovo, as a form of alternative dispute resolution to decrease the backlog cases in the prosecution and courts and increase people’s access to justice. UNDP provided 60 licensed mediators with refresher trainings, which contributed in enhancing skills of mediators to resolve more cases. As a result, the mediators were able to solve 40 percent more cases during 2015 than in 2014. The success of mediation as an alternative form of dispute resolution is also attested by the 847 cases referred to the Mediation Centers by prosecution and courts. At the same time, UNDP continued to support the legal aid system, which targeted marginalized groups in rural communities, including women and minorities.

UNDP’s work on dealing with the past has led to an increased awareness amongst the citizens on transitional justice, and a coordinated institutional approach through the Inter-Ministerial Working Group. Advancements were also made in the drafting process of an initial concept for the Transitional Justice Strategy, including the consultation process and mapping of the reparation initiatives in Kosovo.

Furthermore, UNDP continued to support the improvement of safety for the population by harmonizing the legal framework on firearms, ammunition, and related equipment with EU regulations. The framework is augmented through the training of the Kosovo Police on the conversion to blank firing weapons, and methods for securing stockpile management of weapons and ammunition. In addition, the number of cases solved has doubled through the use of advanced technology equipment, which was provided to the Forensics Agency of Kosovo.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo is a long-term undertaking. The challenge lies not only to develop capacities of local institutions and officials, but also to change the attitudes and mindsets pertaining to the rule of law at all levels. The area of rule of law support in Kosovo is characterized by the multiplicity of actors; thus, in order to successfully implement initiatives in a coordinated manner, UNDP’s rule of law programme closely cooperated with Kosovo institutions, civil society, the private sector, UN agencies, and other international organizations. Partnerships were at the center of UNDP’s work and a fundamental driver of its strategy and its ability to deliver development results.

UNDP has identified synergies between its various projects and programmes tackling the rule of law issues, anti-corruption, small arms and community safety, and public administration reform, for integrated support to a number of central and municipal institutions. UNDP will continue to increase access to justice initiatives in Kosovo, especially to ease access for women, minorities, and other marginalized groups. The recognition of the importance of promoting the rule of law in Kosovo is evidenced in its inclusion as a priority area in the UN Common Development Plan. In line with the priorities of Kosovo and the UN in Kosovo, UNDP will further its efforts to develop the capacity of state judicial institutions and increase the accessibility of justice systems for all in Kosovo.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» Guidelines for uniform application of laws by the Basic Courts and Court of Appeals throughout Kosovo was produced in Albanian, Serbian and English languages.
» The Kosovo Judicial Institute’s Initial Training Program was offered to 28 prospective judges or prosecutors, of which 16 are now appointed as judges and prosecutors.
» The Justice Coordination Mechanism was established and has improved strategic planning, policy development, and coordination in the rule of law sector.
» 60 licensed mediators received refresher trainings and the mediators solved 40 percent more cases during 2015 than in 2014.
» 847 cases were referred to the Mediation Centers by prosecution and courts.
» The legal framework on firearms, ammunition and related equipment, was updated in line with EU regulations.

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Kyrgyzstan continues to consolidate its democratic system of governance and market economy. The 2010 Constitution legislated a shift in the country’s politics away from a presidential system and toward a parliamentary system, reducing the power of the president. Within this framework, in 2015 Kyrgyzstan held its parliamentary elections with the participation from 14 political parties. Six of the 14 gained enough seats in the parliament (Jogorku Kenesh) through a process that international observers found to be generally open, transparent and conforming to the national law and universally recognized international norms.

Despite these achievements, persistent poverty, economic disparity and systemic corruption contributes to unrest in the past – remain. Today, 30 percent of the population live below the poverty line, and economic growth declined to 3.5 percent in 2015 from 4.0 percent in 2014 as slower expansion in industry offset gains in agriculture and services. Having become a full-fledged member of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union in 2015, the opportunity for free travel to Eurasian Economic Union member states and free movement of goods, services, and capital across borders to over a total population of more than 180 million people is expected to boost trade and recover the economy in 2016.

Since its independence, the government has worked to reform the formal justice system, although the public trust in this process is low due to high levels of corruption and difficulties in providing adequate implementation of reforms. The usage of informal justice mechanisms – notably Aksakal Courts – has declined steadily over the last decade. More recently, oversight bodies came under pressure resulting in the dismissal of the Ombudsman in June 2015.

Additionally, the Kyrgyz parliament is considering a law that would limit the activity of “non-commercial organizations”, including civil society organizations. The rule of law remains essential to sustaining peace, stability and development in Kyrgyzstan, and critical actions need to be taken to restore public faith in the rule of law and the country’s governing system. Reform initiatives are vital but need to be sustained and driven from within the national institutions.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP seeks to help strengthen the foundation for sustainable peace in Kyrgyzstan through its programme “Enhancing Democratic Rule of Law to Promote Peace and Stability in Kyrgyzstan.” This programme lends assistance through: strategic planning and implementation of core legislation in the justice sector; building capacities and consensus among the justice actors and civil society; empowering people, especially marginalized communities to claim their rights through legal education; and addressing ethnically motivated human rights abuses.

Through this assistance, UNDP created a coordinating mechanism through which it supported the participation of the Parliament, the Prime Minister’s office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, Supreme Court, Prosecutor’s office and Prison Administration service to increase access to justice through targeted reform measures. In 2015, the detailed action plans collectively prepared by these institutions, with collaboration from civil society, outlined more than 90 subsidiary pieces of legislation necessary to supplement the provisions of the newly enacted Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on free Legal Aid. UNDP also helped a working group to develop a financial methodology for implementing these laws, once enacted, to ensure the sustainability of these reforms. All of this serves to improve access to justice and increase the equity of justice delivery.

UNDP also continued to help improve judicial accountability and bridge the gap between judicial authorities and the citizens. In 2015, UNDP selected and trained 30 University students on pro bono trial
monitoring with special attention to cases of violence against women. The monitoring activities of the University students have been embedded within the Ombudsman Institution as a sustainable and effective collaboration. Having monitored 65 out of the 125 trials that were planned, the students use relevant information they have generated on the causes for delays in justice delivery for the annual public report of the Ombudsman Institution as well as targeted advocacy campaigns.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

Challenges persist in the ongoing efforts to promote a strong rule of law and increased access to justice in Kyrgyzstan. According to the UN Human Rights Committee review in 2014, the rule of law system remains weak due to an inadequate legal framework that does not live up to international standards, weak enforcement of existing laws and widespread corruption that often leads to a legal nihilism. The absence of coordination between relevant state institutions and strategic planning are other obstacles to effective justice sector reform and justice service delivery.

The Access to Justice Assessment for Vulnerable Groups carried out by UNDP in 2014, further identified many barriers that vulnerable groups face when accessing justice and these include low levels of legal knowledge, lack of access to a qualified lawyer for advice or representation, limited access to justice institutions, lack of fair judicial procedures as well as weak enforcement of court decisions. At the same time, the country still has difficulty in implementing recommendations of the Universal Periodical view and in providing and adequate framework for the Ombudsman Institution which is still not fully aligned with international standards.

Following its rule of law engagement over the years, UNDP has learned that when the country's unique socio-political environment is adequately considered within the framework of nationally-driven demands, rule of law programming can be more effective in ensuring the institutionalization and sustainability of reform. A key challenge to this approach remains in combining the global, normative principles inherent in the concept of the “rule of law” with local dynamics. In Kyrgyzstan in 2015, UNDP sought to address this challenge by reviewing its seven different projects that either directly addressed aspects of access to justice, legal empowerment and the rule of law, or contained elements within a broader thematic framework of democratic governance and, or conflict prevention and recovery, and consolidated them into a single programmatic framework.

Looking forward, UNDP believes this consolidation will not only ensure better coordination and synergies between projects, but will ultimately increase their impact in consolidating the rule of law, and strengthening stability and the social contract to prevent the recurrence of violent uprisings.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- The multi–institutional coordinating mechanism of justice actors prepared detailed action plans that outlined more than 90 subsidiary pieces of legislation necessary to expand on and supplement the provisions of the newly enacted Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on free Legal Aid.
- 30 university students were selected and trained on pro bono trial monitoring with special attention to cases of violence against women. The monitoring activities of the University students have been embedded within the Ombudsman Institution as a sustainable and effective collaboration.

» UNDP supports the government of Kyrgyzstan to engage the community in keeping the environment healthy.
In 2015, Lebanon continued to suffer from high political insecurity and instability caused by the impact of the neighboring Syrian crisis entering its sixth year. The addition of more than 1.1 million registered refugees, comprising about 25 percent of Lebanon’s population, dispersed throughout the country but mainly concentrated in already poor and vulnerable areas, has severely strained the capacity of host municipalities and sectoral agencies to address the increased demand of services.

The Syrian crisis has also intensified the political polarization in Lebanon, which led to the paralysis of all political institutions. The parliament failed to elect a new president prior to the end of President Michel Sleiman’s term on May 25, 2014. Political divisions between the two key alliances have thus far prevented the parliament from reaching consensus over a candidate despite numerous elections.

In addition, the attempts at infiltration by terrorist elements and intensifying sectarian differences continue to be pressing security concerns in Lebanon. Mirroring the sectarian political divide at the institutional level, security and justice institutions are also affected by clientelism, political interference, and sectarianism. Sectarian considerations are a factor in matters of selection, recruitment, postings, and may also affect promotion in these institutions.

At the community level, there are some tensions between Syrian refugees and their Lebanese host communities. The tensions are driven by perceptions of Syrian criminality by the host communities and security forces and perceptions that humanitarian distribution targets Syrian refugees but largely excludes poor Lebanese. Lebanon is also experiencing cases of ill-treatment of refugees as well as competition over jobs and access to local services and infrastructure between the two groups. Furthermore, there has been significant human trafficking, including sexual exploitation, which has affected Syrian refugee women and girls, and forced labor and abuse of domestic workers.

Responding to the tensions among host communities and refugees, municipal police have started playing an important role without receiving adequate training or funding. In many locations, police enforce curfews on Syrian refugees, which is a breach of Lebanese law as well as of international human rights standards.

Lebanon’s security forces, including the Internal Security Forces, have a significant state security focus. While providing a significant level of state security is necessary given the internal and external threats Lebanon faces, the Internal Security Forces is perceived to need to improve its responsiveness to community safety and security needs as well as compliance with international human rights standards.

Responding to the impact of the crisis, UNDP is part of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan. UNDP is mandated to focus on the stabilization and resilience component within the response plan. The budget requirement in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan by Lebanon is heavily focused on municipal services and conflict management.

In 2015, UNDP acknowledged the urgency of building its rule of law programming in Lebanon to better respond to the impact of the Syrian crisis. To do so, UNDP undertook a comprehensive baseline security and justice assessment, focusing on municipal police needs, prisons’ conditions, reducing violence at the community level, access to justice, providing legal aid, addressing the needs of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities security cells, and
establishing programmatic baselines. The assessment was concluded in 2016 and identified gaps and highlighted abilities of both state and civil society in providing safety, security, and justice which will inform UNDP’s program going forward. The assessment was informed by key informant interviews with mayors, municipal police, officials, and civil society actors, focus group discussions with Syrian refugees, and a survey in collaboration with UNHCR of Syrian refugees’ experiences in accessing justice.

During the assessment phase, UNDP’s country office took the opportunity to develop and strengthen a number of strategic relationships with counterparts at central and local levels by responding to ad-hoc needs. For example, UNDP successfully engaged with the Anti-Torture Committee within the Internal Security Forces to agree to enhance its human rights response to violations within prisons in 2016.

By performing the assessment, UNDP also engaged with various partners and sister agencies, such as UNHCR, to supplement humanitarian efforts with long-term development assistance. This was clearly demonstrated in providing support to the municipal police. The established partnerships are anticipated to assist with designing a joint rule of law programme to start in 2016 as well as to contribute to stabilization efforts in Lebanon.

In addition to the assessment, UNDP also created a plan with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to train municipal police. The plan consisted of developing municipal police Standard Operating Procedures and drafting a Code of Conduct in partnership with the Internal Security Forces Academy and General Directorate of Municipalities, with strong technical support provided from UNDP and UNHCR. The Standard Operating Procedures will dictate a set of explicit instructions for municipal police to effectively and accountably accomplish their duties by promoting consistency and compliance with the law. Mayors, municipal police officials, and civil society organizations will be involved to validate the Standard Operating Procedures.

The government also prioritized addressing the deficiency in collecting data for early warning purposes. Therefore, UNDP in consultation and coordination with the government developed and installed a software tool utilizing UNDP’s conflict analysis approach to serve the security cells at central and regional levels. The tool serves multiple-disciplinary departments in the government, uniquely allowing contributions of data to come from not only security personnel but also from representatives of ministries, such as education and health.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The uncertainty on the continuity of the political divide might impact the progress of the stabilization efforts. Lebanon has been successful in maintaining some level of stability within the country, but the current political divide in Lebanon has the potential to derail progress in stabilization and development efforts. However, it is difficult to predict how the situation will turn out due to the high level of interference of regional powers in the affairs of the state.

Furthermore, the government bureaucracy has contributed to significant delays in supporting the municipal police and security cells. The delays were caused mostly by the slow communication within the governorate and district-level offices of the Internal Security Forces and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities. The decision-making power in these agencies is concentrated in a small number of senior officials at the national level.

Building upon the baseline assessments carried out in 2015, UNDP will launch its rule of law programme in 2016, focusing on development at the local level through support to municipal police, the Internal Security Force’s community security approach, promoting access to justice at the district level and addressing living conditions in prisons with additional focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners as part of measures to prevent violent extremism in the country. The strategy will mainstream gender and will build the capacity of civil society organizations to raise women’s concerns on security needs and gender justice. Lastly, the programme will also support legal aid services and seek to balance support between justice and security institutions and civil society organizations.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» UNDP and UNHCR commenced supporting the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and Internal Security Forces Academy to develop Standard Operating Procedures and launch the work of security cells.
» UNDP conducted an in-depth comprehensive assessment report of the justice and security sector outlining baselines for the rule of law programme.
» During the assessment phase, a number of strategic relationships were developed that will be built upon as the programme is launched in 2016.
BACKGROUND

Liberia has made remarkable progress in its recovery from the civil war (1989-2003) by addressing some of the root causes of the conflict and working to achieve the 2011 New Deal peace- and state-building goals. Today, Liberia enjoys nearly 13 years of peace, 10 years of democratic governance and improved economic development.45

Yet, as evidenced by the Ebola crisis in 2014 and 2015, Liberia is still highly vulnerable to shocks and emergencies, and much remains to be done to further reduce risks and avert development setbacks. The outbreak left more than 4,800 people dead, slowed the economy, and eroded some of the important gains Liberia had made in reducing poverty and fragility. Today, almost two-thirds of Liberians live below the poverty line and it is expected that it will take many years for the economy to fully recover from the Ebola crisis.46

The Government of Liberia is set to assume responsibility for all aspects of national security by June 30, 2016, as it will take over the residual tasks performed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), whose drawdown had been suspended since September 2014 due to the Ebola outbreak.

Assistance and Impact

Strengthening the rule of law and establishing national security agencies on internationally acceptable principles have been central aims of Liberia’s peace- and state-building efforts. UNDP continued to support these efforts through rule of law support, in partnership with the Peacebuilding Fund. In 2015, UNDP facilitated the deployment of 21 police officers, nine prosecutors, five public defenders and ten human rights monitors to the Harper and Zwedru regional hubs in the Southeastern Region. As a result, case disposal and completion in the hub regions has increased from below 30 percent in 2013 to 80 percent in 2015.

UNDP helped the Liberian National Police to roll-out and operationalize the newly established Professional Standards Division. The Professional Standards Division now has a presence across five counties, including Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and Montserrado. In 2015, the Professional Standards Division received a total of 605 complaints against the police made by the public, resulting in the investigation of 206 individual officers. Based on the reports filed with the Inspector-General of Police, disciplinary measures were ordered against 128 individual officers.

UNDP continued to work towards improving the availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of justice and security services for women and girls, particularly those threatened by or experiencing violence. Within the regional hubs, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services have been provided for the first time in 2015 to inhabitants of the Southeastern Region of the country, enabling 16 people to access gender-based violence support services. A total of 64 officers, including 25 women of the Women Children Protection Service within the Liberian National Police, were also trained in investigating SGBV crimes. Continued support to the specialized SGBV Crimes Prosecution Unit led to a total of 167 new cases received through its victim hotline in 2015, up from 99 in 2014.

Additionally, UNDP also supported the participation of Liberians in the constitutional review process. Twenty-one proposals out of 25 issues for constitutional review emerging from the public consultations held in 2014 were validated and submitted to the legislature through the presidency. Through a National Consultative Constitutional Conference, UNDP ensured that the voices of over 750 people were in the debates.

Through cooperation with the Law Reform Commission, UNDP helped to define a system for a simple, modern, and systematic law-making process.
that is inclusive. Also entrenched in this policy, is the harmonization of the dual statutory and customary legal systems in Liberia.

In 2015, local county peace committees were established in 12 counties, 45 committee members (30 percent of whom were female) were trained on conflict mediation. Six Early Warning Working Groups based on regional membership from county peace committees are currently functional, contributing to security data collection in 12 counties. Over 200 early warning text messages were received in 2015, 45 percent of which enabled rapid and early response by security actors.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite these concerted efforts, a number of obstacles continue to hinder more rapid progress in the justice and security sectors. These include: (i) the deep-seated institutional capacity deficits and inefficiencies; (ii) entrenched discriminatory attitudes and behaviors; and (iii) endemic corruption. At the same time, informal justice processes frequently deliver inequitable results and poor rights protection, legal pluralism, and low levels of legal literacy remain critical national level issues.

UNDP is developing a comprehensive rule of law, justice, and security programme, which will be implemented in close conjunction with UNMIL. The programme will be geared towards further strengthening the different justice and security institutions, as well as continuing to build capacities at the grassroots level to ensure access to justice and security for local communities, with particular attention to the needs of women and children.

UNDP’s efforts since 2003, have shown the importance of accompanying reform with normative and cultural change as a way to sustain rule of law gains. The future programme will therefore also invest more in strengthening internal accountability and empowering oversight mechanisms. The will include working with civil society actors to actively monitor the performance of justice and security institutions, as well as enhancing performance management in the rule of law sector.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» UNDP facilitated the deployment of 21 police officers, nine prosecutors, five public defenders and ten human rights monitors to the Harper and Zwedru regional hubs. As a result, case disposal and completion in the hub regions has increased from below 30 percent in 2013 to 80 percent in 2015.

» A total of 64 officers, including 25 women of the Women Children Protection Service within the Liberia National Police, were trained in investigating sexual and gender-based violence crimes.

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» The Professional Standards Division received a total of 605 complaints in 2015, resulting in the investigation of 206 individual officers. Disciplinary measures were ordered against 128 individual officers.

» Due to the establishment of six Early Warning Working Groups, over 200 early warning text messages were received in 2015, 45 percent of which enabled rapid and early response by security actors.

» Human rights awareness campaigns by the Independent National Human Rights Commission amongst local communities, reached out to a total of 9,018 individuals across the country, including 2,460 women, increasing legal literacy levels, especially amongst women and girls.
BACKGROUND

After the revolution of February 2011, violence and insecurity have increased in Libya. The outbreak of armed conflict in mid-2014 further strained the process of political transition and resulted in the establishment of rival governments: the House of Representatives in the East in Tobruk and the General National Congress in the West in Tripoli. In 2015, Libyans saw a deterioration of the country’s security situation with the emergence of multiple security actors and through an erosion of the state services due to the fragmented politics and governance. This lead to heightened risks of casualties, kidnapping, torture, unlawful killings, and illegal detentions. The country also experienced significant limitations in accessing education, health, housing, and judicial services.

With porous borders and intensifying crime and violence, increasing safety and security were priorities for the country in 2015. The international community continues to view re-establishing the rule of law in the Libyan state as one of the first steps to begin the process of consolidating peace and bringing about stability. This process requires engaging with security actors, including the police, to strengthen security mechanisms at the local and national level. The situation on the ground continues to be unpredictable with pockets of escalated violence and localized conflict. Women, children, minorities, internally displaced populations, and refugees are particularly affected by these clashes.

These priorities were emphasized by the newly established Government of National Accord. Throughout 2015, the UN sought to support the establishment of a unity government and, in March 2016, the Government of National Accord was established in Tripoli. The Government of National Accord’s vision paper outlined that it understands that the rule of law is fundamental to establishing peace and prosperity in Libya. This includes establishing security and stability in the state, supporting national reconciliation and transitional justice processes, as well as redressing grievances and protecting human rights.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Following the escalation of conflict in mid-2014, UNDP was relocated to Tunisia, where it continued its engagement through the existing rule of law programme as well as finalized the new police programme. The complex operational environment and security situation in Libya lead to a suspension of much of UNDP programming on the ground. In 2015, UNDP halted both the rule of law and police programmes as it became increasingly difficult to operate at the national level with two competing governments.

In 2014 and 2015, UNDP conducted a number of assessments on local governance and service delivery, instability and insecurity, and women’s peace and security in Libya. These assessments revealed that the main opportunities and entry points for programming were at the local level. As a result, the Support to Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Programme was launched in November 2015 to empower local actors to mitigate the impact of conflict at the community level, and to contribute to local-level recovery processes. The programme recognized the importance of improving community security and mediation between actors by focusing on strengthening the links between the local government, local security actors, and traditional social structures, including to develop community security plans.

To continue the municipal-level political dialogue process led by the UN, UNDP and UNSMIL jointly
developed a programme on transitional justice and reconciliation at the local level in 2015 and finalized in 2016. The programme aims to facilitate the implementation of the agreement from the Misrata/Tawergha dialogue process including recommendations related to reparations and return to Tawergha. The programme sought to respond to the roadmap developed by the Misrata and Tawergha Joint Committee that seeks to address some of the fundamental causes of the conflict between the communities. This includes dealing with allegations of past human rights violations; promoting reconciliation between the two communities; strengthening community security; and supporting legal aid and psycho-social services to address the trauma and facilitate recovery. Looking forward, the project will build the dialogue capacities in national entities and will share experiences and best practices with other communities preparing to enter into discussions on transitional justice and reconciliation, such as Mashashya and the Gwalish.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The establishment of the Government of National Accord has provided a clear partner for UNDP to work within 2016. UNDP programming on rule of law and security will aim to support the vision outlined by the government. Despite the many security and operational challenges in 2015, UNDP was able to develop programming and prepare for the implementation of programmes to support the Government of National Accord.

UNDP will aim to support the many priorities already identified by the government on security, rule of law, and human rights to fulfill the country’s national vision. Some of these goals include: to create a safe and stable environment in the country, to support the security mechanisms in the country, to counterterrorism, organized crime, and illegal immigration and to establish the rule of law and respect for human rights in the country.

Priorities on transitional justice will also be taken forward through the UNDP and UNSMIL joint programme. UNDP will assist in activating transitional justice and national reconciliation mechanisms, including supporting implementation of the existing law on transitional justice, appointing the Board of

the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission, addressing the conditions of detainees and missing persons and ensuring that they have access to due process.

UNDP will also explore further in 2016 supporting the overall national priority of establishing the rule of law through ensuring: the independence and protection of justice sector actors, access to justice for detainees; due process and detention in officially recognized facilities for detainees and prisoners; support for the national human rights institution; and support for upholding principles of transparency and accountability within the government.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP launched the Support to Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Programme, which aimed to strengthen community security and engage with local and traditional actors to promote mediation.
- The UNDP and UNSMIL jointly developed the Support to Transitional Justice at the Local and National Levels in Libya programme, which was signed in 2016.

- UNDP held community consultations to assess the capacity of civil society and local authorities to provide services and rebuild conflict areas.
BACKGROUND

In 2015, the political situation in Mali made remarkable progress, starting with the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process by the “Platform Coalition” (comprising of factions of the armed forces) and the Coordination des Mouvements de l’Azawad in May and June respectively. The seven-month long negotiations contributed to a noticeable improvement in the relationship between the signatories. The improved rapport has led to direct talks between the Coordination des Mouvements de l’Azawad and the Platform Coalition in Anefis from which a road map was produced, outlining measures to achieve the cessation of hostilities, freedom of movement, and inter-communal reconciliation arrangements. In October 2015, an international conference for economic recovery and development of Mali was hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, where the Government of Mali presented its draft development and emergency response plan for the North of the country, pursuant to articles 8 and 34 of the peace agreement. These political developments were widely welcomed by the international community and the United Nations.

Despite the positive developments on the political front, challenges on the ground persisted. The security situation has been increasingly volatile with persistent efforts of terrorist groups to undermine the peace process. Illicit trafficking of arms and drugs as well as inter-communal violence – especially in Meneka – continue and are aggravated by long-standing animosity between communities. These challenges have collectively restricted the implementation of the peace agreement provisions, in particular, efforts for demobilization, decentralization, and reintegration, and the extension of state authority in the North. Such delays continue to be a cause of increasing frustration to the parties to the agreement, and remain a hindrance to providing peace dividends to the population, such as security for the return to normal daily life.

By mid-2015, the political and security situation in Mali had resulted in 146,664 refugees and 90,218 internally displaced persons. The United Nations, together with regional and international partners, continues to support the Government of Mali and national partners with the implementation of the peace agreement to address the root cause of this mass displacement.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Throughout 2015, UNDP and its partners continued to support the Malian government foster the rule of law in Mali and restore state authority in the North. UNDP led a joint project with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), titled Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North, which focuses on the rehabilitation of rule of law infrastructure, including courts, access to justice centers, and prisons. By the end of 2015, the project had supported the refurbishment of nine courts, seven prisons, and seventeen access to justice centers. The security situation in the North has inevitably affected the project implementation; however, partial implementation continued through the work of national partners.

Also in 2015, UNDP and MINUSMA provided infrastructure support as well as training for justice and law enforcement officials. Following a partnership agreement with the law enforcement institutions, which was finalized in 2014, support was provided to restore public order and stability by training police, in coordination with MINUSMA’s police division. By the end of 2015, 1,423 justice personnel received
specialized training on the penal code, criminal justice, transitional justice, combating corruption, and human rights mainstreaming, with the support of UNDP. The justice personnel included prosecutors, national police, national gendarmerie, and the National Guard.

Building on UNDP and MINUSMA’s joint support of the Ministry of Justice in 2014, the drafting and submission of a justice sector reform proposal was submitted to the Minister of Justice in early 2015. The proposal was endorsed by the government and is currently guiding the prioritization and sequencing of justice reform activities. Furthermore, UNDP has been supporting the drafting and dissemination of human rights knowledge and sensitization documents throughout 2015 and these efforts will continue throughout 2016.

Recognizing the complexity of the political context in Mali, and the need for stronger integration within the UN system in delivering tangible rule of law infrastructure and extending state authority in the North, a joint project has been developed to provide comprehensive and integral interventions in Mali. As such, five UN entities - Department for Peacekeeping Operations, UN Women, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and UNDP - came together to utilize their comparative advantages in supporting rule of law in crisis-affected situations. These five UN entities integrated existing efforts into one framework, geared towards a common vision of fostering rule of law in Mali under the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections (GFP). The GFP rule of law project was finalized at the end of 2015 and is focusing on building rule of law institutions, as well as addressing conflict drivers in Mali to ensure stability through increased access to justice and delivery of justice services to the people. Meanwhile, UNDP and MINUSMA continue to serve as co-facilitators of the donors’ thematic group on justice and rule of law in Mali and stronger coordination is being achieved through UNDP participation in the rule of law coordination meetings held by MINUSMA.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

The advance of terrorist activity in the North towards central Mali has inflamed an already highly volatile security situation. As mentioned previously, this has posed a key challenge for the joint project to overcome, has led to slow implementation of the peace agreement, and has hindered efforts for demobilization, decentralization, and reintegration, as well as the deployment of state officials in the North. However, there is timely recognition from the UN system and the international community of such challenges and strategic responses are expected to facilitate an environment that will allow for the redeployment of state officials to the North and the resumption of project operations. In particular, MINUSMA is adjusting its security plans, coordination mechanisms, and training programmes, in addition to developing tactical intervention capacities and contingency plans in response to this challenge.

The way forward for the UN system rule of law support in Mali will be guided and driven under the auspices of the Global Focal Point arrangement. Stronger coordination with bilateral, regional and international partners delivering rule of law support in Mali will be a priority. In line with the peace agreement, support will be provided to transitional justice processes and heightened gender-sensitive initiatives.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- UNDP through its joint programme with MINUSMA has provided support to the Ministry of Justice in drafting justice priorities through the secondment of technical expertise since 2014.
- Support was provided for the rehabilitation of 9 courthouses (5 in Timbuktu and 2 in Mopti) and 1 police station in Bamako. UNDP provided capacity building training to 1,423 justice staff including 184 women.
- Support to rehabilitate the National School of Police in Bamako commenced on March 2015. Infrastructure support was provided to 8 prisons and 3 regional divisions of the prison administration in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, and Mopti.
- In the Mopti region, the programme supported the rehabilitation of the Court of Appeal at Sevare, Courts of Justice in Mopti, Youwarou, and Douentza.
- UNDP, through its collaboration with MINUSMA’s stabilization unit, carried out a number of quick impact projects, including support for 4 associations in Timbuktu in support of livelihoods opportunities.
- UNDP supported campaigning for peace through working with civil society organizations, including the organization of an International Day of Peace that was carried out in Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao.
BACKGROUND

Myanmar continued to make progress in advancing the peace and democratic processes in 2015. A Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was signed in October 2015 between the Myanmar government and eight ethnic organizations, successful democratic elections were held in November 2015, and the government continued to take forward political, social, economic and administrative reforms. While uncertainty remains about the upcoming transition and its impact on the promotion of democratic governance and rule of law, early signs indicate that reforms will move in a positive direction.

In the justice sector, both the Union Attorney General’s Office and the Supreme Court of the Union have made progress in institutional reform strategies, putting both institutions in a better position to discuss and develop an overall justice sector reform strategy. The passage of the legal aid law is an important step towards improving the legal and institutional framework for access to justice, but real change will only be seen in its implementation. While individual reforms and progress can make a difference to the rule of law and human rights, coordinated efforts will be critical to resolving the greatest challenges. The 2015 elections and the victory of the National League for Democracy, who have for several years prioritized rule of law reform now represents a positive outlook for the future of coordinated reforms.

Concerns over human rights remain with the UN Special Rapporteur along with many human rights organizations that continue to raise concerns over rights abuses in the context of armed conflict, the treatment of the Muslim Rohingya minority in Rakhine and the rising prominence of Buddhist nationalism. The improvement of the human rights situation in Myanmar will require a multi-pronged approach involving public institutions, the military, development partners and the Myanmar people themselves.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP’s assistance to justice sector institutions has been structured around the key areas of: 1) planning and coordination for a justice sector reform strategy that ensures access to justice for women and vulnerable groups; 2) improving government recognition of the need for adequate participation from those affected to ensure laws respond to public needs; and 3) equipping judicial officials and law officers with the skills and tools they need in order administer justice in accordance with international human rights standards, including promoting equality.

Overall justice institutions have accumulated good experience in reform planning and strategizing and are now in a strong position to take important steps towards sector-wide coordination and planning as illustrated by the 2015 Strategic Plan developed by the Union Attorney General’s Office through extensive consultations. UNDP also supported justice institutions to engage more with civil society and the general public, such as through the national consultations on the draft laws on legal aid, prevention of violence against women, and the child law. UNDP also facilitated justice sector actors’ engagement at a local level with communities, holding roundtable discussions on rule of law and human rights issues such as legal awareness and domestic violence in two regions.

In 2015, UNDP completed the pilot phase of the Rule of Law Centers initiative and, at the request of the Coordinating Body of the Rule of Law Tranquility Committee led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, began Phase 1 of the project which has resulted in the establishment of three centers to deliver training courses and community outreach activities to legal professionals, justice sector actors, community representatives and the general public on rule of law related matters. UNDP
also supported clinical legal education in building young lawyers’ practical skills and awareness of social justice issues in all 18 of Myanmar’s universities.

UNDP also helped to set the stage for improvements to access to justice by providing substantive guidance and inputs in the development of the legal aid law. In 2014, the Union Attorney General spoke in favor of legal aid reform at a UNDP-supported global legal aid conference in South Africa. Since then, both the Union Attorney General’s Office and the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union have been involved in discussions on the expansion of legal aid in Myanmar, and in 2015, a legal aid bill was introduced in the Parliament.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The key challenges for the project moving ahead concern the upcoming transition, flexibly responding to emerging priorities and delivering within a tighter timeline following the new administration coming into power in the second quarter of 2016.

Over the next two years, UNDP will continue to partner with Myanmar’s justice institutions to identify and drive forward targeted reforms as well as the implementation of key laws and institutional reforms, such as the establishment of a nationally owned legal aid system in Myanmar. Additionally, UNDP will work with justice sector actors at the local level to improve data collection and analysis to inform justice policy making. There will also be continued emphasis on training and learning as well as public outreach and engagement and a focus on enhancing quality and relevance of training modules.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Technical assistance provided to the Union Attorney General’s Office and the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union on coordinated justice sector information communication technology strategies.
- A judicial ethics committee was established and a new code of ethics was drafted with support from UNDP and the International Commission of Jurists.
- Three Rule of Law Centers were established, which trained 182 people on rule of law principles.
- UNDP held regular roundtable discussions on topics such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and domestic violence and delivered a grant to provide legal assistance for SGBV victims in the Mandalay Region.
- In partnership with Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative, clinical legal education curriculum and programs were established at 17 Myanmar universities and 12 Myanmar law teachers completed their training.
- UNDP undertook mapping of formal and informal justice systems in Rakhine in 2015, which will inform evidence-based programming, particularly related to women’s access to justice.
BACKGROUND

In April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude, claiming the lives of 8,617 people, injuring 16,808 people and displacing more than 2.8 million. The economic losses were estimated to be around $10 billion. Rule of law institutions were also weakened in the wake of the disaster and essential supply routes from India to Nepal were disrupted for nearly 4 months. The black market still reigns, particularly in the supply of petroleum and cooking gas.

Despite continued political instability, progress was made in the last quarter of the year by the promulgation of a new constitution on September 20th, 2015, replacing the Interim Constitution of 2007. The new constitution has restructured the nation into a federal republic and divided the territory into seven states. It has also introduced court systems to match the new three-level administrative structures of the country – district courts, provincial courts, and the Supreme Court – with hopes of creating a more efficient and independent judiciary. This restructuring is accompanied with the establishment of the Constitutional Bench, within the Supreme Court (as opposed to a separate Constitutional Court).

Departing from the Interim Constitution, the new constitution defines a wide range of human rights, wherein 32 human rights are recognized as fundamental rights. The new constitutional framework also includes a larger bill of rights and assigned constitutional status to the National Women's Commission and the National Dalit Commission. However, the final debates on the constitution were boycotted by political parties based in Terai against the delimitation of states as well as the inclusion of minorities and the Madhesi population in the national and public life. This, in turn, triggered Madhesi protests in streets claiming nearly 55 lives.

The expectations of delivery of services from the police, courts, and other oversight mechanisms are on the rise as the political dialogue is moving forward and expected to reflect on this sector. However, the Supreme Court of Nepal is confronted with the issue of timely appointment of the judges in vacant positions. The transitional justice process in Nepal remains on the backburner because of compliance issues with human rights standards; although, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and an Investigation Against Enforced Disappearance Commission have been formed. Despite international advocacy from key development partners and observers, the Truth and Reconciliation Act still contains provisions related to blanket amnesty. The act is controversial because it is neither in line with a Supreme Court verdict on the subject nor with the international human rights standards.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP has been working alongside the UN Humanitarian Country Team in coordinating relief efforts and contributing to the recovery of the country.

Even though the earthquake has generally slowed down programming efforts in the area of rule of law, UNDP’s work persisted. UNDP has continued to provide support to the Secretariat of the Justice Sector Coordination Committee. In 2015 a national legal aid policy, which will be instrumental in introducing a sector-wide approach, was finalized by the committee and strategic plans for justice sector institutions were introduced.

Furthermore, the population has immensely benefitted from the establishment of an Information Center in the court system at the district level. The centers are responsible for providing necessary information to court clients regarding services.
available. The programme has launched Socio-Legal Aid Centers in 10 districts. These centers mark a paradigm shift in the history of legal aid in Nepal, as they redefine legal aid by including the social dimension, focusing on social justice and holistic services of legal aid.

UNDP also supported the establishment of a referral network to ensure better coordination with all legal aid actors at the community level. The network has been instrumental in creating a legal education scheme for women and vulnerable groups. This strategy continued during 2015 in the form of an internship programme for young lawyers and 75 persons have benefitted thus far. Legal scholarships were also provided to 20 legal students for five years.

UNDP supported measures to improve court management in Nepal. Some of the efforts include: the increased use of information technologies; the practice of continuous hearings and in-camera benches; employing information desks and judicial outreach to facilitate communication between the public and the courts; and holding regular meetings and dialogues among justice sector actors. According to the Supreme Court, district and appellate courts only have 578 cases in all 75 districts that have exceeded two years and are still waiting to be dispensed; the amount of pending cases were nearly double this figure in the previous year. The decreasing amount of backlogged cases is encouraging, given the prevalent perception among citizens that the courts do not deliver on time. Lastly, the judgment rate also improved, reaching 61.51 percent throughout Nepal and 70.52 percent in UNDP project districts in 2015; this is an increase of 5.75 percent and 7.33 percent respectively in comparison to 2014.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The protracted political transition and the constitutional debate continues to overshadow the review of pending bills on both civil and criminal code procedures in the parliament and delays the drafting of new ones. The impact of the earthquake has clearly tested the capacity of security institutions to respond to the crisis and has highlighted a number of gaps that require development assistance.

The change in leadership at the Supreme Court level has created new pressure for the adjustment of some activities related to the access to justice commission that were not yet established during the planning of the annual work plan, while also addressing planned activities as per the work plan.

Partnership with civil society is instrumental in maximizing efforts to expand outreach initiatives and in creating awareness about existing legal and policy mechanisms. One such example is UNDP’s work undertaken with civil society organizations to organize mobile legal aid clinics.

UNDP’s multiple skill oriented workshops on Gender and Social Inclusion issues have contributed towards the better reception of the issue in the justice sector. The performance of the Socio-Legal Aid Centers in the targeted districts has been encouraging; however, the outreach activities of these centers should be increased and supported with more resources.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP strengthened people’s access to justice for 5,391 people in 2015, reaching 3,405 females and 1,986 males, including 533 earthquake survivors.
- Remedial legal aid services from Socio-Legal Aid Centers were established in 10 programme districts, and the preventive legal aid services from legal aid outreach programmes reached over 26,021 people.
- The case disposal rate has reached 61.51 percent in Nepal and 70.62 percent in UNDP project districts in 2015.

A community legal awareness programme taking place in Dadeldhura district, western Nepal.
BACKGROUND

For more than a decade, Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Federally Administered Tribal Areas have been at the forefront of violent conflict involving armed militant groups, with national and global repercussions. The violence in the region weakened the state’s ability to fulfill its roles and functions, including in the justice and security sectors. The strong correlation between the breakdown of state institutions and the rise of militant groups, as cited by the 2010 Post Crisis Needs Assessment, highlighted the need to support initiatives to restore and establish public confidence in rule of law institutions.

By 2011, when the UNDP Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand project was launched, the security situation had somewhat improved. However, state institutions responsible for justice and security remained weak and the restoration of rule of law in the conflict-affected areas was made a priority for the government. With the gradual stabilization of the region, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police took over responsibility for maintaining law and order and the media have reported a declining trend in the crime rate.53

Despite some positive changes, challenges remain. This is particularly the case in certain parts of Malakand and the southern districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where reports of violence, specifically targeting security sector institutions and personnel, continue. Further, the overall improvement in the province has not necessarily translated into an improvement in the public’s confidence and trust in the justice sector, as indicated by a 2015 assessment conducted by UNDP. The assessment indicates that the level of trust in the police and the court system continues to be low relative to the Jirga (‘assembly of elders’) and other traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. In 2016, the second phase of the Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand project was launched, building upon the lessons learned in the first phase. The second phase aims to expand interventions and increase its geographic reach to additional districts in the province.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The Strengthening of Rule of Law in Malakand Project is uniquely funded (25 percent) by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and collaborates closely with rule of law institutions, community-based organizations and civil society groups to design and implement a comprehensive project aimed at building institutional capacity across the justice system. This helps enable effective delivery of quality justice services and facilitates accessible and affordable legal services at the community level.

The project supports both the demand and supply sides of the criminal justice system: building capacities of state institutions, including the police, judiciary, and prosecution on the one hand and reaching out to vulnerable groups, particularly women, on the other. The project seeks to engage with beneficiaries as well as implement sustainable and transformative interventions by using evidence and data.

Activities are undertaken in partnership with the relevant agencies at provincial and district levels under the guidance and strategic direction of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, the Planning and Development Department and the judiciary. There is also continuous collaboration with community-based organizations and universities. The project works directly with communities to aggregate, articulate, and channel demand for justice at the grassroots and create linkages between rights holders and duty bearers.

In 2015, UNDP’s Strengthening of Rule of Law in Malakand Project implemented the first community policing initiative in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and established gender desks in 18 model police stations.
stations. Furthermore, UNDP-supported initiatives aimed at increasing the number of female lawyers and law students and also established a training course for paralegals administered by the University of Malakand. UNDP also bolstered the technical capacity of the Regional Forensics Science Laboratory in Swat. Lastly, the project provided legal aid to over 9,000 people and supported broader policy changes on legal aid to ensure legal services are more accessible to poor and marginalized groups.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

While the security environment in 2015 improved in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with several project structural changes (reorganizing and establishing new positions, senior-level technical and operational posts), implementation was somewhat delayed. However, the project continued to maintain strong partnerships with government and rule of law counterparts and support grassroots interventions, despite the internal changes.

In 2016, as the project expands to more districts, it also aims to build synergies and symbiosis across different areas of work supported by UNDP. This includes, for example, linking the work of the project to that of the Parliamentary Caucus on Rule of Law in the Senate of Pakistan. It also aims to work with the Home Department to strengthen correctional services, enhance inmate care, and encourage the promotion of women within rule of law institutions.

As the project moves forward, priorities include: supporting the effective functioning of legal aid desks, and increasing distribution of legal information through media campaigns, focusing on women, children, students, and displaced persons. Emphasis will also be placed on promoting a culture of community service among law students and strengthening alternative dispute mechanisms to relieve case backlog in the formal sector. The project will continue to work with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy to help train judges, provide support to the police on gender-sensitive and community-based policing, and support an additional 15 earthquake-resistant model police stations by the end of 2016. The project will also be establishing baselines in two additional districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expanding to an additional 3 Southern districts by the end of 2016.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- Supported the establishment of the Regional Forensic Science Lab in Swat, Malakand as well as training for 19 forensic scientists.
- Supported the strengthening of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy, including the capacity development of 2,000 judges and court staff (including 137 women officials) alongside development of a database and automated data analysis software to evaluate trainings.
- Supported the establishment of the Regional Police Training Center in Swat, including female dormitories, a crime scene room, and state-of-the-art training facilities. The center trained more than 1,500 police personnel including 546 women officers.
- Supported improved engagement between community members and police at the local level through community policing forums and the development of 6 police community consultative District Police Plans.
- Supported the establishment of 18 Model Police Stations with dedicated Women Desks, Administration Desks, Investigation Desks and Community Policing Desks.
- Strengthened the existing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan and International Human Rights Law, with the development of judicial guidelines on court-annexed mechanisms, training of 50 judges on mediation skills, and establishing a formal university-based certificate course for community-based paralegals.
- Led on policy reforms vis-à-vis amendment of the Legal Aid Rules for the Pakistan Bar Council to increase access to justice for poor and vulnerable citizens. This included support to the amendment of the rules, which now requires lawyers to take pro bono cases as mandatory requirement for their registration.
- In 2014, a total of 3,069 community members provided free legal aid at 21 Legal Aid Desks.

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BACKGROUND

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest of the Pacific Island countries and territories, with a population of 8.2 million people. PNG is endowed with vast natural resources, particularly mineral deposits, forest, and marine resources. PNG is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, with more than 800 distinct languages. Over 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas, many of which live in tribal groups engaged in subsistence agriculture.

Following a 10-year civil conflict in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, there is still a security threat posed by the availability and existence of small arms. UNDP is supporting the work of the Government of Papua New Guinea in implementing the first ever National Security Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2014-2020).

Due to strong economic development, based largely on the minerals and energy extractions sector, the Government of PNG has recently committed 100 million Kina (approximately $40 million) per year to a regional development fund to assist Pacific countries. UNDP has offered to support the PNG government in developing the criteria and mechanism for implementation.

The Government of PNG has also taken steps to address and combat family sexual violence (FSV) and gender-based violence (GBV) in a more strategic manner. It has designed a coordination mechanism for FSV/GBV at national and regional levels as well as special services from the Health Department and the Police Family Sexual Violence Units. The Government of PNG has also highlighted the work on GBV/FSV as a priority area for intervention in its PNG Vision 2050 Policy, which in turn is also reflected in the 2010-2030 Development Strategic Plan and the 2011-2015 Medium Term Development Plan.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP has a longstanding commitment to supporting the dialogue between the Government of PNG and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville Government. This resulted in the Prime Minister visiting Bougainville in January 2014 – the first official visit of a Prime Minister of the PNG government since the conflict in 2001. Through his visit, 500 million Kina (approximately $210 million) was secured over five years (2012-2016) to fund high-impact development projects.

In 2015, PNG was declared eligible for the UN Peacebuilding Fund for Bougainville, a request supported by UNDP that focuses on three strategic areas: 1) Building trust between the governments of PNG and Bougainville; 2) Increasing awareness of the upcoming independence referendum and addressing gender-based violence prevention through trauma healing; and 3) Increased community security and stronger governance practice. A peace and development analysis is currently being completed to formulate a Peacebuilding Priority Plan for fund allocation.

In an effort to support transparency and accountability, UNDP provided technical support to 500 government officials in the Department of Finance and 17 provincial treasuries. This has resulted in increased accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting/accountability and has accelerated the resource allocation to the targeted provinces. After piloting this transparency project in six provinces for several years, resulting in these provinces being at the top of the ranking in the national Public Expenditure
Review, UNDP expanded the project in 2015 to eight additional provinces with previously low service delivery and established seven provincial audit committees.

UNDP’s technical advice and advocacy accelerated the implementation of the Integrated Finance Management System and Public Expenditure and Finances Accountability Roadmap and contributed in part to the application of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Standards and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative. These new systems reduce the risk and incidents of corruption in the Government of Papua New Guinea’s public expenditure and reporting.

UNDP, in partnership with the governments of PNG and Australia, implemented a “Phones Against Corruption” initiative to provide an effective and safe corruption reporting mechanism through mobile messaging. Based on its initial success in 2014, the project has been scaled up in 2015 to incorporate six new government departments to reach approximately 25,000 public officials and aims to eventually incorporate all civil servants. By the end of December 2015, more than 21,753 text messages were received from 6,157 different users. All reported cases are referred to the Department of Finance’s Internal Audit and Compliance Division for further investigation. Fiji, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands have all shown interest in replicating or adapting the system in their respective countries.

In 2015, UNDP rolled out a project targeting eight provinces focused on strengthening the government’s leadership in the prevention and response to gender-based violence. This project was initiated in cooperation with the Department for Community Development and Religion, the National Family and Sexual Violence Committee, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and with the financial support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In an effort to fortify preventative methods, UNDP implemented capacity building activities for local defenders of human rights, who are often the first point of call for women and girls in distress, people living with disabilities, and those most affected by gender discriminatory practices, especially gender-based violence. The training enhances the human rights defenders’ knowledge of the national and international legal and policy frameworks guiding their work and the basic principles and skills required for the work on gender-based violence.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

A key challenge for PNG will be to transform the strong macroeconomic development, largely based on revenues from the extractives industry, to real development and improvement of living standards for all Papua New Guineans. This requires improvement of transparency and accountability in the public sector and public spending and raising the performance of civil service in order to secure an increased service delivery that reaches all. UNDP will, therefore, continue to support efforts to increase transparency and accountability and the fight against corruption, as these are key elements to secure an inclusive economic development and improvements of the lives of the people of PNG.

During 2016, there will be continued focus on conflict-sensitive development planning, budgeting and implementation in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. UNDP will support the realization of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan for the allocation of funds and there will be continued focus on national security policy and community security in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. This will cement further support for community security and the reduction of armed violence in the coming years.

UNDP will continue to expand peace interventions and initiatives that facilitate a more inclusive decision-making process in relation to security governance in local communities. This will also help to create momentum for socio-economic recovery for the most marginalized and excluded population groups, particularly former combatants, women, and youth.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» UNDP provided support for the implementation of a new accounting system (the Integrated Finance Management System and Public Expenditure and Finances Accountability Roadmap), to reduce the risk and incidents of corruption in the Government of Papua New Guinea’s public expenditure and reporting.

» The Phones Against Corruption initiative to combat corruption and strengthen financial transparency and accountability incorporated six new government departments and reached 25,000 government officials. By the end of December 2015, more than 21,753 text messages were received from 6,157 different users.

» Standard Operating Procedures were developed to assist victims of gender-based violence in accessing support and navigating the justice system.
BACKGROUND

Overall Sierra Leone managed to remain stable in 2015, despite the Ebola Virus Disease crisis that exacerbated existing challenges caused by the high poverty levels. Incidence of poverty has been declining from a high value of 66.4 percent in 2003 to 52.9 percent in 2011. However, despite gains made, Sierra Leone was still ranked 181 out of 188 countries and territories in the 2014 Human Development Index, and the gender inequality index ranked Sierra Leone at 145 out of 155, mainly due to low participation of women in the overall economy. Both prevalence and acceptance of gender-based violence is high. The country is now preparing for both the local and presidential elections, and the fifth modern census was successfully conducted in December 2015.

During the Ebola virus crisis, emergency regulations and mechanisms including quarantines, checkpoints, and safe burials placed restrictions on human rights; such as freedom of movement, assembly, and association, which affected trade and other economic activities. Security institutions contributed significantly to maintaining peace and stability as the country fought to halt the Ebola virus. The crisis exposed flaws within the security sector’s institutional structures and coordination, especially amongst communities along the country’s porous borders. Within the correctional services, a backlog of cases and challenges in the justice chain have caused severe overcrowding in prisons, with the capital’s main correctional facility currently at 300 percent capacity.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The judiciary almost ceased to function during the Ebola crisis; however, the appointment of the acting Chief of Justice in February 2015 brought some reform efforts and UNDP support was instrumental in securing the engagement of all stakeholders within the justice sector debating judicial reforms. The judiciary was successful at launching the Bail and Sentencing Project to decongest detention facilities, and improve transparency and accountability in the bail and sentencing processes.

During the Ebola crisis, the Sierra Leone Police was responsible for the enforcement of quarantines and road checkpoints. UNDP contributed to the development of Standard Operating Procedures to enable security personnel to uphold human rights principles in the discharge of their duties. The utilization of the Standard Operating Procedures helped to minimize tensions at the community level as well as to mitigate social unrest.

UNDP supported developing a model of community policing in three chiefdoms in the Kambia district as a pilot for better grassroots engagement, involving the training of 170 front line police officers to become community policing. Three Community Relations Offices were also established in three chiefdoms, ensuring adequate representation of female staff amongst them (50 percent are women).

In 2015, the Sierra Leone Police established an Independent Police Complaints Board, with funding from the Peace Building Fund and technical support from UNDP, to investigate misconduct or abuse by the police. This has proved beneficial and should be operationalized nationwide with public accountability mechanisms.
UNDP continued to provide support services to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. Because the Ebola virus restricted movement of people to access services, UNDP, together with the Sierra Leone National Ebola Response Center, issued Laisser-Passer authorizations to six selected local civil society organizations to enable them to support SGBV survivors to access medical treatment, shelter, and the limited courts available during the crisis. The initiative enabled the referral of 260 critical SGBV cases across six administrative districts. Out of this number, 125 matters were charged to court, with 35 convictions secured. With limited court hearings during the crisis, UNDP’s interventions helped uphold the rule of law during this emergency period.

The Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission, which is supported by UNDP, provided oversight and monitoring during the crisis and led advocacy for the improvement of conditions of detention. Together with civil society, the commission helped to reshape discussions on overcrowding in detention centers and how to uphold human rights standards. This was further reinforced by the contribution of the commission in the training of more than 1,500 police and security personnel deployed throughout the country during the crisis.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the progress made, the justice and security governance sectors remain weak, with significant issues surrounding corruption and adherence to the rule of law. The justice and security institutions are highly centralized in the capital Freetown, and the vast majority of the population still relies on customary or informal justice to resolve disputes. The justice chain is also still marred with a lack of coordination and communication – as well as a lack of effective data/information exchanges between institutions.

The Ebola crisis has exposed the need for the government to strengthen rule of law institutions to be resilient to future crises. Although the government, with contributions from development partners, has been able to strengthen the legal framework, the justice and security sectors still lack the resources to overcome the continued challenges of inadequate human and financial resources to ensure services provided reach the most vulnerable and adamant poor living in remote areas. UNDP will continue to support the Government of Sierra Leone to this end.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Provision of legal representation and assistance to accused people through UNDP-sponsored legal aid centers was provided; 10 lawyers were supported and over 375 inmates were released, with 75 further re-united with their families.
- UNDP supported six civil society organizations to improve the knowledge of remote and under-serviced communities on Ebola virus prevention and response through door-to-door focus group discussions. A total of 19,600 houses and an estimated 106,000 people in 355 villages were reached and 650 quarantined homes were monitored.
- 260 critical sexual and gender-based violence cases were referred across six administrative districts; 125 matters were charged to court and 35 convictions secured.

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BACKGROUND

The security situation in Somalia remains volatile, with the militant group Al-Shabaab presenting a serious and continuing threat. The country’s rule of law institutions have low capacity and limited physical infrastructure outside of Mogadishu, Garowe, and Hargeisa. As a result, communities continue to rely on traditional forms of justice and conflict resolution. Some communities also rely on local militias to fill the vacuum an absence of state security has created. Limited national revenue has made rule of law in Somalia largely dependent on foreign assistance, while the federal structure of the police and the justice system remain undetermined.

Twelve regional, district and custodial courts in Somaliland also received extensive support, including the installation of two gender response units. Six regional prosecution offices now have special units to support victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) that correspond with a dedicated SGBV center in Hargeisa Hospital.

Legal aid provision through the use of mobile courts is proving to be very effective in rural areas in Somalia. In 2015 in Puntland, mobile courts adjudicated 413 (158 criminal and 255 civil) cases in 16 districts and villages, in which 158 women were assisted and 117 judgments were successfully endorsed. Furthermore, 2,097 clients in total, including 1,473 women and 624 men were reached by legal aid services. Notably, of the 51 legal aid staff in assistance, 45 percent are women. In Somaliland, mobile courts adjudicated 574 (337 criminal and 231 civil) cases, in which 234 women were assisted, with a total of 1,380 beneficiaries. Additionally, 1,186 individuals, including 392 women and 794 men, received services from legal aid clinics.

Given the prevalence of the informal justice system in Somalia and lack of formal justice institutions, UNDP has worked to help bridge the two systems, in order to prevent them from contradicting each other and to ensure that the traditional system is exposed to the principles of human rights. As a part of a pilot scheme in Puntland, a total of 40 judges, prosecutors and legal aid providers in Puntland received training on how to utilize aspects of key informal justice mechanisms within the formal justice framework. Additionally, informal justice providers are increasingly reaching out to formal courts for support to reach settlements and elders have even begun registering cases as the first instance in court. 672 cases were heard and resolved by customary elders from October to December, including cases on family disputes, minor...
injuries, land disagreements, and monetary issues. This model is expected to be rolled out in other regions. UNDP also supported the Ministry of Justice by training 70 judges and prosecutors (46 men, 24 women) on Sharia and customary law, as well as women’s and children’s rights. Additionally, 59 individuals (42 men, 17 women) were trained in their own disciplines in the justice sector and educational and scholarship or internship opportunities were granted through UNDP to 207 persons, including 96 women in Somaliland. Twenty-five law graduates were also sponsored by UNDP to undertake internships at the Ministry of Justice and Judicial Commission.

Over the course of the year, UNDP supported the construction of three model police stations and one police post, as well as helped expand biometric registration of police officers in South Central to reach nearly 100 percent (5,300 officers). In November 2015, the roll-out of biometric registration of police officers in Puntland began and the officers received 45 days basic training. Notably, the cost of the training and registration has been shared between UNDP and the Puntland Government. The total number of the registered officers in Puntland is now 1,315 (1,183 males, 132 females) and scholarships were extended to 25 police officers for further education, all of whom have since graduated. One of the priorities of UNDP is mainstreaming gender into the Somali police force, and with the joint support of UN Women, two gender-responsive community-policing committees have been established.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Volatile security and scarce resources in Somalia have hampered the implementation of the Joint Rule of Law Programme, particularly as some of the initial pledges made by donors did not translate into tangible commitments. However, UNDP has made significant efforts to ensure that there is ownership and cooperation for the justice and security sector reform process at the national level.

Past evaluations highlight the need to strengthen the capacity of the justice system to increase access to justice and to institutionalize gender responsiveness of services. Providing legal aid services to vulnerable groups has proven to be an effective way to achieving concrete results. Mobile courts, for example, have fostered positive changes for the population including facilitating access to justice and reducing conflict within the communities.

There is a need for enhanced accountability across the entire rule of law sector in Somalia, and as such, UNDP has helped to establish oversight mechanisms but has not achieved enough success in promoting strong civilian oversight or monitoring to address impunity and corruption.

Looking forward, UNDP will continue aid in the fight against impunity in Somalia and engage more rigorously with civil society in hopes to balance its institutional support with a more people-centered approach. Extending state service delivery that is responsive to people’s needs will be the major focus in the coming years as a means to help a rule of law culture ‘take root’. Lastly, the pilot scheme in Puntland will be rolled out in other regions in the years to come, bridging the gap between formal and informal systems and utilizing the strengths of both to the benefit of the Somali people.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Joint Rule of Law programme under the Global Focal Point arrangement brought about a very effective consultation process that has increased national ownership when it comes to advancing the rule of law sector and strategic planning.
- Joint programming has made the most of limited sources and increased the effectiveness of UNDP in Somalia.
- Oversight and accountability in the justice sector has enhanced through inspection schemes being introduced to all three regions in Somalia.
- Successful implementation of biometric registration took place in South Central and Puntland as part of efforts to increase accountability and transparency in the security sector.
- Mobile courts reached a significant number of people in areas where they would otherwise have no access to the formal legal system.

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BACKGROUND

South Sudan continues to face tremendous economic, social and political challenges. In August 2015, a peace agreement was signed by all conflicting parties that lays out a combination of political, economic, social and humanitarian steps and institutional benchmarks that serve as a bridge or transition to a durable peace. After more than 50 years of conflict and instability, the South Sudanese face the enormous task of becoming a single people within a distinct nation-state, and the peace agreement recognizes the link between peace, justice and reconciliation, human development and poverty reduction.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2015, UNDP conducted 34 rule of law forums in five states, attended by 995 people, (31 percent female) including representatives from of the Ministry of Social Development, the State Legislative Assembly, customary and traditional leaders, civil service organizations, and women’s organizations. The forums were successful in coordinating responses to challenges such as slow case management and prolonged arbitrary detention. UNDP also supported the Ministry of Justice and Local Government Board to conduct a customary law forum in Juba for 45 traditional leaders, 15 of whom are female.

Through technical advice from UNDP, the Ministry of Justice produced a draft amendment Bill to the Penal Code, incorporating international crimes into South Sudan’s legal order. These crimes are war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crimes relating to sexual violence.

UNDP, in partnership with civil society organizations, conducted 140 outreach activities in five states reaching 9,508 people, 47 percent of whom were female, to raise awareness of the laws of South Sudan, especially on issues of forced and early marriage, judicial processes, human rights, women’s rights, sexual and gender-based violence, and community security.

UNDP trained 144 social workers and police personnel (45 female) in four states on sexual and gender-based violence investigation, sensitization, and coordination of a survivor-centric approach. These trainings improved the functioning of police Special Protection Units and data collection incorporated into crime statistics reports in 2015. UNDP also extended support to the Emergency Call Centre in Juba to respond to emergencies.

UNDP supported a three-day international conference that discussed findings of the Perception Survey on Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Healing South Sudan during the year. The conference aimed at generating consensus on the mechanisms of transitional justice and national reconciliation in light of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.

The project, in collaboration with UNPOL and the UNDP/IGAD information and communication technologies specialist, supported the registration for police and prison personnel. In 2015, 6,002 (16 percent) of 38,079 police personnel and 849 (136 female) prison personnel were issued identity cards after a verification process.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Progress in all states of South Sudan continues to be restricted by an adverse security situation and deployment of UNDP staff, therefore, remained restricted to five states, Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Furthermore, the limited
capacity of rule of law institutions caused by low levels of education as well as budgetary constraints continue to impact the quality and sustainability of services provided by government and civil society partners.

Additionally, South Sudan experienced dual currency exchange rates during 2015. Significant fluctuations of the unofficial exchange rate caused a sharp increase in the official exchange rate at the end of the year, leading to challenges in implementing programming as planned, as well as UNDP’s attempts to ensure value for money.

To improve UNDP’s access and impact, the project forged partnerships with the United Nations Fund for Population Activity and the United Nations Children’s Fund to conduct trainings addressing sexual and gender-based violence and community policing. This collaboration reduced the cost of activity implementation and created a sustainable mechanism for collaborative training. UNDP also coordinated with government counterparts through co-located staff and engaged with civil society and community-based organizations.

Looking forward, UNDP is launching a new comprehensive rule of law programme in South Sudan in 2016 that supports the Peace Agreement signed in 2015 and early recovery with a heavy focus on community security and access to justice. The programme will tie together all rule of law activities under one chapeau linked to national development goals and aims to bring together different UN agencies and a more effective collaboration with the mission to achieve better results.

**KEY RESULTS**

- UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice to produce the first ever case management report, which showed the completion rate of cases at 13 percent.
- UNDP supported the prison service to compile the first inmate statistics reports for 2014 and 2015 and supported rule of law institutions in adopting 15 resolutions introducing reforms to control overcrowding in prisons and alternatives to detention.
- The customary law forums culminating in a 19-point resolution to ensure the harmonization of customary and formal judicial systems. UNDP supported training and advocacy led to the appointment of 13 women as traditional leaders and adjudicators in customary courts.
- UNDP-supported Justice and Confidence Centers run by civil society organizations provided legal advice, counseling, referrals, mediation services, and court monitoring to 161 people, 67 of whom were female, in five states.
- UNDP-supported SPUs handled 257 cases, of which 131 were related to sexual and gender-based violence and 126 were related to children. Sexual and gender-based violence cases declined in 7 states from 1,756 in the first quarter of 2015 to 1,403 in the third quarter. 77 missing children, 29 of whom were female, were reunited with their families.
- The Emergency Call Centre in Juba was operational and responded to 6,865 calls including 328 related to SGBV, 670 related to traffic violations, and 1,363 calls for medical emergencies, for a cumulative total of 12,948 (499 SGBV, 1,237 traffic, 2,173 medical) in 2014 and 2015.
- UNDP supported the South Sudan National Police Service in producing statistics to analyze crime patterns and locations to reduce crime. Police Community Relations Committee meetings, which have established joint night patrols and identified crime hot spots have resulted in increased trust in the police. Quarterly crime statistics reports revealed a 14 percent reduction in crime for the first three-quarters of 2014 and 2015, from 38,328 in 2014 to 33,005 in 2015 in seven targeted states, indicating an increase in community security in areas where UNDP is engaged.
BACKGROUND

In May 2009, the civil war in Sri Lanka ended after more than two decades of fighting between the government and Tamil separatists in the north of the country. This war left a deep scar on the nation, the effects of which remain today. Casualties included as many as 100,000 people killed, thousands more injured and disabled, and up to 300,000 Tamils displaced. Furthermore, the war greatly hurt the country’s economy. The legacy of the war is one of deep resentment and mistrust, in particular due to the harsh methods grossly violating international human rights and humanitarian standards used by both the Tamils (18 percent of the population) and the Sinhalese (75 percent of the population). The Northern Provincial Council Elections on 21 September 2013 reintroduced local rule to areas previously held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, but the region is still in the process of recovering, with 50,000 Tamils internally displaced.

2015 marked a transformational year for Sri Lanka. Following the presidential elections in January 2015, the new President of Sri Lanka expressed his strong commitment to securing long-term peace and reconciliation premised on principles of strengthening good governance and democratic institutions, and ending impunity and inequality. At the same time, he re-affirmed Sri Lanka’s commitment to working with the international community and the United Nations to fulfill obligations under the international human rights architecture.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Over the years, the UN has supported Sri Lanka in reaching its development goals, specifically the vision set forth in Mahinda Chintana: Towards a New Sri Lanka. This plan envisages that by 2020, every Sri Lankan family will enjoy decent and healthy living conditions in culturally vibrant, multilingual, environmentally sustainable and economically productive human settlements. In recent years, Sri Lanka has successfully become a middle-income country and has seen its Human Development Index improve over the years to become a High Human Development country.

UNDP’s programme “Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration Programme 2013-2017” is part of a larger goal of improving governance and holding state institutions accountable under the current UN Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017 (UNDAF). The programme furthers previous initiatives to promote access to justice in Sri Lanka.

In 2015, UNDP built on earlier efforts to improve the capacity of state institutions and improve people’s access to justice. The programme supported initiatives to identify cases to expedite as part of efforts to improve case management, facilitated the development of sectoral action plans which would form the National Action Plan to address gender-based violence, and provided technical assistance with respect to the Victim and Witness Protection Act to the Ministry of Justice.

The programme also continued its support to the consolidation of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code in Sinhalese, Tamil and English, which would ultimately benefit the people to understand the laws. Direct support to those in need were provided through supporting the partnership of the legal aid
commission and the department of prisons, which resulted in providing legal advice to pre-trial detainees, and UNDP’s involvement in facilitating the issuing of legal documents to members of the estate sector, allowing the people to have greater access to public services and benefits.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

With the new president and parliamentary elections, there were expectations of quick changes to the nation. However, as a practical matter, the changes in personnel and ministries resulted in UNDP working with new partners on multiple occasions, often times slowing down decision making and the implementation of activities. As of December 2015, UNDP’s new partner ministries are the Ministry of National Dialogue, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms.

Sri Lanka and UNDP will face further changes in the coming months. The new political environment in Sri Lanka will likely lead to further interest from domestic and international partners for additional rule of law activities, including with respect to transitional justice. UNDP will take this opportunity to review the relevance of its existing programme and possibly reformulate the programme to reflect changes that have occurred since the inception of the programme. Any changes undertaken will aim to assure that all activities and outcomes are meaningful and relevant to the current environment, national priorities and the lives of the people.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

» The establishment of a partnership between the Legal Aid Commission and the Department of Prisons resulted in the providing of legal aid support for 358 pre-trial detainees, filing of 78 bail application and motions, and referrals of 13 cases. A preliminary draft of the National Policy on Legal Aid and a draft of the Strategic Action Plan was created to facilitate legal aid.

» Legal documentation advice was provided to an estimated 1,000 people in the Estate Sector in Sri Lanka, helping them to be recognized as citizens and access a wider range of services and benefits.

» Translation and consolidation of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code was completed, enabling the justice sector to have better access to comprehensive legislation and in the official languages Sinhala and Tamil, and the common language English.
BACKGROUND

In 2015, the aftermath of the 2014 war on Gaza continued to be felt in the State of Palestine. This has exacerbated the harsh human cost already borne by Gaza and dramatically affected the capacity of rule of law institutions to deliver justice to the population. Meanwhile, prospects to advance a two-state solution through peace talks with Israel remain bleak. The impact of the occupation continued to be felt across the State of Palestine including in East Jerusalem, with harsher punishments for Palestinian protesters, increasing restrictions, and reporting requirements for human rights groups within Israel, and the accelerated appropriation of land and resources in Area C and East Jerusalem. In the domestic Palestinian area, the Government of National Consensus failed to advance the National Unity Agenda in 2015 and activate effective service delivery across the State of Palestine. The related democratic deficit and fragmentation of legal frameworks negatively impacted the justice sector, and the legislative process. In Gaza, justice and law enforcement continued to decline on account of the political impasse and the resulting crisis of authority.

The UNDP/UN Women Joint Programme entitled Strengthening the Rule of Law in Palestine, known as Sawasya, responded to these complex challenges through a combination of risk mitigation strategies, technical assessments to underpin political dialogue, and flexible financial support modalities. A Mid-Term Strategic Review of Sawasya was carried out to assess achievements to date, and provide strategic recommendations for future programming.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The Sawasya programme partners with a range of institutions across the justice sector, as well as bodies involved in legislative drafting and review, and related protection work. Sawasya focuses on building institutional capacities of the Palestinian Civil Police and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission. Additionally, support is provided to more than 60 civil society organizations working in different jurisdictions on enhancing community access to justice through free legal aid services, monitoring justice and security sector performance, and documentation of violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Sawasya injected technical expertise into various justice institutions to help strengthen institutional capacity in planning, monitoring and evaluation, women's rights, legislative reform, information technology and, gender and juvenile justice mainstreaming. This resulted in the integration of juvenile justice and gender concerns in the planning and budgetary processes of the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council. In addition, 78 civil servants from across different justice institutions were enrolled in three professional diploma programmes focused on legislative drafting skills, legal skills, and public administration. Work with the Attorney General's Office on developing specialized services for women and girls continued, and 15 specialized public prosecutors further strengthened their litigation skills on violence against women and girls cases.

Sawasya continued to invest in the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which resulted in the submission of 513 complaints to the commission and 21 of these cases were transferred to the specialized Corruption Crimes Court. Work on standardization of disciplinary actions for police misconduct progressed, with 4,202 cases of internal police conduct handled, resulting in 54 dismissals. 2015 also saw 20 police officers graduating from training courses on public administration, monitoring and evaluation, gender, and accountability.

A gender analysis of legislation was undertaken and a number of draft laws were reviewed ensuring adherence to international treaty standards, including the Family Protection Law. Furthermore, to expedite the processing of court cases, the High Judicial Council
developed electronic services and information screens. The installation of ‘Self-Service Kiosk’ before district courthouses enables individuals to consult their court cases and lawyers to submit court documentation efficiently. These innovative initiatives have significantly reduced congestion at the Enforcement Department and improved the quality, efficiency, and reliability of its services.

Additionally, Sawasya supported the Legal Aid Unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs, enabling five lawyers to provide legal aid to juveniles in 675 cases, compared to 250 cases during 2014. Efforts to build a sustainable national legal aid system in partnership with the Palestinian Bar Association resulted in the development of the first ever Legal Aid Strategy (2016-2017). This strategy will provide the framework for implementation of a fully pro bono legal aid scheme in 2016. Meanwhile, the programme continued to support the provision of legal aid services through partnerships with civil society. More than 24,891 individuals (51 percent women) received free legal aid services during 2015. In Gaza, mobile and fixed legal clinics provided legal assistance to 6,898 beneficiaries (70 percent women). During 2015, more than 500 cases were successfully adjudicated in civil and Sharia courts in Gaza.

Lastly, in partnership with the Palestinian Centre for Statistics, a public perception survey was conducted in 2015. Survey results point to an increasing level of confidence in the justice system providing fair and equitable outcomes, in comparison to 2011 and 2012 data. However, this is countered by a decreasing willingness in the population to engage the system because of perceptions that the formal justice system is too slow and too costly.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

The unstable political context continued to impact the programme’s efforts to contribute to the harmonization and strengthening of justice and security institutions throughout the State of Palestine. With no official institutional partner in Gaza under a consensus government, Sawasya continued to focus its resources in the Gaza Strip on strengthening the capacity of civil society to deliver legal assistance and support monitoring of human rights violations. The programme, undertook two assessments to provide technical options on legal harmonization and justice sector reintegration. These assessments served to advance dialogue between international partners and institutions in finding concrete ways of overcoming political obstacles to the reconciliation process.

In addition, the programme explored options to better foster knowledge transfer and institutionalization of capacity across different institutions. UNDP and UN Women have identified the need to more strategically respond to the unstable political and security environment as well as the pervasive capacity gaps in legal assistance, whilst using the joint programme’s leverage to facilitate more collaboration and coordination amongst civil society, and encourage further information exchange, referrals, and harmonization of professional standards within the legal aid community. To this end, Sawasya carried out extensive consultations with partners with a view of setting up a network of legal aid providers in the West Bank similar to the Awn Network in Gaza.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- 24,891 individuals (51 percent women) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip benefitted from legal representation and counseling in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.
- In Gaza, 6,898 beneficiaries were reached with legal aid services (70 percent women), through a combination of mobile and fixed legal aid clinics. More than 500 cases were successfully adjudicated by partners in Civil and Sharia Courts.
- The Palestinian Anti-Corruption Committee received 513 complaints and transferred 21 cases from the specialized prosecution to the Corruption Crimes Court, representing a slight increase with regards to the previous year.
- The Palestinian Bar Association developed its first ever Legal Aid Strategy (2016-2017), providing the framework for a fully pro bono legal aid scheme in 2016.
- Through the Legal Aid Unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs, five lawyers provided legal aid to juveniles in contact with the law on 675 cases, as compared to 250 cases during 2014.
- Standardization of disciplinary actions for police misconduct progressed, with 4,202 cases handled of internal police conduct resulting in 54 dismissals.
- In April 2015, 20 police officers graduated from Sawasya training course on public administration, monitoring and evaluation, and gender and accountability.
- In April 2015, 20 police officers graduated from Sawasya training course on public administration, monitoring and evaluation, and gender and accountability.

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BACKGROUND

In 2015, 40 percent of Sudan's population was comprised of individuals below the age of 15. Adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 accounted for 23 percent of the country's population.60 Government programs have not adequately addressed the needs of this age cohort, resulting in internal displacement of many adolescents, particularly girls. The individuals who for various reasons are unable to attend school are similarly at risk because of a lack of access to knowledge about sexuality, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, vocational skills, and protection against abuse of criminality.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have classified Sudan's economic situation as being in debt distress and in need of debt relief. One of Sudan's main challenges continues to be a high and growing unemployment rate, which increased in 2015 to 19.2 percent from 17.8 percent in 2010.61

Sudan struggles to provide equal access and quality of basic services to its citizens. The ongoing conflict in Sudan similarly weakens basic infrastructure across various regions. The 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey revealed that outcome and impact social indicators specific to access to justice, learning, and protection are worse in the conflict-affected areas than in the non-conflict affected areas.

Sudan continues to be plagued by unequal and ineffective access to formal justice, thus perpetuating those populations that are already vulnerable. Formal rule of law institutions are inaccessible in some cases, contributing to a widening of existing disparities depending on where people live. The judicial system remains limited by corruption, extended delays, lack of awareness of the new adopted legislation and regulations, difficulty in enforcing decisions, and lack of legal aid.

The Government of Sudan has made considerable efforts to establish specific procedures to provide justice services to victims, witnesses, and offenders. Nevertheless, most of these services are only available in state capitals and few localities, and even in those cases, quality of the services needs to be improved.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Despite an atmosphere of mistrust between the population and the police, policing has gradually become more people-centred after intensive trainings by UNDP and UNAMID62 on the concept of community policing. In 2015, more than 500 community members were trained on their role in community policing in pilot states located in Darfur. Additionally, UNDP and UNAMID collaborated with state authorities, to train more than 1,500 police officers, prison officers, and prosecutors (46 percent of which were women) in prison management, strategic planning, human rights protection, and sexual and gender-based violence.

UNDP assisted the Sudan National Human Rights Commission in implementing its Strategic Plan 2014-2018 by providing training on reporting human rights violations and producing a case management manual. UNDP also worked with the commission to facilitate several national consultation seminars in preparation for submitting the next round of the Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2016. It will be the first time that the Sudan National Human Rights Commission will submit the stakeholder report as the country's national institution for protecting human rights.

UNDP also assisted the Ministry of Justice in developing criteria for eligibility and a plan for sustainable funding for a government institution that would provide legal assistance. UNDP assisted a number of legal aid organizations and individual lawyers in providing free legal aid. In 2015, these lawyers worked on 533 cases relating to disappearance, armed robbery, torture, assault, murder, and sexual and gender-based violence.

In Darfur, UNDP provided access to justice to 15,000 of its inhabitants, 35 percent of whom are female, by using mobile legal aid clinics. In Darfur and
Khartoum, UNDP continued to work with paralegals in internally displaced persons camps, who play a critical role in the promotion of human rights, rule of law, and access to justice for members of their community by organizing small-scale mediations.

UNDP supported the government in establishing a prisons development committee, which aims to address issues of overcrowding in prisons, critical repair of the physical infrastructure, case flow management of pre-trial prisoners, prison security, and the rehabilitation of prisoners. Prior to this, UNDP and UNAMID had carried out an internal victim and witness protection survey, which highlighted the need for reform in the prison system.

To combat persisting violence against women, UNDP focused on supporting the revision and amendment of laws pertaining to domestic violence, trafficking, and female genital mutilation. Specifically, UNDP helped in raising support for the Amendment of Sudanese Criminal Act in 2015, making substantive and legal distinctions between rape and adultery, as well as criminalizing sexual harassment. UNDP also helped to develop a National Plan for Combating Gender-Based Violence and a National Strategy on Female Genital Mutilation.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The promotion, protection, and monitoring of human rights in Darfur was strengthened with the opening and inauguration of the Regional Office of the Human Rights Commission in El-Fasher, with support from UNDP.
- UNDP enhanced the knowledge of 30 staff members of the said Human Rights Commission and 700 representatives of civil society organizations, and human rights activists and groups.
- UNDP strengthened the capacity of the complaints committee of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission by developing new internal regulations for managing human rights grievances and a comprehensive manual to address all procedural stages of a human rights complaint.
- UNDP conducted outreach activities informing people about the role of the Human Rights Commission and how to submit a complaint, which reached more than 10,000 people in Sudan.
- UNDP facilitated discussions on the Universal Periodic Review Recommendations and provided technical and advisory support for their implementation. 85 percent of these recommendations have been implemented by the legislature, including the amendment of criminal law, and election law, as well as the adoption of laws relating to human trafficking, access to information, and refugees.
- UNDP supported 289 community policing volunteers to receive training on community policing techniques, paralegals functions, and human rights principles.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

One of the major challenges for UNDP in 2015 has been gaining access to implementing partners, such as international organizations working near internally displaced persons and refugee camps, because these groups have faced strenuous requirements from government authorities to work there. Lack of presence of international organizations in Darfur has led UNDP to engage in direct partnership agreements with national civil society organizations working with internally displaced persons and refugee camps, resulting in empowerment of these national entities as advocates to improve living conditions.

In spite of the progress made in legislative reforms, Sudan continues to face enormous human rights challenges in securing basic fundamental rights, particularly in freedom of speech, press, association, and religion. Impunity for human rights violations, in general, remains a severe problem for the country and impunity for sexual violence in Sudan, especially in Darfur, is a long-standing and widely reported phenomenon. Additionally, significant gender disparities persist in the labor market, and economic standing due to enduring barriers to women’s access to education as well as economic and political opportunities.
BACKGROUND

Following a long struggle for self-determination against Indonesian military occupation, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste gained independence in May 2002. However, the country paid a very heavy price. According to the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, at least 200,000 people died from the conflict and its impact, and over 50 percent of the population was forced to flee their homes. Furthermore, Indonesia’s decades-long occupation destroyed an estimated 75 percent of the country’s infrastructure.

In April and May 2006, Timor-Leste witnessed a major political crisis characterized by a serious divergence between the President and the Prime Minister, both key historical leaders of the main party. This crisis led to the resignation of the Prime Minister on the 27th June and exacerbated tensions within the security sector forces - military versus police. Subsequent violence left at least 30 dead and more than 200,000 people displaced. The crisis also impacted the nascent justice sector at the time, as the Prosecutor-General’s office was raided. Despite this several-year setback, Timor-Leste has made impressive strides in establishing the rule of law and reforming the justice sector.

However, there are still significant challenges in terms of access to services, including justice and public trust with a vast majority of population outside of the city capitals resorting to informal and traditional justice mechanisms. For several years’ post-independence, the justice sector – similar to much of the state administration – was at first upheld by international experts, judges, and prosecutors due to the lack of national capacities. Slowly international actors moved to work alongside a gradually established cadre of national justice actors. Currently, the justice system is fully staffed by professionally trained and able Timorese magistrates and lawyers that are administering justice throughout the country and upholding the rule of law.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP has worked alongside national stakeholders in Timor-Leste to facilitate the transition from an internationally-operated to a nationally-owned justice system. For over a decade, UNDP has supported national efforts to build and develop a fair and equitable justice system from scratch, addressing the immediate need for reinstating confidence in rule of law institutions and developing the capacity and ability of all justice sector professionals and leaders to own and effectively manage these institutions.

In 2015, UNDP continued its support to the development and implementation of long-term intake career training programmes for judicial actors (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, private lawyers) and notaries, in collaboration with the national Legal Training Center. The Legal Training Center finalized the selection process of the new trainees and launched another course for the intake of magistrates and public defenders with UNDP supported international lecturers and expert trainers.

UNDP has dedicated specific attention to increase women’s participation in the sector, through its support to the Legal Training Centre and contributed to the national efforts of reaching a milestone of 177 (28 percent women) accredited legal professionals in 2015, starting from a baseline of 0 in 2003. This figure includes 34 judges (39 percent women), 33 prosecutors (22 percent women), 31 public defenders (17 percent women), 7 notaries (15 percent women), and 72 private lawyers (32 percent women).

UNDP contributed to strengthening the institutional capacity of the Office of the Prosecutor General regarding inspection services. In 2015, the Prosecutor General Office started to adopt rules and principles that determine the minimum level of productivity, calculated on a monthly basis, for each national prosecutor to be held to. Judicial and financial auditing have also been conducted at the district level,
starting with the Baucau Office, evaluating prosecutor's and clerk's performance and conduct. UNDP support to the Prosecutor General Office resulted in a reduction of the number of backlog cases at the public prosecution level. Since 2013, the number of pending cases has significantly decreased every year. In January 2013, 5,006 cases were still pending at the prosecution level a backlog that was reduced to 3,007 pending cases in December 2015.

UNDP alongside other partners supported the finalization of an Integrated Case Management System in 2015, which allows each stage of the process to be tracked, from the police arrest, through the prosecution and sentence, and ending in the corrections service. This makes data more readily available to use in improving issues such as pre-trial detention and sentence execution.

Furthermore, UNDP supported national policy making and legislative drafting, and international mentors, to improve the quality of law-making and to complete essential laws such as the Land Legislation, Law on Legal Aid, the Customary Law, the Juvenile Code, Court of Audit Law, Criminal Investigation Police Law, among others. The land laws have been adopted and considered a good practice in terms of policy making, public consultation, and legal drafting.

UNDP continued its support to mobile courts in the country, to promote access to justice and service delivery in rural areas. During 2015, a total of 553 cases have been heard by mobile courts in 12 districts, of which 82 percent received judgment as the first instance in the formal justice system. The mobile courts addressed a range of issues, including civil as well as criminal cases and 48 percent of the criminal cases involved gender-based violence.

Lastly, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Justice's National Directorate of Prisons' Service and Social Reintegration to improve security and prison facilities and to ensure that the treatment of prisoners conforms to international human rights standards. Specifically, UNDP supported the drafting of a strategic plan for parole services and a law on the implementation of criminal sentences, as well as helped prepare standard operating procedures for better sentence execution and coordination between court orders, police, and prisons.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

Despite the enormous progress, rule of law foundations still need to be asserted. There have been instances of the judiciary accusing the executive and legislative branches of interference with the independence of the courts. On a number of occasions, the leadership of the nation expressed public criticism of judicial decisions. In October 2014, due to Parliamentary and government resolutions on an audit in the justice sector, international judicial personnel were dismissed by the Parliament and had to leave the country on short notice.

Justice has been brought closer to the people and awareness of the formal justice system has increased through UNDP’s support. However, access to formal justice is a distant reality for a large part of the population, notably women. Increased reform efforts, as well as those to extend the reach of justice services is essential and need to be prioritized.

UNDP is revisiting its plans to re-focus its engagement in the justice sector, looking at localized solutions for increasing access to justice and security, and the extension of state presence in the most remote areas where services are still scarce. Relevant support for strategic planning and sector-wide policy making, inter-institutional coordination and cooperation at a national level is required and UNDP is securing support from like-minded partners to be able to continue to address challenges highlighted and support oversight in areas that are still critical for the consolidation of reforms.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- Backlogged cases were reduced from 5,006 pending cases at the prosecution level in January 2013, compared to 3,007 pending cases in December 2015.
- 177 Timorese nationals (28 percent women) are now accredited legal professionals, starting from a baseline of 0 in 2003. This figure includes 34 judges (39 percent women), 33 prosecutors (22 percent women), 31 public defenders (17 percent women), 7 notaries (15 percent women), and 72 private lawyers (32 percent women).
- Mobile courts heard a total of 553 cases, of which 82 percent received judgment in the first instance of the formal justice system.
- UNDP supported the drafting of a strategic plan for parole services and a law on the implementation of criminal sentences, as well as helped prepare standard operating procedures for sentence execution and coordination amongst police and prisons.
BACKGROUND

Tunisia has achieved important milestones within its transition to a liberal democracy in just a few years, with the adoption of a new constitution and the completion of the first free presidential and legislative elections. The Tunisian civil society contribution to the peaceful and democratic transition has been vital and was internationally recognized, as the National Dialogue Quartet was awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

However, the state is not immune from the effects of the counter-revolution sweeping across the region and is now facing new security challenges, such as jihadist violence. The country is struggling to transform ongoing reforms into tangible and lasting change in institutions and attitudes. Tunisia still requires strategic measures to reform the economy, address regional inequalities, and tackle corruption. As high expectations and demands remain largely unmet, segments of the society are increasingly disappointed with the inability of authorities to deliver on the promises of the revolution. Social discontent has translated euphoria into frustration, evidenced by the more than 5,000 protests on various issues that took place in 2015 alone.

Although the population has limited confidence in rule of law institutions, important judicial and security reforms are underway to address the gross human rights violations of the former dictatorship and to guarantee the non-repetition of such abuses. The Truth and Dignity Instance, established to investigate gross human rights violations that were committed by the Tunisian State since its independence and provide compensation and rehabilitation to victims, launched its first activities in 2015. The Ministry of Interior is also steadfastly implementing a new police model that reflects the new democratic institutions of the country.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2015, nearly 22,000 victims of gross human rights violations were registered by the UNDP-supported Truth and Dignity Instance and nearly 2,000 were interviewed. The Truth and Dignity Instance also adopted internal rules and launched six commissions, notably the research and investigative commission that started individual hearings of victims. The Truth and Dignity Instance also opened four regional offices in the cities of Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, and Gafsa and implemented a new communications strategy to extend the reach of services to the wider population.

Outreach campaigns including discussion meetings, public debates, and "coffee truth and dignity" were organized by civil society organizations in all governorates of Tunisia. The outreach activities were implemented through 19 civil society platforms created in each region that also serve as a referral mechanism for victims to the Truth and Dignity Instance.

The women’s committee of the Truth and Dignity Instance organized activities exclusively targeting women to address the persistent gender gap in access to information on transitional justice and the referral mechanism of the Instance. In 2015, a total of 17,722 people, including 5,689 women, were made aware of transitional justice and its mechanisms. Additionally, a total of 2,443 victims received orientation or assistance in filing a case with the Truth and Dignity Instance. 1,054 of those victims filed a case, 461 of whom were women.

Legal aid information and assistance services, as well as counseling services for victims of gross human rights violations, were established with UNDP support and have been operating since June 2015. A total of 126 vulnerable people consulted the legal aid clinics and 35 cases will be receiving legal aid support in 2016.

The reform launched by the Ministry of Interior with UNDP support to shift to community policing and to guarantee non-repetition of past abuses by the Internal Security Forces took important steps in 2015 to implement and institutionalize this new policing model. Four new local community security committees were established in El Attar, Naassen, Sakiet Ezzit, and Sidi...
Ali Ben Aoun. The committees gather representatives of the police and National Guard, as well as local authorities and civil society representatives. To date, the six community policing pilots produced local security diagnostics and plans to respond to security issues identified by the population and local authorities. In 2016, the committees implemented a total of 14 actions focusing on crime prevention.

Additionally, a total of 104 police personnel were trained through 400 sessions in the community policing pilots on issues such as reception and response to citizens and proper use of security equipment. A community policing simulation center was built at the National Guard School of Chbika in order to house community policing training of trainers. Accordingly, a national community policing training curriculum was produced.

The Ministry of Interior also made progress in strengthening the accountability of the Internal Security Forces. The Ministry of Interior worked with the police labor unions as well as external oversight bodies to develop a draft code of conduct for the Internal Security Forces. The ministry also developed an initial version of the new policy on inspections. UNDP supported the Ministry to establish a management dashboard to monitor community policing stations, which is functioning in the six pilot areas. Additionally, a working group of the Ministry, supported by UNDP, submitted a report to the Ministry of the Interior outlining propositions for a new legal framework to anchor community policing as the new policing model in Tunisia.

Tunisia offered to be a pilot for Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The National Statistics Institute presented a report that analyzed the results of the first Governance, Peace and Democracy national survey and UNDP is supporting the development of a monitoring framework for the Goal 16 pilot in Tunisia.

**CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD**

The escalating threat of violent extremism constitutes a challenge for Tunisian authorities. It is difficult to find solutions that provide an immediate and long-term response without hampering the ongoing reforms seeking to consolidate a state that guarantees the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms as outlined in the 2014 constitution. This tension is demonstrated by the adoption of the anti-terror law in July 2015 that caused concerns to human rights organizations.

Progress made in the transitional justice process in this challenging environment is even more encouraging. However, a high level of political will and consensus, including within the Truth and Dignity Instance itself, is required for the process to succeed. Despite the efforts made to encourage women to participate in the transitional justice process, there is a still a significant difference between the number of female and male registrations at the Truth and Dignity Instance. In fact, only 17 percent of the almost 22,000 cases registered in 2015 were from women. Social and cultural barriers continue to be a challenge in overcoming the gender gap, which has also been observed in the hesitance of Tunisian women to file a complaint in cases of gender-based violence.

In 2016, UNDP will support the Ministry of Interior in institutionalizing police reform, particularly with the adoption of an inspection policy, and the application of the new community policing curriculum in the two simulation centers. Likewise, UNDP will continue supporting the transitional justice process, jointly with its partners – including OHCHR and the International Center for Transitional Justice – and will strengthen its engagement with civil society to better educate victims of their rights and assist in the judicial process for redress. Furthermore, UNDP will also support the decentralization of authority process, responding to local grievances and anchoring community policing efforts in all the governorates of the country.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- Nearly 22,000 victims were registered by the Truth and Dignity Instance and nearly 2,000 were interviewed. A total of 2,443 victims received orientation or assistance to file a case with the commission and 1,054 victims filed a case, 461 of whom were women.
- Four regional offices of the Truth and Dignity Instance were opened in the cities of Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, and Gafsa.
- Through the Truth and Dignity Instance and civil society outreach activities, a total of 17,722 people, including 5,689 women, were made aware of transitional justice and its mechanisms.
- Four new local community security committees were established in El Attar, Naassen, Sakiet Ezritt, and Sidi Ali Ben Aoun.
- Six community policing pilots produced local security diagnostics and plans to respond to security issues identified by the population, local authorities, and the National Guard.
- The Ministry of Interior worked with the police labor unions as well as external oversight bodies to develop a draft code of conduct for the Internal Security Forces.
- The first national survey on Governance, Peace, and Democracy was administered by the National Statistics Institute.
BACKGROUND

Since March of 2015, Yemen entered into a new phase of unrest; the Gulf Cooperation Council launched airstrikes acting on the invitation of President Hadi and in coordination with most Arab states, with the stated aim to halt the Ansar Allah advance (known as the Houthis) and restore President Hadi’s government. The conflict has prompted a large-scale crisis and humanitarian emergency in Yemen. As of December 2015, UNHCR reported that over 2.5 million Yemenis are internally displaced and 267,173 Yemenis are registered as refugees in various locations. Currently, people across the country are struggling to access food, fuel, and medicine.

The conflict between coalition forces and their Yemeni allies against the Houthi forces and their Yemeni allies should be governed by International Humanitarian Law. According to the International Humanitarian Law, all state and non-state parties to armed conflict should be compliant with the law and are accountable for violations. However, International Humanitarian Law requirements have been neglected by all sides of the conflict causing further loss in lives and facilities.

Yemen’s transition prior to March 2015, was anchored on the progress of the country’s National Dialogue Conference, a participatory platform that concluded with a set of outcomes and placed transitional justice high on the national agenda; however, with the eruption of the current conflict, the progress has been stalled.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

As a response to this rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation, the UN system launched its Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, pledging $1.8 billion to provide critical and life-saving assistance. The plan’s key pillars prioritize saving lives, protection of civilians, building capacity for humanitarian response, reducing vulnerability, and ensuring equitable access to services. Therefore, UNDP’s rule of law assistance diverted its focus to contribute to the efforts towards the protection of civilians.

Initially, transitional justice assistance was designed as a response to the National Dialogue Conference’s priorities and amendment of the draft Transitional Justice Law. Responding to the new priorities, UNDP developed protection-related activities. UNDP, together with UN Women, contracted and trained 14 civil society organizations to document violations and provide psychosocial support to women and girls that are victims of war and sexual and gender-based violence. This training increased the capacity of the civil society organizations to perform this role and their reports are routinely submitted to OHCHR, as credible sources to monitor the human rights situation on the ground during the conflict.

The modification of the transitional justice project has resulted in retaining a number of activities related to human rights protection and land rights, aimed at developing social cohesion within the population. UNDP continued to provide technical and administrative support to the Land and Dismissals Commissions. This support aims to resolve submitted claims and prepare necessary infrastructure for the comprehensive data entry process that would lead to achievement of the Commissions’ mandates.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The efforts of documenting violations require official acknowledgment and recognition by relevant state institutions, which is difficult to achieve during the current crisis. Once the situation allows the country to move forward, the Commissions of Inquiry and testimonies from victims and witnesses should be integrated through a more comprehensive mechanism to ensure future reparations efforts and accountability.
measures. It is also a challenge to sustain psychosocial support for victims if there isn’t an integrated referral system that incorporates official health institutions, social welfare centers, and professional civil society organizations.

A similar situation applies to the Land and Dismissals Commissions; it is still challenging to secure implementation of their decisions in the given context. Namely, the project’s activities have been focused on the provision of technical support to the commissions, while the implementation of their decisions rests on political will. Therefore, it is important to draw from working with these commissions that assistance needs to be extended to the level of implementation with relevant government institutions and political actors involved.

UNDP has adapted its strategy by looking into creative solutions to re-align activities with a focus on providing direct services to victims, vulnerable groups, and communities. Looking forward, support to civil society organizations will remain a priority to implement activities at the community level. UNDP will also continue to support the Land and Dismissals Commissions through developing new activities, which will include cooperation with relevant institutions that are responsible for the implementation of the commissions’ decisions. Lastly, UNDP will assist the Government of Yemen, civil society organizations, and identified transitional justice bodies to develop their own transitional justice strategy.

**KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS**

- 2,165 victims have received psychosocial support, including 1,028 women and 292 girls.
- A total of 3,365 survivors, members of victims’ families, witnesses of violations, and internally displaced persons have been interviewed, including 1,076 women and 139 girls.
- Around 40,000 family members have been directly contacted by the civil society documentation process and assisted by the provision of psychosocial support.
- The Land Commission solved 22,000 cases and the Dismissals Commission prepared cases for further evaluation.
- The Land and Dismissals Commissions inserted more than 60,000 files into the database.

©UNDP Yemen
## AFGHANISTAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan</td>
<td>$595,423,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Human Rights Project for Afghanistan</td>
<td>$5,259,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme</td>
<td>$15,046,671</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$615,730,423</strong></td>
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## BAHRAIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building of the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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</table>

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Law and Transitional Justice</td>
<td>$830,624.88</td>
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## BURUNDI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Peacebuilding in Burundi</td>
<td>$1,814,957</td>
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## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Project to Support the Fight Against Human Rights Violations and the Revival of Justice in CAR</td>
<td>$3,188,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Gendarmerie Salaries</td>
<td>$1,083,848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police gendarmerie rehabilitation</td>
<td>$824,797</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,097,390</strong></td>
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## CHAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Eastern Chad</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
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## COLOMBIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Justice Fund</td>
<td>$6,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Projects</td>
<td>$1,687,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Security and Coexistence Initiation Plan and Programme</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Partnerships for Peace and Development Programme</td>
<td>$8,074,352</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,561,352</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROJECT NAME</strong></td>
<td><strong>2015 BUDGET</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Justice Project (PPAJ)</td>
<td>$1,780,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecution Support Cells (CAP)</td>
<td>$1,059,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict</td>
<td>$1,746,438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fight Against Impunity for Sexual Violence</td>
<td>$3,575,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection</td>
<td>$94,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRF MAMBASA</td>
<td>$254,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRF Kalehe Pilier I</td>
<td>$150,671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Policing</td>
<td>$356,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Arms and Light Weapons (ALPC)</td>
<td>$407,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army Reform</td>
<td>$274,481</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,700,155</strong></td>
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</table>

| **GUINEA-BISSEAU** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Rule of Law and Justice | $1,029,935.00 |  |

| **GUINEA (CONAKRY)** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Support to Governance and the Rule of Law | $80,000 |  |
| Support to the National assembly | $115,000 |  |
| Fight against Gender-Based Violence | $170,574 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$365,574** |  |

| **HAITI** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Support to Rule of Law Sector | $845,525 |  |
| Support to the Superior Council of Judicial Power | $334,564 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$1,180,089** |  |

| **HONDURAS** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Strengthening the Rule of Law for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Honduras | $2,226,711 |  |
| Multiannual Strategy for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Honduras | $2,356,749 |  |

| **IRAQ** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Support for Security Sector Reform Phase II | $4,994,000 |  |

| **JORDAN** |  |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **2015 BUDGET** |  |
| Enhancing Community Security and Access to Justice in Host Communities and Other Fragile Areas | $500,000 |  |
### Kyrgyzstan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing the Democratic Rule of Law to promote peace and stability in Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>$868,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the Rule of Law and Access to justice for sustainable peace</td>
<td>$504,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widening Access to Justice for Legal Empowerment in Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>$915,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to Operationalization of the Constitutional Chamber of Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>$864,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint UN Ombudsman Project</td>
<td>$17,250</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,169,441</strong></td>
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### Liberia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing Access to Security and Justice at the Decentralized Level – Gbarnga Justice and Security Regional Hub</td>
<td>$624,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing Access to Security and Justice at the Decentralized Level – Harper Hub</td>
<td>$454,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice and Security Trust Funds</td>
<td>$877,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Focal Point</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support to Enhancing Border Surveillance</td>
<td>$1,360,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU/ECOWAS Small Arms</td>
<td>$634,486</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP Core Support</td>
<td>$660,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,061,174</strong></td>
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### Lebanon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Security and Access to Justice</td>
<td>$1,164,800</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,164,800</strong></td>
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### Libya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North (Joint with MINUSMA)</td>
<td>$3,108,425</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,108,425</strong></td>
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### Mali

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Law and Access to Justice</td>
<td>$3,367,058</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,367,058</strong></td>
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### Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System</td>
<td>$29,882</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,882</strong></td>
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### Nepal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand</td>
<td>$6,752,856</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,752,856</strong></td>
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### Pakistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,500,00</strong></td>
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### Papua New Guinea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Capacity Building Programme</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bougainville Peacebuilding Fund -Electoral support project (April - August)</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-based violence project</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,500,00</strong></td>
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### Kosovo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Kosovo</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$500,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sierra Leone</strong></td>
<td>Access to Justice and Rule of Law Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to the Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone’s Judiciary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security Sector Reform in Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting the Government of Sierra Leone’s Security Sector Institutions to better respond to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to Prevent Spread of the Ebola Virus Disease in Detention Centers in Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Somalia</strong></td>
<td>Joint Rule of Law Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Sudan</strong></td>
<td>Access to Justice and Rule of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sri Lanka</strong></td>
<td>Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice, and Social Integration Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State of Palestine</strong></td>
<td>Strengthening the Rule of Law, Justice and Security for the Palestinian People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sudan</strong></td>
<td>Promoting Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Sudan - Bridge and Inception Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthening the Capacity of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timor-Leste</strong></td>
<td>Consolidating the Democratic Rule of Law and Peace through a strong Justice System in Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tunisia</strong></td>
<td>Support to the Operationalization of the Transitional Justice Process in Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to Crisis Prevention, Preparedness and Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yemen</strong></td>
<td>Support to the Implementation of Transitional Justice in Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Society Protection of Human Rights through Documentation and Advocacy of human rights and Psycho-social Support to Victims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BiH  Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAR  Central African Republic
DPKO  United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC  Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU  European Union
FARC-EP  The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army
FSV  Family sexual violence
GFP  Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and other Crisis Situations
IGAD  Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ISIL  Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MINUSCA  United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA  The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MINUSTAH  United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUSCO  United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
OHCHR  United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PNG  Papua New Guinea
SGBV  Sexual and Gender-based Violence
OLOLSI  Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions
PBF  Peacebuilding Fund
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV  sexual and gender-based violence
SIU  Special Investigation Unit
UN Women  United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAMID  The United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur
UNDAF  UN Development Assistance Framework
UNHCR  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF  United Nations Children’s Fund
UNMIL  United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNODC  United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS  United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPOL  United Nations Police
UNSMIL  United Nations Support Mission in Libya
The Transformation Decade is a period of transition in Afghanistan spanning from 2015 to 2024.

UNAMA Annual Report, 2015

This unit reports directly to the Public Prosecutor and has adopted the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

http://www.idea.int/vt/countryview.cfm?id=24


United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic


Global Terrorism Index 2015.

At the time of drafting, Colombia expects the peace agreement to be signed by early summer 2016.

Statistics from the government’s Victims Unit.


Cf. Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls, Poll Report #4 (HHI/UNDP/ MONUSCO), November 2015

Cf. Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls, Poll Report #2 (HHI/UNDP/ MONUSCO), June 2015


Ibid.

Ibid.

Cf. Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Polls, Poll Reports #1-4, (HHI/UNDP/ MONUSCO), 2015

21 2015 Annual Report of the Personal Representative of the Head of State in charge of the fight against sexual violence


23 UNDP Human Development Report, 2014

24 UNDP Human Development Report, 2014; national data

25 Central Reserve Bank (Banco Central de Reserva), Estimated Economic Cost of Violence in El Salvador, 2014San Salvador, 2016


27 At the time of publishing.

28 http://www.prisonstudies.org/country/haiti

29 http://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/Country-Profiles/Haiti-Country-Profile

30 MINUSTAH: United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti


32 http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/16/opinion/an-anti-corruption-charade-in-honduras.html?_r=0


35 IOM Iraq Crisis Response Situation Report December 2015
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486566.html


Community Peace Center, is a newly established entity under the Ministry of Interior with the mandate to counter violent extremism.

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Arts. 56, 127, 139, Constitution of Nepal 2015

Art. 137, Constitution of Nepal 2015


2015 Monthly updates and activity reports

An upcoming UNDP publication, based on the findings, “New Beginnings: A way forward for transitional justice in South Sudan”, will be released in 2016.

Traditional Leaders Resolution passed at Annual Customary Law Forum, 15 July 2015, Juba, South Sudan.

Ikwoto, Eastern Equatoria; Yambio, Western Equatoria; Malakal, Upper Nile; Akobo, Jonglei; and Juba, Central Equatoria.


Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 Final Report

Sudan Ministry of Labor Annual Report 2015

The United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur


It was reported that over 600 health facilities—representing 25 percent of the country’s overall capacity to deliver health care—were not functioning because of destruction or a lack of staff and/or supplies: http://www.unocha.org/aggregator/sources/80


The Transitional Justice project supported three different outputs: (i) support national frameworks for redress, such as Land and Dismissals Commission, truth commission etc.; (ii) CSOs for alternative avenues of redress and participation of victims and other conflict-affected vulnerable groups; (iii) public outreach and national dialogue facilitation.
Since 2008, the UNDP Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations has provided rule of law support to over 40 crisis-affected countries. This programme has been a driving force in improving the delivery of UNDP’s assistance and in pioneering joint UN approaches to supporting the rule of law. The 2012 establishment of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and other Crisis Situations was a notable development in this regard.

UNDP would like to thank Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Qatar, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for their contributions in 2015 in support of UNDP’s work to strengthen the rule of law in crisis-affected and fragile situations. Additionally, UNDP is grateful for the previous support from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, Japan, and Luxembourg for their support across Phase I and II of the Global Programme.