

Crisis Prevention and Recovery

The culture of peace is not just the lack of war but a way of living with each other, sustained by economic development and the recognition of values, which dignify the individual.

Joaquim
Alberto Chissano,
President
of Mozambique

After the 2000 floods in Mozambique, UNDP helped mobilize more than \$453 million for relief and reconstruction.

By some measures, nearly one-fourth of the world's population is living today in a crisis or post-crisis situation. Before, during and after crises, UNDP works in these countries to serve development needs. In the midst of crisis, UNDP works to sustain livelihoods and stabilize communities, helping to reduce refugee flows and welcome back returnees. When crises end, UNDP helps bridge the gap between humanitarian assistance and sustained focus on development.

Around the world, UNDP coordinates crisis response because it is already there, on the ground and ready to work. In most country offices, UNDP Resident Representatives normally also serve as Resident Coordinators of all UN development activities. And everywhere UNDP works, it takes a leading role in partnership with relief organizations and other government and private aid groups. In **Mozambique** alone, after the 2000 floods, UNDP helped mobilize more than \$453 million in commitments for relief and reconstruction.

UNDP also moves quickly to provide immediate assistance in areas such as re-integrating

refugees and re-starting damaged economies. With resources and expertise, UNDP helps manage the transition between departing relief agencies and returning development partners.

In the **Republic of the Congo**, between June 2000 and December 2001, UNDP will re-integrate 580,000 displaced persons, help develop jobs and small businesses for 14,000 women, and help 4,700 former militia fighters get jobs and training and start new lives as civilians. UNDP will train hundreds of judges and police officers in the principles of human rights and the rule of law. These programmes will provide a real peace dividend for millions of Congolese—and hard evidence that peace can endure.

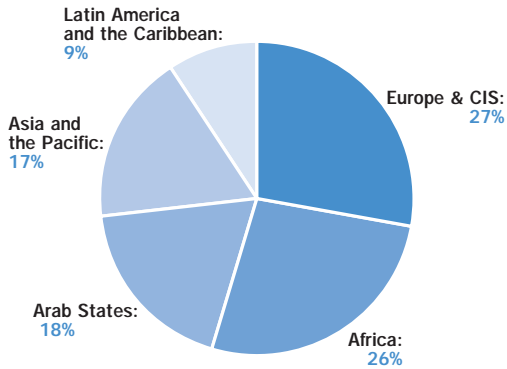
UNDP's **Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP)** is a unique mechanism to respond to crisis situations and at the same time focus on democratic governance, poverty alleviation, gender equality and other issues vital to successful state-building. Over its history, the PAPP has mobilized more than \$350 million for projects throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Even in very difficult political circumstances, PAPP last year was able to complete major water and health infrastructure projects and make a substantial contribution to emergency job creation.

UNDP has built a special expertise in helping societies cope with the legacy of death and destruction that landmines leave behind years or decades after a conflict has ended. In 23 countries, UNDP is strengthening national institutions to meet the needs of landmine victims and help them return to their communities as healthy, productive citizens. And UNDP works with the UN Mine Action Service to provide resources and expertise for demining and training deminers in countries such as **Laos**.



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97 countries are affected by mines and unexploded ordnance



Source: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Most important, while others are providing assistance driven by the headlines, UNDP can work with local authorities to focus on longer-term strategy for rebuilding after a crisis—and building strong institutions to prevent a recurrence.

UNDP has learned over time that the best relief efforts make the country involved a full partner and in fact a leader. UNDP helps build that capacity for leadership, and strengthen government and communal institutions. Around the world, UNDP offers strategies for disaster relief and prevention, partnering with regional organizations to help improve risk and crisis management in disaster-prone areas.

In **Guatemala**, for example, after 36 years of civil conflict, UNDP has been a leader in helping peace take root. UNDP marshalled \$50 million in international development aid. UNDP serves as a strategic partner for reconstruction, helping Guatemalans build new frameworks for democracy, growth and dispute resolution. UNDP funded programmes in governance, judicial reform and re-integration for 500,000 displaced Guatemalans. From health in rural clinics to the participation of indigenous people in national life, Guatemalans are making these programmes their own, their lives better and peace permanent.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP: TOWARDS A COMMON IDENTITY

Everywhere UNDP works, it is helping lead the effort to provide a coherent and comprehensive UN-wide presence—and serving as the UN's operational arm. In many places around the world, UNDP is joined by other UN organizations in promoting growth, improving governance, preventing crises and lifting lives. For many years, coordination among UN offices in the field was haphazard at best. But three years ago, the UN Secretary-General established the UN Development Group (UNDG) as a coordinating body, with the UNDP Administrator as its chair.

UNDP Resident Representatives usually serve as Resident Coordinators of UN activities in their host countries—putting a personal face on the UN presence and leading a whole country team of UN agency experts. Fifty percent of people are seconded to UNDP from elsewhere in the UN family therefore building up a common commitment to the country team approach.

Over those three years, UNDG has established common training and team-building procedures for the field; instituted common programming processes, including the UN Development Assistance Framework, now being applied in over 90 countries; streamlined and improved administrative procedures; and built better communication and cooperation out of UN Houses in capitals around the world. UNDG is also leading the development of a UN strategy to achieve the goals of the Millennium Summit, by focusing on two areas: halving extreme poverty by 2015 and expanding girls' access to education. Through UNDG, we can review every UN activity to see that it promotes these goals, that its lessons are learned for other programmes and places and that the resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. [For more information: www.dgo.org.](http://www.dgo.org)

Ultimately, that is UNDP's goal wherever it is involved: helping people and governments recover from disasters, put conflict behind them, and build the strong and accountable institutions that prevent crises in the first place. ■