UNDP Results
Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Approach

UNDP’s work in crisis prevention and recovery helps countries prevent armed conflict and natural disasters, or build back better and stronger when they do occur.

We integrate aspects of peacebuilding in thousands of programmes and lend our expertise on reducing risk of natural disaster in vulnerable countries. In recovery from crises, we provide the bridge between the humanitarian agencies that handle immediate needs and long term development. We help stabilize communities; support the authorities in reestablishing governance; develop human, financial, technical and legislative capacity, and improve preparedness. We also assist in small arms control and unexploded ordnance removal, support disarmament and reintegration programmes and help authorities address human rights violations and gender inequality.

RESULTS

Conflict prevention and recovery

UNDP works with local communities to set up processes to manage disputes through inclusive participation and dialogue:

- In the run-up to Kenya’s constitutional referendum in mid-2010, a UNDP-supported programme helped mobilize grassroots organizations to identify and respond to potential conflict. Participants used SMS technology to instantly transmit reports of friction to a central location, which then dispatched peace advocates to diffuse tensions. No major violence erupted during the referendum, in contrast to the deadly electoral violence of 2007-2008.

- A newly-launched UNDP conflict-prevention programme in Togo helped to develop and apply a political party “code of conduct” and promote a public peace campaign in the run-up to the February 2010 national elections. As a result, elections were conducted peacefully, despite prediction of violence. In the Solomon Islands, a joint UN/UNDP programme helped to break a pattern of post-election violence, after deploying a special advisory team to assist during an electoral process that resulted in the selection of a new prime minister.

- In Nigeria, a UNDP-supported women’s cooperative now includes more than 1,000 women and has brought peace through mediation efforts in the conflict-ridden Agila area of Benue state.

- UNDP helped to create Dialogue Fiji, a platform that brings together civil society and, for the first time, the military-supported government.

In its post-conflict recovery work, UNDP helps national authorities establish basic security and deliver essential public services while creating the right conditions for national ownership of the recovery process. Some recent examples:

- In Uganda, UNDP-supported mine action contributed to the return of more than one million displaced persons; in Mauritania, some 1,400 hectares of land, suspected to be contaminated with landmines, were cleared for productive civilian use.
UNDP has helped six countries — Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Jamaica, Kenya and Sudan — to improve their ability to monitor and respond to small arms and light weapons proliferation and armed violence. As a result, these countries have established inter-agency cooperation and are now able to monitor and report on crime and arms flows.

UNDP's gender strategy is based on the Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery, which calls for stopping violence against women, promoting gender justice and women's participation in political and peace processes and ensuring gender equality in disaster recovery and risk reduction, among other efforts.

- In Burundi, UNDP helped 560,000 women obtain national identification cards, a prerequisite for voting. UNDP also helped train women to run for political office and supported civil society efforts to quell violence in the run-up to the 2010 elections. Burundi’s Senate now has the second-highest proportion of women of any upper legislative house in the world.

- In Somalia, UNDP supported the Ministry of the Interior in establishing and staffing special units for women and children victims of crime in Somaliland police stations.

- In Nepal, UNDP supported Constituent Assembly women members to organize its first Women’s Caucus. More broadly, UNDP helped organize constitutional dialogue meetings in which more than 41,000 women participated.

Natural disasters and early recovery

With experience in several high-risk and disaster-stricken countries, UNDP has developed expertise in minimizing the effects of natural disasters.

UNDP has recently helped national institutions in Armenia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan and Mozambique to assess disaster risks and prepare for catastrophic events. The robust government response to recent seismic disasters in Indonesia has come from national and provincial disaster management agencies that UNDP helped establish.

UNDP can now employ specially-trained staff within 72 hours of a crisis, thanks to its SURGE programme. Through our leadership, UNDP supports a nation’s capacity to provide its people with essential services and critical basic infrastructure, from reintegrating the internally displaced to offering short-term employment. Some highlights:

- In Haiti, UNDP created a cash-for-work programme to inject much-needed cash into the earthquake-hit economy. To date more than 195,000 affected Haitians — 40 percent of them women — have been employed for at least four weeks each, clearing small debris and rehabilitating irrigation and drainage systems (this figure includes those beneficiaries employed by a related cash- and food-for-work programme administered by the World Food Programme).