

Recovering from violent conflict

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Democratic Republic of Congo

By the Post-conflict Unit, UNDP DRC

Building on the momentum created by the peace negotiations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2002-2003, UNDP started working with representatives of armed groups, setting up a model for future DDR programmes.

DDR is considered a vital component of peacebuilding, acting as a bridge between immediate security and longer-term development priorities in the transition from violent conflict to peace. In this context, the transitional government of the DRC and the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme partners called on UNDP to lead the establishment of a national programme. In response, UNDP provided national authorities with substantial technical and operational support to help define programme components and legal frameworks and conduct feasibility studies on demobilization and reintegration. In addition, UNDP coordinated a highly diversified network of partners to support the national programme, including transitional authorities, donors, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), military representatives and local authorities. In April 2004, when the institutional, operational and financial conditions for the launch of the national DDR programme were created, UNDP formally transferred its mandate to the new National DDR Commission (CONADER). ▶



Photo by UNDP DRC

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Reducing risk of natural disasters

Regional Centre in Bangkok supports national experts in tsunami-affected countries

By the CPR Team, Regional Centre, Bangkok

Asia has long been recognized as the most natural disaster-prone region in the world. The December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami highlighted the need for countries to examine ways of reducing the impact of natural disasters in their communities and better managing them when they occur. UNDP has been helping national and local officials mitigate the effects of floods, cyclones and earthquakes through capacity-building efforts.

Following the December 2004 tsunami, UNDP's Regional Centre in Bangkok responded to the increased technical assistance needs of the affected countries with Crisis Prevention and Recovery's (CPR's) Regional Programme on Capacity Building for Sustainable Recovery and Risk Reduction. Launched in November 2005, the programme is working with UNDP country offices and disaster management agencies in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, India and Thailand to develop national capacity to better manage and recover from future disasters. ▶

DDR in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The DDR process is highly affected by the shifting priorities of the political agenda in the DRC. This requires a high level of flexibility and readiness. To provide better support, UNDP set up a rapid response mechanism (RRM)—a financial and operational engine to address emergencies that threaten the evolution of the DDR programme. The RRM uses a risk matrix to detect potential contingencies, a rapid disbursement system and a pre-established network of service providers. RRM has played an effective role in dealing with spontaneous disarmament.

Since January 2004, UNDP has been involved in the conception and execution of the Ituri Disarmament and Community Reintegration Programme, in which, for the first time, UNDP was in charge of the whole programme cycle: from setting up transit sites for combatants to economic reintegration, including payment of subsidies, biometric registration and employment generation. Through the programme, UNDP has enabled the demobilization of more than 31,000 ex-combatants in eastern DRC. A second demobilization phase for the remaining militia groups is currently taking place, which had demobilized another 6,000 ex-combatants by August 2006. UNDP also launched a pilot initiative in support of war-disabled ex-combatants with the involvement of the Japanese Government and the private sector.

Because UNDP links DDR to broader post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery processes, UNDP has established a portfolio of peacebuilding, recovery and community development projects that support the reintegration of ex-combatants. A recovery support network of six projects has been set up with implementing partners including national and international NGOs, civil society, local authorities, and the private sector. The network has a budget of more than USD 35 million from 11 different donors. In the five eastern provinces, UNDP has carried out work targeted at social and public infrastructure, which provided temporary employment to more than 10,000 persons including ex-combatants and host communities members. To improve the absorption capacity of the hosting communities, UNDP has carried out rehabilitation projects at more than 60 schools for approximately 36,000 pupils; provided access to drinking water to more than 600,000 persons; rebuilt more than 20 health centres and 4 hospitals; and launched income generating activities for more than 80,000 persons, more than 50 percent of whom are women.

UNDP has also ensured it works with the wider UN system in addressing DDR. In this respect, UNDP has partnered with UNICEF in the development of a child demobilization strategy. It has also worked with UNFPA and other UN agencies in relation to mainstreaming gender, gender-based violence and reproductive health considerations within the DDR programmes. A joint programme with UNHCR has started to rehabilitate infrastructures in the return areas of war-affected populations, including ex-combatants. **CPR**

Reducing risk of natural disasters

The Regional Programme is supporting the development of end-to-end early warning systems and has, to date, provided training opportunities to more than 50 national experts in tsunami-affected countries. It is also assisting disaster management agencies in enhancing their abilities to manage information and make better decisions through the creation of databases of past disasters and available resources.

The Regional Programme is supporting the creation of historical databases of natural disasters going back 30 years to assess patterns over time. These historical databases are intended to generate analytical reports to help local officials design better policies to mitigate the risks of future natural disasters. The programme is also setting up databases in the Maldives and Sri Lanka to keep a record of available resources and equipment, which the authorities can quickly deploy in the case of a natural disaster.

In support of end-to-end early warning systems, trainings on multi-hazard risk mapping were provided in 2006 to officials that work directly with communities. In Sri Lanka, 18 disaster management experts were trained in 9 different districts. Meanwhile in the Maldives, a group of 20 representatives, of which 10 were women from non-governmental organizations, were introduced to disaster preparedness issues and discussed ways to better engage their communities on the issues. Last May, the Regional Programme also sponsored the participation of five national early warning systems experts from the tsunami-affected countries to attend the first Pacific Ocean Tsunami Drill in the Philippines.

An assessment study of current institutional and legislative systems for disaster risk management in beneficiary countries is also underway and will pave the way for recommendations on how national officials can strengthen the legal basis for early warning systems in each country. **CPR**



Supporting Lebanon's recovery

UNDP's quick delivery support projects

By UNDP Lebanon

On 31 August 2006, donors pledged a total of USD 900 million towards Lebanon at the Stockholm Conference. This is almost twice the USD 500 million target set by the organizers to finance the Government of Lebanon's (GOL) national early recovery efforts, based on its own needs assessments conducted in close cooperation with the United Nations.

Early recovery initiatives, as presented by GOL, would ensure measures to meet the immediate needs of the Lebanese people across 11 sectors: displacement and shelter, mines and unexploded ordnance, infrastructure, water and sanitation, health, education, environment, employment and livelihoods, agricultural production, industrial production, and assistance to the Palestinian camps. The GOL took the opportunity to present the steps envisaged for its long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts that will be discussed during another international conference scheduled for later this year in Beirut.

With an initial contribution of approximately USD 4 million from its own resources, UNDP has launched a number of quick delivery, high-impact projects in support of GOL's efforts. The projects aim to: enable municipalities to rehabilitate basic local services; clear rubble and debris; rehabilitate key public infrastructure; help clean up the oil spill; and provide assistance to recover fishermen's livelihoods. UNDP is also providing technical assistance to the Policy Advisory Unit of the Prime Minister's office in its recovery planning and coordination work. As part of these early initiatives, UNDP has allocated USD 800,000 to 98 municipalities in Southern Lebanon and Baalbek in order to allow them to lead the reconstruction process at the municipal level and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons. UNDP has also provided seed funding to fisherman associations in Lebanon to repair fishermen's damaged boats, provide the latter with nets and engines and rebuild the fish market in Ouzai. The oil spill, compounded by Israel's naval blockade, has heavily impacted the fishing sector, where an estimated 3,500 fishermen have lost their only source of income.

The Canadian Government was the first donor to support UNDP's early recovery activities with a contribution of CAD 2 million. Other donors have since provided additional contributions, including Japan (USD 3 million, of which USD 1 million is for mine action through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security), Brazil (USD 500,000) and Australia (AUD 500,000). UNDP continues working closely with donors to close the remaining financial gap of its quick delivery-highly impact initiatives, estimated at about USD 46 million. 

News

BCPR's new five-year strategy

BCPR is pleased to announce its new five-year strategy for 2007-2011. Building on extensive reviews and consultations, the new plan reflects changes in the international environment, shifts in UNDP's organizational priorities, and expansions within the Bureau. Several steps remain before finalization: completion of a change management process; finalization of a gender approach for all BCPR work; and development of a monitoring and evaluation plan to measure results. These steps will be completed in the next few months. The strategy introduces several critical changes: ■ **Clarity of focus**—Describing clear, evidence-based criteria to determine BCPR's engagement in specific crisis situations and defining BCPR's core services to partners. ■ **Focus on outcomes**—Organizing BCPR's work around the outcome areas of recovery and prevention, and linking BCPR's support to national development outcomes and UNDP country office outputs. ■ **Become a centre for policy and best practice**—Sharing BCPR's best practices with regional and country level partners and striving to position UNDP as a thought leader on crisis prevention and recovery (CPR) issues. As a Bureau Strategy, this plan does not attempt to recommend a comprehensive UNDP approach to CPR. However, since BCPR leads the CPR practice area for UNDP, this strategy represents a necessary initial step towards developing an integrated UNDP plan. Working well with programming and policy partners—other UNDP bureaus, the UN agencies, donors, regional organizations, civil society and academic institutions—will be key to the success of this strategy. Comments on the strategy are welcome. For a copy or to share feedback, e-mail laura.callanan@undp.org.

Building partnerships with civil society

Since 2004, BCPR and the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Division of the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP) have been working on a small grants programme for CSOs in conflict and post-conflict situations. The initiative was intended to transform UNDP's relationship with CSOs from one of service provision to one of genuine partnership. The programme aimed to develop CSO capacity to build peace through dialogue, democratic and civilian institutions, economic revitalization, and sustainable partnerships with UNDP country offices in three pilot countries: Sri Lanka, Liberia and Colombia. A review was organized upon completion of the pilot in 2006 to guide future partnerships. Highlights emphasized the importance of: ■ CSO mapping as a tool for UNDP to initiate and improve partnerships with CSOs; ■ Local selection committees (comprising of civil society) to guide programme directions and to create dialogue among stakeholders; ■ Support of Track 3 initiatives at the district level through small granting, and the scaling up of these efforts to the national level; ■ The critical role that UNDP can play in facilitating vertical alliance between civil society and government, and in accompanying and protecting CSOs in crisis environments. For more information, e-mail celine.moyroud@undp.org or thierno.kane@undp.org.

Who's Who in CPR

Highlighting staff who contribute to crisis prevention and recovery efforts



Eugenia Piza Lopez
Team Leader, Crisis Prevention
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Eugenia Piza Lopez is the Team Leader for the Crisis Prevention and Disaster Preparedness Programme of the UNDP Pacific Sub-Regional Centre working on disaster preparedness, risk reduction, conflict prevention and recovery issues. Eugenia has worked in post-conflict reconstruction; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR); small arms; conflict prevention and gender issues for more than 20 years in Africa (Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa and Burundi), Central America (Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala), South East Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines) and in the UK (with a focus on EU policy). Previous to her arrival in the Pacific, Eugenia was the Senior Conflict Prevention Adviser for UNDP Indonesia (2002-2006) where she helped support the Peace Processes in Maluku, North Maluku, central Sulawesi and Aceh. Between 1997 and 2002, she was the Head of Policy and Advocacy for the non-governmental organization (NGO) International Alert where she developed a policy research and capacity building programme for NGOs and multi-lateral agencies on conflict and development, security sector reform and small arms. Eugenia also worked for Oxfam GB for nine years as Social Development Adviser for Asia, Head of the Gender and Development Unit and as Senior Policy Adviser in charge of policy advocacy towards the United Nations. Eugenia has an MPhil in Social Communication Research from The University of Leicester, a Masters degree in Sociology and Mass Communication from the University of Costa Rica, and a Diploma in the History of Art from the Royal School of Art at London University.



Devanand Ramiah
Peace and Development
Analyst, UNDP Sri Lanka

Devanand Ramiah is a Peace and Development Analyst at the UNDP. He works on issues relating to peace-building and reconciliation in Sri Lanka and has also worked with the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Kosovo and East Timor. In the capacity of Peace and Development Analyst, Devanand has been a part of the evolution of the crisis prevention and recovery (CPR) programme in Sri Lanka. Subsequent to the ceasefire agreement Devanand was involved in formulating and managing a capacity development programme that targeted the three key stakeholders to the peace process through their respective peace secretariats. He also has been involved with mainstreaming conflict prevention into projects, which involves training field staff and partners in conflict prevention as well as carrying out peace building audits. He also functions as the civil society organization focal point and has been involved in managing several small grants programmes that focus on building local capacities for peace. Previously, Devanand was Coordinator of the Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit at the Center for Policy Alternatives, Colombo. Devanand is a Fulbright scholar and holds a Masters degree in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia, United States. He is visiting faculty for conflict resolution related programmes at the Bradford University (Sri Lanka Programme), the joint United Nations University for Peace, Bandaranayake Center for International Studies Programme and Colombo University. He is also a trainer and facilitator.

Events

BCPR's Gender Experts Meeting and Strategy Session, 12-15 September 2006, London

On 12-15 September 2006, the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) convened a Gender Experts Meeting and Strategy Session at the London School of Economics in London, England. The event brought together a diverse mix of academics, development practitioners, representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other BCPR partners. The meeting was organized around the key BCPR outcome areas of Prevention and Recovery. Team leaders and gender focal points from each BCPR unit exchanged perspectives on the integration of gender equality perspectives in crisis prevention and recovery with the experts. The ultimate aim was to agree on the most appropriate strategic approach to be taken by the Bureau in this area of work. The four-day meeting resulted in the definition of a strategic approach and concrete recommendations on the Bureau's work on gender and CPR, which will inform BCPR's 2007-2011 strategy. These recommendations are reflected in an Agenda for Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery, which outlines the strategic approach to be taken by UNDP/BCPR in this area of work. The recommendations of the meeting will be integrated in the BCPR's 2007-2011 strategy and will form the basis of a comprehensive implementation plan on gender mainstreaming for the next five years, encompassing support to human resource capacity, funding, programming, and tools and methodologies to enhance UNDP's contribution to gender equality objectives in the context of CPR work. For more information, please contact ilaria.carnevali@undp.org.

To submit feedback, a news item or an event to the CPR Newsletter, contact: elisabeth.diaz@undp.org.