



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

A photograph of a woman in the foreground, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned headwrap and a matching top. She is looking slightly to her left with a serious expression. Behind her, several other people are visible, including a man in a camouflage shirt and another man in a white shirt, all looking in the same direction. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a wooden ceiling and a window in the background.

## **STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW** IN CRISIS-AFFECTED AND FRAGILE SITUATIONS

Global Programme Annual Report **2014**







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A stylized, low-poly world map in shades of blue, serving as a background for the entire page. The map is composed of various triangular and quadrilateral shapes that form the continents.

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UNDP supported health workers and community security efforts to combat Ebola in Liberia.  
Morgana Wingard/UNDP/Liberia

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## ACRONYMS

<b>COPPS</b>	EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support
<b>CPR-TTF</b>	Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund
<b>DPKO</b>	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
<b>FARC</b>	Revolutionary Armed Forces in Colombia
<b>EUPOL</b>	European Police Mission in Afghanistan
<b>GFP</b>	United Nations Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Settings
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>IASRTF</b>	United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>ISACS</b>	International Small Arms Control Standards
<b>ISIS</b>	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
<b>MINUSCA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
<b>MINUSCO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>MINUSMA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
<b>MINUSTAH</b>	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
<b>OHCHR</b>	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PBF</b>	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
<b>PBSO</b>	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
<b>PCP</b>	Palestinian Civil Police
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms Light Weapons
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual Gender Based Violence
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reform
<b>TOE</b>	United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict
<b>UNAMID</b>	African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNMIL</b>	United Nations Mission in Liberia
<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
<b>UNSOM</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
<b>UNOCI</b>	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services



# FOREWORD

Strengthening the Rule of Law is a cornerstone of UNDP's efforts to achieve sustainable human development and eradicate extreme poverty. UNDP's support to the rule of law, justice and security is embedded in UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014-17 "Changing with the World", as endorsed by the UNDP Executive Board in 2013. Through rule of law assistance, UNDP contributes to building peace and democratic governance in all development contexts.

This Annual Report showcases UNDP's work throughout 2014 in strengthening the rule of law in crisis and fragile contexts, in collaboration with partners across the UN family, including through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections, the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, and the Human Rights up Front Initiative.

Through the Global Focal Point arrangement, UNDP and DPKO aim to assist governments to re-establish the rule of law in crisis and conflict-affected settings. This includes ensuring the rapid restoration of security and justice services. For example, UNDP mobilized \$17 million to support better access to justice and help address property and family disputes in the State of Palestine. This support, which included free legal aid clinics, helped restore confidence between authorities and communities and enabled individuals to pursue more productive livelihoods.

In countries such as Guatemala, UNDP's support to citizen security aims to address high levels of armed violence that continue to hinder development. While Guatemala suffers from having the highest levels of violence in the world the rates of homicidal violence have been decreasing since 2009, according to official sources. This reduction in violence is expected to bring an equally positive effect on economic growth and investment.

To support redress for past violence and human rights violations, UNDP continues to support transitional justice measures such as dialogue processes, the establishment of truth commissions and the prosecution of conflict-related human rights violations. Throughout 2014, UNDP provided such assistance to countries recovering from large-scale violence, including Colombia, Tunisia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has devastating, long-term effects on the lives of victims, their families and communities, as well as on national development gains. SGBV is rooted in gender inequality and marginalization and tragically reaches acute levels in conflict situations. As an integral part of our rule of law assistance, UNDP works to provide services to SGBV survivors and to address impunity through targeted assistance to justice and security institutions. For example, in eastern DRC where UNDP has been providing assistance for several years, SGBV rates decreased from 20,041 reported cases in 2013 to 8,510 reported cases in 2014.

We know that strengthening the rule of law requires sustained and continuous support over several generations. UNDP is committed to supporting countries in these efforts over the long-term, including in the most challenging settings in the world.

As part of the organization wide restructuring that took place in 2014, UNDP established a single Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights team within the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster that is part of the newly created Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS). The team also has dedicated professionals located in the Regional Hubs in Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Istanbul and Panama.

Under the new Strategic Plan we are also committed to improving the impact of our assistance and enhancing the quality of our reporting. This will entail dedicated investments in data collection capacities, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Finally, UNDP remains strongly committed to serving the UN system as a whole and to ensuring that our engagement enhances the standing and effectiveness of the UN in providing rule of law assistance. We believe that such joint efforts will be vital for delivering on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially for supporting the achievement of the proposed Goal 16 on inclusive and peaceful societies.

We would like to thank Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States for their contributions in 2014 in support of UNDP's work on strengthening the rule of law as well as Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, and Japan for their previous support in the second phase. The second phase of the Global Rule of Law Programme will conclude in 2015 and we are currently developing a vision for a follow-up Programme to continue this critical component of our governance and peacebuilding work. We look forward to implementing the next phase in close collaboration with our partners.



**Magdy Martínez-Solimán**  
Assistant Administrator

Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support  
United Nations Development Programme





# PART 1

## The Year in Review

I



# INTRODUCTION

2014 saw the outbreak of the Ebola virus and upsurges in violent conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Also, the rise of ISIS, the stories of abductions in Nigeria and the killings of school children in Pakistan reminded us that the threat of insecurity also comes from powerful non-state actors. In UNDP, through the *Global Programme to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Contexts*, we continued to dedicate ourselves to serve the UN system at the country level in efforts to build peace, reduce violence and enhance governance in emergency situations and in many other countries where protracted crises and conflict threaten development gains.

Since the launch of the Global Programme in 2008, UNDP has taken a multi-faceted approach to strengthening the rule of law. This encompasses enhancing service provision and building capable justice and security institutions; fighting impunity; strengthening protection of human rights; reducing armed violence and improving small arms control; assisting SGBV survivors and promoting peace and reconciliation through transitional justice.

In 2014, we worked more closely than ever with our UN partners: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNWOMEN, and the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) within the Global Focal Point arrangement. We remained dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of the UN's rule of law assistance in crisis and post-conflict settings through this arrangement and have dedicated specific resources to these ends.

Together with these partners UNDP engaged in rule of law programming in 38 countries facing crisis in 2014. Our work aims to ensure the immediate restoration of rule of law services, even in the midst of conflict, in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the State of Palestine and the Ukraine. Evidence shows that better service provision increases trust in institutions, which is in turn critical to stability. In settings like Pakistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Colombia, we worked to improve institutional effectiveness and responsiveness to communities. In Central African Republic and Somalia, we strengthened joint approaches with MINUSCA and UNSOM, OHCHR and UN WOMEN to address impunity and enhance protection, especially for women. We worked closely to support the capacities of rule of law institutions to manage the Ebola threat in Liberia and Sierra Leone. We assisted the governments of Guatemala and El Salvador to promote citizen's security through reducing violence.

With our partners, we build the capacities of a wide range of institutions and organizations at the national level – police and law enforcement services, the courts and judiciary, the legal profession, corrections services, small arms control bodies, local

governance structures, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. However, we have learned that in order to be successful in preventing future conflict, our efforts need to be more focused on building trust between people and the state.

For UNDP, the aim of our rule of law assistance is to have a lasting effect on peace and development. Societies which are afflicted by internal or external threats or undergoing a transition from conflict and authoritarian rule, require rule of law assistance which goes beyond technical solutions. For instance where violence, marginalization or discrimination have targeted specific groups, the provision of justice and political commitment to victim redress is critical in enabling societies to move on. Frequently rule of law assistance has focused on efficiency measures. In UNDP, we are promoting an approach to the rule of law that is people-centered, enforces human rights and addresses difficult political issues, those which pose a continued threat to peace and stability. These issues are wide ranging. Examples include challenges to the independence of the judiciary, disputes over land and property rights or the absence of accountability in the security services. In UNDP, we believe that the sources of injustice which perpetuate conflict can only be addressed through rights-based and context-specific approaches.

In 2014, the international community at large recognized these complex linkages. The post-2015 agenda saw the recognition of links between extreme poverty eradication, development, good governance, peace, the rule of law and respect for human rights. In the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Member States arrived at a clear recommendation that the achievement of peaceful and inclusive societies should be a development goal in its own right. The UN Secretary-General in his Synthesis Report<sup>1</sup> reinforced this message. In 2015, we therefore hope to see a new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) echoing Goal 16 to “*promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”.

As requested by Member States, UNDP engaged technically in the development of transformative targets such as lethal violence reduction, legal identity and birth registration. The Goal and targets provide new impetus to UNDP's engagement on rule of law, justice, security and human rights within the broader context of peacebuilding and governance support. We look forward to working with Member States on the implementation of the exciting new SDGs in years to come.

In order to accompany Member States more effectively UNDP underwent a restructuring in 2014 following the adoption of a new Strategic Plan. UNDP's rule of law, justice, security and human

<sup>1</sup> UN Secretary-General Synthesis Report, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*, 31 Dec 2014.

rights capacities were brought together into one team within the Governance and Peacebuilding cluster of the new Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS). Bringing these capacities together allows UNDP to deepen its rule of law and human rights assistance in all development contexts. This enhanced team has expanded to encompass human rights and is present in headquarters and in all regional bureaus.

This report details the assistance provided, results achieved and challenges faced by the Global Programme in 2014 as UNDP continued its partnership with 38 countries to strengthen the rule of law for those affected by crisis.

**Part I** contains an overview of the four areas of work addressed through the Global Programme, including:

1. Increasing safety and security for all
2. Building trust through accessible and effective justice and security institutions
3. Improving the delivery of justice and security for women
4. Dealing with the legacy of violence

**Part II** consists of individual profiles detailing support given to each country through the Global Programme in 2014.

**Part III** presents an overview of the Global Programme financial information.



Promoting Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Police Force.  
Tobin Jones/UNDP/Somalia



# RESPONDING TO CRISIS AND CONFLICT IN 2014

In 2014, several extreme crisis situations required extraordinary focus and commitment from the United Nations system including UNDP Country Offices. Even in times of extreme conflict, our in-country capacity, flexibility and creativity have enabled UNDP to work closely with governments and communities in the most challenging places to enhance the rule of law and human rights situation on the ground.

This section provides analytical commentary on the major crises of 2014 explaining how rule of law assistance is supporting recovery, governance and peacebuilding.

## THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year with no viable political solution, 12.2 million people remain in dire need of assistance. Nearly half of all Syrians have been forced from their homes. 3.8 million people have fled to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, and 7.6 million people have been internally displaced. This is the largest displacement crisis in the world.

For most of 2014, Syria faced enormous development and humanitarian challenges due to the deteriorating economy, widespread armed conflicts, and the political impasse. In response, the UNDP Syria Country Office has been implementing targeted recovery programmes and interventions to mitigate the impact of crisis. In 2014, UNDP missions for the planning and designing of responses were deployed to Jordan and Lebanon to integrate community security and access to justice into support for host communities.

Jordan is hosting 1.4 million Syrians, of whom 627,287<sup>2</sup> are refugees. Approximately 23.5 percent of all Syrian refugees are women and almost 53 percent are children (18 percent of whom are under five years of age). Eighty-five percent of refugees live outside camps in some of the poorest areas of the country, and a significant proportion are classified as “extremely vulnerable”. Providing for the needs of refugees has heavily impacted Jordan’s national and local budgets. In some municipalities, refugees outnumber residents. The impact on inflation, unemployment, and access to public services and community resources has fuelled local tensions and threatened to spark wider social unrest.

Despite the Jordanian government’s commitment to improve access to justice, there are challenges due to the steady increase of the total number of judicial cases concerning Syrians (From 2011-2014 caseloads increased by 50 percent in Amman, 77 percent in

Irbid and 84 percent in Mafrqa). These steep increases inhibit the administration of justice, the performance of courts and their ability to ensure a fair trial.

The government’s response to the crisis has been backed by national and international agencies, but there is a growing acknowledgment that current life-saving humanitarian funding and programming are neither sustainable nor sufficient. These efforts should be complemented by development assistance to build resilience and sustain the level and quality of services.

UNDP Jordan supports rule of law programming to complement the Jordan Response Plan focusing on enhancing community security and access to justice in host communities. Some of the results envisaged include better state-community response plans to reduce crime and enhance stability and increase access to justice mechanisms being put in place. UNDP also aims to enable communities to establish dispute resolution capacities to counter violent extremism.

The rise in refugees in Lebanon is unprecedented. The country is currently hosting 1,178,038 million refugees<sup>3</sup>. This has increased the total population of Lebanon by 30 percent since 2011. Because Lebanon keeps an open border with Syria, improving civil registration systems for Syrians in Lebanon is essential to enable Syrians’ rights protection.

This population increase also has a significant impact on the local security situation, mirrored with a similar increase in demand on the justice sector. The Internal Security Forces have struggled to respond to the increased security demands at the local level. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities mandated municipalities rely on their own resources and capacity to ensure security and stability within their jurisdictions. As a result, some municipalities integrated youth to create checkpoints without prior trainings or legal basis. Others provided weapons for the municipal police, while others despite criticism imposed curfews at night to limit the movements of the population<sup>4</sup>.

In Lebanon, UNDP will focus on improving access to justice and municipal police services. Support will include increasing the capacities of municipal police and its cooperation with the community. In addition, UNDP will support access to justice, including access to civic registration and documentation. In 2014, UNDP initiated justice and security needs assessments to establish baselines and develop objective interventions for sustainable results. UNDP support in Lebanon will complement the overall Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

<sup>2</sup>) According to UNHCR figures as of April 2015

<sup>3</sup>) UNHCR Statistics, Latest data from 28 February 2015

<sup>4</sup>) See Human Rights Watch reports on municipalities’ curfews and maltreatment of Syrians in Lebanon: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/10/03/lebanon-least-45-local-curfews-imposed-syrian-refugees>

## POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN UKRAINE

Since independence, Ukraine has been characterized by weak rule of law, endemic corruption, and regular violation of its citizens' rights. This has led to a deep disconnect between citizens and state institutions.

Since February 2013, Ukraine has experienced a rapid change in its political, social, and economic landscape. Protests in the Maidan, a change in government, the occupation of Crimea, and ongoing conflict in the East, have created immense and urgent challenges for Ukraine's government and society. There is a pressing need to deal with the legacy of the past, stabilize the faltering economy, restore peace and satisfy the pressing demands of a mobilized population for tangible and positive change.

At the same time, the societal upheaval and the conflict have further weakened the rule of law, increased corruption and led to a widespread and often severe violation of human rights, in areas outside and within government control.

The ongoing conflict in the Eastern region has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with significant loss of human life and more than 1 million people displaced.<sup>5</sup> This situation, if not addressed, may threaten to drive further conflicts, worsen the country's already dire economic situation and erode confidence in the government. There is great personal and community insecurity in conflict-affected areas as well as threats to regional stability as political and economic relationships are called into question, especially in relation to energy policy.

Since 2013, UNDP has supported networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote and participate in democratic processes, contribute to human rights protection and foster dialogue with the Government.

In response to the events of 2014 and the crisis in the East, UNDP's efforts expanded to raise national and international awareness of human rights violations particularly in the conflict-affected territories; to support capacities of the Ombudsperson for human rights protection country-wide; and to address the needs for legal protection of internally displaced persons and communities in the Eastern region.

## WAR AND DISPLACEMENT IN GAZA

The changing and challenging political context in the West Bank and Gaza has impacted UNDP-UN Women Joint Rule of Law Programme (JRP). However, adaptation and repurposing ensure the continuation of support and service delivery.

In January 2014, the Government of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute and accepted the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) over any crimes committed "in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since June 13, 2014." In April 2014, Hamas and the PLO announced a reconciliation deal and their agreement to form a unity government. In response, Israel reneged on releasing the fourth tranche of Palestinian pre-Oslo prisoners in March 2014 and unilaterally suspended US-led peace negotiations in April 2014.<sup>6</sup> In addition, Israel withheld taxes collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority which delayed salary payments to civil servants in the West Bank and Gaza causing protests and demonstrations. (The UN Secretary-General has repeatedly called on Israel to resume the transfer of tax revenues which are due to the Palestinian Authority as per the Paris Protocol.<sup>7</sup>)

On 8 July 2014 Israel launched a military offensive 'Operation Protective Edge.' The attack involved bombing and ground fighting and lasted for seven weeks, resulting in more than 2,131 Palestinians deaths (of which 1,473 civilians of whom 501 were children and 257 were women) and 71 Israelis (of which 66 were soldiers and 4 civilians)<sup>8</sup>.

The offensive caused massive structural destruction and displacement of Palestinians, further exacerbating the pre-existing Gaza housing shortage. In Sept 2014, there were 62,598 internally displaced persons (IDP) sheltering in 19 UNRWA schools, and one government school (housing 5,300 IDPs) supported by UNRWA. It is estimated that some 40,000 to 50,000 people remain with host families.<sup>9</sup>

An open-ended ceasefire announced on 26 August 2014 remains in effect, which has allowed for the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance. In the aftermath of the conflict UNDP/PAPP and UN Women scaled-up their efforts to support the rule of law sector in the Gaza Strip. The agencies were immediately able to address the urgent legal and protection needs that emerged in the wake of the conflict as well as support to the process of national reconciliation.

<sup>5</sup> Report on the Human rights situation in Ukraine, OHCHR, 15 December 2014

<sup>6</sup> SG report on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, S/2014/650 (4 Sept 2014) available at [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_2014\\_650.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2014_650.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> UN press release, SG concerned over PLO's decision to suspend security coordination with Israel, Calls for resumption of tax transfers, peace talks, available at: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16568.doc.htm>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_sitrep\\_04\\_09\\_2014.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitrep_04_09_2014.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> OCHA/Protection of Civilians/ Weekly update 16 -22 Sept 2014; available at: <http://unispa.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/AFA14328D4EB4FDC85257D620051AA89>

Prior to the July 2014 attack, the rule of law sector in the Gaza Strip faced a wide array of challenges but the conflict brought the formal justice system to a complete standstill. In July 2014, UNDP, in conjunction with 18 legal aid clinics provided legal assistance to thousands of Palestinians. However, they have not been able to meet the increased demand for legal services brought about by the conflict.

The structural damage caused by the conflict have resulted in significant property rights and utilities access disputes. In some instances, families have returned to their houses only to find them occupied by others who refuse to leave because they have nowhere else to go. Such scenarios have prompted the need for new laws and agreements regarding temporary accommodation and land/property titles. There is an urgent need to provide representation of poor and vulnerable community members before local government bodies to secure available water and electricity supplies. Also, to ensure that longer-term reconstruction efforts provide amenities that are equally accessible to the poor and vulnerable.

The war had a dramatic impact upon women, children and family life in general. According to the Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA)<sup>10</sup>, in almost all municipalities, respondents identified incidents of SGBV, domestic violence, child abuse/violence against children or family disputes as a significant concern and reported that these forms of violence increased after the beginning of the conflict. Additionally, displacement due to the conflict has negatively impacted women's security and their access to services.<sup>11</sup>

Civil society organizations in Gaza have identified the need for greater documentation of human rights violations, including against women and girls, and for careful assessment and articulation of the needs and priorities of these groups linked to the reporting and monitoring framework provided by UNSCR 1325 mechanisms as top priorities.

In the wake of the conflict, UNDP, through the Joint Programme, *Strengthening the Rule of Law in the oPt: Justice and Security for the Palestinian People (1 May 2014 - 30 April 2017)*, has increased its support to the judicial sector, paying particular attention to women and children, property/housing concerns and productive processes of national reconciliation. These measures included the establishment of emergency legal support, a quick impact facility to repair legal facilities and clinics, strengthening of human rights organizations and gender sensitivity workshops.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

The Central African Republic has long been characterized by extremely low human development, inequality, violence and abuse of power as the main means for non-elected elites to access political and economic resources. In 2009, 61 percent of respondents to a popular survey identified the root cause of the conflict in CAR as a struggle for power between political elites.<sup>12</sup> In 2013 and 2014, the already weak state and traditional authorities have been replaced by com-zones and parallel power structures with the large scale IDP movements, criminal plundering and destruction of wildlife, livestock and crops. The population is at risk of losing the necessary resources to sustain life and this crisis requires a renewed approach to peacebuilding.

While the conflict reflects a complex struggle over access to resources and national identity, it also culminated in an increasing division of communities along ethnic and religious lines, and further marginalized the "Muslim communities"<sup>13</sup>. There seems to be no limit in the fragmentation affecting the country – fragmentation of armed groups, identity and of the country in multiple small geographic zones of influence governed by violence rather than law. This breakdown fosters ongoing conflict.

The deepening of the crisis makes current peacebuilding efforts, based on the restoration of state authority supported by the UN and the international community critically important but requiring careful critical self-reflection. While significant efforts are being made on the fight against impunity through the establishment of a special criminal court, peacebuilding efforts remain focused on statebuilding. This means that political processes and dialogue focus more on elites-in-place than with women, communities, civil society and agents of change. Civilian actors that are working for peace at the local and national level should be at the center of such processes. Larger coalitions for change should be included in order to reduce the influence of predatory elites. The Forum of Bangui that takes place in May 2015 is an important first step in this process.

The same principle should be applied to the important and necessary needs for reform of the security sector in the post conflict environment. Support to security sector reform (SSR) and demobilization efforts need to ensure that conflict victims are not left behind. Such sensitive processes require strong backing and political will both from the national political level and from victims and affected populations. Without this broad support and participation, the chances of reconciliation and peace are significantly weakened.

<sup>10</sup> Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment, 27 August 2014

<sup>11</sup> See NRC 'Overview of the Housing Situation in Gaza', March 2013, p.21 which noted that, "women reported a number of incidences of violence in the home, particularly related to living with extended family"

<sup>12</sup> Building Peace, seeking justice, A Population-based Survey on attitudes about accountability and social reconstruction in the CAR, Human Rights Center, University of Berkeley, 2010

<sup>13</sup> There is an important diversity within CAR's Muslim community and the conflicts revolve around the control over resources, as demonstrated by clashes between combatants identified as Seleka and mostly Muslim Fulani nomadic herder groups in 2014.



In this environment UNDP is focusing on the provision of services to the population, such as pooling police and gendarmerie resources, orienting them to civilians' needs and improving their accountability lines. The payments of salaries to civil servants and police has proved instrumental for the stabilization of Bangui. UNDP, with UN Women and MINUSCA is also focusing on women's security and access to justice.

However, it is essential now to think more broadly about achieving social and economic development gains for the people of CAR. This should extend to social measures and policies that help create social cohesion and provide justice for all groups. The post-conflict environment provides an opportunity to change peacebuilding approaches, to focus on the people, targeting economic and social inequalities and promoting inclusive governance processes. UNDP looks forward to supporting these important efforts.

## THE IMPACT OF THE EBOLA VIRUS IN WEST AFRICA

In 2014, West Africa experienced the largest outbreak of Ebola ever recorded. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were at the epicenter while smaller outbreaks were declared in Mali, Senegal, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the World Health Organization, as of 31 December 2014, 20,206 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in four affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone) and four previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and the United States of America) and there have been 7,905 reported deaths.

The long-term economic and social impacts of the Ebola outbreak in countries with ongoing conflict or instability remains unclear. Despite having the political will, many governments and institutions lacked the capacity to respond directly to the crisis. Consequently, significant international support was rechanneled for humanitarian assistance to governments and institutions focused on containing the epidemic to lessen its social, economic and security effects.

The economic impact of Ebola can be seen in reports produced by UNDP<sup>14</sup> and the UN Economic Commission for Africa<sup>15</sup> which show 2014 economic growth fell from 4.5 to 1.6 percent in Guinea, 5.9 to -1.8 percent in Liberia, and 11.4 to 7.4 percent in Sierra Leone. The epidemic is estimated to have increased fiscal deficits in the three countries by \$500 million USD in 2014 alone due to reduced revenue and increased public expenditure to combat the Ebola outbreak. Additionally, food security was threatened, jobs growth fell and foreign investment was slowed. Purchasing power was fell by 20 percent in Sierra Leone and more than 25 percent in Liberia, with rural communities' most affected.

Recent surveys carried out by the United Nations indicate that family life has been disrupted, stigma has spread, and confidence in the future and trust in the government have both significantly declined. These insecurities are compounded by perceptions that local governments have failed to deliver essential services due to a lack of capacity and resources. The epidemic further increased vulnerabilities especially among the already poor and vulnerable groups such as women, orphans, people chronically ill and living with HIV, widow-headed households, the elderly and youth. Because of its impact on youth unemployment, the Ebola crisis could lead to unrest and destabilization in large urban areas.

There has been progress in the fight against Ebola in all affected countries. The number of new Ebola cases and deaths has declined in 2015, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and ongoing efforts to reach and maintain zero cases.<sup>16</sup> However, it will take some time for the three countries to bring the epidemic fully under control and recover from the socio-economic impact of the outbreak. As such, while UNDP's immediate focus remains 'achieving zero' and 'staying at zero', it will also provide recovery support to stabilize communities and livelihoods in the short-term. Further UNDP will lay the foundations for resilient and sustainable development over the longer term by addressing the fundamental social and political vulnerabilities that enabled the virus to flourish.

Consequently, the three countries have developed national Ebola strategies and the Mano River Union has produced its recovery strategy, UNDP is developing its own *Ebola Early Recovery and Resilience Support Framework – Going Beyond Zero* and country specific Ebola Recovery strategies. Building on its resilient recovery approach, UNDP support will bridge humanitarian assistance and development, ensuring that those most affected are supported to recover early on and recalibrating government steps to rapidly return to achieving sustainable development.

Within this framework, UNDP emphasized the promotion of rule of law, access to justice and security, repurposing its programming in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as an integral part of resilient governance for recovery, peace and stability. During the outbreak most routine rule of law work and reform initiatives were suspended or significantly delayed. In Liberia for example, plans to establish two new Regional Hubs were delayed and their expected institutional capacity was not met. The ability of the UN System, government partners and local communities to quickly coordinate recovery interventions that focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk groups will be central to the sustained recovery of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

<sup>14</sup> UNDP, *Socio economic Impact of the Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Policy Notes Volume 1, Number 1-5, 2014*

<sup>15</sup> UN Economic Commission for Africa, *Socio Economic Impacts of the Ebola Virus Disease on Africa, December 2014*

<sup>16</sup> As this report was going to press, Liberia was declared Ebola free on May 9, 2015.



Aswan Harmud is the first female Prosecutor of Somaliland  
*Maria Pellegrino/UNDP/Somalia*

## FEATURE

## A WORD FROM THE NETHERLANDS – SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME

The Government of the Netherlands is continuing its long-standing tradition of supporting UNDP's Global Programme on Rule of Law. We believe that addressing legacies of violence, increasing safety and security for all, building the trust of citizens in government institutions, and improving delivery of justice, including for women, are all central to global development, peace and security in fragile or conflict-affected states.

The year 2014 presented particular challenges for the international community in general and UNDP in particular, ranging from the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea to intensifying conflicts in many countries, including the Central African Republic, the State of Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the Ukraine, and Yemen. UNDP quickly pivoted its focus to the most pressing needs such as assisting health workers in their tireless efforts to combat the Ebola virus. At the level of headquarters, we are pleased that UNDP's new internal structure has resulted in a more integrated team for governance, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding, able to act effectively in conflict-affected states. We believe that an increased focus on integration can result in more effective and efficient programme delivery.

In a similar vein, the Netherlands also continues to support the implementation of the Global Focal Point (GFP), because we believe it has the potential to improve cohesion, coordination and cooperation between different UN organizations, agencies and entities, both at headquarters and country offices. We welcome the latest efforts of UNDP, DPKO and other UN entities to use the GFP as a way to enhance the impact of Rule of Law programming, through the operations of joint teams in countries such as CAR and Somalia. We encourage all partners to keep up the GFP momentum. We hope that the Global Programme on Rule of Law will increasingly be based on joint analysis and joint programming across the relevant UN agencies.

Another key issue of common concern is innovation and knowledge sharing. In 2013, the Netherlands had established a 'Knowledge Platform on Security and Rule of Law', an international network of government institutions, NGOs and knowledge institutions set up by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNDP played an active role in the Knowledge Platform in 2014.

The post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda remains the subject of much international debate. We join UNDP in our strong support for Goal 16 and the Secretary-General's statement that "participatory democracy, free, safe and peaceful societies are both enablers and outcomes of development." The Netherlands also believes that the targets of Goal 16 are just as significant as the goal itself, and that their implementation will be essential.

We look forward to continue our cooperation and constructive dialogue with UNDP in 2015, seeking to continue to join forces to promote the rule of law, justice and security in the future.

**Mr. Joost Andriessen**

Director, Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands



# FOCUS AREA:

## Increasing safety and security for all

High levels of armed violence and citizen insecurity continue to inhibit development gains in many contexts. Even in the absence of conflict, high levels of violent crime have a destructive impact. The absence of safety means people are unable to invest their time or resources to improve prospects for the future. This can affect economic growth and investment, and diverts government resources. These efforts are among UNDP's priorities for eradicating extreme poverty outlined within the UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-17.<sup>17</sup> UNDP works with governments and communities to identify the causes of armed violence and to implement solutions which address safety and security and to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Our work focuses on assisting governments to deliver effective policing services and security to populations including through the re-establishment of core functions in the aftermath of conflict. This includes support to management of salary payments when national budgets are compromised. UNDP also focuses on supporting Member States to ensure security services are professional and responsive to community needs through leadership development and improving strategic planning capacities. Most importantly, UNDP promotes civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms.

At the community level, UNDP utilizes a citizen security approach to involve local authorities, communities and individuals to identify security threats and needs. UNDP also assists efforts to establish effective police-community relations and to strengthen police capacities to adopt community-oriented and gender-sensitive policing.

In many cases, UNDP working closely with a number of partners, challenges demand and supply of SALW. We utilize tools such as the International Small Arms Control Standards which we are

developing in a joint project with UNODA. Through the Global Focal Point arrangement, we work with UNPOL, UNODC and other UN system actors and maintain important partnerships with other key actors such as the Secretariat for the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and the Violence Prevention Alliance, a WHO-led network of international agencies and civil society organizations working to prevent violence and promote multi-sectorial cooperation.

### KEY RESULT 2

*In the **Central African Republic**, UNDP with support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) enabled the redeployment of police and gendarmerie forces in 2014. Due to the lack of salary payments to all public sector workers, UNDP paid General Food Allowances in Bangui and supported the payment of salaries to justice and police/gendarmerie personnel to allow the police, courts, judicial activities, and prison management activities to resume in Bangui. Similarly, the redeployment of police/gendarmerie in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> boroughs of Bangui was achieved through the renovation and equipping of three police/gendarmerie stations in the city. These efforts enabled three squadrons to conduct patrols in five districts of Bangui with MINUSCA. These patrols have reduced cases of robbery and armed robbery and improved community safety.*

### KEY RESULT 3

*The UNDP Civilian Police Project (CPP) in **Somalia** focuses on the promotion of community policing principles, human rights and gender equality. This work focuses on capacity-building for police institutions and increasing overall access to justice for Somalis. In 2014, the CPP assisted the Somali Police Force and new Ministry of National Security in creating "Strategic Plan Implementation Teams" which will hire, train and deploy police services to newly recovered federal areas outside Mogadishu. Additionally, stipend registration efforts continued reaching 100 percent of Benadir officers and 93 percent of Somali Police Force officers. The biometric stipend registrations help ensure secure and diligent financial monitoring of payments. Finally the CPP supported training efforts on topics including human rights and judicial protection. By fostering a professional police UNDP Somalia aims to strengthen the institutions, which underpin the rule of law in Somalia's developing governance system.*

### KEY RESULT 1

*Addressing the negative impact of SALW is a long standing priority for UNDP in **Kenya**. In 2014, building on the success of previous work, UNDP supported arms marking in Turkana County, an area of Kenya immensely affected by armed violence, cattle rustling and border conflicts. The arms marking exercise aimed to ensure legal weapons are easily distinguished from illicit weapons. It was successfully conducted for 37 days and targeted the firearms of the Kenyan Police and Wildlife Services within Turkana County. Through this effort, 4,062 state owned arms were marked and electronically catalogued.*

<sup>17</sup> Output 3.5 UNDP Strategic Plan Results Framework

## FEATURE

### ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN KENYA

Turkana County, in the northern region of Kenya is gravely affected by the proliferation of SALW, which enable armed violence, cattle rustling and border conflicts causing high levels of insecurity. To address this challenge, UNDP supported programmes to address the demand, supply, collection and control of SALW.

For 37 days in Turkana County UNDP supported government and local community partners in a targeted firearms marking of all Kenya Police Service, Administration Police service, Kenya Prisons Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service and the National Police Reserves (except those owned by the Kenya Defense Forces). The firearms were marked with a logo, country code, department of the security officer, serial number identifying the service station and special bar code that can be identified electronically. A total of 4,062 firearms were marked and entered into a central database during this exercise, which community leaders believe will greatly reduce the protracted communal conflict.

Mr. Julis Mathenge, Turkana County Commissioner supported the programme stating, "Let's look for a permanent solution to curb the issue of illegal arms in Turkana County. This is the right step by the government to demonstrate commitment to finding lasting solutions to limit the use of firearms.

We need to contain the situation within our borders first through collaborative responsibility." Upon completion of this marking effort, 80 percent of firearms in the hands of security officers were marked. There are plans to mark arms in Samburu, and West Pokot by mid-2015. By enabling firearm marking, UNDP helped create better tracking and weapons control measures, ensuring government issued weapons cannot easily be taken by illicit arms traders for use in the ongoing conflict.

UNDP has also funded awareness raising forums in various parts of the country, targeting the counties in the coast, Upper Eastern and North Rift regions of Kenya. The public awareness campaigns were done to sensitize and raise awareness among the major stakeholders and community leaders on the dangers of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. Over 2,500 people in Turkana West, Dadaab and Fafi districts participated in the awareness-raising programme. This programme directly contributed to the change of attitude in communities on illicit SALW dangers and increased willingness to surrender illicit SALW. Community members see the government firearms marking as a positive commitment of the security officers to end violence in Kenya.



Community Police listen to resident Bindu Mara explain how difficult it is to prevent Ebola.  
*Anne Kennedy/UNDP/Guinea*



# FOCUS AREA:

## Building trust through accessible, effective justice and security institutions

Across development contexts, national authorities request assistance to identify and implement measures for justice and security sector development to strengthen the efficiency and responsiveness of services.

In crisis-affected contexts, national and local authorities frequently need to rapidly restore justice and security services for the population. The immediate restoration of these services helps rebuild confidence between authorities and communities by delivering peace dividends and thereby demonstrates a break from the past. Such services aim to enable communities and individuals to pursue productive livelihoods and thereby build community resilience. UNDP emphasizes the importance of fostering capable rule of law and human rights institutions in the UNDP Strategic Plan of 2014-17.<sup>18</sup>

UNDP supports governments to nurture public trust and confidence through accessible, effective services to the population. An important dimension of this work is helping people to enforce their rights and access remedies; providing justice services and dispute resolution for women, displaced communities and communities in remote or conflict-affected areas. This includes using mobile courts and promoting legal aid which foster resolutions for both criminal and civil matters. UNDP is also engaged in assisting national human rights institutions to enhance accountability and oversight of human rights obligations.

UNDP supports participative and inclusive planning through enhancing the capabilities of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, civil society and the police to engage in the development of sector-wide justice and security development strategies.

Under the Global Focal Point arrangement, UNDP and DPKO aim to streamline assistance to the police, justice and corrections services through joint assessment, planning and implementation in crisis and post-conflict contexts. This arrangement also serves to align peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development trajectories and strengthens the effectiveness of the UN system's rule of law assistance in the long term.

### KEY RESULT 1

*In **Guinea-Bissau**, UNDP strengthened the Ministry of Justice's capacity to deliver justice services and free legal aid. In 2014 with technical and financial support, five access to justice centres (CAJs) were fully operationalized. These CAJs assisted 6,028 people including 1,297 women. To address the gender gap in utilization of free legal aid services, UNDP supported CAJs for the delivery of awareness and legal information campaigns on laws important to women including Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Violence. Additionally, the Judicial Training Centre Course for new Magistrates entered its second year. All thirteen graduates from the pilot year of the program were appointed to positions with judicial institutions and a new class of 13 Magistrates (10 judges and 3 prosecutors) started the program in 2014. These graduates are essential to the delivery of justice services especially outside the capital district.*

### KEY RESULT 2

*In **Liberia**, UNDP continued its support of decentralizing justice and security services for increased accessibility and outreach to a greater number of people. In 2014 three Regional Hubs for justice and security services were operationalized in Gbarnga, Harper and Zwedru. These hubs were supported to increase infrastructure, human capacity and systems critical for improved operational response. At the Gbarnga regional hub 85 percent of planned services are now available to the community. Additionally, nine legal counsels, five public defenders, ten human rights officers and five public outreach officers were deployed to the regional hubs in Harper and Zwedru. Further expanding justice service delivery, UNDP assisted in the operationalization of the 9th Judicial circuit court in Gbarnga in April 2014. This resulted in increased productivity of the courts. Even with the slow down in services due to the Ebola crisis, these courts adjudicated 12 SGBV cases in 2014, a small increase from 2013.*

<sup>18</sup> Output 2.3, 3.4 and 3.5 UNDP Strategic Plan Results Framework

## KEY RESULT 3

*In **Tunisia**, UNDP supported justice and police planning and service delivery. The Ministerial Policy on Community Policing adopted in June 2014 resulted in the launch of three community policing trial programmes in La Marsa, Manaret Hammamet, and Naassen. These programs established local security committees in each community bringing together civil society, local authorities and police representatives. The needs expressed by these communities included the desire for prevention work to be at the core of security response and for continued partnership between civil society groups and security authorities. Three additional pilots will begin in 2015. Also, following consultations for drafting a national justice reform strategic vision, the vision was approved by the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary Council in 2014. UNDP provided technical assistance for the translation of the vision into a five-year action plan for 2015-2019.*

## KEY RESULT 4

*In 2014, the expansion of the free legal aid centres in **Burundi** improved access to justice in remote areas. Empowered young lawyers and paralegals supported social cohesion in the community. Since the 2011 launch of the Humura Center, a comprehensive support center for gender based violence victims, UNDP has supported the expansion of free legal aid. In 2014, UNDP assisted in founding twelve legal aid centers in Ngozi, Kirundo, Kayanza, and Muyinga provinces. To fully staff these centers, UNDP supported the training of 540 paralegals. The clinics provided services to 4,498 people, including 2,383 women.*

## FEATURE

## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH LEGAL AID IN BURUNDI

“Without the help I received from Tony and APRODH legal clinic, I wouldn’t be alive today,” said Gloriose a mother in her thirties. Gloriose and her husband were farmers living in the Kayanza Region of Burundi. Gloriose’s husband announced he wanted a divorce but when Gloriose refused to leave the house, her husband and brother-in-law attacked her with a knife trying to kill her.

Gloriose escaped the vicious attack but the scars still cover her face. She fled to her home village but because of the social stigma arising from her situation her family rejected her. Gloriose turned to the Burundian Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Detained Persons (APRODH) for help.

In 2014, UNDP supported the establishment of twelve legal aid clinics in Burundi. These clinics are critical to improving access to justice in a country where walking long distances to courts, lack of knowledge of the legal system and the financial burden of traditional justice paths are prohibiting factors for many people in addressing legal concerns. The legal aid centres are accessible and offer information and counseling both about the formal justice system and alternative dispute resolution.

For Gloriose, the legal aid centre was her only recourse for justice and repairing her relationship with her family. Tony, a volunteer lawyer at the clinic, took Gloriose’s case. Today, Gloriose’s brother-in-law is serving a five-year sentence in jail for attempted murder and her husband remains at large. Through mediation handled by Tony, Gloriose and her family were able to re-establish dialogue and reconcile.

The majority of cases at the legal aid clinics do not necessitate involvement with the judiciary or the courts. Most cases are resolved with the help of the 540 paralegal volunteers trained with assistance from UNDP to help clients determine the best course of action for peaceful conflict resolution. In 2014 alone these clinics aided 4,498 Burundians including 2,383 women. In the coming year if the political and security situation allows, UNDP aims to support the legal aid clinics to expand services and enable greater access to legal assistance and representation.



Female corrections officers attend a training course to improve the protection of the country's judicial officials, which was part of a ten-day course organized by UNDP's Governance and Rule of Law Programme in partnership with AMISOM Police, UNMAS and the EU mission on maritime capacity-building in the Horn of Africa.

*Ilyas Ahmed/UN Photo*



# FOCUS AREA:

## Improving the delivery of justice and security for women

Sexual and gender-based violence is neither inevitable nor acceptable. Whilst rooted in gender inequality and discrimination, violence and conflict weakens systems of protection, security and justice, which exacerbates and escalates sexual and gender-based violence. These crimes have devastating, long-term effects on the lives of victims, their families and the social fabric of communities. Where increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence persist, women and girls are often disproportionately affected. The UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) provides an explicit focus on preventing and responding to SGBV.<sup>19</sup>

Through rule of law assistance, UNDP supports national efforts to tackle sexual and gender-based violence by increasing women's political participation and leadership in justice and security sectors. We support the development of policy and legal frameworks that are inclusive and protective of women and women's rights. Importantly, in order to tackle impunity UNDP improves access to justice, legal aid and service delivery for survivors of SGBV. This extends to the provision of medical, psycho-social, family, legal and economic assistance. Prevention efforts are extremely important at community level for awareness-raising and for mobilizing men to advocate against and tackle the prevalence of SGBV.

### KEY RESULT 1

*In **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**, the Government's National Security Policy and Action Plan recognized and included human rights violations and gender-based violence as important security threats. In a landmark moment for GBV recognition in PNG, the government with technical assistance from UNDP, launched the first comprehensive GBV Prevention Strategy and Action Plan. The plan includes eight Provincial Action Plans, which will be launched in early 2015 and addresses: (1) SGBV offences and enforcement mechanisms (2) prevention and management services (3) legislative changes and (4) sustainable domestic financing mechanisms. Implementation of the Strategy, the Gender Equity Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, and the 2013 National Security Policy is mutually reinforcing, as these policies all identified GBV as a priority area. In Bougainville, UNDP with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) implemented Gender Promotion Initiatives addressing SGBV issues to empower women to be active agents of peace and development.*

As part of these efforts, UNDP supports and works closely with other important partners including the SRSG for Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Team of Experts on Rule of Law and UN Women, through the Global Focal Point arrangement.

### KEY RESULT 2

*In **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNDP addressed impunity for SGBV crimes and also focused on supporting survivors with comprehensive access to justice services. Jointly with MONUSCO and UNFPA, UNDP assisted military courts in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri in the adjudication of 427 SGBV cases in 18 months. For these cases, over 500 victims were interviewed, 200 of which were victims of sexual violence related to conflict. Additionally, in 2014 708 SGBV survivors received legal aid and an additional 951 received psycho-social support. In a new program, UNDP supported a small grants programme used to support women's literacy, especially for survivors of SGBV. 831 women participated in this programme and 45 percent were SGBV survivors. This programme proved to be a transformative experience for SGBV survivors, increasing their confidence and sense of security.*

### KEY RESULT 3

*In **South Sudan**, UNDP and GIZ supported Ministries of the Interior and Telecommunication to create a Public Private Partnership to establish an Emergency Call Centre (ECC) in Juba County reaching at least 300,000 people. The call centre is staffed by trained emergency response personnel that provide rapid protection and emergency response. Since the ECC launched in July 2014 it has responded to 6,083 calls including 171 SGBV specific calls. Partnering with Law Enforcement Advisors, UNDP conducted a training of 193 police personnel, including 77 women, working in eight Special Protection Units (SPUs) in five states in South Sudan. The SPU units respond to cases concerning GBV and vulnerable groups. In 2014, SPUs processed 1,389 cases including 1,137 SGBV and they reunited 101 missing children with their families.*

<sup>19</sup> UNDP Strategic Plan Results Framework 3.5.3 and 4.2

## FEATURE

## SERVING SURVIVORS OF SGBV IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo reintegration programmes and assistance provided by legal aid clinics have been transforming the lives of many women especially SGBV survivors. In 2014 legal aid clinics in Eastern DRC provided a total of 831 individual literacy classes while 120 women received socio-economic reinsertion support. Within a very challenging and insecure context UNDP prioritizes support to female survivors of SGBV.

For years, the DRC has struggled to overcome the unacceptable high levels of SGBV that plagues the country. For nearly two decades the M23 and other armed rebel groups have fought governmental forces creating large areas of instability with no rule of law. In November 2013, the government and the M23 rebel group agreed to a ceasefire, which brought hope of stability and greater security for the people of DRC. However, in 2014 the dismantling of armed groups stalled and the prospects for peace were uncertain. Despite this, the rates of SGBV in 2014 appear to have decreased from 8,510 SGBV cases in Eastern DRC compared to 20,041 cases in 2013.

Due to the continued prevalence of insecurity, UNDP continues to support a large network of legal aid clinics in Eastern DRC to decrease impunity for crimes and to assist victims in moving forward. While legal aid clinics in Eastern DRC have historically supported comprehensive services such as medical, psycho-social, and legal aid, these services did not fully support victims in overcoming the isolation from the community they experienced after the violence. Recently, legal aid clinics have also begun to address the reintegration problems faced by SGBV victims.

Lorsqu'Espérance, a legal aid clinic began a programme to educate the community especially leaders, to change attitudes and behavior towards survivors. Their clinic also offers psycho-social support to help women overcome social and economic isolation. They began teaching trades such as weaving, sewing and financial skills. The clinic offers literacy programmes for women who previously could not read, write, or even hold a pen properly.

A participant in one of these important programmes told UNDP, "Before I was selling at the market and I did not make a profit because I couldn't count. I was losing money when I made change. I've seen a big difference now that I know how to read, write and count. This makes a big difference in the life of my family."



Victim of sexual violence, Beatrice Muderwa, 39-year-old widow and mother of five children, is moving forward with help from support services aided by UNDP.

*Junior D. Kannah/UNDP/DRC*

# FOCUS AREA:

## Dealing with the Legacy of Violence

To support redress for past violence and human rights violations and to enable societies to recover from the legacy of violence, UNDP supports dialogue processes and provides advice to governments and communities on measures of transitional justice, as well as supporting truth commissions and the prosecution of conflict-related crimes. This work is embedded within the UNDP Strategic Plan of 2014-2017<sup>20</sup>, which emphasizes enabling the capacity of rule of law institutions to provide redress and ensure that victims' grievances are addressed within transitional justice processes.

In order to secure the conditions for peace and development, societies must be enabled to hold the state accountable for addressing past grievances and serious human rights abuses in the aftermath of large-scale violence, conflict or political upheaval. Nationally led transitional justice processes contribute to atonement for past violence and human rights violations and can facilitate justice and state accountability. These processes strengthen trust and help societies guard against a relapse into systematic discrimination or violence. National authorities are also supported to be able to prosecute Rome Statute Crimes (to achieve "complementarity"), which has the effect of improving justice services more broadly.

Additionally, reparations can aid the reconciliation process by acknowledging victims' suffering and making amends for past

mistreatment. Enabling reparations for victims of grave human rights abuses, especially for those often identified as vulnerable (e.g. women, minority groups, or impoverished communities) is a major facet of UNDP's transitional justice support. UNDP also works to ensure that victims of conflict have a voice within transitional justice and political processes, which is an important component of dealing with the legacy of violence.

In order to achieve these aims UNDP works closely with partners in the UN family, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNWOMEN. UNDP also maintains a strong partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice, particularly in the area of complementarity.

### KEY RESULT 1

*In **Nepal**, UNDP has been engaging with conflict victims' organizations, which have been instrumental to confidence building measures in the community. The support provided to Victim Support Forums (VSFs) resulted in legal aid for 928 conflict victims in five districts. The massive dissemination of the information on transitional justice measures increased the access to interim relief and recovery packages, legal aid and referral services. As a result, 8,167 conflict victims received compensation (monetary and non-monetary) from government institutions in five project districts. Moreover, this fostered dialogue among justice sector institutions and transitional justice practitioners on issues related to impunity and accountability. As a result, five VSFs supported 125 local leaders of conflict victims associations as well as other 175 stakeholders to engage in lobbying and advocacy efforts for access to justice. Through their efforts, the Common Victim Platform (Kathmandu Declaration) was created in November 2014. The Platform will bring victims groups together to ensure the inclusion and meaningful participation to advance victims' rights in transitional justice process.*

### KEY RESULT 2

*UNDP continued to support the participation of victims in the peace negotiations process in **Colombia** between the Government and the FARC. In 2014, victim participation in negotiations set a precedent for the recognition and realization of rights and reparation for victims of armed conflict. In collaboration with the National University and other UN agencies, UNDP highlighted the voices of 3,162 citizens, 48 percent of whom were women. UNDP also facilitated the selection and participation of 60 victims in the peace talks at the Mesa Havana. UNDP supported sustainable solutions for communities of displaced people, mainly related to the legalization of land, access to basic services and income improvement; assisting 38,045 people in 17 locations.*

### KEY RESULT 3

*In **Kosovo**<sup>21</sup>, UNDP partnered with OHCHR, UN Women and IOM, jointly undertaking the Support Transitional Justice in Kosovo (STJK) initiative, which supports the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation (INWG DwPR) in drafting a national strategy on transitional justice. The STJK supports an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, which enhances the capacities of civil society organizations, in order to ensure a participatory transitional justice process. Additionally, STJK engages a broad spectrum of stakeholders to raise the public's awareness regarding the importance of having an inclusive, victim-centered and gender-sensitive transitional justice process.*

<sup>20</sup> Output 3.4.2 UNDP Strategic Plan Results Framework

<sup>21</sup> UN Administered Territory. All designations made in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



## FEATURE

## HISTORIC PARTICIPATION OF VICTIMS IN COLOMBIA'S PEACE TALKS

Following five decades of armed conflict in Colombia - the longest running war in Latin America- the country is engaged in a peace process that aims to bring sustainable peace to all Colombians. In 2012, the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) agreed to the "General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace." Negotiations have proceeded based on a six-point agenda: integrated rural development policy, political participation, ending of the conflict, illicit drugs, victims' rights and implementation mechanisms. In 2014, following the re-election of President Santos, and the FARC publically acknowledging the harm it caused civilians, the momentum for the talks increased and the focus shifted to the rights of victims and ending the conflict.

UNDP played a key role, along with other UN agencies, in the development of National and Regional Forums on Victims. In collaboration with the National University and UN agencies, UNDP brought to the table the voice of more than 3,162 citizens, 48 percent of which were women, and facilitated the selection and participation of 60 victims in five delegations

at the peace talks in Havana, Cuba ("Mesa Habana"). The selection of these 60 victims was based upon the criteria of balance, pluralism and good judgment and a need to reflect the total universe of human rights and humanitarian law violations that have arisen during the internal conflict. It also took into account different social sectors, populations and regions. The final groups were from diverse backgrounds and regions including: indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, religious leaders, LGBTQ persons, academics, human rights activists and defenders, and politicians.

Collectively these delegation members were affected by many crimes including: kidnapping, abduction, SGBV, murder, torture, forced displacement, forced disappearance, recruitment of children, targeted killings of public officials, landmines and car bombs. Their experiences and perspectives were included in the discussions. The example set forth in these negotiations has provided an international standard for the direct participations of victims and the recognition, realization of rights, participation and reparation for victims of armed conflict.



UNDP's Transitional Justice Programme  
Colombia/UNDP

# SERVING THE UN SYSTEM

UNDP is committed to serve the whole of the UN system in delivering effective rule of law assistance, especially in crisis and post-conflict situations. Acknowledging that “delivering together” is better practice than working alone, UNDP continues to promote partnerships across the UN system and beyond.

## THE GLOBAL FOCAL POINT FOR POLICE, JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS IN THE RULE OF LAW IN CRISIS AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Aimed at strengthening the United Nations’ ability to provide rule of law assistance in conflict- and post-conflict settings, in 2012 the Secretary-General has tasked UNDP and DPKO to establish the Global Focal Point arrangement to adequately respond to country-level requests for support.

The GFP was established to bring together different operational UN rule of law entities and to make available global knowledge and expertise to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided in this critical area. This includes:

- Providing specialized police, justice and corrections expertise
- Conducting in-depth institutional and context analysis
- Strengthening locally-driven planning, monitoring and evaluation processes
- Fostering partnerships, both inside and outside the UN system
- Underpinning resource mobilization efforts

In addition, the GFP helps ensure that rule of law development is appropriately reflected as a strategic priority across the UN system, including by actively feeding into planning and policy-making processes and by regularly contributing to rule of law related knowledge products, tools and publications.

Since its inception, the focal point arrangement has done much to ‘convene’ the UN system, both at UN Headquarters and in the field. In addition, the GFP has provided critical support to UN field actors in a number of conflict- and post-conflict settings, including by providing specialized expertise, underpinning local planning processes, and making available financial resources.

The accelerated roll-out of joint GFP support is largely due to a significant expansion of the GFP core team, which now includes two Programme Specialists and a Judicial Affairs Officer, and the co-location of representatives of other UN entities, including UN Women and OHCHR.

In 2014, the GFP has helped to roll-out joint programmes in the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia and deployed technical experts and advisers to a dozen crisis-affected countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, and South Sudan. Furthermore, the new arrangement is attracting much-needed financial resources at field level: joint projects and programmes developed under the GFP clearly appeal to donors/development partners and have attracted funding in excess of US\$ 50 million.

The GFP has been set up to ensure that UN Headquarters provides better support to the field. As such, the co-located entities have adopted a ‘bottom-up’ approach, with due consideration to the decentralized nature of most UN field presences and the relatively high level of autonomy the UN leadership enjoys in most conflict- and post-conflict settings. At the same time, there are three ‘critical moments’ where the GFP adds particular value:

**Mission start-ups:** In the cases of the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia, the GFP has played an important role in ensuring a system-wide strategy, an integrated team and a common source of funding.

### BOX 1 GLOBAL FOCAL POINT

<b>Priority countries (18)</b>	<i>Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen</i>
<b>Assessment and assistance missions (27)</b>	<i>Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen</i>
<b>Deployments (13)</b>	<i>Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Libya, Mozambique, Somalia</i>

**Transition planning:** As many longer-term development challenges remain, it is important to ensure that mission exits are gradual and progressive, tied to specific targets to be developed in close conjunction with the UN Country Team (UNCT). Such transitional planning efforts are currently underway in a number of mission transition countries and the GFP has proven to be a useful platform to ensure a sequenced transition in the areas of police, justice and corrections.

**Crisis situations in non-mission contexts:** The GFP has been instrumental in mobilizing UN civilian capacities in the aftermath of crises. For example, the GFP has helped to mobilize expertise to increase human security in countries affected by the war in Syria as well as the Ebola crisis.

## HUMAN RIGHTS UP FRONT

The Secretary-General's Human Rights up Front (HRuF) initiative is designed to ensure that the UN system takes early and effective action, as mandated by the Charter and UN resolutions, to prevent or respond to serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. It further aims to ensure that everyone in the UN system understands human rights and protection of civilians as one of their core responsibilities. The crises we are facing in Syria and the Central African Republic and others remind us that serious violations of human rights are often our clearest early warning of emerging conflict.

The objectives set out by HRuF are very ambitious for the UN system and it is important for the system to stay focused on prevention and early warning and to ensure the UN engages in this effort systematically, including at the most senior levels. Currently, an inter-agency HRuF group meets quarterly to review relevant countries and recommend further action to prevent or better respond to the risks of crisis stemming from serious and large-scale human rights violations.

UNDP played a strong role in the establishment of HRuF. Currently, UNDP's aim is to support operationalization of the initiative by following up on the implementation of country-level recommendations. In order to achieve the aims of HRuF it is essential to have the whole of the UN system – in particular Member States – aligned behind the HRuF and to provide political support for country-level action. Through this joint effort the UN seeks to achieve a cultural, operational and political change in the way it addresses grave human rights violations.

## INTERNATIONAL SMALL ARMS CONTROL STANDARDS

About half of all homicides worldwide are committed with small arms, which translates into almost 230,000 deaths per year.<sup>22</sup>

The illicit trade, accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons continues to fuel such armed violence in conflict-affected and fragile settings around the world. In many low- and middle-income countries suffering from chronically high homicide rates, firearms are used in up to three-quarters of illegal killings.<sup>23</sup> Many of these weapons find their way into the hands of perpetrators through illicit channels, helped by inadequate (or inadequately enforced) laws and weak control mechanisms at the national level.

But these deaths constitute only part of the burden of armed violence in addition to masses of other physical, psychological and material devastation. For every person killed with a small arm, many more are injured, traumatized, displaced or left without a means of income. Armed violence destroys lives and livelihoods. It breeds insecurity, fear and terror. It dissolves social cohesion and hinders the achievement of development goals. Whether in situations of conflict or crime, armed violence fuelled by illicit weapons imposes enormous burdens on States, communities and families.

UNDP works with States to combat the illicit trade, uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. Alongside the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UNDP leads the UN System in developing and rolling out International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). These standards provide practical guidance on establishing effective national controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons in order to reduce the risk of their falling into the hands of those who would misuse them.

During 2014, UNDP, our UN partners, international and regional organizations and training institutes have used ISACS to assist the governments more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean and South-East Europe to improve their own national controls over small arms and light weapons, or to assist other governments to do so.

Because ISACS were used as the basis of this assistance, beneficiary governments received consistent guidance that reflects internationally recognized practices for controlling small arms and light weapons to prevent their diversion and misuse. This support contributes directly to the reduction of armed violence and builds community security both of which are necessary for sustainable human development.

<sup>22</sup> *The Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014* (WHO, UNODC, UNDP, 2014) estimates "475 000 deaths in 2012 as a result of homicide" (p. vii) and that 48% of all homicides are committed with a firearm (Figure 2, p. 10).

<sup>23</sup> *Global Status Report on Violence Prevention*, op. cit., Figure 3, p. 11.



Examples of this work includes joint UNDP/UN efforts to build the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia to manage arms imported under the partially suspended arms embargo and UNDP Bosnia & Herzegovina support of a successful small arms collection and destruction campaign. UNODA shows how the ISACS can be used to derive standard operating procedures and training materials on stockpile management and destruction tailored to the Latin American and Caribbean regions.

ISACS is widely recognized as a practical tool for strengthening national controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons. This was clearly demonstrated in June 2014, when 67 States called for the wider application of the standards during the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue to work with our partners inside and outside of the UN to develop and support the use of international small arms control standards. We will encourage and assist UN partners, international and regional organizations and training institutes to integrate these standards into the support they provide to Member States.

## UN TEAM OF EXPERTS ON THE RULE OF LAW/SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

The UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE), created by Security Council Resolution 1888, has continued to assist governments in conflict and post-conflict situations by strengthening their capacity to address impunity for sexual violence.

Operating under a five-year joint programme, which runs through 2019, the TOE works with existing UN mechanisms, including the UN Action network, and draws from UNDP, DPKO, and OHCHR under the leadership of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual violence in conflict. UNDP seconds technical specialists to the TOE, and together we work to provide national governments with assistance to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, with a focus on combating impunity for these crimes.

The main areas of work are criminal investigations and prosecutions; collection, analysis and use of forensic evidence; military justice; criminal law reform and procedural law reform; witness, victim and justice official protection; security sector oversight systems/bodies; and reparations. The Team's work is guided by the belief that with sound legislation, comprehensive prevention and response mechanisms, and enhanced capacity, military and civilian justice systems will be able to address conflict-related sexual violence

promptly and effectively leading to reduced incidents of sexual violence and ultimately greater peace, security and development.

The TOE approach promotes national ownership, leadership and responsibility by supporting existing government initiatives. It also promotes south-south cooperation, enabling countries facing similar sexual violence challenges to learn from each other's good practices.

In 2014, following formal requests from national governments, the TOE provided support to Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Somalia and South Sudan. In all these instances, the TOE worked in close coordination with the Global Focal Point and UN colleagues on the ground and ensured that its dedicated expertise complemented existing initiatives responding to sexual violence.<sup>24</sup>

## INTER-AGENCY SECURITY SECTOR REFORM TASK FORCE

UNDP co-chairs the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF), which complements our role in the Global Focal Point and highlights the relationship between rule of law and SSR.

The IASSRTF developed a framework for SSR in the UN System and promotes the SSR agenda among Member States, in particular through the Group of Friends on SSR co-chaired by Slovakia and South Africa. Through the IASSRTF, UNDP has been involved the development of several system-wide guidance notes on SSR. We worked closely with DPKO SSR unit and the World Bank on approaches to Public Expenditure Reviews for Security and Justice sectors as well as the first National Security Council Resolution on SSR (SCR 2151/2014).

In 2014, the IASSRTF undertook a joint assessment Mission to Guinea and developed a set of recommendations addressed to national counterparts as well as to the UN entities on the ground. Additionally, UNDP and UNODC through the IASSRTF, support a project on "Strengthening the Police Reform Process in Myanmar". The project objective is to strengthen the police reform process and by linking it to broader rule of law reforms that include working with communities to build public trust in justice institutions. At the request of the National Security Advisor of Iraq, the IASSRTF undertook a support Mission to Baghdad to share with Iraqi counterparts best practices in supporting SSR. The discussions took place in the context of a National Conference on SSR dedicated to the launching of a draft National Security Strategy, developed with UNDP support.

Further joint projects that are funded through the IASSRTF that were developed with technical support from UNDP included Honduras, Kosovo<sup>25</sup> and DRC.

<sup>24</sup> For further information, see the *Team of Experts 2014 Annual Report*.

<sup>25</sup> UN Administered Territory. All designations made in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

# POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2014

## THE RULE OF LAW AND THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As discussions on the rule of law and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals have shown, the sustainability of the development results and poverty eradication efforts require rule of law and effective institutions.

In UNDP, we are convinced that a transformative, people-centered, universal development agenda must be rights based and encompass all areas, including issues of the rule of law, peace and security as well as justice dignity and fighting inequality. Furthermore, we strongly support the statement made by the Secretary-General in his synthesis report of 2014, “participatory democracy, free, safe and peaceful societies are both enablers and outcomes of development.”

The inclusion of Goal 16 in the final Sustainable Development Goal framework offers new opportunity to measure progress and achieve change. By incorporating peaceful societies, justice and institutions with potential targets on reducing violence, increasing access to justice, reducing illicit financial flows, reducing corruption, increasing participation in decision-making, and protecting fundamental freedoms, the development environment will be fundamentally changed for the better.

UNDP intends to work closely with Member States on establishing systems for effective measurement of targets and indicators as well as providing the necessary assistance to achieve the goal.

## THE 2014 GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

In 2014, UNDP collaborated with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to produce the Global status report on violence prevention. This is the first report of its kind to assess national efforts to address interpersonal violence.

After a thorough assessment of data related to violence prevention efforts in 133 countries, the report calls for a scaling up of violence prevention programmes across all contexts; stronger legislation and enforcement of laws relevant for violence prevention; strengthened justice and security institutions to uphold the rule of law; and enhanced services for victims of violence.

The report also advocates for better and more effective use of data to inform violence prevention programming and to measure progress at national, regional and global levels. UNDP will use the reports analysis and recommendations to assist governments and communities to identify gaps and to support actions to counter violence at national level.



Palestinian woman participating in a workshop on democratic governance.

UNDP/Palestine





# PART 2

## Country Profiles

UNDP provides rule of law support to over 100 countries. Over 40 of these countries affected by crisis have received support through the Global Programme since 2008.

This section details the country-by-country assistance provided, programmes implemented, and results achieved in 2014 in: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Conakry), Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Kosovo<sup>26</sup>, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Yemen.

<sup>26</sup> UN Administered Territory. All designations made in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

# AFGHANISTAN



## BACKGROUND

More than 30 years of war, tension, and high levels of insurgent violence have left a heavy toll on Afghanistan's institutions and its way of life. According to UNDP's 2014 Human Development Index, the country ranked 169th out of 187. This represents a very low score for endemic challenges of poverty, low participation of women in the national workforce, and a high dropout rate for children.

Following the 2014 Presidential elections a political transition resulted in a National Unity Government in Afghanistan. The new Government is committed to better alignment between security and development objectives, tackling corruption, justice sector reforms, professionalizing public administration and strengthening public financial management as well as improving sub-national governance, women's empowerment and human rights<sup>27</sup>.

Additionally during 2014, the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA) assumed full responsibility for Afghan security. As security actors are shifting emphasis and decreasing their presence, international funds are shifting from a security focus to socio-economic development focus. Significant efforts have been made by the Government, the international community and the UN to establish formal rule of law institutions across the country. However, the rule of law sector continues to face acute challenges such as mounting public frustration with the weak delivery of rule of law services despite significant international support.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In parallel with the security transition, UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA) transitioned into its final phase in 2014, LOFTA Akheri. Established in 2002 to support the establishment of the Afghanistan National Police (ANP), the Trust Fund grew from zero in 2002 to 150,000 ANP in 2014. Female police increased from zero in 2010 to 1,929 in 2014. LOFTA Akheri focused on capacity development, supporting the Ministry of Interior (MOI) payroll system to ensure timely payments of police and prison guard salaries. While the design was on going, salary disbursements continued and the MOI's performance and accountability in executing payroll tasks improved with timely payments reaching 97.64 percent coverage in October 2014. A "vulnerability to corruption" assessment was conducted to identify weaknesses in MOI systems, as were self-assessments of institutional maturity in partnership with MOI Office of Policy and Strategy, which are both crucial for institutional reforms.

Women participate in roundtable discussion on violence against women in Afghanistan

*Sayed Mohammad Shah/UNAMA/Afghanistan*



<sup>27</sup>) *Realizing self-reliance: commitments to reforms and renewed partnership, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, London Conference on Afghanistan, December 2014, paragraphs 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, 33, 34*

The government, with UNDP support, established a national working group on rule of law indicators with representatives from the MOI, Attorney General Office (AGO), Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Afghan Independent Bar Association and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. The national working group supported the collection of data for establishing a national baseline for the rule of law situation, which helps identify the obstacles faced in service delivery. A full report from the national working group is expected in early 2015.

UNDP and UNAMA have also supported the Human Rights Support Unit (HRSU), which has reviewed 39 laws, 17 regulations and 10 strategies/agreements to ensure compliance with international human rights standards and supported other ministries in improving their human rights compliance. Other nationally led coordination mechanisms supported by UNDP include working groups in the area of legal awareness, the implementation of recommendations from human rights treaty bodies, and support to police women.

To increase access to justice, UNDP and the Government established the Legal Aid Grant Facility (LAGF). Operationalized in June 2014, the LAGF registered 250 lawyers and exceeded annual targets, providing legal advice to 522 individuals (96 of whom were females), resolving 44 percent of the cases. In addition, the MOJ Public Legal Awareness

Unit and the inter-ministerial coordination body on legal awareness adopted a communication strategy and action plan, which will be implemented in 2015.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The disconnect between security and development remains one of the key challenges in the rule of law sector, as a result collaboration between the police and justice institutions remains challenging. Another challenge is shifting the focus from increasing security through fighting insurgency to increasing security through the delivery of police, justice and community security services to the population.

The rift between security, justice and development cannot be resolved overnight. While UNDP advocacy has led to increased attention for sustainability on the political agenda, a proposal for a multi-partner trust fund for justice and security interagency coordination failed to gain support. At the same time, this year has shown that an integrated approach with multiple partners is necessary to address complex issues such as SSR, anti-corruption, gender based violence and access to justice.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue to deepen its capacity development approach and highlight the need for simultaneous attention to problems of organizational structure, insufficient administrative competencies, and weak systems and work processes along with closer attention to anti-corruption efforts. In 2015, eight departments of the MOI will be assisted in organization development with detailed capacity and M&E plans, access to justice and GBV approaches will be enhanced and UNDP will continue to promote integrated approaches to justice and security with stronger partnerships.

### KEY RESULTS

- *As part of the development of rule of law indicators, the national working group approved indicators designed to enhance local actor's understanding the importance of eliminating SGBV, achieving gender equality and furthering women's empowerment*
- *Consultations were held to increase the connection between the informal and the formal justice system. As a result a law on formal-informal justice collaboration is on the legislative calendar for 2015, once passed this will enable at least 80% of the population now receiving justice purely through the informal systems to have greater access to the formal system.*
- *Extensive consultations and public surveys were conducted with MOI, civil society, national police and the international community to lay the foundations for a community oriented policing model which will be implemented under LOTFA Akheri*
- *UNDP, in partnership with the government, established the Legal Aid Grant Facility (LAGF), which has subsequently registered 250 lawyers and provided legal advice to 522 individuals (96 of whom were women), far exceeding annual targets.*

# BAHRAIN



## BACKGROUND

Bahrain's considerable development advances have been threatened by the political crisis stemming from a long-standing dispute over the power sharing arrangement. The dispute between different social, political and religious sectors manifested in the 2011 protests against the government in the windfall of the so-called Arab Spring. The security forces were accused of reacting with excessive force as a number of human rights organizations reported ill-treatment in detention, trials before military courts, killing of protesters and other human rights concerns. In a response, the King of Bahrain issued a decree establishing the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI), tasked with investigating and reporting on the events and related allegations.

In November 2011 the BICI submitted its findings and recommendations in a report simultaneously to King Al Khalifa and the Bahraini public. The report found that the National Security forces played a major role in the arrests of approximately 3,000 people during the 10-week state of emergency from mid-March until early June 2011. The BICI called on the government to address allegations of torture by security forces "including those in the chain of command, military and civilian." The government has initiated prosecutions of several security officers in connection with deaths in custody from torture and possible unlawful killings.

In addition, the government has developed a code of conduct for police in line with international standards and rolled out training programs for the security services to enhance respect for human rights and due process. As a response to BICI's recommendations the government transferred investigations of torture allegations

from the Interior Ministry to a Special Investigation Unit (SIU) in the Public Prosecution Office. The SIU is mandated to investigate "unlawful or negligent acts that resulted in deaths, torture and mistreatment of civilians" and is expected to handle issues in relation to the accountability of the Government personnel, one of the issues of greatest public concern.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The newly established SIU required technical assistance. UNDP supported workshops for 25 Public Officers including all members of the SIU, as well as other prosecutors and judges from the Ministry of Justice. These training workshops focused on due process rights, international standards of fair trial and analysis on the related human rights international conventions and treaties. Upon positive feedback from the Public Prosecution Office, UNDP deployed international experts to institutionalize human rights standards into the work and structure of the SIU. The technical assistance aims to provide technical consultations on a broader strategy that is focused on enhancing the Public Prosecution capacity for the long term. The engagement of UNDP at the policy level focuses on the utilization of forensic evidences and investigation of crime scenes. This also includes efforts to enhance the structure of the SIU in order to optimize its resources and increase efficiency, mainly through a functional analysis that leads to separation of the investigative, analytical and prosecutorial functions.

UNDP also is providing assistance to strengthen the information systems and the external communication of the SIU based on dependable information regards the status and statistics of case. In addition, a key element of the project is to provide continued feedback on the progression and gaps of the SIU towards the fulfillment of its mandate and of international standards, be it at the strategic policy level, or at the level of use of methodologies and instruments.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Public workshops for 25 Public Officers were held on due process rights, international standards for fair trial, and international human rights conventions and treaties.*
- *UNDP supported technical experts who assisted SIU in enhancing capacity for public prosecution*



## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Bahrain still faces internal and international pressure to fulfill its commitment to the BICI's recommendations. The government has engaged in a number of reforms and demonstrated a strong willingness to move toward improved justice delivery. UNDP will continue to engage with the Government in critical areas to

improve the promotion of rule of law according to international best practices. UNDP will continue providing capacity-development support to the SIU to fulfill its mandate, including the creation of an enabling environment, the development of institutional and individual capacities, and the introduction of additional instruments according to international standards.



UNDP HIV advocacy reaches prisons in Bahrain.  
UNDP/Bahrain

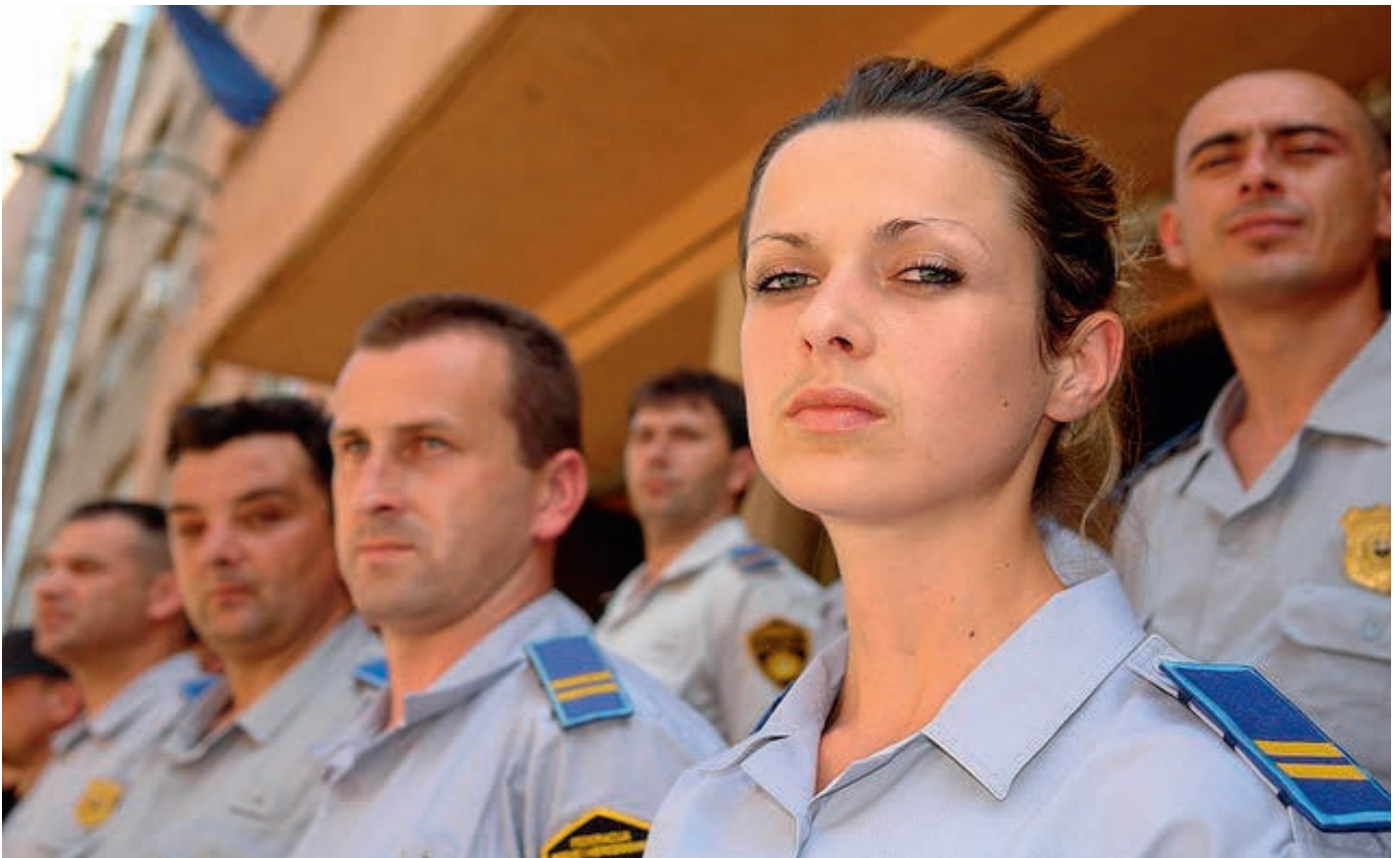
# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



## BACKGROUND

Since the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), a series of measures have been taken to rebuild democratic institutions, provide remedies for conflict-related injustice, and integrate the country into the European Union. Nevertheless, progress has been slow amid the economic and financial crisis, which coupled with a lack of political gains have left the country at a standstill in the EU integration process.

In 2014, there were widespread protests and severe floods highlighting the fragility of the socio-economic situation and negatively impacting the economy. Additionally, conflict between ethnic groups and lack of political consensus slowed the reforms in many areas. However, progress is expected following a recent announcement by the BiH President, which declared the country's commitment to undertake reforms in the framework of the EU Accession Process<sup>28</sup>.



Police women challenging stereotypes in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
UNDP Bosnia Flickr

<sup>28</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150129\\_02\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150129_02_en.htm)

<sup>29</sup> European Commission Progress Report, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014, p.11

<sup>30</sup> UNCT Submission to the Human Rights Council, UPR for BiH, 20th Session, March 2014, p. 1, para. 3

BiH is a party to all core international human rights treaties, but national implementation remains challenging. Although public awareness of the role of the Ombudsman Institution has increased<sup>29</sup>, generally, state mechanisms in charge of respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights suffer from gaps in coordination, accountability and efficiency<sup>30</sup>. Access to justice has moderately improved, however the system suffers from fragmentation and lack of harmonization, which in particular, affects the quality of services for marginalized individuals and groups. Additionally, dealing with the past and combating impunity for war crimes, remains a challenge.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP supported a number of initiatives to strengthen the rule of law, to comprehensively address the legacy of the war, to develop standards for witness' protection and victim support, and to increase access to justice for the marginalized through provision of legal aid<sup>31</sup>.

UNDP provided support to BiH for the second cycle of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, which took place in November 2014. Expertise and coordination support were provided to the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees for the preparation of the national report. Additional awareness-raising activities included the live broadcast of the UPR session and video summary.

In 2014, UNDP continued its support for the Victim/Witness Support (VWS) mechanism through development and coordination of VWS offices. In 2014, over 900 victims and witnesses (of both war crimes and other criminal cases) received emotional, psychological, and logistical support. The VWS mechanism is contributing to increased efficiency of courts and prosecutor's offices in 12 of the 17 district courts with plans to establish VWS offices in remaining locations. This year local authorities agreed to allocate funds and human resources to the VWS offices, ensuring their sustainability beyond UNDP's assistance. In parallel, UNDP continued to strengthen related capacities of psychologists, social workers, judges and prosecutors and facilitated regional consultations to share the Bosnian experience with other countries.

UNDP worked with national partners to create a countrywide free legal aid system through the establishment and support of the Free Legal Aid network (FLA), comprising eight governmental and six NGOs providers. In 2014, the FLA network provided services in 11,726 cases, involving victims of gender-based violence, human trafficking, single female households, and the unemployed. With UNDP support, a new FLA office opened in Mostar, professional development opportunities were provided for the FLA network staff, and a database launched to connect all FLA providers and ensure an efficient way to monitor cases.

## KEY RESULTS

- Preparation and presentation of the national UPR report.
- Over 900 victims and witnesses received support from UNDP established VWS offices.
- UNDP trained 800 judges, investigators, and prosecutors in investigative techniques in order to increase the efficiency of courts and prosecutor's offices.
- Free legal aid provided in 11,726 cases.
- New legal aid agency established in Mostar, bringing the national total to eight.
- Launch of database that connected all free legal aid providers with each other thus ensuring an efficient way to monitor services and keep track of progress, including completed cases.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The UN system and UNDP will continue to support the government to make the necessary reforms and implement the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the UPR<sup>32</sup>. Constitutional amendments to prevent discrimination, efforts to ensure full integration of all minorities, and strengthening national systems for human rights protection remain key areas of focus but will be very politically challenging to achieve.<sup>33</sup>

UNDP is supporting an analysis of the status and independence of the Ombudsman Institution to provide a baseline for future capacity development support.

Despite some progress in relation to war crimes and witness protection, work towards the adoption of a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice did not advance in 2014. This was due to the political turmoil preceding the elections, which undermined efforts to ensure national ownership. Challenges remain with the harmonization of the FLA due to lack of a relevant legal framework, thus excluding many people from access legal aid services. Efforts will continue to unify the system and to support the government to adopt legislation on free legal aid at the state level.

<sup>31</sup> UNDP interventions are aligned with ongoing EU projects on the implementation of the National War Crimes Strategy

<sup>32</sup> This will be feasible after the BiH approval of the recommendations in the 28th Human Rights Council plenary session in March 2015

<sup>33</sup> Report of the Working Group on UPR, BiH, December 2014



# BURUNDI



## BACKGROUND<sup>34</sup>

Burundi has been facing numerous challenges on both the development and political levels for a protracted period. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, having one of the lowest per capita GDP ranking 180 out of 187 in the HDI report 2014<sup>35</sup>. In addition, to challenges of youth emigration and corruption and internal conflict in Burundi that has lasted for a decade was exacerbated by similar conflicts in neighboring countries. Following the end of the conflict in 2006, the majority of Burundians saw an improvement in the quality of their daily lives, including increased security. However, democratic consolidation remains a challenge as the country has few transitional justice mechanisms and there has been a sharp decrease in political plurality.

As the May 2015 elections approach tensions and risks of violence are high due to deep mistrust between the ruling party, opposition parties and civil society organizations. A growing number of reports cite restrictions on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Human rights organizations report that security forces have been harassing opposition leaders, activists and journalists; some of whom have subsequently gone into hiding or been arrested. The frustration with these restrictions is only heightened by reports that government supporters, including non-eligible voters and children, are being issued multiple voter ID cards. Further, several reports indicate that the youth wings of political parties are terrorizing the population in some parts of the country.

Additional frustration stems from reports alleging the National Defence Force and Police committed 47 extrajudicial executions between December 30, 2014 and January 3, 2015 that have not been investigated or acknowledged. Civil Society Organizations have expressed concern that the new law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission does not conform to international standards nor integrate the recommendations made following the 2009 popular consultations on transitional justice.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP supports national policies and efforts related to human rights, institutional reform of the justice system and community security. In 2014, UNDP assisted in the implementation of community policing in six municipalities within the Muyinga province. Additionally, six municipal security plans (Plans Communaux de Sécurité) were drafted and implemented. These initiatives have helped to improve citizen's trust in security forces by involving them in the fight against impunity.

Further improving community security, UNDP partnered with the Permanent National Commission to host voluntary collections of



A woman from Mukike commune in Rural Bujumbura, Burundi.  
UN Photo/Burundi

<sup>34</sup> This text was finalized before the outbreak of violence preceding elections in Burundi. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned these acts of violence calling on all Burundians to "safeguard the hard won gains" made in peace and democracy.

<sup>35</sup> <https://data.undp.org/dataset/HDI-Indicators-By-Country-2014/5tuc-d2a9>



small arms and light weapons (SALW). In 2014 a total of 9,824 SALW were collected.

In 2011, UNDP supported the establishment of Humura Centre for Gender Based Violence and throughout 2014 the agency continued to provide advisory support to the center. Humura Center is a specialized, free-of-charge referral center where survivors of Gender Based Violence can find comprehensive services such as medical care, psychosocial support and police and legal advice. In 2014, the Center handled 1,395 cases, 1,227 of which pertained to women. Additionally, in 2014, the Center's average case processing time from complaint to referral to justice was only 1 month, 500 percent faster than cases handled outside the Center. Complementary to the support provided by Humura Centre, the Government – with UNDP support – has established a network of 186 magistrates and 44 judicial police officers focal points, all of whom have been

trained to deal with SGBV crimes. 42 specialized chambers of Grand Instance courts and special divisions at the prosecutor's offices have been designated to process and handle these cases.

Building on the success of the Humura Centre, UNDP helped to establish 12 similar legal aid centers in Ngozi, Kirundo, Kayanza and Muyinga provinces and trained and deployed 540 paralegals to staff them. These centres improved access to justice in remote areas and provided services to 4,498 people, 2,383 of which were women.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The political environment is unstable and the outlook for a commitment to respect for human rights and governance under the rule of law is poor. Depending on the electoral process outcome UNDP may have to increasingly focus on protection activities within a context of humanitarian assistance.

BNUB finished their mission at the end of 2014, and was subsequently replaced by the Mission Electorale des Nations Unies au Burundi (MENUMB) in January 2015. In 2014, a transition plan was drafted to assist in the shifting of responsibility from BNUB to UNCT, which included provisions for rule of law programs. In addition, representatives from the GFP drafted a joint rule of law strategy for the transition, and plan to support the immediate deployment of a Rule of Law Adviser who will be responsible for an Implementation Plan, which includes advising the Resident Coordinator on political dialogue and advocacy with the Government.

### KEY RESULTS

- *The Humura Centre, an integrated one-stop clinic designed to provide survivors of SGBV with medical, social, psychosocial and legal assistance, supported 1,395 beneficiaries including 1,227 women in 2014.*
- *Creation of a network of 186 magistrates and 44 judicial police officers focal points, all of whom were uniformly trained to deal with SGBV crimes in all jurisdictions.*
- *An action plan for judges' SGBV focal points was developed to include a baseline to better evaluate future impacts.*
- *Civil society organizations established legal aid services for vulnerable groups in four provinces. The civil society organizations created 12 legal aid centres and increased their assistance to 4,498 beneficiaries including 2,383 women. 499 people were assisted by lawyers in court. In order to ensure the sustainability of the project, 540 paralegals were trained in mediation and judicial proceedings.*
- *The Permanent National Commission against the proliferation of SALW organized the voluntary return of small arms campaign by civilians, resulting in the handover of 9,824 weapons in 2014.*
- *Community policing committees in six municipalities of Muyinga province to strengthen community resilience and involvement in the fight against impunity by encouraging collaboration between police and citizenry.*

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



## BACKGROUND

In 2013, the weak Central African Republic (CAR) state collapsed, triggering a serious humanitarian and human rights crisis. The Séléka, the armed rebel group that brought President Djotodia to power, were disbanded by the President in September 2013, yet 2014 brought no relief from the violence. Thousands of civilians had been killed by both sides and more than 800,000 people displaced from their homes. About half of the displaced persons, most of them Muslim, took refuge in neighboring countries. Of the country's 4.6 million inhabitants, some 2.5 million continue to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Being concerned with the security, humanitarian, human rights and political crisis in April the United Nations Security Council authorized the deployment of a peacekeeping mission to CAR (MINUSCA).

Impunity for past perpetrators of armed violence has been a factor in the present conflict. All the parties of the conflict, the members of the Armed Forces (FACA), and the principal militia groups, the Séléka and the anti-balaka, have been involved in serious violations of human rights including rape and other gender based sexual offences.

Despite the signature of a cessation-of-hostilities agreement in Brazzaville in July, armed groups remain in control of almost all inhabited areas of the country. Competition among political representatives of armed groups for ministerial positions, as well as among military commanders for control of resources, contribute to infighting between armed groups. These groups have continually targeted civilians. Conservative estimates on violence since the outbreak of the conflict range from 3,000 to 6,000 people killed. Since the suspension of the CAR from the Kimberley Process in 2013,

substantial quantities of diamonds, gold and other natural resources have been smuggled out of the country. In addition, the increasing fragmentation of the main armed groups present a significant challenge to the stabilization of the political landscape in order to hold presidential and legislative elections due in August 2015.

The bleak year was marked by a government initiative to establish a special criminal court tasked with investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating serious human rights violations, including crimes against humanity and war crimes. A law to establish the special criminal court is expected to be passed in the first legislative session of 2015<sup>36</sup>. If successfully established, holding perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable would be essential to peace and security in the country.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP resumed activities to support the resumption of justice sector activities in Bangui and the redeployment of police and gendarmerie forces in the country in 2014. Because the public administration was not receiving salaries, UNDP paid General Food Allowances in Bangui and supported the payment of salaries to justice and police/gendarmerie personnel in CAR to allow the courts, judicial activities, and prison management activities to resume in Bangui. Likewise, the redeployment of police/gendarmerie in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> boroughs of Bangui was achieved through the renovation and equipment of three police/gendarmerie stations in the city with UNDP support. These efforts enabled three squadrons to conduct patrols in five districts of Bangui, jointly with MINUSCA and French Military Forces, which have reduced cases of robbery and armed robbery.

Additionally, UNDP initiated a Rule of Law programme jointly with MINUSCA and UN WOMEN, within the GFP framework, to support the resumption of penal chain and security in communities. This programme provides assistance to victims, including SGBV survivors. To combat impunity for crimes committed during conflict, UNDP jointly with MINUSCA and UN WOMEN, supported the drafting of the legal framework that once passed by the legislator will establish the Special Criminal Court.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

International assistance to CAR still does not sufficiently integrate the political challenges in the country, and relies on technical “quick-fixes” that have given few results in the past. For example, too many efforts of the United Nations and international partners remain focused on technical SSR and DDR programmes, whose political objectives are yet to be formulated by the national authorities, while little attention and place is paid to the victims of the conflict.

The establishment of a special criminal court is a landmark commitment in the resolution of the conflict threats in CAR, with the fight against impunity about addressed for the first time ever by a national court. The financial and capacity needs of the court to enable it to be established, function optimally and to achieve speedy and fair administration of justice are huge and require strong focus from the international community.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Justice activities in Bangui were restored through the payment of the PGA for the 10 magistrates and clerks of the Bangui District Court and for the 69 members of prison staff from February to May 2014 and salaries to the justice personnel in Bangui from May 2014, as well as through the provision of equipment and vehicles. Close to 60 public hearings for flagrant offences organized and 366 cases have been settled and ruled on.*
- *In conjunction with MINUSCA and the French Military Forces, a total of 3 squadrons were supported in conducting patrols in the 5 districts of Bangui, enabling tens of public order operations, arrests, recovery of stolen property, operations to maintain order, VIP escorts, improved traffic flows and the gradual restoration of commercial and administrative activities. This was accomplished through the payment of PGA to 480 police officers and gendarmes from February to May 2014 and payment of salaries to 2124 police and gendarmerie personnel of CAR from May to September 2014, as well as provision of equipment for police/gendarmerie units in Bangui.*
- *3 police stations renovated, enabling the deployment of police/gendarmerie in 3 arrondissements of the city;*
- *Law for the special criminal court drafted and adopted.*
- *Establishment of a joint justice and corrections team with UNDP, MINUSCA and UN WOMEN and launch of a USD 15 million Joint Rule of Law programme with GFP partners for rule of law support.*



Catherine Samba-Panza (centre), Head of State of the Transition of the Central African Republic, makes the opening speech at the restitution ceremony of the Brazzaville Forum. *UN Photo/CAR*

<sup>36)</sup> *Law for the Special Criminal Court adopted by CAR transitional parliament, 25 April 2015.*

# CHAD



## BACKGROUND

Chad is one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world, ranking 184 out of 187 in the human development index<sup>37</sup>. Most of the population lives under \$2 a day. At the political level it has witnessed a number of coups d'états attempts, which has all contributed to the slow progress of its development and political trajectory. However, Chad remains relatively stable since the 2011 elections and is moving towards new parliamentary and presidential elections in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

At the regional level, Chad has played an important role in the Malian conflict, providing peacekeepers and housing to over 100,000 refugees. In addition, Chad supports Operation Barkhane and other efforts to combat Boko Haram in partnership with Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. At the international level, Chad has increased its diplomatic engagement; in 2015, Chad will finish its 2-year tenure on the Security Council and will also host the African Union for the first time.

However, internally Chad is struggling to cope with the needs of a growing refugee population, the high cost of living, and insufficient institutional services. The upcoming elections are increasing tension and highlighting the need for government leadership on domestic issues. Magistrates are sorely lacking in Chad, especially with the adoption of new Courts of Appeal and a Court of Auditors, yet the government is blocking those voicing criticism against corruption, embezzlement and looting of governmental assets.

According to the 2014 Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the National Independent Human Right Commission's efforts to comply with the international standard, the Paris Principles, was noted as a positive development along with a number of reforms in the penal code to comply with international standards. However, the UPR also suggested the need for increased government cooperation with the Senegal African Chambers trial of former dictator Hissene Habré as well as the greater efforts to fight against impunity for perpetrators of serious human rights violations, and in particular the members of the internal security forces. Allegedly of the 1,000 political police accused of crimes from Habré's regime, less than 20 were convicted by the national courts.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In accordance with the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Strategy 2013-2016, UNDP supported Chad through reinforcement of justice services, promoting human rights and gender equality and decentralizing the elections. UNDP supported the Abéché appellate court, free legal aid services and justice actor training in addition to promoting due process and fair trials.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Support to fair and impartial trials for 105 individuals, including 35 women.*
- *Legal awareness and sensitization efforts reached more than 2,000 people, 500 of whom were women.*
- *35 regional secretaries, prefects, cabinet directors, and security service chiefs were trained in the rules of procedure of justice.*
- *Established ten Women's Associations Liaison Units, which contribute to women's empowerment through educational workshops*

<sup>37)</sup> <https://data.undp.org/dataset/HDI-Indicators-By-Country-2014/5tuc-d2a9>



## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Analyses of the current context of rule of law and access to justice in the country show that the challenges faced by public institutions in providing efficient services persist, which make it difficult for people to access justice. In the eastern regions, institutions face substantial challenges in providing adequate services and access to justice remains limited due to the distances between jurisdictions. This is compounded by a lack of resources amongst the population for obtaining legal counsel and low capacity among judicial actors.

Regional and local institutions require increased support from policy makers to address their political, institutional, social and economic challenges. UNDP will continue to support programs that promote access to justice such as free legal aid, while encouraging necessary legal and institutional reforms to overcome current challenges.



In Chad, UNDP works to increase access to justice, especially for women.  
*UNDP/Chad*

# COLOMBIA



## BACKGROUND

Since the 2012 preliminary peace agreement, negotiations proceeded but after the elections in 2014, which resulted in a second term for President Santos, momentum for progressing peace talks increased. The parties are now focusing on the rights of victims and the end of the conflict. This year FARC delegates publicly acknowledged, for the first time, that the group harmed civilians, a major development in the peace process that marks a step towards shared responsibility for the conflict.

Despite these gains, violence has continued and the so-called “emerging criminal bands” inflicted violence in different regions of the country endangering comprehensive reparations to victims and the peace process. In 2014, there were 65 mass displacements registered, affecting 3,951 families, of which 45 percent are indigenous and 37 percent are Afro-Colombians. Among those threatened and targeted for attacks are human rights and land rights activists, journalists, and trade unionists.

This year the National Victims Unit reported the total number registered victims to be 7,028,000, over 6 million of which are victims of displacement. The Government took important steps to address



Finally victims can tell their stories.  
*Colombia/UNDP*

justice for victims, notably adopting a new law on access to justice for victims. Additionally, Law 1719 explicitly recognizes that sexual violence constitutes a crime against humanity with no statute of limitations.

While Colombian fiscal management is among the strongest in the region and unemployment reached a record low of 9.1 percent in 2014, development challenges remain.<sup>38</sup> 22.6 percent of the population are considered working poor, living on less than \$2/day, with the greatest economic disparity between urban and rural communities.<sup>39</sup> Rural communities suffered greater economic consequences from the internal conflict and the government is working on development and infrastructure plans to repair the damages.<sup>40</sup>

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The participation of victims in peace negotiations in 2014 was a global landmark, which set a precedent in the recognition of rights of victims of armed conflict and fostered legitimacy to the process of building a sustainable peace. By request of the negotiating parties, UNDP played a key role along with other UN agencies in the development of National and Regional Forums on Victims. In collaboration with the National University and UN agencies, UNDP brought the voices of more than 3,162 citizens, of which 48 percent were women, to the table and facilitated the selection and participation of 60 victims.

In 2014, UNDP improved access justice capacity and reparations through the support of 1,326 leaders of victims' organizations. This support resulted in the return of 50,000 hectares of land to 33 indigenous communities in Chocó Department and legal counsel for 10,570 victims. As of November 2014, 50,567 victims received reparations assistance achieving coverage of 10.1 percent of total casualties recorded in the Victim's Law 975. In cooperation with the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, UNDP provided psychological support and legal advice to 340 women, who experienced sexual violence.

Moreover, UNDP supported partners in institutions such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Municipals Ombudspersons Office, the Ombudsman and the Presidential Office for Human Rights in order to promote human rights and prevent human rights violations at the local level. These efforts were complemented by high-level dialogue, national communication campaigns and empowerment strategies developed together with civil society organizations and human rights leaders. Both institutions and civil society are facing the challenge of designing and implementing strategies to address the peace process and its implementation.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The main challenges include the risk that political negotiations could derail progress on tackling impunity and ensuring transitional justice processes, sentencing, and reparations. This makes the government's public commitment to creating a sustainable peace critical. Local elections in 2015 may make it difficult to ensure the adoption of the new policies on human rights. This could mean preventive measures to address threats, harassment, and killings of activists and human rights leaders may not be satisfactory.

UNDP will assist in building the capacity of the national and local governments to perform their core functions in an accountable and efficient manner. Additionally, UNDP will aid in strategic planning for the end of the peace process and the post-agreement environment, provide citizens all over the country access to adequate services, consolidate the promotion and protection of human rights, and carefully manage expectations with national actors such as the Ombudsperson's Office, civil society and victims organizations.

In 2015 UNDP will orient its programming to cover rule of law, justice, citizen security and human rights, to support the government to gain more trust, and empower people, especially those affected by the conflict, to fulfill their justice and security needs. This will include the updating of the UNDP Strategy for Peace to adapt to the evolving national context and incorporate a more integrated vision of rule of law, access to justice, transitional justice, citizen security and human rights. In terms of citizen security, current local-level pilot projects will feed into longer-term support to the Government of Colombia to enhance citizen security and access to justice, especially in rural areas.

### KEY RESULTS

- 50,567 victims received assistance towards reparations, achieving 10.1 percent coverage of total casualties recorded in the Victim's Law 975.
- Support to access basic services, land rights and income improvement for 38,045 people in 17 locations.
- Support to 340 victims of sexual violence by helping file of reports, providing psychosocial support and improving the prosecution processes.
- In a joint strategy with the Ministry of the Interior' Directorate on Human Rights, 75,000 social leaders and members of institutions all over Colombia enhanced their knowledge of National Policy on Human Rights and implemented local-level projects which contributed to the protection and promotion of human rights.

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/colombia/overview#1>

<sup>39</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/COL>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/colombia/overview#1>



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



## BACKGROUND

DRC remains characterized by instability and very weak human development (ranking 186 out of 187 on the 2014 Human Development Index). The November 2013 defeat of the M23 armed group raised the hope that, after almost two decades of

conflict, fundamental change and stabilization were possible in DRC. However, the dismantling of armed groups as well as the DRC government's national reform agenda both stalled; while continued attacks on civilians especially in Ituri, North and South Kivu and Northern Katanga Province undermined civilian confidence in the government and the United Nations. Populations in the East questioned the commitment of the government to bring security, peace and basic services to the region and considered MONUSCO's security contribution to be weak. The ongoing conflict and ineffective government leave women at especially high risk of insecurity.

In 2014 a point of contention between the national authorities and the international partners was the impunity enjoyed by the armed forces. Following reports of grave human rights violations by security forces key UN and international partners suspended their support of security forces. The relationship between Ministry of Justice and the High Judiciary Council has deteriorated and justice sector reforms have stalled which has again resulted in suspension of support by international partners. This lack of progress means impunity for serious crimes remained the norm and penal chain corruption grew often resulting in the illegal detention of vulnerable people.

Although the population views the justice system negatively, a majority (85 percent still believe it is possible to achieve a



Woman at UNDP centre in Walikale located in North Kivu Province an area impacted by armed violence and instability  
Benoit Almeras-Martino/PNUD



functioning system. 89 percent of Eastern DRC said holding the armed groups and FARDC accountable for crimes committed during the war is essential to the country moving forward. In December a new Ministry of Justice took office, which gave new impetus to the justice sector and in early 2015, the organization of the Etats Généraux (Judicial Conference) will meet to discuss modernizing the justice system.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2014, UNDP focused its support on the fight against impunity, notably in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of SGBV cases in military courts, and in providing assistance jointly with MONUSCO and UNFPA to SGBV survivors in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. Since mid-2013 a total of 427 SGBV cases were tried in Eastern DRC and more than 534 victims were interviewed including 200 victims of sexual violence related to conflict.

In 2014, through a provision of technical expertise, logistical support to military magistrates, awareness raising activities, support for legal aid and SGBV survivors assistance: a total of 708 SGBV survivors

benefited from legal aid, 951 SGBV survivors received psychological/social support, 831 individuals (45 percent of them SGBV survivors) enrolled in a literacy programme and 120 women were aided socio-economic reinsertion support.

In 2014, UNDP recorded a significant decrease of SGBV cases in Eastern DRC, from 20,041 in 2013 to 8,510 in 2014. This substantial change is in part due to the increased security and deployment of troops with a clear chain of command in Eastern DRC since 2013. While additional data is still being collected, such figures demonstrate that support of the criminal justice and military command chains can be effective in combating SGBV.

With UNDP technical support, seven Prosecution Support Cells were established, over 60 judicial personnel were trained on investigation techniques for serious crimes, 36 mobile courts were established, and inspection missions of the judiciary and its administrative work were conducted. The quality of judicial sentences was improved through the training of 18 judges and the monitoring of 15 trials. Additionally, 12 literacy centers received small grants.

UNDP in partnership with Harvard University administered an innovative perception survey on peace and justice in Eastern DRC which demonstrated the need for a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding based on dialogue, combating armed groups, truth-telling and rehabilitating the economy.

### KEY RESULTS

- 427 SGBV cases were tried in North-Kivu, South-Kivu and Ituri
- 708 SGBV survivors (578 women and 130 men) benefited from legal aid
- 951 SGBV survivors, including 3 men, benefited from medical and psychosocial support.
- Over 5000 soldiers and nearly 800 officers of the FARDC soldiers of North and South Kivu were sensitized to SGBV through sessions conducted by 78 military outreach officers duly trained.
- Production of a landmark perception survey in 2014. The questionnaire sought to integrate civilian ideas and opinions on issues pertaining to sustainable peace, justice and security in Eastern DRC.
- Deployment of six inspection missions designed to crackdown on corruption and inefficiency in the provincial chambers of Bas-Congo and Oriental Province. The chambers condemned nine magistrates (eight suspensions and one revocation), restoring the authority of the High Judiciary Council and putting an end to some forms of impunity. The inspection missions liberated 45 individuals in preventive detention.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Despite operating in a challenging environment, UNDP assistance significantly decreased the number of SGBV cases. That said, overall political and security environment remain critical to contribute to a significant shift in the reduction of sexual violence by state- and non-state armed forces. However, still a more comprehensive assistance to victims is necessary.

In 2014, only six percent of the 951 SGBV cases provided psychological/social support were referred to other types of assistance. Improving reference mechanisms is very important to ensure all the needs of SGBV victims can be met. For example, literacy activities proved very impactful for SGBV survivors giving the skills and self-confidence to move forward.

Additionally, in tackling impunity, the prosecution support cell (PSC) has proven to be an excellent innovation pairing international experts with Congolese judicial actors to prosecute serious crimes. Additionally support for military justice is planned for phase two of this programme in 2015. Finally, MONUSCO started the transition to ending their mission, which will result in UNDP taking on the full responsibility for rule of law programming and support.

# EL SALVADOR



## BACKGROUND

El Salvador suffered a 12-year civil war as well as a number of natural disasters, which cost about 75,000 lives and came to an end in 1992 when a treaty between the government and leftist rebels announcing the implementation of political reforms. El Salvador is a low-income country with 29.6 percent of the population lives under poverty.<sup>41</sup>

Violence continues to top the list of preoccupations of Salvadoran citizens with 63 percent of identifying insecurity as the main problem faced by the country<sup>42</sup>. During the last decade, El Salvador has been repeatedly identified as one of the most violent countries in the world. During 2012, El Salvador experienced a marked reduction in the homicide rates however when the gang truce failed in June 2013 homicide rates increased again.

In 2014, 3,912 homicides were recorded (homicide rate of 61.1 per 100,000 inhabitants according to National Civil Police). The largest share of homicides (114 deaths per 100,000 of young population) was among young men aged 18-30 (PNC, 2014), mostly from firearms and predominately in rural areas. These communities have higher than average rates of young people who are neither in school nor working. There is also a high concentration of gangs, narcotics dealers, accessible firearms, poverty and inequality. Femicide rates are also high. According to police record, during 2014 there were 292 women murdered a 35.18 percent increase from 2013.

In order to combat these trends the government has been dedicated to implementing violence prevention programs that aim to increase education and employment opportunities amongst marginalized youth and instituting community conflict mediation programmes. After national elections in June 2014, the National Council for Public Security and Coexistence was established to discuss proposals on addressing the country's security concerns.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

It is in this context that UNDP has become a strategic partner for El Salvador in an advisory capacity, and assisting in the formulating and implementing of citizen security policies with significant results in the past 15 years. UNDP was an entity of the Technical Secretariat to the government. As part of the National Strategy for Prevention of Violence, UNDP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to coordinate the implementation of plans for citizen security and coexistence in eight municipalities.

This support builds on previous UNDP programmes to reduce violence with models of resilient communities at the municipal level. From 2009-2013 the municipalities included in this programme saw on average a 60% reduction in the number of homicides.

Continuing to build on successful models of violence reduction, UNDP facilitated the creation of partnerships between local governments and state institutions (Justice and Public Security Ministry, National Civil Police, Ministry of Government and Territorial Development, Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Labour) to develop protocols and other knowledge tools to strengthen violence prevention in communities.

In order to facilitate a dialogue on the high levels of impunity in El Salvador, UNDP in partnership with AECID, USAID, UNFPA and UN Women is studying the effectiveness of Criminal Justice System. Although still in the initiation phase, published results are expected in 2015.

<sup>41)</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/country/el-salvador>

<sup>42)</sup> Between 2002-2012 the average homicide rate in El Salvador reached 55,6, which is more than double of the average for Latin America and triple the global average

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

One of the main challenges has been bringing all actors together in a highly polarized environment. The inability to establish mechanisms for effective coordination between institutions limits the implementation and impact of national and local policies. UNDP is well positioned to facilitate dialogue around issues of security and justice. However, there is a greater need for appropriate information management instruments and security analysis throughout the country. Previously, proper information management and security analysis proved instrumental in developing effective indicators to monitor crime and violence.

In 2015, further efforts will be made to ensure that local level initiatives and achievements are integrated into national policy development. Support will continue to initiatives that enable the social and economic reintegration of youth at risk as a component of overall citizen security work.

Furthermore in 2015, UNDP and its partners anticipate the publication of the findings of joint research on the efficiency of the criminal justice system. These results will inform the structure and focus on UNDP programming going forward.

### KEY RESULTS

- *National Council for Public Security and Coexistence was established to address El Salvador's security concerns.*
- *Eight municipalities implemented plans for citizen security and coexistence programming.*



Community members discuss programme that engages at-risk youth in positive socio-economic activities.  
El Salvador/UNDP



# GUATEMALA



## BACKGROUND

Following a long civil war, Guatemala has made significant gains in its economic growth in recent decades. Although the 2008 financial crisis slowed the economy, opportunity remains for rapid growth through trade, regional integration and tourism.<sup>43</sup> Despite economic progress, inequality, especially for gender and income, in Guatemala

remains among the highest in the world.<sup>44</sup> This inequality and low education rates, only 68 percent of students enroll in secondary school, pose challenges to continued economic and development progress.<sup>45</sup>

Guatemala's current problems with violence, crime and impunity are historically rooted in a weak state, prolonged periods of direct military rule or political interference by armed forces, and entrenched economic, social, cultural, gender and racial inequalities. The country is addressing its past of gross human rights violations and armed conflict, including acknowledging the challenge of addressing impunity and criminal structures operating within the country's state mechanisms.

Guatemala's justice and security sectors have made significant advances: overall homicides rates have dropped to 31.4 per 100,000 people, according to Government statistics; criminal investigation effectiveness rates for "crimes against life" increased from 5 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2014 according to Public Prosecutor Office data; the number of sentences in the penal courts, especially in gender-based violence cases, increased over the last three years; and car theft and robberies declined due to increased police and improving technology.

The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) continued its mission and dismantled an illegal prison network.



UNDP supports the fight against impunity in Guatemala. *Guatemala/UNDP*

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guatemala/overview#1>

<sup>44</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/GTM>

<sup>45</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/GTM>



Additionally, cases of corruption in the Interior Ministry and criminal infiltration of the police were tried and the Public Prosecutor Office supported changes to improve investigations. The permanence of the CICIG is currently being analyzed by the government within the context of a need to strengthen the national justice sector and access to justice services.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Since 2010, UNDP supported PAJUST, a transitional justice programme, which provides comprehensive support to the country's reconciliation process including support to exhumations, prosecuting past human rights abuses, supporting the recognition of victims' rights, reparations for survivors. Important achievements have been recorded in supporting victims of internal armed conflict and their rights to the truth, as well as justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition.

With a focus on facilitating dialogue between civil society organizations and state institutions, UNDP has supported victims' access to justice, achieving ten convictions in cases of human rights violations including forced disappearances, massacres and genocide. Hundreds of exhumations of clandestine cemeteries were completed, a Gene Bank was established, and nearly 2,000 victims have been identified and returned to their families for burial. Around 20,000 family members of the victims have also received legal and psychosocial support. Assistance from UNDP helped the Historical Archives of the National Police to digitize and make public over 17 million files.

The Ministry of Interior, assisted by UNDP, enacted a National Violence Prevention Policy, created the Strategic Criminal Statistics Unit and launched a new technology platform. This unit, aided by the new platform, will collect, process and integrate standardized data from different departments within the Ministry and other justice and security institutions allowing quick access and analysis of information to inform policies and strategies.

UNDP supported the installation of a new computer forensics system for the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DICRI), enhancing its capacity. This system expanded the Directorate's capabilities for handling crime scenes and has already processed 100 crime-monitoring reports. The Directorate of Criminal Analysis tasked with the analyses of specific criminal patterns and identifying structures for large-scale disarticulation, was created with UNDP assistance.

The Attorney General's Office expanded the Comprehensive Care Model to 13 additional Prosecution Special Units for Violence against Women and adopted an additional four protocols for interagency cooperation regarding investigations standardization

and prosecutions. The Judiciary enhanced its capacities by implementing technology systems for judicial management models, with special focus on separation of administrative and judicial functions. Additionally, the Judiciary strengthened jurisdictions for femicide and other forms of violence against women by supporting the creation of new femicide courts at the local level.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

A strong opposition in Congress limits the government's ability to advance its legislative agenda, hindering policy implementation. Elections are due in late 2015, which may impact national processes further. UNDP will prioritize support to the strengthening of the justice system, including law enforcement and access to services for most marginalized including indigenous peoples and women.

To this aim, UNDP programmes will focus on sharing the capacity of the CICIG to the benefit of the whole criminal justice system. UNDP will continue to prioritize promoting judicial transparency at both the national and community levels, the implementation of the AGO's strategic plan and engaging with civil society groups to strengthen people's access to justice and awareness of rights

### KEY RESULTS

- *The Gene Bank helped identify nearly 2,000 victims and return them to their families for burial.*
- *20,000 family members of the returned victims have subsequently received legal and psychosocial support.*
- *The Historical Archives of the National Police were updated and over 17 million files are now available to the public.*

# GUINEA (CONAKRY)



## BACKGROUND

The political stability gained from the first free and fair democratic presidential election in Guinea (Conakry) in November 2010 was consolidated with the organization of legislative elections in 2013, but the political transition remained fragile. Guinea still faced major governance challenges, notably continued impunity, weakness of civilian and government oversight of institutions, persistence of corruption, and marginalization of women and other vulnerable groups.

In December 2013, in a village in Guéckédou, near the borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia, the Ebola epidemic broke out in Guinea (Conakry). In less than six months, what started as a public health crisis in Guinea had degenerated into a development crisis with economic, social, humanitarian and security threats. At the start of 2015 there were 1,781 deaths and 2,775 infected cases in 7 of the 8 Guinea regions and the rise in poverty could range from 2.25 percent in 2014 to as much as 7.9 percent in 2015.

Fear of Ebola has led to attacks on health workers and the stigmatization of health workers and survivors. In April 2014, a crowd attacked an Ebola treatment center in Macenta, accusing it of deliberately bringing and spreading Ebola. In August, N'Zérékoré, the second largest city, a riot broke out to protest the spraying of a market with disinfectant, causing injuries to over 50 people, including members of the security forces. UNDP drew from its community policing programme to provide protection for health workers and aid in border control with affected neighbouring countries, as well as drawing on community networks to education people on the Ebola virus to help contain the outbreak.

Guinea is due to hold presidential elections in late 2015, as well as local elections originally scheduled for early 2014. The political spectrum remains divided along ethnic lines and the Ebola epidemic has further weakened the state, its legitimacy and the economy, but the government has expressed continued commitment to security and justice sector reforms. National Ebola recovery strategies emphasize the need for these reforms, to provide services and to regain the trust and legitimacy that was lost during the health crisis.

2014 was the fifth anniversary of the Conakry stadium massacre, and both Guinean and international civil society called for justice and reparations for the victims. Given the structural deficiencies in the army, police, and judiciary, past human rights violations and mistrust between the security force and the population, SSR continues to be a priority for the government. Important measures, such as the census of the military and the retirement of close to 4,000 of military personnel, have been taken in the past few years. Now institutional reform with a targeted focus on post-Ebola recovery is necessary to consolidate transformative gains. These efforts can be decisive factors for peacebuilding, the rule of law and the consolidation of democracy and must be supported by the international community.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Building on the successful community policing models and community networks, UNDP reoriented its efforts to address Ebola by contributing to national security coordination, coordinating security and defence forces, protecting the safety of health teams on the ground, training and dispatching police officers for awareness raising, sensitization techniques and distribution of hand washing kits.

Furthering justice sector reform, the Superior Council of Magistrates was established, allowing for a special status of magistrates. With technical support from UNDP, the Guinean Panel of Judges indicted 12 military officers and gendarmes for crimes of sexual violence allegedly committed during the events of the Conakry stadium massacre on 28 September 2009. A judicial expert continued to assist the panel in the investigation and case-building process. Additionally, judicial experts assisted in the implementation of safeguards for the security of victims and witnesses, and in the planning of exhumations of mass gravesites.

UNDP provided technical expertise to the Ministry of Justice in drafting the national justice policy and action plan, as well as the revision of the Code of Military Justice.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Socio-political tensions as well as the adverse impact of the Ebola outbreak risk undermining Guinea's gains in peacebuilding, development and democratic governance. Furthermore, deterioration of the socio-political and security situation in Guinea could destabilize other countries in the region. This concern is highlighted by the upcoming elections where key issues are lack of political progress, continued tension between ethnic groups, and the Ebola response. Key challenges are reconciling ethnic groups, reforming the military and managing expectations of the public about recovery, peacebuilding efforts and dividends.

Security sector and judicial reform remain a priority and highly political process. Justice reform in particular has experienced delays, which continues to negatively impact the country's security situation. Ahead of the upcoming 2015 elections, justice reform will be crucial to fight against impunity and bring stability to the country. Thus, there is a need for increased international support to Guinea and improved coordination and division of labour amongst international partners.

UNDP will continue to support partners in Guinea on justice sector reform, the fight against impunity, SSR and continued community policing and community security planning initiatives, and targeted efforts against violence women.

### KEY RESULTS

- *During the Ebola outbreak, UNDP drew from existing community policing networks in order to: protect the wellbeing of health workers, coordinate security responses in the capital and borders regions, and to raise awareness on how to prevent the spread Ebola.*
- *National Doctrine on Community Policing and its corresponding implementation tools are available for on-the-ground use and the National Strategy for Security Sector Reform is finalized.*
- *Provision of guidance to indict 12 military officers and gendarmes, including senior officers for crimes of sexual violence allegedly committed during the Conakry stadium massacre.*
- *Technical expertise to the Ministry of Justice in drafting the national justice policy and action plan.*



Community Police Project, Matoto, Guinea  
Dylan Lowthian/UNDP

# GUINEA-BISSAU



## BACKGROUND

Guinea Bissau is a low income country<sup>46</sup> with an HDI ranking 177 out of 187<sup>47</sup>. Political instability has highly impacted its development and economic growth to the extent that more than two-thirds of the population live below poverty line. The political upheavals experienced by Guinea Bissau were finally subdued after a transitional government was formed with the support of ECOWAS mediation in 2012.

In 2014 a free and fair elections took place and won by Jose Mario Vaz. The Bissau-Guinean context has never been as open to progress and reforms as it is now. The 2012 coup damaged the legitimacy of the army but the 2014 elections brought to power technocrat politicians who were more independent from the military culture. The international community is providing unprecedented support. Nevertheless, the culture of impunity, intra-military and civil-military dynamics, a weak state, extreme poverty and social and gender inequalities, and fractured national identity are contributing to instability in Guinea-Bissau.



Trial in the Criminal Court of Bissau where UNDP supports access to justice through The National Judicial Training Centre  
Joanna Busby/UNDP/Guinea-Bissau

<sup>46</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/country/guinea-bissau>

<sup>47</sup> <https://data.undp.org/dataset/HDI-Indicators-By-Country-2014/5tuc-d2a9>



The privileged “heroic” status of former guerillas that fought for independence from Portugal in 1974 is central to many governance problems in the country, having created an oversized and factionalized military force that has a tense relationship with political leaders as both groups vie for control over limited state resources and economic opportunities. However, the 2013 indictment of senior military officials in the U.S. on drug trafficking charges helped created an opportunity to combat impunity, implement reforms in the security sector, strengthen the formal justice system and operationalize legal reforms such as the criminalization of Domestic Violence and Female Genital Mutilation and anti-trafficking. Additionally, the government, National Human Rights Institution and civil society are preparing to release their reports for the Universal Periodic Review due for publication in 2015.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Capacity development of the judiciary continued through The National Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ) programme in 2014. The inaugural group of trainees completed their second year and all 13 found positions. In 2014, the CENFOJ began another career training course with ten judges and three prosecutors, all of whom successfully completed the first year and became Intern Magistrates with the Ministry of Justice.

Additionally, UNDP supported judicial operators in capacity building measures to ensure more effective and expeditious justice service delivery in the field, as well as a better management of cases and the registry. The CENFOJ also launched a six weeks capacity development programme, with refresher training modules on Civil and Criminal Law (both substantive and procedural). The specialized thematic training modules were tailored for 16 Magistrates (judges and prosecutors), currently appointed at the Sectoral and Regional Courts. 16 Regional and Sectoral court clerks and case managers received training in procedural civil and criminal law subjects to improve case management. For the first time, judicial field operators had the opportunity to develop their skills in trainings related to their daily tasks.

A coordinated effort between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Works and UNDP, resulted in the design of the official prototype for Sectorial Courts and the construction of Mansoa and Canchungo sector courts will begin in early 2015. Once completed these courts will mark a milestone in increasing access to justice for all in Guinea-Bissau.

The Ministry of Justice, with UNDP assistance, continued to increase capacity of free Legal Aid Services in Guinea-Bissau. Five Access to Justice Centres (CAJs), now fully operational, ensured that a total of 6,028 people (1,297 women) have access to legal aid. Due to this gap in service delivery in 2014, the CAJs delivered several awareness

and legal information campaigns on the laws against FGM and Domestic Violence. In order to strengthen civil society capacity in court monitoring, UNDP launched a Judicial System Monitoring Project in partnership with the CSO “Observatorio dos Direitos” (Human Rights Observatory).

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The main challenge in Guinea-Bissau is strengthening formal justice institutions so that they can address the injustices faced by the population despite political instability and budgetary constraints. In 2015, the state will assume greater ownership of the process and will take over some of the operational costs of the CAJs and CENFOJ.

Despite the increase in the access to and use of legal aid service, women’s access remains limited due to socio-cultural barriers. In most ethnic groups a request for fulfillment of individual rights, accessing the formal justice system and legal aid would be interpreted as inappropriately exposing private family issues and more broadly as harming the community and tradition. UNDP will hence strengthen its empowerment and rights-based approach, engaging women, men and the informal justice actors on justice and rights issues.

UNDP in cooperation with other UN actors and its partners in the government and judiciary will build on the improved national political context to further promote security and justice sector reform. Additionally, in 2015 UNDP will assist in the construction of two sector courts in Mansoa and Canchungo expanding access to justice outside the capital region.

### KEY RESULTS

- 6,028 people, including, 1,297 women, benefited from legal aid in the five CAJs
- 13 Magistrates successfully completed the first ever CENFOJ career course and all were appointed to positions in Judicial Institutions. This effort was so successful, The National Judicial Training Centre launched a second career course for an additional 13 magistrates (10 Judges and 3 Prosecutors).
- The National Judicial Training Center trained an additional 16 court clerks and case managers in procedural law, in order to increase case management capacity at the Regional and Sectoral Courts.
- Design of an official prototype for Sectoral Courts and construction of two new courts in Mansoa and Canchungo.

# HAITI



## BACKGROUND

Since 2010 when a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, the country is successfully pulling through the humanitarian recovery phase and seeing significant socio-economic development gains. More than 200,000 people were killed, 1.5 million were displaced, and over 300,000 buildings were destroyed in the 7.0 magnitude quake. However, the country still faces significant challenges. 60 percent of Haitians live on less than \$2.50 a day. The political system remains fragile, sustainable jobs are scarce, and the disaster risk environment is vulnerable.

In 2014, Haiti continued to face serious political crises. The failure of the National Assembly to pass new electoral laws led to the President's announcement that long-delayed elections would again be postponed. This announcement prompted frustrated Haitians to take to the street in protest, some calling for the President's resignation. The lack of elections and other political obstacles in Haiti threatened the democratic integrity of the political system and created a climate of instability, anger and trepidation. The resulting fragility in the Haitian government has significantly hindered much needed justice and security reforms.

Specifically, the Haitian Judiciary faced significant challenges, which negatively affected the Haitian population's overall access to justice and effective remedy. The country currently lacks a comprehensive legal aid system and the overwhelming majority of Haitians in pre-trial detention do not have access to legal counsel. Despite public demand for justice and legal security, there remained limited political dialogue on rule of law issues. The lack of access to legal services, inefficient case management and large case backlogs, severe resource constraints and overcrowded prisons, and the lack

of accountability and independence of the judiciary prevented the delivery of transparent and equitable justice.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2014, UNDP supported the newly re-established Conseil Superior du Pouvoir Judiciaire (CSPJ) in strengthening its mission to enhance administrative services and judiciary capacity. UNDP assisted in the development of internal guidelines and regulations to enhance the CSPJ's institutional and operational capacities allowing for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Additionally, UNDP supported the Cour superieure des Comptes et Contentieux Administratif to publish its first account of state assets in over ten years, an accountability mechanism that is required by the Constitution.

The Ministry of Justice, assisted by UNDP, developed a Penal Policy, implemented a scheme for judicial inspections and provided SGBV training for nearly 200 judges and prosecutors. To date, eight judicial



Constitution monument in Haiti.  
UNDP/Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights

inspectors have been trained under a new management system, which facilitated the updating of the nation's legal information. Also, through direct support to the Port-au Prince Tribunal of First Instance (TPI), UNDP made a concerted effort to improve case management and case archiving by implementing a clerk training initiative. UNDP strengthened the efficiency of the TPI by aligning service provisions more effectively; this included measures to curb human rights abuses in addition to prolonged, illegal, and arbitrary detentions.

In collaboration with MINUSTAH, UNDP supported the Central Directorate of Judicial Police (DCPJ) to enhance capacities in criminal investigation and establish a training center.

## KEY RESULTS

- *Nearly 200 judges and clerks were trained on investigative techniques and on the correct and appropriate handling of SGBV cases.*
- *Implementation of a new system of managing and monitoring files with the objective of lowering pre-trial detention time.*

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

It is important for UNDP to engage with the government in a meaningful dialogue on rule of law, in order to achieve a mutual commitment on defined objectives. International aid to Haiti is decreasing and MINUSTAH is beginning its drawdown of services to the country, which increasingly shifts the responsibility for rule of law activity to UNDP.

As a result, UNDP rule of law programming needs to be based on informed analyses of both political and developmental obstacles including: government of Haiti commitment and ownership, adoption of a coordinated approach amongst actors such as donors, MINUSTAH, and NGOs, and setting realistic benchmarks for progress. Finally, renewed focus on joint programming with the mission and further implementation of the GFP arrangement are key objectives for 2015.

# HONDURAS



corruption and high rates of crime have all affected its development gains. According to the World Bank, approximately 64.5 percent of the population lives in poverty.<sup>48</sup> Honduras signed a three-year IMF stand-by arrangement in December 2014 that should help ease its poor fiscal position and development conditions.

Honduras has among the highest level of homicide in the world (68 per 100,000 in 2014, 77.9 percent with firearms) according to the Observatorio de la Violencia of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras. Thankfully these rates are decreasing<sup>49</sup>. The World Bank estimates that the annual costs of violence account for about 10 percent of the country's GDP (approximately \$900 million).<sup>50</sup> As a result of this insecurity and the impunity which accompanies it, the citizens lack confidence in rule of law institutions. The absence of opportunities for young people, gender inequality, cultural acceptance of violence as conflict resolution, and high levels of impunity have hindered stability and the reduction of violence.

## BACKGROUND

Honduras is considered the second poorest country in Central America and experience challenges of unequal distribution of income and youth unemployment among other development challenges such as vulnerabilities to disaster risks. Political insecurity,

In response, in 2012 the government adopted an Integrated Policy on Coexistence and Citizen Security (2012-2022) to combat high rates of crime and violence. This policy includes a wide array of prevention and control measures to reduce violence and increase security, including the implementation of the "Safer Municipalities" programme, aimed at developing municipal safety plans in 298 municipalities in collaboration with the Ministry of Security.



UNDP works with young people to reduce armed violence in Honduras. *Honduras/UNDP*

<sup>48</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/country/honduras>

<sup>49</sup> Government agreed homicide figures from 2013 - 79/100,100; 2012 - 85.5/100,000.

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/honduras/overview>



Although this law provided a framework for progress, change has been slow.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's rule of law assistance in Honduras targeted national and municipal levels and was delivered in close partnership with other UN agencies. At the national level, UNDP supported the Ministry of Security to formulate and implement responses to the serious security situation. In 2014, the Vice Ministry of Violence Prevention implemented the priorities of the National Policy on Citizen Security and adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2018.

Furthermore, internal reorganization created more effective institutions with defined roles and responsibilities. This has contributed to Government's efforts to initiate a strategy of integral intervention in six municipalities of the country (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, Gracias and San Luis) with high incidences of violence and criminality. An inter-institutional force, led by the *Fuerza de Tarea Interagencial* (FUSINA) and the National Direction for Social Interventions (DINIS), have been created in parallel to act in partnership with local governments to engage in social and situational prevention initiatives.

At the municipal level UNDP supported the implementation of the Safer Municipalities model in the five most violent municipalities in the country. This programme established local observatories of violence and enacted social cohesion initiatives and citizen security plans that included mediation units. Additionally, this programme strengthened municipal offices for women affairs and enabled the creation of artistic youth groups to promote social cohesion and prevent violence.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

UNDP faced challenges with programme planning and implementation due to elections and government transitions in the National Security Ministry, especially at the national level. Despite these challenges, UNDP's past success continues to create new opportunities to expand programmes at the national and local levels.

UNDP is currently developing a broad citizen security strategy, which coordinates various regional, national and local initiatives, to ensure targeted and strategic support to the Government of Honduras. This strategy will include continue to strengthen national and local capacities to prevent and reduce violence, increase capacity to measure impact, and enhance capacities coordinate international support.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Guidance to the Government in their adoption of the Strategic Plan for Violence Prevention 2014-2018*
- *In the five most violent municipalities, UNDP helped create local observatories to monitor and analyse violence and crime trends.*

# IRAQ



Between December 2013 and February 2014, there was intense fighting in the Anbar province between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Sunni insurgents, aided by ISIL. In May, ISIL and Sunni insurgents took control of Fallujah and in June ISIL launched a major campaign from Syria into eastern, Sunni-dominated, Iraq taking Mosul and Tikrit while almost reaching Baghdad. The campaign was marked by the near-collapse of the ISF and mass atrocities committed by ISIL forces.

The fall of Mosul in June demonstrated with dramatic effect the fundamental shortcomings of the ISF and its governance. This security failure was compounded by the chasm ISIL exposed between Iraqis living in the Sunni-dominated Northern and Western provinces and the federal government in Baghdad. This resulted in vast swathes of the population taking up arms alongside ISIL to destabilize a government they no longer saw as legitimate. In response to the political crisis spurred by the ISIL offensive, Prime Minister Maliki resigned and Haider al Abadi took his place forming a new Unity Government. The Unity Government has proven more effective drawing on greater cooperation across government institutions even holding inclusive, semi-public hearings in September.

## BACKGROUND

The worsening of the internal conflict in early 2014 and the advance of ISIL from Syria into Iraq over the summer have disrupted all forms of governance and service provision by the state. A massive humanitarian crisis has ensued with almost 2 million Iraqis internally displaced and about 255,000 refugees in Iraq due to regional conflict<sup>51</sup>.

The regional and internal conflicts enveloping Iraq have damaged the economy. The conflict has disrupted supply chains used for both the oil and non-oil sectors. The non-oil sector consisting mainly of construction, transport, and agriculture, is dependent on government spending which has decreased in response to non-oil GDP decline of 5.2 percent in 2014.<sup>52</sup> Unemployment remains high and pressure for jobs is growing as 41 percent of the population is



A displaced Syrian family living in Iraq, There are approximately 255,000 refugees in Iraq due to regional conflicts. *UN Photo/Iraq*

<sup>51)</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486426.html>

<sup>52)</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview#1>

under 15 years of age.<sup>53</sup> However, with only 10 years of expected schooling per person, growing the economy and reducing unemployment will be extremely challenging.<sup>54</sup>

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP focused on support for national institutional capacity for human rights protections. These efforts led to the establishment of the first Independent Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR), at the central level, and the independent Board for Human Rights, at regional level, as well as the Civil Society Human Rights Advisory Board to support the work of the IHCHR and the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee.

Throughout 2014, UNDP worked closely with the Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA) to facilitate the development of a new National Security Strategy (NSS). In June 2014, the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force mission participated in the National Symposium on Security Sector Reform, organized by the ONSA to provide preliminary advice and guidance to the Government of Iraq on SSR. Further, UNDP deployed a Special Advisor on SSR at the request of the National Security Adviser to address the urgent need for enhanced SSR efforts.

In 2014, UNDP also completed the first phase of its assistance to the government in supporting the development of capacity of the Al Nahrain Centre for Strategic Studies, a government think tank aimed at informing development of security policies, which is now facilitating the implementation of a capacity strengthening roadmap.

Despite the deteriorating environment in 2014, UNDP supported the establishment of a Family Protection Directorate (FPD) and 16 Family Protection Units (FPUs) in cooperation with the government and local police authorities. These units assist women and minors with domestic violence and GBVs issues.

In Kurdistan Region Iraq (KR-I), UNDP contributed to the establishment of seven Directorates for Combating Violence Against Women (DfCVAW) in the Kurdish government, in addition to 27 provincial offices in KR-I. During 2014, the directorates and provincial offices processed total of 13,998 cases, exceeding their 2014 target goals. The first-ever Domestic and Gender Based Violence national database was installed at the Ministry of the Interior Headquarters, which generates reports to inform government policies and strategy.

Complementing this progress, UNDP supported the establishment of six court-based legal aid help desks in five cities and six legal assistance centers inside refugees and IDPs camps. Over 20,000 individuals benefitted from awareness initiatives on legal rights and legal aid. Additionally, in Kurdistan Regional Government, UNDP

supported the operationalization of a referral system connecting the Kurdistan Bar Association, DfCVAW and the Ministry of Legal and Social Affairs to better aid vulnerable groups and communities.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Fighting in the Anbar province and ISIS control of the large portions of Iraq, deteriorating security in other parts of the country as well as changing priorities for the government, have created a formidable challenge for accessing affecting areas and working with national partners. In addition, the changing donor environment has affected UNDP programmes, 3 projects will close in 2015 due to termination of international partner's engagement.

UNDP has played a key role in the development of the NSS and will continue to support the NSS through Phase II of SSR efforts which will commenced in 2015, with a specific focus on the development of a Government Action Plan on SSR. Furthermore, internal UNDP efforts will aim at facilitating the development of an integrated UN programme on SSR. The Country Office has recruited a Senior Programme Manager who, in 2015, will bolster the capacity of UNDP to respond to the dynamic Rule of Law needs in Iraq.

### KEY RESULTS

- Establishment of the first Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and the independent Board for Human Rights, at the national and regional levels respectively.
- Set up a protection network for DGBV by establishing a Family Protection Directorate, 16 Family Protection Units (FPUs), seven Directorates for Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW), 27 provincial DCVAW offices in Kurdistan, a DGBV database in HQ, and the lending of technical support in order to pass the Domestic Violence Act in KRG.
- 6 court-based legal aid help desks established in 5 cities and 6 legal assistance centers inside refugees and IDPs camps. These offices served 6001 individuals (4291 female/1710 male) and over 20,000 individuals benefitted from awareness initiatives on legal rights and legal aid.

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview#1>

<sup>54</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/IRQ>

# JAMAICA



## BACKGROUND

The patterns and high incidence of crime and violence in Jamaica over recent years have sparked profound concern at the local, national and international levels. As a result efforts are being undertaken to address the numerous challenges facing the country. Government policies and strategies are in place to support the spectrum of necessary interventions both responsive and preventative. However, there remain challenges related to trust in institutions, social cohesion, justice, security service delivery and the prevention of violence.

This has been most evident in the incursion into Tivoli Gardens in 2010 where according to the Public Defender's Interim report, 73 civilians were killed, 44 of which are under investigation as extrajudicial killings. In 2013, the Office of the Prime Minister announced that the Government of Jamaica would hold a Commission of Inquiry into the Tivoli Incursion. As determined by the Ministry of Justice, the Commission's objective is to determine the facts of the Incursion especially they related the role and responsibility of security forces in the civilian death toll. Results from the Commission of Inquiry are expected in 2015 and are widely considered essential for the country in moving forward.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In the context of the Commission of Inquiry, UNDP has provided support to the Ministry of Justice as well as to partner agencies and community-based organizations to reach out to victims and provide psychosocial support services at the community level. The Commission of Inquiry will be an important base for strengthening

inclusive dialogue and the provision of longer-term strategic support to improve community safety and social cohesion – with a particular focus on the inclusion of youth.

Complementing its support of the Commission of Inquiry, UNDP aided the Parish Safety and Security Safety Committees, which implement safety and security initiatives as well as enables citizens to participate in governance related to parish safety. These Committees have given the police an opportunity to work closer with communities. There are programmes in 12 parishes across Jamaica, surpassing the target of ten parishes, which saw a 17 percent reduction in violence in 2014.



Economic Literacy and Gender Budget Analysis Training Course for Civil Society organized by Women's Resource and Outreach Centre Jamaica/UNDP



Additionally, different tools were developed, such as the “Handbook and Toolkit on Parish Safety and Security” which will help enhance the capacity of local authorities to contribute to improved safety. The “Guiding Terms of Reference for Local Governance Organizations in Jamaica will strengthen local governance organizations to ensure good governance and sustainable development at the local level.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Regarding planned support provided to the Commission of Inquiry, the major challenge faced by this project was delay. Although the government officially announced the Commission in February 2014, it only got underway until December 2014. UNDP aims to integrate support provided to the Commission of Inquiry and the recommendations coming out of the Commission into a broader three-year programme focused on enhancing community safety and social cohesion, while building trust and confidence in the communities and enhancing capacity of local governments for better service delivery.

Preparatory assessments took place in 2014 and the programme will be developed in 2015. This three-year programme will build on the continuous support UNDP has been providing to the Government of Jamaica in the area of justice and community safety at national and parish levels, in particular with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of National Security. The new programme will specifically take into account recommendations coming out of the process of the Commission of Inquiry and support their implementation. It will be designed in close engagement with civil society organizations and the Bureau of Women’s Affairs under the Office of the Prime Minister to ensure specific needs for women are addressed, including through a component focused on reducing gender based violence.

## KEY RESULTS

- *Parish Safety and Security Safety Committees were established in 12 parishes resulting in a 17 percent reduction in crime in 2014.*
- *The Commission of Inquiry was established in December 2014 and preparatory work has been done to support the Ministry of Justice as well as partner agencies and community-based organizations to reach out to victims and provide psychosocial support services at the community level.*

# KENYA



## BACKGROUND

In March 2013, Kenya held a largely peaceful election under the new 2010 Constitution. These were the first election since the violence and displacement caused during the 2007 presidential elections. Despite its strides in democratic consolidation, Kenya still faces many challenges including: terrorist attacks, violent instability in northern pastoral counties, porous borders, ineffective justice and security sectors and a highly centralized government structure.

Although substantial funding was available to the government in 2014, many challenges were left unaddressed and problems such as an overly centralized state and ethnically defined voting blocs persisted to plague the country. The national and regional governments continued to disagree over issues such as the allocation of resources and the clarification of specific functions and responsibilities.

This confusion and government in-fighting has stymied efforts promoting effective and efficient governance. Security institutions remain especially contentious as both the national and county governments claim to oversee these institutions.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2014, UNDP continued to assist the Kenyan Government on the development of their National Police Reserves (NPRs). Key achievements in this area include: the publishing of a research report on the NPR system, the revision and update of the NPR training manual (completed with input from both experts and public forums) and the development of a Policy Framework for NPRs

which is currently under consideration for administrative adoption by the National Security Advisory Committee.

UNDP aided the Ministry of the Interior and National Co-ordination in publishing a research report on armed gangs and organized militia in urban areas. Since violent crime is prevalent in many of Kenya's cities, this is an increasingly important topic for both the public and government to focus on; especially in light of upcoming national elections since the country has a history in sharp rises of mass violence during election season.

In 2014, UNDP continued to provide support to the Kenyan National Government to reduce armed violence and combat the proliferation of SALW at both the national and local levels, with the aim to improve community security in targeted areas. UNDP partnered with the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) and the National Police Service (NPS) to conduct training for station commanders on Community Policing. Additionally, in conjunction with the Chief Armorer at NPS, the project conducted arms marking in Turkana County, a 'hotspot' area for communal violence. A total of 4,062 state owned arms, including those distributed to the NPRs and seven government agencies, were marked and tagged electronically using the software system adopted across Eastern and Central Africa. The project continued granting peace dividends

## KEY RESULTS

- *Government developed the country's first policy framework for the National Police Reserves*
- *The SALW bill was revised so that it was in accordance with the Security Laws (Amendment Act, 2014).*
- *Arms Marking program in Turkana County, which resulted in the marking of 4,062 weapons.*
- *Several key documents were published in 2014 including a research report of armed gangs in Kenya, a training manual for the National Police Reserves, and the Quarterly Report of Crime Surveys in Nairobi and surrounding counties.*
- *In support of post-conflict reconciliation, dispersal of Peace Dividend Grants to communities in five regions and to 11 reformed armed groups.*
- *50 people in 15 police stations received Community Policing training workshops.*

to the reformed fighters across five counties in the north, namely Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Isiolo, and West Pokot.

### CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The threat from both international and domestic terrorists is significant as attacks occur frequently in many parts of the country; most notably in the northern region, coastal areas and major cities. As a result security has become an increasingly urgent concern, prompting the security sector to rapidly respond and adapt to shifting threats and conditions on the ground. The NPS and NPSC Acts were amended twice in 2014, the latest change occurring in December 2014. On a positive note, sections of the National Bill, the final draft is have been imported into the National Security Bill that was passed at the end of 2014.

Another challenge is that there is little national appreciation of the security situation in northern two thirds of Kenya, where the majority of the population are nomadic pastoralists. The state had traditionally armed 'home-guards', who, through an act of Parliament will be incorporated into the official security forces via a vetting process that ensures the professionalization of armed forces. As changes are made in the security architecture, it is important that the role of the NPRs in guarding the northern borders is taken into account. The armed violence reduction project has championed the potential role of NPRs in supplying security in the north, while also reducing the involvement of youth in armed violence.



Demonstrating the Arms Marketing Exercise, Turkana  
Abdi Umar/UNDP/Kenya



KOSOVO<sup>55</sup>

## BACKGROUND

Kosovo has made important steps towards stability and building democratic institutions. Supported by international partners, Kosovo is in the process of adopting laws that could ensure adequate delivery of justice in accordance with human rights standards. Integration into the European Union remains a priority. In 2014, Kosovo concluded the Stabilization Association Agreement, which built on the 2013 agreement with Serbia regarding the normalization of relations.

Kosovo still struggles to enhance its human development. The fragile political environment and in particular the six month political deadlock after the June 2014 elections, impacted the progress in strengthening democratic institutions and processes. Corruption and organized crime, including human trafficking remain major concerns. In particular, challenges exist with the implementation of the legislation and its further harmonization with the EU acquis. Reconciliation is another important consideration, as Kosovo society remains profoundly affected by its past with deep inter-ethnic divisions.



Police and UNDP Destroy Ammunition Collected Last Year. *Kosovo/UNDP*

<sup>55</sup> UN Administered Territory. All designations made in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP supported the government in policy planning, coordination, and capacity development of the justice sector through a number of initiatives including: judicial education, the establishment of the Agency for Free Legal Aid (AFLA), the introduction of a probation and mediation service, and strengthening capacities of Kosovo Police to address domestic violence and human trafficking. Additionally, complementary programming supports transitional justice efforts and community safety initiatives.

In 2014, UNDP continued its technical support for AFLA, which provided free legal aid 4,812 cases with 1,710 female beneficiaries. In addition, a mobile legal aid clinic was established to offer assistance to communities in rural areas, with a focus on aiding women and minorities. In parallel, UNDP encouraged AFLA's efforts to ensure sustainability through activities that sought to strengthen its capacities and raise awareness on the importance of free legal aid services among government agencies and civil society.

UNDP's cooperation with the Mediation Commission resulted in the development of a Strategy for Mediation Services, leading to a reduction of court cases and increased opportunities for people to access justice. During 2014, 1,076 cases were referred for mediation to the Mediation Commission and a database was established, enabling this mechanism to produce qualitative reports, including data disaggregated by gender and ethnicity.

Creating an environment conducive to transitional justice is a priority for UNDP and other UN agencies. Interventions focus on improving community relations, contributing to reconciliation and prevention of future violence. Results include the production of a documentary on missing persons, and awareness raising on transitional justice through media (public service announcements, website, and other platforms). Support is provided to the Inter-ministerial Working Group (IMWG), established to address prior injustices and strengthen civil society's capacities to enable them to contribute to the transitional justice process.

The Kosovo Small Arms Control Initiative (KOSSAC) sought, among other things, to create a safe and secure environment through the Safer Community Development approach. The objective was to build partnerships between local authorities, police, private sector, and volunteers, to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. From 2009 to 2014, 31 safer community activities were implemented in 11 municipalities, covering 71 villages and 14 neighbourhoods. These communities, with KOSSAC support, drafted, with the participation of women and minorities, safer community plans and installed surveillance cameras and monitoring centers.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

UNDP's efforts to support the rule of law reforms in Kosovo are encumbered by the lack of institutional capacities and general inadequacy of the judicial system, including enforcement mechanisms. Furthermore, budgetary constraints of institutions have hindered programming sustainability, as in the case of the AFLA; once UNDP's support came to an end AFLA was unable to secure government funding for the eight legal aid offices. Also, programming in the area of transitional justice is prone to political sensitivities and safer community initiatives need to further increase public trust in local authorities, particularly for minority groups.

UNDP will continue to contribute through: strengthening coordination, in the justice system by creating a strategic planning for increased efficiency, and supporting independent justice institutions. With respect to transitional justice, the focus will be on enhancing awareness among general public and provision of support to the IMWG. UNDP and local partners will further develop the Safer Community approach under a new initiative that aims to create a long-term impact by strengthening the relationship between communities and security providers. Nevertheless, to successfully achieve these objectives, consolidated programming is required to bring various initiatives under a comprehensive programmatic framework.

### KEY RESULTS

- *AFLA provided legal aid in 4,812 cases where 1,710 beneficiaries were women and a total of 1076 cases were referred for mediation.*
- *The Mediation Council developed a database equipped to produce reports and disaggregate data by gender and ethnicity;*
- *Border Police and labour inspectors trained on the early identification of victims of human trafficking.*
- *From 2009 to 2014, 31 safer community activities implemented in 11 municipalities, covering 71 villages and 14 neighbourhoods in urban areas. With the participation of minorities and women, 3 municipalities drafted safer community plans and established surveillance cameras and monitoring centers.*

# KYRGYZSTAN



## BACKGROUND

Kyrgyzstan enjoys a relatively sound democracy, despite two unstable political periods during the last decade and interethnic conflicts that sparked violence in the southern part of the country in 2010. The new Constitution, adopted after the political transition of 2010, paved the way to broad political and legal reforms including rule of law and the justice sector. In addition, Kyrgyzstan is party to almost all core human rights treaties and has established a national human rights institution to monitor State's compliance with its human rights obligations. Five years after the adoption of the new Constitution, Kyrgyzstan continues an intense reform process related to the Rule of Law area. Much effort has been made to progress legislative reform and strategic planning however the shortness of the consultative process with key stakeholders may threaten to undermine the desired effects of the reform.

In 2014, the reform efforts have exclusively focused on systemic reform and many observers have noted a lack of any initiative to address the legacy of violence from the recent history. Previous commitments to consider transitional justice mechanisms for human rights violations in the south which took place in 2010 have not been established and no new initiatives for social inclusion proposed.

Nevertheless, many political and legal challenges still persist, deterring not only efforts towards democratic governance and rule of law but also socio-economic progress. While new legislation was adopted in many areas, the capacity to implement and enforce new mechanisms needs to be strengthened. Public trust in the justice sector has been shaken and there is need for comprehensive reforms. Obstacles also remain with the implementation of human rights obligations, including recommendations of the Universal

Periodical Review (UPR), as well as the capacities of the Ombudsman office which do not fully comply with the international standards for national human rights institutions.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's engagement in the area of rule of law and justice aims to support the legal and judicial reform after the shift to a parliamentary democracy in 2010. Since mid-2012, UNDP implemented the multi-component programme "Enhancing Democratic Rule of Law to Promote Peace and Stability in the Kyrgyz Republic" which through the project "Putting Laws into Practice – Fulfilling Constitutional Rights of the Citizens" aims to build a foundation for sustainable peace in the Kyrgyz Republic. This project accomplishes this through support for: the 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.

As the country prepared for the second cycle of the UPR review in 2015, the recommendations of civil society were taken into consideration during the preparation of the report to the Human Rights Council. Additionally, UNDP supported the Kyrgyz Ombudsman Institute's internal institutional review, which identified several weaknesses related to its operation and provided relevant recommendations. In response to the review outcomes, UNDP assisted in the design and installation of software and the modernization of the Ombudsman's website to facilitate the appeals submission process and increase responsiveness.

In 2014, UNDP continued its collaboration with the Working Groups providing technical assistance for amending key pieces of legislation, including the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. Concurrently, a financial assessment and implementation plan were developed for these laws, which are currently under Parliamentary review. In order to ensure sustainability of this initiative, UNDP has agreed to partner with national authorities to develop a drafting methodology for future legislation.

In collaboration with other partners, UNDP also provides support to the government of Kyrgyzstan to address the lack of public trust in the justice system through comprehensive legal aid reform. After assessing factors that undermine access to justice for marginalized groups, a draft law on Free Legal Aid aimed to create a unified management system and free quality legal, as well as a draft Law on Domestic Violence were recently developed. Additionally, with UNDP support, around 1,326 people, 92 percent of whom are women, received legal aid, including assistance in preparing legal documents and legal representation.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Despite efforts of all actors in promoting rule of law, access to justice, and protection of human rights, several obstacles remain. Other challenges in the area of rule of law include difficulties in implementation of laws and policies due to lack of capacities of State institutions. This coupled with a culture of impunity and lack of legal awareness of the population, undermine the public trust in the reforms. Finally, while provision of direct legal assistance remains important, efforts must be combined with initiatives that increase State institutions' capacities, which bear the main responsibility of ensuring access to justice for all.

UNDP's efforts in these areas have shown the benefit of providing both short and long term policy advice and support to national authorities. This support helped guarantee the necessary balance between quickly installing reforms and enabling environment implementation and the sustainability of initiatives. In this framework, UNDP plans to continue its cooperation with the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, as well as civil society, as effective rule of law reform can only be delivered through constant dialogue and engagement of all actors. Finally, to maximize UNDP's impact, a comprehensive programmatic framework will be developed.

### KEY RESULTS

- Around 1326 people, 92 percent of which women, received legal aid and advice on various legal issues. This includes assistance in preparing legal documents and obtaining legal representation.
- In support of providing fair and equitable legal access to all, a new law was drafted that would provide free legal aid to the most vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, women and youth at risk.



Kyrgyzstan.  
UNDP/Kyrgyzstan



# LIBERIA



## BACKGROUND<sup>56</sup>

In 2014, Liberia experienced an outbreak of the Ebola. By the December 2014 the WHO listed Ebola cases at 8,018 and Ebola deaths at 3,423. The epidemic, while a health issue, had indirect consequences on the justice and security needs of vulnerable members of the population particularly children and women. To address the Ebola outbreak, the government declared a state of emergency, which slowed the implementation of reforms in the criminal justice system significantly.

The government and its partners redirected their focus to containing the epidemic and mitigating its many social, economic and security implications. Fortunately, these efforts have contributed to the slowing of Ebola and people are returning to their normal routines. Rule of law institutions are redirecting attention back to urgent issues including the Transformation and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which prioritizes justice and security as key to achieving peace, security and stability.

Furthermore, the timeline for a transition from peacekeeping set out in Security Council Resolution 2190 (2014) added a sense of urgency and underscored the need for a concerted effort to ensure justice and security institutions are prepared to operate independently as UNMIL draws down.

This lays enormous responsibility on the government and its partners given that weaknesses persist in the sector and priorities prior to the Ebola outbreak remain essential to the government's success. The Ebola outbreak subjected vulnerable groups to further exploitation, abuse and violence increasing the demand for services from an already overburdened and weak criminal justice system. Furthermore the Ebola outbreak demonstrated how ill-equipped the security sector is to respond to disaster.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Notwithstanding this context, UNDP continued to implement its Programme on Strengthening the Rule of law and Administration



Pink Panthers Motorbike Group supporting Ebola response.  
UNDP/Liberia

<sup>56</sup> While this publication was going to print, Liberia was declared Ebola free on May 9, 2015.



of Justice in support of the sector-wide Justice and Security Joint Programme. UNDP also continued to manage and administer the PBF.

UNDP operationalized three Regional Hubs in Gbarnga, Harper and Zwedru as part of its focus on bringing justice and security services closer to people living outside Monrovia. The human capacity of the Hubs increased. Infrastructure, equipment and systems critical for command, control and operational responses were also installed. At the Gbarnga regional hub, 85 percent of the justice and security services envisaged are now offered to the community. In Harper and Zwedru Regional Hubs nine legal counsels, five public defenders, ten human rights and five public outreach officers were deployed and were able to function during the Ebola crisis, albeit at a slower pace.

The 9th Judicial circuit in Gbarnga was operationalized in April 2014 allowing both the circuit court and three magisterial courts to operate concurrently resulting in more cases processed in a shorter timeframe. As a result, 12 SGBV cases were adjudicated in the three circuit courts despite the impact of Ebola compared to 2013 total of 14 cases.

Following a joint directive from the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary, the Hubs used diversion methods permitted by the law such as bonds and jail delivery to process minor offences. This led to a decrease in the admission of minor offenders in the prisons reducing the average length pre-trial detention and congestion in Monrovia Central Prison by 27 percent.

In addition, UNDP provided the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization essential communication equipment and accessories for border control, EBV screening, and coordination of Ebola response between all six border entry points and the central command in Monrovia. Also, 60 hand held thermometers, ten desktop computers, ten printers and other supplies were delivered, strengthening both cross border security response to the Ebola situation and their capacity to perform critical function in burial and response teams at the county level. Meanwhile, the BPU officers visited 44 border posts while conducting 11 surveillance patrols.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Access to the Hub services was severely affected by the spread of the Ebola in the region as the state of emergency suspended field activities, travel and public gatherings. Many of the filed complaints by the public were not processed. The confidence and surveillance patrols by PSU and GPU officers in the counties were suspended to instead allow officers to provide regular night patrols, enforce adherence to regulations during curfew and assist County Health Teams and Local Government Authorities in preventing the spread of Ebola.

The Ebola crisis reduced revenue collection in the country leading to a 15 percent reduction in budgetary allocation to the justice sector. This slowed the rollout of services at the Regional Hubs in Harper and Zwedru as funds were not available to meet the logistics and mobility requirements of deployed staff. This reiterates the need for unifying recurrent and development expenditures to ensure that the Hubs are able to provide holistic services at county level where justice needs of the poor are most demanded.

As UNMIL draws down it is expected that national counterparts, the UN Country Team and bilateral donors will assume some responsibilities. Within the framework of the GFP arrangement, UNDP will gather information to analyse the rule of law situation, the plans of the government as well as the state of planning and assistance of the UN in Liberia. The analysis to be jointly completed with UNMIL will form the basis for developing a transition support plan. In the meantime, training and recruitment will be accelerated to meet the target of 8,000 police and 1,000 Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in accordance with the security transition plan.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Gbarnga Region established an SGBV unit equipped with a victim hotline. This enabled 99 survivors to receive psychosocial and medical support in 3 counties. Additionally, SGBV Prosecution Units are being built in Zwedru and Harper Regions and upon their completion, 10 out of 15 counties will have resident specialized SGBV prosecutorial capacity.*
- *During the state of emergency community safety mechanisms improved and border control strengthened. To that end, The Liberia National Police received 60 sets of hazmats to use while responding to Ebola related incidents, the Police Support Unit (PSU) in Gbarnga conducted 13 confidence patrols in 74 communities and responded to 21 security incidents and the security presence in Lofa was reinforced by permanently deploying 15 PSU and 20 Border Patrol Unit (BPU) officers from the Hub.*
- *Human rights officers were deployed during the state of emergency to monitor human rights violations. They noted the lengthy periods of pretrial detention, resulting in the disposal of 75 cases in Maryland County and 4 cases in the remote River Gee County.*

# LIBYA



## BACKGROUND

Since the 2011 revolution, the precarious security situation and the absence of fully functioning rule of law institutions remain among the predominant concerns of Libyans. The initial actions of the Libyan Government to reform the security and justice sector through the 2013 *Security Sector, Justice and Rule of Law Development Plan* have been brought to a standstill.

In July 2014, Libya witnessed a serious outbreak of armed conflict across the country. The use of heavy weaponry by all sides in densely populated areas resulted in an upsurge in internal displacement. According to UNHCR an estimated 400,000 people were displaced from areas affected by the conflict. Additionally, regional interests, surge of terrorist activities and serious economic and financial problems have taken on greater salience since the outbreak of armed confrontations.

The conflict translated to a tangible worsening of people's living conditions including an increasingly challenging access to essential services as well as communication, fuel and electricity. Women, in particular, bore the brunt of the conflict and those visibly engaging in public affairs were increasingly targeted. The deep political polarization and ensuing violence had a negative impact on the well-being of individuals and undermined basic human rights. It severely strained the institutions and services built, halted progress, and in many cases even reversed progress, made towards human development.

The security situation is deteriorating and growing increasingly complicated, despite appeals by the international community to the warring factions to agree to an immediate ceasefire and engage

in dialogue. The political crisis became further complicated by a Supreme Court decision in November 2014 to declare the election of the House of Representatives unconstitutional. This declaration created political chaos as both governments attempted to gain control. It also created competing claims for control over the Central Bank and the national oil company. Currently there is no functioning national police and indications of widespread cases of torture, killings and violence from armed groups are increasing.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Since 2012, UNDP worked closely with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to address rule of law issues within the country. Based on the findings from an extensive consultation process with national stakeholders, UNDP provided support in three main areas: 1) strengthening the capacity of Libyan rule of law institutions to provide services in a manner that supports the transition to democracy; 2) improving access to justice for conflict-affected populations (especially survivors of SGBV, women and displaced persons), and; 3) supporting processes for and national consensus on transitional justice. UNDP support of rule of law continued on this basis, especially in terms of capacity development and technical assistance, through early 2014.

In the latter half of 2014, following the escalation of the conflict, UNDP relocated its offices to Tunisia and sought to resume its previously planned engagement with the High Judicial Institute in a comprehensive capacity development programme with a specialized training center. The programme aimed to target new and sitting judges by exposing them to international standards on 6 main themes:

1. International human rights standards and fair trial standards
2. Sexual and gender based violence and access to justice
3. Independence of the judiciary and judicial code of conduct
4. International conventions and treaties and their implementation at the national level.
5. Crimes against humanity and criminal responsibility under international criminal law
6. Court management and case management and early control of judicial proceedings

The Programme also aimed to provide technical assistance and capacity development support in the formulation and updating of curricula for new judges, sitting judges and for clerical and administrative staff. The training was scheduled to commence in August 2014 for a period of nine months. However, due to the dramatic outbreak of armed confrontation, evacuation of international staff, and ongoing security constraints, the original project implementation timeline experienced significant delays. A review of financial, logistical and other adjustment of proposed

activities was undertaken to accommodate the new changing operational context. UNDP Libya was forced to delay implementation because of sudden political and security conditions that unfolded in Libya in the latter half of 2014.

### CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The challenges to rule of law in Libya are primarily political in nature. The political deadlock has led to an escalation of conflict and resulted in a complex humanitarian crisis. Despite UN facilitated political dialogue efforts in Geneva and Morocco in early 2015, a comprehensive political settlement remains elusive. The situation on the ground continues to be challenging and in many cases worsening for the people. Given this difficult political and operational environment, UNDP adjusted its programming to provide remote assistance with an increased focus on resilience and local area development initiatives in the more stable areas of Libya until broader political agreements are reached at the central levels. However, with changes in priorities among donors, there is an increasing challenge in securing funds to implement project activities.

#### KEY RESULTS

- Curriculum development for the continuation of clinical legal education by helping to design and advise the creation of questionnaires and focus groups.
- Design and development of training modules/handbooks for new and sitting judges in addition to court administrative staff.



Various Unexploded (UXO) and ammunition from ongoing conflict in Libya  
OCHA/Jihan El Alaily



## MALI



## BACKGROUND

The security situation in Mali remained fragile in 2014 as peace and reconciliation efforts continue to progress between the government and Islamist separatist armed groups in the north of the country. Two years after foreign military intervention assisted the government in regaining control of territory occupied by rebel forces, the state had a difficult time extending its presence to many areas of the country, the National Government remains especially weak in rural north.

Following presidential elections in late 2013, a new Parliament was elected in early 2014. The government subsequently restructured its ministries, which included the creation of a new Ministry for National Reconciliation that proceeded to assist with peace negotiations. The mediation process was led by the Algerian government and supported by the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and ECOWAS. All the institutions shared the hope that the political situation would stabilize, facilitating the consolidation of peace. However, the momentum of governmental action was derailed in December when Prime Minister Moussa Mara resigned and replaced by Modibo Keita, who went on to form a new government in January 2015.



A Rwandan peacekeepers from the MINUSMA Formed Police Unit speaks to children while patrolling the streets of Gao, in northern Mali.  
UN Photo/Mali



Mali faced a deteriorating security situation in 2014. Terror attacks by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and other extremist groups were increasingly frequent and armed groups regained control over the northern part of the country, including the Kidal region. Peace negotiations moved slowly, as the different parties' expectations for an agreement varied significantly. A main point of contention, unresolved as of a November draft accord, included the rebel groups' demand for autonomy for the Azawad region, and the government's insistence on national authority over all Mali's territory. These issues will be on hold until February 2015 when peace negotiations are scheduled to resumed.

The Ebola crisis in Mali was, fortunately, limited compared to the situation in neighbouring Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Six people were killed by the virus in Mali in 2014, but by early 2015, the World Health Organization declared the country Ebola-free.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP and the UN peacekeeping mission, MINUSMA, have supported the Malian government's efforts to restore state authority via the UNDP-led project, Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North. The project focuses on the rehabilitation rule of law infrastructure through the provision of necessary equipment and the capacity building of state and judicial officials. To date, UNDP and MINUSMA have rehabilitated and equipped seven courts and seven prisons that were destroyed or seriously damaged during the 2012-2013 crisis. In addition to this assistance, UNDP is finalizing the Joint Programme to Promote Human Rights and Increase Access to Justice, a program that had been in place before the crisis.

In 2014, UNDP and MINUSMA supported the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights by employing a high-level team of consultants to develop a justice sector reform proposal. Ensuring the proposal complimented draft peace accords developed in Algiers that explicitly recognized the "reform of the judicial system" as a key issue for post-conflict reconstruction. UNDP is working with partners to incorporate lessons learned from previous efforts to reform the justice sector and carefully adapting them to Mali's post-conflict reality. The draft justice reform document, developed by the Ministry of Justice and supported by UNDP and MINUSMA, outlines initiatives to: 1) strengthen the independence of the judiciary; 2) strengthen anti-corruption efforts; 3) strengthen rights protections; 4) modernize the organization of jurisdictions, services and personnel management; 5) facilitate access to justice; and 6) renovate the corrections department. In early 2015, the new Minister of Justice received the document and pledged to carry out consultations with key Malian actors and international partners to finalize a strategy and operational plan over the next five years.

UNDP, in partnership with the government, supported Mali's law enforcement institutions in their effort to restore public order, promote long-term stabilization and improve public-service delivery. To this end, a partnership agreement was developed in 2014 and is scheduled for implementation in 2015 in collaboration with MINUSMA's police division.

UNDP and MINUSMA serve as co-facilitators of the donors' thematic group on justice and rule of law in Mali. An instrumental platform to ensure a coordinated approach to support the justice sector, the thematic group includes all key donors as well as active participation from the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The GFP also supports the Anti-Narcotics Brigade through a catalytic project to restore facilities and detention cells, as well as provide capacity building and training to the police.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Ongoing security concerns remain the pre-eminent challenge to promoting the rule of law in northern Mali. Despite the re-opening of major tribunals and prisons, Mali's justice and rule of law sector continue to face critical challenges in regards to infrastructure and the training of personnel. Additionally, Mali suffers from systemic and underlying challenges such as corruption and limited financial and administrative capacities.

UNDP will continue to support justice sector reform through the development of a strategic and operational five-year plan in keeping with the mandates of the peace accords. Additionally, in 2015 UNDP and MINUSMA will implement the joint-partnership agreement with Malian law enforcement institutions.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Rehabilitation of seven prisons and seven courts in the country.*
- *Justice sector reform document to the Minister of Justice in early 2015. The document will undergo a consultation process and various UN agencies will provide expert personnel to develop projects in support of the government's desired reforms in 2015.*

# MYANMAR



economic growth, and securing an end to decades of conflict. The adoption of a new Constitution in 2008 and the launch of a series of far-reaching political, social, economic, and administrative reforms have heralded a new era for the country. Under the leadership of President Thein Sein progress has been made in many areas, including amnesties for political prisoners, relaxing media censorship, the establishment of anti-corruption laws and improving business licensing regulations to encourage economic development. These reforms, together with Myanmar's greater openness to engage with neighbouring countries and international community increased foreign support and investment, encouraging economic growth and offering a unique opportunity for the country. Strengthening the rule of law underpins many of these reforms.

The Government reiterated its commitment to rule of law as part of the larger goal of building a "modern, developed and democratic nation" as set forth in the 2003 Roadmap to Democracy. The President stated that "cultivation of [a] culture of rule of law is extremely important for future democratic growth of Myanmar." However, the formal justice sector is still viewed with mistrust by many, and the 'rule of law' is often viewed synonymously with 'law and order', leading many justice concerns to be addressed through non-formal and traditional mechanisms.

## BACKGROUND

Myanmar is at a historic stage in its transition. There are efforts to strengthen democracy and civilian rule, reducing poverty, promoting



UNDP supports access to justice at the local level in Myanmar. *Myanmar/UNDP*

Challenges to furthering the country's reform agenda have emerged. These include patterns of extremist nationalism, incidents of communal violence, and a deteriorating human rights situation. Heightened tensions and open conflict in several states- notably Kachin and Northern Shan- have affected the ongoing peace process negotiations between the government and ethnic armed groups.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar highlighted these issues in the *Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar* following a mission to Myanmar in July 2014, and urged the government to undertake measures to address these concerns. With elections planned for late 2015, the commitment to protection of justice will be crucial for peacebuilding and development in Myanmar.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2014, UNDP continued its support for the rule of law and access to justice components of the larger *Support to Democratic Governance in Myanmar Project*. Working with the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union (OSCU) and the Union Attorney General's Office (UAGO), the rule of law component addresses the root causes of instability, while providing a framework for resolving differences in a non-violent manner. UNDP's support places special focus on women and other vulnerable groups, which is particularly relevant as Myanmar is one of the most diverse countries in the world, with more than 130 different ethnic groups.

Recognizing that promoting the rule of law in Myanmar requires a multidimensional approach, UNDP has been closely supporting activities at both state and local levels. Support for the government aims to improve both institutional capacity and individual capacities of government officials, so that reforms can be planned and implemented in a strategic, efficient and coordinated manner. Notable results include UNDP supporting the development of OSCU's first strategic plan promoting public access and judicial independence; building the capacity of the institutional training departments in OSCU and UAGO on fair trial standards and legal ethics skills, training that was replicated by local law offices; workshops on improving "dialogue" skills of police working on the front line of justice delivery; and the providing of much needed ICT equipment to judicial and prosecutorial offices.

UNDP's support to promote access to justice for vulnerable groups at the community levels was conducted through cooperation with both government institutions and local community actors. In 2014, UNDP supported 14 university law departments to integrate clinical legal skills into their curriculum, which will provide students practical legal skills and strengthen justice service delivery in the long term. To improve legal awareness and enhance public confidence in

the justice system, UNDP developed a rule of law model training curriculum and ran two training courses for civil society, local lawyers and academics as part of a high profile 'rule of law centres pilot project.'

UNDP also supported the government and civil society representatives to attend international meetings on legal aid, which prepared the ground for legal aid policy reform. In addition, a study on HIV-related laws and regulation was published in 2014, which was followed by detailed consultations on legal framework reform with community representatives, health officials, justice institutions and other counterparts.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The evolving political situation, together with increasing incidents of communal violence and skirmishes with armed ethnic groups, create an environment inhospitable to reforms. In addition, the general elections scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2015 may impede the implementation of activities in the latter half of 2014, and may even impact future UNDP activities. However, rule of law is a concept supported by both government and opposition parties. Thus it is essential for UNDP to grow its relations with the government, opposition political parties, CSOs, community leaders and other stakeholders to consolidate project gains and continue to implement reforms after the election.

UNDP is firmly committed to supporting reforms in Myanmar. Activities supported by UNDP in 2015 will deepen capacity for coordinated justice sector planning, as well as enhance the knowledge base and availability of data on the justice sector. Continued training interventions will be complemented by more comprehensive approaches to curriculum development, especially in key areas of ethics and integrity. UNDP will also continue its activities and provide much needed support to the most vulnerable members of society, so that they can take full advantage of improvements to the justice sector.

### KEY RESULTS

- A pilot training module designed to educate the judiciary of fair trial standards was implemented in 150 districts and regional law offices in the Bago, Yangon and Mandalay.
- 14 university law departments integrated clinical legal skills into their curricula, providing students with the practical legal skills needed to strengthen justice service delivery in the long term.



# NEPAL



## BACKGROUND<sup>57</sup>

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006, Nepal made significant progress towards sustainable peace and democracy. The rule of law has an important role to play in supporting the peace process, from constitution making to strengthening government accountability and increasing equal access to justice. Land disputes and social and economic inequalities have been at the root of the conflict. Many victims of conflict still await justice because attempts to initiate transitional justice processes have been stalled and the criminal justice system is not addressing conflict-related crimes.

A major challenge following the peace agreement was drafting and promulgating a new constitution. After progress stalled in 2011, Constituent Assembly elections were finally held in Nepal on 19 November 2013 ending the political impasse. Under the new government, the constitution remains a political stumbling block, but there is hope an agreement will be reached by the self-imposed deadline in 2015. The constitution drafting process has negatively impacted the reform agenda, blocking or delaying the adoption of relevant legislation as well as the implementation of the sector-wide reforms.

In April 2014, the Nepali parliament enacted legislation to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and a Commission on Enforced Disappearances (CED). The TRC act included amnesty provisions in contradiction with international law and previous decision by the Supreme Court of Nepal and failed to consult with victims in the drafting process. Responding to a petition filed by 234 conflict victims in June 2014, the Supreme Court issued a verdict curtailing the discretionary powers of the TRC and CED to grant amnesties for gross human rights violations. Furthermore, the Court

ruled against a provision, which curtails powers of the court and prosecutor to investigate and prosecute the cases.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Recognizing the inequalities at the root of past conflict and the inaccessibility of the formal justice system to a large proportion of the population, the focus of UNDP's work in Nepal was to provide access to justice for conflict-affected populations. Among other activities, UNDP facilitated legislative drafting and consultations, which overhauled the criminal and civil legal codes. Based on a Ministry of Justice initiative to modernize court administration, model courts were established at the district level to provide greater efficiency and impartiality of case management. With the completion of the model court project, UNDP concentrated on institutional capacity development of the Judgment Executions Directorate to improve the rate of judgments. In 2014 the Directorate carried out approximately 1,100 judicial decisions, raising nearly 500,000 USD in fines.

In response to government's request to provide more robust and coordinated support for the sector-wide reform, UNDP held a series of consultations involving a range of national counterparts and international partners. These consultations resulted in the foundation of Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal (RoLHR) Programme, which strives to increase access to justice as a means of promoting peacebuilding. The RoLHR launched in 2014, and is forging new partnerships at local and national levels.

UNDP supported the Supreme Court in the formulation of its third five-year Strategic Plan for the Nepali Judiciary, 2014-2019. The plan, developed through national and sub-national consultations, seeks to outline procedures for quicker dispensation of justice, a streamlined and predictable judicial process, greater accessibility and enhanced public trust. To strengthen the Justice Sector Coordination Committee (JSCC), UNDP supported the establishment of JSCC headquarters' secretariat and local-level offices in 15 programme districts. Seven of these districts introduced the Continuous Hearing model for case management, which shortens the length of judicial proceedings and strengthens case support for serious crimes such as rape and human trafficking. As of December 2014, there were 1,924 cases heard using continuous hearing, of which 842 cases were disposed.

In regards to the ongoing constitution building and federalization process, UNDP supported Ministry of Law and Justice and Constitutional Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJCAPA) to develop two major position papers on the legislative process and constitutional provisions related to international treaties. As part of affirmative action programmes in the legal education, the RoLHR

<sup>57)</sup> Following the finalization of this text, Nepal experienced two earthquakes on April 25, 2015 and May 12, 2015. UNDP provided emergency relief and will continue to address the most pressing needs of Nepal as the recovery and rebuilding continue.

programme in collaboration with UN Women is supporting the implementation of 5-year BA, LLB course for 20 students who are female and/or dalits. The programme also implemented a legal internship for the first group of 15 lawyers.

Additionally, UNDP assisted MoJCAPA to initiate legal aid policy reform. The programme conducted a baseline survey of the recently established Socio-Legal Aid Centres in five districts to provide evidence-based support for policy development at the national level. The holistic support (legal aid, mediation, psycho-social counseling, and rehabilitation, medical expenses to the victims of domestic violence and referral services) from these centres contributed towards mitigating socially induced conflicts. In 2014, 2,038 beneficiaries received legal aid services from these Centers. UNDP partnered with MoJCAPA to conduct series of awareness programmes that targeted schools at the Village District Committee level. These programmes reached 2,215 high school students directly. Additionally, a street outreach programme and mobile legal aid clinic assisted 15,760 people, 50 percent of whom were from vulnerable groups and 4,903 were conflict victims.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Since the RoLHR programme began in Nepal, UNDP convened a diverse group of partners from all levels of government and civil society to address pressing issues in the long-term development of the justice and security sectors in Nepal. As a result, UNDP launched a strategic programme for 2013-2017 that takes a comprehensive sector-wide approach to rule of law. This long-term comprehensive programme will yield new opportunities to study the impact of rule of law programming across various government institutions. The ongoing conflict surrounding the drafting of a new constitution may negatively impact rule of law programming in 2015 as it prevents significant reform measures and engagement with the government on transitional justice initiatives.

### KEY RESULTS

- Following the end of the 2009-2013 Nepali Judiciary Strategic Plan, the Supreme Court developed Phase II.
- MoJCAPA is in the process of developing a national, one-stop legal aid system.



Group photo of Paralegal Committee in Masuriya, Dhangadi.  
UDNP/Nepal

# PAKISTAN



## BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Government of Pakistan undertook a military offensive in Swat Valley to push back against militant expansion. The region experienced destruction, death and the displacement of three million people. In 2014, the displacement continued to extreme levels. In August 2014, there were 714,548 registered internally displaced people (IDPs) in need of humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing security operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP). After a phased return programme was announced in 2015, some 140,000 displaced people returned between March-May 2015, after spending several years in host communities and camps.<sup>58</sup>

Years of intense extremist activities in the Malakand Division have taken their toll on service provision, local rule of law and governance institutions and the ability to deliver development assistance. However, the security situation in Swat and the rest of Malakand Division, whilst still abnormal, is showing signs of gradual improvement with police taking more responsibility for the security situation as the army gradually transfers its duties to the local administration. Police can be seen patrolling in the remotest district areas of Dir and Chitral. Despite this, there continued to be militant attacks on security forces and peace activists in some parts of the region culminating in the devastating massacre of more than 140 people including 132 children in an Army School in Peshawar on 16 Dec 2014.

In response to the ongoing challenges, the KP Government adopted an Integrated Development Strategy 2014-18 which includes a focus on "Rule of law and peacebuilding" recognizing the impact of the ongoing crisis on citizen's trust and insecurity and the need

to re-establish the prioritize the responsiveness in the justice and policing services.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The UNDP "Strengthening Rule of Law in Malakand Project" (SRLM), was designed to address gaps in the justice sector to enable effective and speedy provision of justice services.

In 2014, the Project supported efforts to ensure that provision of justice is accessible and cheap, fair and to enable communities' confidence in justice system is established. In doing so, SRLM engaged all relevant actors in KP, particularly in the Malakand Region, including the Judiciary, Police Department, Prosecution, existing alternative disputes resolution (ADR) mechanisms, bar associations, NGOs and all related institutions and local initiatives. Interventions related to judiciary, police, prosecution, alternate dispute resolution, access to justice and free legal aid are being undertaken in close collaboration with relevant agencies at district level under the guidance and strategic direction of Peshawar High Court; Provincial Government departments including Home and Tribal Affairs; Planning and Development, Local Government, Law, Police and Prosecution, as well as strong engagement with community based organizations.

The Project focused on local populations, particularly disadvantaged groups confronting problems in access to justice, provision of legal aid and formal and informal justice delivery and police services. As evidence of its commitment to strengthening the rule of law, the Provincial Government of KP, in which the Malakand Division is situated, entered a cost-sharing agreement with UNDP and contributed 25 percent (\$3.7 million) to the Programme's budget

The success of this programme has led to the signing of a flagship multi-year EU-UNDP partnership for a Rule of Law Programme in December 2014. This expands UNDP support in the areas of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the development of effective and accountable policing systems.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

There is a strong commitment from the KP province and the international community to deepen engagement in the rule of law field and this is evidenced by the government's own financial commitment. However, security challenges continue to hinder the operational delivery of the project. A close review of security conditions has to be taken before launching any field activity whilst at the same time the focus of the expanded programme is in ensuring the services are available in a wider geographical area. To address this, UNDP has opened a field office in Peshawar with

<sup>58</sup> See <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2015/05/displaced-people-in-pakistan-have-begun-returning-to-their-homes/#.VVJmpfVhBc>



greater operational support to enable these efforts. The Programme's engagement with local NGOs as implementing partners also mitigates as these partners extend the implementation reach and presence of UNDP.

In terms of programming the project recognized that cultural barriers in Malakand often did not allow female litigants to pursue their cases in courts through male legal practitioners. Realizing this need, the program has specifically focused on the development of female law practitioners with some success. Similarly, as the informal justice system is widely used in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so the development of ADR services and principles has been carefully thought through to capitalize on the positive aspects of these informal practices. It is recognized that there is a need for the development and notification of rules of business and the election of Village/Neighborhood Councils to enable the formation of Panel of Conciliators for ADR systems to be set up.

## KEY RESULTS

- During 2014, a total of 31,169 citizens including 47 percent of women benefitted from legal aid clinics and awareness sessions, and hence, a 32 percent increase in participation was recorded as compared to 2013. 555 needy and deserving litigants were provided free legal aid which includes 43 percent women litigants.
- 32 female lawyers have been facilitated through internships and six of them have started professional practice with a caseload of 104 which includes 80 percent cases of women.
- Two Bar rooms for women lawyers and three waiting areas for female litigants have also been constructed in courts.
- First ever Regional Training Centre for police was established in Swat. The facility, which houses training labs and a crime scene room, provides Malakand police with localized training services.
- Refurbishment and equipping seven District Public Prosecutor's Offices in Malakand division with law books, furniture, and IT equipment.
- 36 police stations improved through provision of IT and furniture support.



Paralegal Training in Pakistan.  
UNDP/Pakistan

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA



## BACKGROUND

Papua New Guinea is an extremely diverse country with more than 2,000 ethnic groups, 800 languages, rugged terrain and little infrastructure, especially outside the capital Port Moresby.

The availability and illicit use of small arms and light weapons are undermining fragile human security and safety. Small arms have exacerbated tribal conflicts, SGBV and increased armed violence in urban centres. Following a 10-year civil conflict in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville small arms are posing a threat to peace, security and stability.

With UNDP's support the country's first-ever National Security Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2014-2020) was endorsed in December 2013 by the Government of PNG (GoPNG). Building on this momentum, the GoPNG made a large allocation to 'Law & Justice' focusing on improving the police force, however, a comprehensive government approach to addressing complex human security threats is still lacking.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2014, UNDP's support built on the important achievements of the National Security Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2014-2020 developed in 2013, focusing on awareness raising activities and targeting relevant officials. UNDP's advocacy further consolidated the dialogue between GoPNG and Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), which resulted in the Prime Minister visiting Bougainville for the first time since the end of the conflict in 2001. On this visit he secured 230 million USD in financial support for 2012-

2016 from the national Government for high-impact infrastructure projects in Bougainville.

UNDP supported efforts to develop policies and evidence based information to promote gender equality and address violence against women. A gender-based violence study, which was concluded and signed by ABG in 2014 and has since been referred to as a key reference document for policy discussions and community-led interventions for GBV prevention. This year also saw the conclusion and endorsement of the Bougainville Gender Policy and an Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which is being widely applauded for its contribution in mainstreaming gender issues in the Bougainville Peace and Security Strategy.

UNDP also supported the establishment of the Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF), which led to the first well-structured organization to coordinate projects and interventions relating to women's participation and empowerment through advocacy and awareness on policy and direct community projects. The ABG welcomed the establishment of the BWF and have started including their representatives in key activities. Additionally, the president of the BWF was appointed as a member of the ABG Senior Appointments Committee.

In south Bougainville where communities are still recovering from localized conflicts, UNDP, in coordination with local governments, continued to support the five-district peace and security committees (inclusive of chiefs, women and youth representatives, and former combatants). These committees in partnership with local police hosted arms collections and undertaken the destruction of illegal alcohol productions. These collaborative efforts increased community security and the protection of human rights.

## KEY RESULTS

- *The Peacebuilding Priority Plan designed to support the implementation of the Bougainville was successfully negotiated.*
- *The Bougainville Policy on Women's Empowerment, Gender Equality and Peace & Security and the Gender-Based Violence Study and a Women, Peace and Security Action Plan were enacted.*
- *The Bougainville Women's Federation was established and is the first organization to advocate for women's rights from policy level to direct community engagement.*

To further address gaps in peacebuilding and community security, UNDP facilitated the submission of the Government's Eligibility Request for the PBF which focuses on three strategic areas: building trust between both the governments of PNG and Bougainville; increasing awareness of the upcoming referendum and addressing gender-based violence prevention through trauma healing; and increased community security and stronger governance practice. Further, UNDP facilitated the establishment of a Steering and Technical Committee and in-depth supported Peace and Development Analysis (PDA) that, along with the 2012 Bougainville-wide weapons assessment, to guide the formulation of a Peacebuilding Priority Plan in 2014.

### CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The continued focus in 2014 on national security policy and community security in Bougainville, built strong foundations for further support to community security and armed violence reduction in the coming years. At the national level, further guidance and support will be provided to start the implementation of the National Security Policy, including the prioritization of the 2014-2020 Strategic Action Plan, and its integration into the government yearly budget allocations.

Bougainville was identified as a pilot location for conflict-sensitive development planning, budgeting and implementation. UNDP will continue to provide both technical and logistical support in this regard in 2015, which so far has enhanced GoPNG's confidence to commit further development grants under the peace agreement to the autonomous region in the run up to its independence referendum. UNDP support will continue to focus on up-scaling peace and security interventions, as well as rebuilding and strengthening the governance structures to provide political space for community security through inclusive decision-making processes. This will also help to create space for socio-economic recovery for the most marginalized and excluded population groups (in particular former combatants, women and youth).

Lastly, the national-provincial-district connection in the area of peace and security needs to be extended beyond Bougainville, currently the only area where UNDP has sub-national project offices. The National Security Policy, lessons from Bougainville, from UNDP's Peace and Development small grants programme and the established network of peacebuilders, as well as a stronger partnership with the Law and Justice Sector will be the basis for identifying feasible options for addressing community security at a larger scale, including cross-border collaboration with the Solomon Islands.



Peacebuilding Workshop with community members in Papua New Guinea.  
*United Nations Peacebuilding Fund*



# SIERRA LEONE



## BACKGROUND

Prior to the Ebola outbreak, Sierra Leone had made substantial progress in recovering from the impacts of its decade-long civil war. The security and political situation in the country was relatively calm and stable. National institutions in the areas of democratic governance, elections, human rights, anti-corruption, and security

sector coordination have been re-established or strengthened. Rising levels of investment were driving economic growth, and attention was turned to addressing large-scale development challenges. The passage of the Right to Access Information Act in 2013 was a major step to ensuring greater transparency, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Following the outbreak of the Ebola in early September 2014, a state of emergency was declared. Ebola infected 8,383 people, killing 3,199. New preventive measures including district wide quarantines, embargoes on markets and trading, closure of some recreational facilities, roadblocks, checkpoints and reduced operating hours for shops, commercial enterprises and public transport were introduced. As a result, Ebola has seriously undermined the development of Sierra Leone, which had been attempting to move from post-conflict society into sustainable recovery. The most vulnerable people are those in densely populated communities, rural areas, those living with disabilities, women who are Primary caregivers, prisoners, street children, children of Ebola patients and orphans and stigmatized Ebola survivors.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Due to the spread of the Ebola virus UNDP reprogrammed much of its existing funding under the Rule of Law and Security portfolio to



UNDP supported the response to Ebola in Sierra Leone including through community security and communication tools.  
Sierra Leone/UNDP

help improve the overall security and protection of the population during the State of Emergency. UNDP assisted the police and army in maintaining human rights and dignity in Ebola quarantines and checkpoints. In the over crowded corrections system, UNDP and partners worked to review cases identifying those eligible for parole of acquittal.

Furthermore, UNDP provided observation facilities for new inmates to ensure Ebola did not penetrate the over-crowded facilities. A gender segregated observation unit was constructed at the former Special Court Detention Centre. The Centre has a capacity to hold approximately 100 persons for a period of 21 days who are observed in eight separate batches minimizing the prospect of contagion. Freetown Prison was also provided with Prevention kits including hygiene materials, personal protection equipment and thermometers whilst the Prison Infirmary was provided with essential equipment to more effectively provide treatment to sick prisoners.

The Security Sector assumed a prominent role in leading the response to the Ebola outbreak. With the declaration of the state of Emergency, the military deployed across the country with over 4,000 members of the security forces overseeing quarantines, burials, checkpoints, guarding essential infrastructure and border management duties. With UNDP support the Police and Office of National Security established 24-hour incident rooms as well as essential communications and transport equipment allowing for daily countrywide information sharing on Ebola. UNDP also supported the government to develop Standard Operating Procedures on quarantines, checkpoints and burials.

UNDP in partnership with ASJP supported the establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Board (IPCB), the first dedicated external Police oversight institution in Sierra Leone that monitors complaints and liaises with national actors. The board will be operational in April 2015. With UNDP technical support, the SLP developed and approved the first Promotions and Recruitment policies that mandated 30 percent of the force should be women. Complementing our work with the IPCC, UNDP also supported the first nationwide training programme for the Police Internal Affairs for over 6 years as well as nationwide inspections of Police Stations to better ensure compliance with SLP Policies and procedures.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The impact of Ebola on society and rule of law was immense. UNDP sponsored studies undertaken during the crisis also illustrates a rise in the number of cases of gender based violence during the crisis and a decrease in access to justice for women. Restoring the provision of justice services across the country is thus a priority. Given the erosion of trust particularly at the local level, good

practices will be identified to reach out to local communities to restore trust in essential justice services. Future initiatives will focus on increasing accountability at the local level, increasing checks and balances between justice services and the communities and implementing practical measures to reduce bottlenecks. There will be particular emphasis on women and children who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis. Family Support Units and Saturday Courts (in concert with access to justice services) will be restored.

Immediately, UNDP will focus on reactivating mobile courts accompanied by Legal Aid provision particularly in those parts of the country where the Courts have not been present for many months. Local accountability measures will serve to increase community confidence as well as introducing local solutions to reduce backlogs and empower local members of the Police, Judiciary, Prisons and communities. Finally, in order to reduce backlogs and decongest the Prisons, UNDP will focus on non-custodial sentencing alternatives. UNDP has been working with the Prison Authorities on development of a case database in collaboration with the Courts, DPP's Office and Police for improved case management.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Judicial and security sectors were strengthened and protected in the wake of the Ebola crisis. Specific measures include: safe burials to 2,000 security providers, provision of Ebola prevention kits to all 17 detention centres in the country, restoration and repair of 40 security vehicles monitor of checkpoints and quarantines areas, and the airing of 91 one-hour radio programmes on Ebola broadcasted every evening for three months.*
- *Police Promotions and Recruitment Policies now require that women make up a 30% of all recruits and promotions (currently there are 19 women).*
- *In support with CSO partners, a total of 1,133 clients reporting SGBV cases were with legal assistance and referrals to service provider.*
- *SGBV Saturday Courts were opened in Makeni and Puhejun and case processing times were significantly reduced .*
- *Case management system established at Freetown Central Prison to improve efficiency and tackle overcrowding.*
- *443 cases identified by legal aid partners for litigation and 154 inmates were granted bail.*



# SOMALIA



of displaced persons, high rates of poverty and low literacy rates. Somalia's economy is mostly agricultural however, in recent years Mogadishu experienced some economic gains. The country relies heavily on remittances which are transferred through an informal banking system as Somalia does not have a national bank.

The Somali Compact, signed on 16 September 2013 at the New Deal Conference in Brussels, is seen as a roadmap for promoting statebuilding and peacebuilding. This framework provides a strategic plan towards stability and peace across Somalia. Further to the New Deal's goals, the Vision 2016 outlines Somalia's commitment to a new constitution and elections by 2016. This means that the Vision 2016 will guide Somalia to reach its post-transition benchmarks, such as the constitutional review and referendum, and first post-transition national elections scheduled for 2016. In 2014, the reshuffling of the Federal Cabinet coupled with Al-Shabab terrorist attacks in Mogadishu continued to produce an environment of instability and insecurity for Somalia.

## BACKGROUND

Although Somalia in recent years has stabilized, its development indicators are still some of the worst in the world. One in seven children die before their first birthday; one in eighteen women die in childbirth; and only one in three people have access to safe drinking water. Decades of conflict meant hundreds of thousands

Despite these challenges the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJC) was able to undertake many important justice sector reforms. They formulated the Somalia Justice Sector Strategic Action Plan and operationalized the National Strategic Plan for Justice Reform. In keeping with the Compact Partnership Principles, UNDP, UNSOM and the UN Country Team, collaborated with the Somali Government to develop the Somalia Joint Rule of Law 'flagship programme'.



Community members celebrate the opening of the Model Police Station in Hargeisa, Somalia.

*Rooble Mohamed/UNDP/Somalia*



## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The establishment and substantial achievements of the PLDU and JISU were noteworthy as Somali Diaspora were a key factor for success. In addition the systems and practices being established in the PLDU provided a solid foundation for sustainability of this area of support. Important rehabilitation projects commenced, including a focus on security enhancements to the Benadir Regional Court Complex and surrounding precinct.

The UNDP Civilian Policing Project (CPP) guided the Somali Police Force (SPF) and the new Ministry of National Security (MNS) to form Strategic Plan Implementation Teams (SPT). The strategic plan involves developments in hiring, training and deployment into the newly recovered areas outside of Mogadishu. Stipend registration for the SPF is nearly completed with 100 percent Benadir officers and 93 percent of all SPF registered.

In Puntland the manual Case Management System was expanded to the Gardo Courts. In March 2014, 45 project-sponsored law students graduated including two judges, nine police officers, five Puntland Custodial Corps staff, ten members of parliament and two ministers including the current Ministers of Justice, 13 of the graduates were female. 32 graduates have secured jobs with the justice sector in Puntland. In addition, the UNDP supported the High Judicial Council to hire five apprentice judges for 18 months of training and eventual absorption thereby steadily contributing to the professionalization of the Judiciary in Puntland. UNDP and UNSOM provided a handbook to equip the Police station commanders with the requisite skills and knowledge to professionally execute their duties. UNDP continued to support building the capacity of the Puntland Police force through training and mentoring. This included support to the development of a training curriculum and the training of new recruits to carry out courses for all new members. UNDP launched a police scholarship programme at Puntland State University which currently has 25 police officers, including six women, studying criminal science.

UNDP provided technical and financial support in Somaliland to enable the implementation of the Justice Sector and Judiciary Reform Work Plan by the Ministry of Justice. The Project supported the building of a new Ministry of Justice Regional Office in Togdheer and two Sexual Assault referral centres were established in regional Hospitals outside Hargeisa. This increased the number of SGBV cases prosecuted and convicted. Finally, 24 lawyers, including seven women, graduated from the one-year judicial internship programme and were then appointed by the High Judicial Council as judges and registrars.

In Somaliland, Police Force developed a five-year strategic plan with a detailed two-year action plan. 30 Police Officers started their studies at the University on criminal science related subjects, and several enrolled in a full degree of law programme. The Somaliland

Police Force improved community relations, particularly with vulnerable persons, by building a civilian friendly MPS station. The Somaliland Police Force became proficient in combatting gender-based violence; commanders are now sensitized and trained in police station management.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Currently legal aid services are delivered by non-governmental organizations, with funding support through UNDP from international partners, and it is key to transition ownership to the Somali state. Under the new programme there will be a significantly enhanced monitoring framework to be implemented in accordance with the Compact strategic objectives. The greater impact of a joint approach between UNDP and UNSOM to project implementation under the GFP clearly demonstrated in 2014 and was timely with the integration of the political and development dimensions of the UN support in Somalia. The new programme aims to further build on such strength through partnership with the UN Country Team. Another key challenge for 2015 will be extending Rule of Law support beyond urban areas, namely into the newly recovered regions in South Central.

### KEY RESULTS

- *In Somaliland and Puntland the courts adjudicated 14,214 cases and justice was further extended to the regions through mobile courts which adjudicated 1,745 cases (1,001 criminal and 744 civil).*
- *People receiving legal aid: Somaliland: 8,927 (F: 3,386, M: 5,541); Puntland: 2996 (F: 1,951, M: 1,045); Federal: (F: 1,192, M: 1,835). Legal awareness campaigns undertaken by government through mobile courts reached 5,882 (F: 3,040; M: 2,842) people. Furthermore, 15,218 (F: 10,564, M: 4,654) people were reached through legal awareness campaigns undertaken by non-government organizations.*
- *In Somaliland for the first time the High Judicial Council enforced the Judicial Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Rules and 12 judges were dismissed on account of judicial misconduct including corruption, undue absenteeism and failure to attend mandatory judicial training.*
- *A Gender Responsive Action Plan was implemented in Somaliland providing training to Women Desk Officers including 30 investigators who were trained on SGBV cases and 32 station managers sensitized in their role in investigation and supervision of SGBV cases.*

# SOUTH SUDAN



conflict within the ruling SPLM party that spiralled into armed conflict along ethnic lines spreading to Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. Deep ethnic cleavages became apparent, resulting in longstanding inter-communal conflicts escalating around land and water. Widespread destruction of property with 10,000 killed, 2 million displaced and 1.5 million people experiencing severe food insecurity have destabilized the country.

The rule of law had major setbacks and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported human rights violations being carried out by some police and prison officers as well as a large scale desertion from the security sector, and the proliferation of arms, which significantly eroded trust in civilian law and order. The mandate of the UNMISS was altered to reduce the support to capacity building and to emphasise protection.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

### BACKGROUND

The situation in South Sudan in 2014 deteriorated significantly due to the political violence which erupted in December 2013. International Crisis Group described the context as an intra-party

In spite of these severe challenges, UNDP has been instrumental in increasing access to justice, particularly for women, through extension of law and order services and facilitating confidence building in policing by providing rapid protection and emergency response service to a minimum 300,000 persons in Juba County.



Women police in South Sudan. *Brian Sokol/UNDP/South Sudan*

An Emergency Call Centre (ECC) was jointly established with UNDP technical and financial support, the Ministries of Interior and Telecommunications and GIZ in a Public Private Partnership with telecom service providers.

UNDP also organized training programmes for ECC responders and provided of equipment for the ECC. From its start in July 2014 till December 2014, the ECC responded 6,083 calls including 171 SGBV prioritizing Responsibility to Protect. UNDP's Law Enforcement Advisors conducted training 193 police personnel (77 female) working in eight Special Protection Units (SPUs) in five states. The SPUs addressed 1,389 cases including 1,137 SGBV cases and 252 cases with juveniles. Further, 101 missing children were reunited with their families with SPU intervention. On accountability, UNDP initiated consultation on transitional justice, with high-level participation from justice sector institutions and a national perception survey on the scope of transitional justice is ongoing.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

UNDP's Access to Justice Project reduced its state level presence from ten to five states due to insecurity. While UNDP's Conflict Sensitivity and Human Rights Due Diligence Analyses informed the decision to increasingly use CSOs as implementing partners, Justice and Confidence Centres could only be established in 3 out of 7 targeted states due to weak institutional capacity of CSOs. Insecurity precluded access to some project sites in conflict-prone counties, leaving 9 of 10 County Support Base (CSB) portals in the Greater Upper Nile region inaccessible. In addition, some completed CSBs were damaged and looted during the conflict. The CSBs, once completed, are intended to act as a hub for co-location by development actors UN agencies, funds and programmes to operate in remote and isolated rural areas.

As a result of the December 2013 crisis, the UNMISS mandate was changed in 2014 to put on hold any "operational and capacity-building support to either party that may enhance their capacity to engage in conflict, commit human rights violations and abuse and undermine the Addis Ababa negotiations process."<sup>59</sup> Due to the way UNMISS interpreted the mandate, all Rule of Law components were excluded from the Mission's activities. These changes negatively affected the implementation of joint activities such as Prisons Case Management Systems as well as support to the pilot Emergence Call Center (ECC), Special Protection Units (SPUs), and Community Policing although there is still some collaboration with the UNMISS Police that fall under Protection of Civilians mandate.

Following the withdrawal of UNMISS in areas of RoL, UNDP, through its Access to Justice and Rule of Law Project, attempted to narrow the implementation gaps. UNDP's field level presence and decision to continue its operations in stable states despite political and security

challenges, enabled the institution to acquire first-hand on the ground experience and become source of information and referral point for other development partners considering re-engagement in rule of law sector. Creating partnerships and increasing the capacity of CSOs to implement access to justice activities reduce the risks of collaborating with government rule of law institutions, with compromised capacity and credibility. Conflict sensitivity analysis informed that the implementation of planned activities through community based organizations can ensure sustainability of interventions even in times of limited or no access to certain areas of the country. However, the limited capacity of CSOs requires the project to support institutional capacity development to improve the quality of services provided.

### KEY RESULTS

- 40 (37 male and 3 female) senior judges received 5 weeks of training on international human rights; 30 senior prosecutors received 3 weeks of training on international human rights, and 40 judges and 30 public prosecutors were trained in international criminal justice;
- Community access to the police was significantly enhanced with the establishment of an Emergency Call Centre (ECC) in Juba serving approximately 372,413 people<sup>60</sup>.
- Eight Special Protection Units (SPUs) in five states (CES, WES, EES, WGS and NGS) to provide professional services to GBV survivors and other vulnerable groups.
- Capacity development of SSNPS through training of:
  - 193 SSNPS personnel and social workers (116 male, 77 female) to deal with SGBV and improve the service delivery of Special Protection Units;
  - 648 (639 male, 9 female) SSNPS personnel in responding to emergency calls and facilitate the operationalization of the Emergency Call Center (ECC);
  - 207 SSNPS personnel and community members on Community policing
- 3 Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) established in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Lakes states to provide information on SGBV and human rights. A total number of 142 (50 female) people were reached.

<sup>59</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan 6 March 2014, para 69

<sup>60</sup> 5th Sudan Population and Housing Census 2008



# SRI LANKA



## BACKGROUND

2014 marked the fifth year since the end of the conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. This led to rapid economic development in Sri Lanka with increased foreign investment and expansion of the manufacturing sector. Five years passed since the end of the conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. This period of peace has also seen Sri Lanka continue to increase its Human Development Index score<sup>61</sup> and continue initiatives in meetings many of the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>62</sup>

However, tensions remain between Sinhala and Tamil, with alleged human rights violations occurring during the civil war remaining unaddressed. Recent years saw increased surveillance in minority areas and an increase in violence against religious minorities both Muslims and Christians. In 2014, domestic courts continued to face challenges to enforcing the rule of law. Judicial independence was undermined following the passing of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment in 2010 and the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 2013. In addition, case management, procedural due process and a shortage of qualified translators and legal material in Tamil were some of the issues preventing the courts from effectively functioning. OHCHR undertook an investigation last year into alleged human rights violations and related crimes in Sri Lanka between February 21, 2002 and June 19, 2009.

The Presidential election was held on 8 January 2015 with the opposition candidate, Maithripala Sirisena winning. The 100 Day Programme promises to implement economic, health, education, constitutional and political reforms, including decreasing the power of the executive. The 100-day programme of governance reforms

culminated with the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment to reduce the powers of the presidency. The President's exercise of power is now subject to the fundamental rights jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Re-empowered independent commissions will oversee key state services and the Constitutional Council will regulate presidential appointments. The new government has also established a new Presidential Task Force for Reconciliation. The new government has restored a sense of political freedom and is repairing Sri Lanka's damaged reputation.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

2014 was the first full year of implementation of the collaborative programme between the Government and UNDP, "Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration Programme 2013-2017" (SELAJSI). SELAJSI builds previous engagement and contributes to addressing the recommendations made in the National Action Plan on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the National Policy Framework on Social Integration. Accordingly, in 2014 the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prisons Reforms and the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs implemented SELAJSI.

The SELAJSI Programme simultaneously promotes a bottom-up and top-down approach by supporting the Government and civil society actors to implement activities to enhance the penal chain, improve access to justice, strengthen capacities to address sexual and gender based violence, and increase policies that promote social integration and reconciliation.



UNDP supports mobile legal clinics in Sri Lanka.  
UNDP/Sri Lanka

<sup>61)</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Index Report 2014.

<sup>62)</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Millennium Development Goals Country Report 2014 – Sri Lanka.

SELAJSI Programme activities in the first half of 2014 focused on consultations with the Government to establish baselines, plan future activities, and develop the annual work plan. Implementation of SELAJSI activities began in the second quarter of 2014 and expanded as the year progressed. Notable achievements include the translation and consolidation of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, training of prison officers on legal aid support for prisoners, establishment of the National Steering Committee on Justice and thematic sub-committees, provision of legal documentation and legal aid support, workshops to train court staff, and a mapping of the referral system for women and children victims of SGBV.

Given the new political context, and the government indication of interest in working with the UN and especially UNDP as a partner of choice in supporting the new government on its reform agenda, it is possible that SELAJSI may be revisited to better reflect the current priorities, in particular support to independent commissions and bodies dealing with human rights and judicial services.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

2014 was a new beginning for Rule of Law activities in Sri Lanka, with both challenges and achievements. The listing of Sri Lanka as a 'middle-income' country and the fallout resulting from the UN Human Rights Council Resolution made it difficult for the government and UNDP to mobilize support and resources. However, UNDP, together with the Government partners, capitalized on strong stakeholder relations to begin the planning and implementing of activities.

Although, SELAJSI may still face initial uncertainty and delay due to the establishment of the new government and its ensuing political reforms, Sri Lanka's increased engagement with the international community will hopefully result in greater cooperation and improved access to all regions and minority groups throughout the country. Events that may impact the Programme in 2015 include the Investigation Report on Sri Lanka due in September, national elections and constitutional reforms. UNDP must remain abreast of new developments and flexible to adapt in a timely manner and remain relevant and effective in this dynamic environment

## KEY RESULTS

- *Translation and consolidation of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, leading to increased transparency and availability of key pieces of legislation by making the law accessible in Sinhala, Tamil and English.*
- *Identification of thematic sub-committees under the National Steering Committee of Justice (Sentencing and Case-flow Management, including electronic case tracking.)*
- *Legal access promoted through the trainings of 40 magistrates and provision of 10 legal aid clinics for prisoners. This resulted in lawyers taking on 50 cases on behalf of the detainees.*
- *Training workshop aimed at improving case management held for 50 court staff.*
- *Mobile clinics introduced in five Districts, addressed immediate legal documentation (i.e. birth, death and marriage certificates, National Identity Cards, support for registration of new lands) and legal support needs of 4,900 beneficiaries.*

# STATE OF PALESTINE



Gaza between Israel and Hamas, which claimed the lives of 2,131 Palestinians (of which 1,473 civilians of whom 501 were children and 257 were women) and 71 Israelis (of which 66 were soldiers and 4 were civilians).<sup>63</sup> Also contributing to the fragile situation was the collapse of the US mediated peace negotiations. Of positive note was the establishment of the National Consensus Government (NCG), comprised of expert technocrat ministers, the NCG's accession to core human rights treaties and Palestine's application to join the ICC. These events presented new challenges and opportunities, and required UNDP to respond carefully and strategically.

In April 2014, UNDP's *Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme* (2010-2014) successfully concluded an independent evaluation of the programme credited it with contributing to positive change in the legal landscape of the State of Palestine. The *UNDP/EUPOL COPPS Joint Programme* (2012-2014) also concluded its work in April, and made important contributions in strengthening internal police accountability through national anticorruption efforts and civilian oversight. Building on the achievements of these programmes, UNDP and UN Women launched a new Joint Programme in May 2014 titled, *Strengthening the rule of Law in the oPt: Justice and Security for the Palestinian People* (2014-2017) with a budget of USD 30.5 million. The Programme aims to enhance the capacities and responsiveness of justice institutions and to strengthen access to justice, especially

## BACKGROUND

In 2014, the State of Palestine experienced many challenges and developments, which greatly affected the state's ability to deliver justice and maintain peace. Most notably the conflict in



A volunteer lawyer (standing) at Union of Women Program Centers (UWPC) in Nusiery, Gaza, providing legal awareness training to rural women. Ibrahim Abu-Shammalah/UNDP/Palestine

<sup>63</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_sitrep\\_04\\_09\\_2014.pdf](https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitrep_04_09_2014.pdf)



for women and girls. This project targets the specific regions of Gaza, 'Area C' and East Jerusalem.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Although 2014 has been a year of programmatic transition, UNDP achieved many important results. By end of 2014, UNDP had mobilized 17 million USD for emergency support to Gaza to address the pressing legal needs that resulted from the war. Cases pertaining to property disputes and family law issues were especially urgent in the months following the end of the conflict. Given the political vacuum and the inability of the NCG to effectively govern in Gaza, the support given by UNDP was especially vital for restoring order and stability to the State of Palestine.

The Programme supported national reconciliation efforts by initiating inclusive processes to assess technical options for reintegrating justice institutions and legal harmonization between the West Bank and Gaza. This assistance is particularly important given the travel restrictions imposed by Israel, which severely limit the interaction between Gaza and the West Bank. Additionally, UNDP helped to negotiate partnerships between 45 Civil Society Organizations and seven universities operating in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in order to increase access to justice services. More than 12,200 individuals (55 percent of whom were women) benefitted directly from legal representation and counselling provided by civil society partners, and thousands were indirectly aided by the campaign to raise legal awareness.

Through increasing support to lawyers partnered with the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNDP increased its legal aid assistance to juveniles and their families and provided legal representation to approximately one third of all juvenile justice cases that fell under

Palestinian jurisdiction in the West Bank. National ownership of the Programme was consolidated through official endorsement by all 13 institutional partners and the development of joint work plans. UNDP aided in the drafting of the National Justice Sector Strategy (2014-2016) and the Family Protection Law and provided input on the drafting of thematic papers and analysis, including those targeted for constitutional amendments. In collaboration with Birzeit University, 22 senior officers of the PCP were trained in administrative services and 46 justice sector professionals graduated from legal skills diploma programmes.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The constraints imposed by the ongoing conflict constitute the greatest impediment to rule of law reform in the State of Palestine. This in turn hinders efforts to achieve national reconciliation, human security, and sustainable institutional and economic development. Meanwhile, regional stability continues to deteriorate, redirecting international attention from the Israeli/Palestine conflict and exacerbating Palestinian insecurity. The highly charged and politicized donor environment continues to present challenges for development partners in the State of Palestine. UNDP persists in its efforts to overcome this challenge and has learned to draw on the need to leverage political capital to navigate moments of political impasse.

At the programmatic level, drawing on the UNDP and UN Women comparative advantage, the Programme implementation will accelerate in 2015. Priorities include: support to the NCG to fully integrate in Gaza; focusing on the justice sector reintegration and legal harmonisation; the establishment of gender responsive specialized services and referral pathways; strengthening the capacity of planning units in partner institutions; institutionalization of legal aid services; and mainstreaming anti-corruption efforts in public sector institutions.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Finalization of the National Justice Sector Strategy (2014-2016) and of the National Security Sector Strategy (2014-2016).*
- *More than 12,200 individuals (55 percd of whom were women) received legal aid.*
- *The government developed and published a Code of Conduct for the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP).*
- *Six laws and bylaws were reviewed by the Gender Legislative Committee and four by the Juvenile Justice Committee.*

# SUDAN



South Sudan led to large numbers of refugees crossing the border. This significantly impacted the development of Sudan and placed added pressure on the Government, civil society, and individuals to ensure the protection of vulnerable communities. Unbalanced resource allocations and inter-communal competition over scarce natural resources (land and water) are commonplace, which further impede stability and rule of law.

To add to the complexity of Sudan, the diversity of development needs across each region in Sudan remains a challenge for designing and implementing projects. In Darfur the nature of the conflict continues to be characterized by clashes between the Government forces and armed movements, as well as inter-communal conflicts and lawlessness, aggravated by increased criminal activities of militia groups and uncontrolled armed elements. The population continues to suffer the effects of political and economic marginalization and a near-absence of rule of law. Around 2.4 million internally displaced persons reside in camps where there are almost no rule of law structures. Gaps remain in linking subnational efforts to those of national stakeholders to ensure sustainability. The implementation of critical priorities under the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) 2011 has also begun through establishment of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) in 2012 which produced the *Darfur Recovery, Reconstruction, and Development Strategy* (DRRDS).

## BACKGROUND

Sudan has been confronted with the challenges of humanitarian crises and poverty; it is ranked 166th out of 187 countries in the Human Development Report, 2014. In addition, the conflict in



Anti-Corruption Campaign. Sudan/UNDP

Overall, confidence in rule of law institutions has not improved in the past two years. Perception data shows a regression from its 2010 baseline of 46 percent to 39.1 percent in 2013. The reasons for this include conflict in Darfur and South Kordofan as well as insufficient operational budgets available to justice institutions. At the same time, the average number of justice institutions available per 100,000 residents is now averaging at 5.76 as compared to 4.32 in 2013 but barriers to access including costs, travel, and an understanding of system procedures remain.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP supported the newly established National Human Rights Commission to produce and launch its first strategic plan in March 2014. In line with a training curriculum designed with the assistance of UNDP in November 2014, the Commission received training on core human rights and how to report on human rights violations. Additionally, the National Committee for Counter-Trafficking was established in order to develop a strategy to counter human trafficking through legal reform.

UNDP supported prison reforms across Sudan including the consolidation of legal aid networks for women in prison, improved living quarters and cooking facilities, and reintegration activities. For example, sewing machines were donated to the prison as part of a capacity building initiative.

In partnership with civil society, universities, government institutions, UNDP engaged in public campaigns at both the national and regional levels, celebrating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Violence Campaign. A range of techniques were used to engage communities, civil society, etc. in the campaign, including, drama, role-play, music, handcrafts.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

Access to justice in Darfur remains severely limited. Accountability for conflict-related crimes also remains a huge challenge exemplified by the severe delays in setting up the Special Court for Darfur. Progress, however, has been made with support to the prison sector and the design and approval of a five-year strategic prison plan for Darfur, which involves extensive collaboration with UNDP. The National Human Rights Commission is still a young a fairly weak institution that needs continued support for its institutional and technical capacity building.

In 2015, a project co-funded by Japan will focus on increasing the capacity and transparency of the police complaints committee. Voluntary contributions have been limited in Sudan, which has led to a smaller UNDP Rule of Law portfolio despite the need remaining the same. In Darfur the situation is further complicated by a drawdown in UNAMID Rule of Law unit with a possible withdrawal of UNAMID from Darfur. This will put serious strain on the UNCT to deliver on Rule of Law, which includes Justice, Corrections and Police. To mitigate the risks and to prevent a vacuum, the GFP supports actors on the ground to put in place a longer-term programme that will facilitate a sensible transition.

### KEY RESULTS

- *The Human Rights Commission developed and launched a strategic plan.*
- *Human Rights Commission developed a 3-year training curriculum and training manual and delivered training on core human rights and on reporting skills.*
- *In support of cross-national knowledge sharing a study tour was organized for the Sudanese Human Rights Commission to visit the Jordan National Centre for Human Rights and facilitate knowledge sharing.*
- *Legal aid networks reached 15,000 women in prison providing psychological, medical and reintegration services.*



# TIMOR-LESTE



## BACKGROUND

Following a long struggle for autonomy and self-determination against Indonesian military occupation, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste gained independence in May 2002. At least 100,000 Timorese died as a result of the conflict and over 50 percent of the population was forced to flee their homes. Furthermore, it is estimated that 75 percent of the infrastructure was destroyed.

Since 2002, the government and the people of Timor-Leste have made great strides in rebuilding the country and creating an enabling environment for development. Government spending on development projects has increased significantly as Timor-Leste aims to develop an economy that can thrive independent from oil revenues. The Petroleum Fund, established in 2005, to preserve the country's oil wealth for future generations, reached 16.6 billion USD in June 2014.<sup>64</sup> Despite these efforts, high unemployment and poverty rates remain a challenge as well as the largely unskilled workforce. Additionally, much of the country suffers from food insecurity resulting in malnutrition and poor health among the population. Yet, Timor-Leste has made significant progress in improving security and stability and in consolidating the rule of law.

The court system in Timor-Leste consists of four district courts and a court of appeal in the capital Dili. For many years, the Timorese justice system largely depended upon international judges and prosecutors. Although the process of 'Timorisation' of the justice sector had gained considerable traction in recent years, the decision of the Timorese government to summarily dismiss eight international judges and prosecutors in October 2014 was met with scathing criticism from the international community, including from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges

and Lawyers, Ms Gabriela Knaul. Beyond the immediate impact of this sudden move on the functioning of the justice system, the decision also undermined investor confidence and undercut the government's bid to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Aimed at ensuring effective justice service delivery, UNDP support has been geared towards sustainably enhancing the capacities of various justice sector institutions, including the National Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor-General, the Court of Appeal, and the Public Defender's Office. In line with the stated aim of extending state authority and bringing justice closer to the people, the programme rolled out a 'mobile court' initiative, allowing judges, prosecutors and public defenders to regularly travel to outlying districts to resolve cases and raise awareness about the formal justice system.

With a view to completing the process of 'Timorisation' by the end of 2018, the programme provided critical support to the Legal Training Centre. As a result, the number of Timorese judges, prosecutors, public defenders and private lawyers steadily increased in recent years, allowing for the gradual phasing-out of international experts and advisers. There are well over 160 Timorese legal professionals and their numbers are likely to increase in the near future.

While effective and accountable justice sector institutions are essential for sustainable protection and development, change will be more swift and more resonant if it is also driven by grassroots demands. Local communities must be empowered to demand access to improved justice services. As such, UNDP supports the Public Defender's Office as well as an array of local CSOs to provide quality legal aid services and help ensure that immediate barriers to justice are overcome.

Informal dispute resolution is frequently used in Timor-Leste. As such, UNDP actively engages with informal justice actors and processes to increase observation of international norms and standards, and to monitor their impact on women and children. Informal justice service providers receive tailored training on human rights, gender and juvenile justice, and relevant domestic laws. UNDP is creating a network of CSOs and other stakeholders to engage with 'progressive' informal justice actors and support the promotion of women into positions of authority in the informal justice system.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

UNDP has been actively engaged in the Timorese justice sector for well over a decade. During this period, a great deal has been

<sup>64</sup> <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=11026&lang=en&lang=en>

achieved, both in terms of building effective, responsive and accountable institutions and in terms of sustainably improving access to justice, particularly for women and children. However, the dismissal of eight international judges and prosecutors in October 2014 represented a major setback for both the sector and the programme, and forced UNDP - and the international community at large - to revisit and rethink its future engagement with, and support to, the justice sector in Timor-Leste.

Under the revised programming framework, UNDP will increasingly focus on strengthening coordination and cooperation between the different justice sector institutions, actively forging inter-institutional linkages and helping to build national ownership and consensus around the 'system-level' reform agenda adopted by the Council of Coordination.<sup>65</sup>

By linking its strategic-level engagement with the continued capacity development support provided to the different justice sector institutions, UNDP intends to buttress ongoing justice sector reform efforts and to 'connect' the strategic goals and objectives set out in the Justice Sector Strategic Plan with concrete action.

## KEY RESULTS

- *Development of a fair and equitable justice system was supported by providing support to sustainable capacity development in the National Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor-General, the Court of Appeal, and the Public Defender's Office.*
- *Through sustained technical and financial support to the Legal Training Centre, there is a new cadre of over 160 Timorese legal professionals.*
- *A 'mobile court' initiative now covers the entire country; as a result, hundreds of disputes have been settled and thousands of people have been educated about the formal justice system, including those who live in some of the most inaccessible parts of the country.*



Truth and Reconciliation Commission. UNDP/Timor-Leste

<sup>65</sup> The institutional members of Council of Coordination include: the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor-General, the Court of Appeal, the Public Defender's Office, the *Polísia ba Investigação Científica Kriminál* (PCIC), and the *Asosiasaun Advogadu Timor-Leste* (AATL)

# TUNISIA



## BACKGROUND

In 2014, Tunisia completed its second free and fair elections following the successful transitional election of 2011. The country remains relatively stable and peaceful and has drawn upon a high-level of social capital and vibrant civil society to strengthen its democracy. However, challenges remain. Tunisia is not immune to the destructive effects of the counter-revolution that has swept across the region, and is facing new political and security challenges, such as violent political and religious extremists. Fortunately, political violence generated strong condemnation from civil society and politicians alike and has ensured no open armed political conflict. The recent rise of violent jihadist groups are testing the country. Throughout 2014, the national guard and army have been targets of their violence and the state has struggled to protect itself.

In addition to security concerns the country faces growing socio-economic challenges, rising food prices and low job growth which is especially disillusioning for the youth. These challenges are reflected in low voter turnout in the 2014 especially among younger people. Regional disparities, notably between the poorer and more socially conservative south and the populous north, are a source of societal division.

In December 2013, transitional justice legislation established the National Truth and Dignity Commission to investigate human rights violations committed from 1955 to 2013. The law appointed Special Chambers to hold trials based on the Commission's findings, which will commence in 2015. Transitional justice processes and human rights did not feature prominently in election campaigns in Tunisia

as the main political parties prioritized economic, development and security issues.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Following the adoption of a Ministerial Policy on Community Policing in June 2014, UNDP supported the implementation of three community policing pilots in La Marsa, Manaret Hammamet and Naassen, with three other pilots due to open in 2015. In each pilot, a local security committee was established to convene civil society, local authorities and police representatives to discuss security. In both La Marsa and Hammamet citizens called for prevention work at the core of the security response based on a partnership between civil society and local authorities.

In the justice sector, a strategic vision for justice reform was approved with support from UNDP. Following the establishment of a steering committee to pilot the justice reform in 2012, nationwide consultations began in 2013. These consultations culminated in the drafting of a strategic vision for the justice sector that was approved by the Ministry of Justice and the provisory Judiciary Council in 2014. In order to translate the vision into concrete results, an action plan for 2015-2019 was consequently produced. The development of a new vision was made possible in part by the reinforcement of the planning and monitoring and evaluation cell of the Ministry of Justice through capacity assessment and the implementation of a training programme for its personnel.

### KEY RESULTS

- *Truth and Dignity Commission was established in line with international standards.*
- *Strategic Vision and 2015-2019 Action Plan for the justice sector developed through the consultation of more than 4000 individuals and 1500 families.*
- *3 community policing pilots opened in La Marsa, Naassen and Hammamet, and new local community security committees were established. Production of local security diagnosis and action plans.*
- *Police detention facilities in La Marsa and Hammamet were renovated.*
- *In 6 regions, baseline public perception surveys were produced on security delivery by police and National Guard.*



Following the adoption of the organic law on transitional justice in Tunisia in December 2013, the Truth and Dignity commission was established. Commissioners were nominated in 2014, using criteria and recruitment processes in line with international best practices. Additionally, the Members of the National Constituency Assembly (ANC) met with other commissions worldwide to discuss experiences. With UNDP support, the commission was fully operational by the end of the year and started collecting victim's statements by mid-December, a process that will continue in 2015.

Various initiatives aimed at assisting victims and sensitizing the population to the transitional justice process were conducted across the country through a small grant programme for civil society organisations. Victim mapping and assessment across the country and for specific categories, notably women, were conducted. Assistance to victims, rehabilitation and memorialization work was equally supported.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

In 2015, UNDP will continue working with the Truth and Dignity Commission and the community security programme will expand. Successful community security pilots will expand and be institutionalized through the reform of the Ministry of Interior. Resource mobilization remains a challenge in Tunisia as the international community does not consider the country as a priority for support.

The reaction to recent terror attacks in Tunisia could impact Tunisia's journey to democracy. The response to security challenges should hopefully not be at the expense of rights, justice and SSR. The lack of justice felt by many Tunisians and human rights violations are amongst the root causes of continuing economic malaise, political disillusionment and the radicalization of some Tunisians – key threats to the transition.



Community members discuss security issues at municipal security meeting.  
Martin Borgeaud/UNDP/Tunisia.

# YEMEN



## BACKGROUND

Even prior to the recent crisis, Yemen was characterised by extreme poverty and emergency levels of food insecurity. The fractured polity and absence of state authority across the territory meant absence of services, violence and conflicts at subnational level including through the presence of al-Qaeda on the south and east. In January 2011 pro-democracy protests resulted in 1,500 deaths. To bring about peace, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative was signed and a two-year political transition began with the resignation of President Saleh. This should have culminated with Presidential and Parliamentary elections at the end of 2014. In the interim a transitional President was appointed to oversee a National Dialogue Conference (NDC). The NDC concluded in January 2014<sup>66</sup> and was commended as a positive model for an inclusive dialogue. A Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC) was created in March 2014 led by a 17-member panel to address, among other, federalism.

In September 2014, Houthi militia from Saada made an advance south and entered Sana'a unopposed. They expressed frustration at the slow moving political process. The UN sponsored negotiation between Houthi leadership and President Hadi resulted in the Peace and National Partnership Framework Agreement (PNPA) on 21 September 2014. This underlined the importance of 'building a new federal democratic Yemeni state based on the rule of law' and stressed that the criteria for new Ministerial candidates should include 'commitment to the protection of human rights and the rule of law'.<sup>67</sup>

A new Prime Minister and technocrat cabinet were nominated, reactivating central government operations that had come to a standstill since Houthi occupation. However, the Houthis continued

to exert pressure on the President and on 19 January 2015, they surrounded his residence. This led to the resignation of the entire cabinet who were placed under house arrest and created a power vacuum that has plunged the country into a deeper conflict and an extreme humanitarian crisis.

## ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

At the end of 2010, UNDP made significant efforts to initiate rule of law work in Yemen, engaging with the outgoing government and contributing technical expertise to the Sub-working Group on Justice and Rule of Law of the 'Friends of Yemen'. In 2011, UNDP developed a transition strategy to respond to the evolving situation. A joint UN document, entitled *A Shared UN Vision to Support the Transition in Yemen: A Framework for Action* devotes significant attention to issues of rule of law which was identified as a priority for Yemen and for international assistance.

The rapidly deteriorating security situation in the country throughout 2014 and limited access to programme locations and national counterparts has significantly hampered programme activities. Nevertheless, some progress was made on two ongoing projects. UNDP, jointly with OHCHR, supports the transitional justice processes and capacity development of national human rights institutions in Yemen. UNDP/OHCHR assistance includes the project is titled "Support to Human Rights during the Transitional Period in Yemen (2012-2014)". The overall objective of the project is to support the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution, strengthen the capacity of civil society, and the Ministry of Human Rights. Through this project, survivors of human rights violations are expected to have enhanced means of redress and access to accountability mechanisms. In 2014, UNDP Yemen supported the establishment of an independent human rights institution in Yemen through technical expertise in the drafting of the law, broad consultation with CSOs across the country on the draft law.

The second project entitled "Support to the Transitional Justice Process in Yemen (2012 – 2014)" is planned and designed to assist the inclusive transitional justice initiatives and the bodies based in Aden (Land Commission and Dismissals Commission). These Commissions in the Southern Governorates managed to finalize decisions on 50,000 cases (30,000 by the Land Commission and 20,000 by Dismissals Commissions. Through the Dismissals programmes 5547 arbitrarily dismissed public servants were compensated receiving lump sum payment of 100,000 YR (around 500 USD).

<sup>66</sup> See: [http://al-shorfa.com/en\\_GB/articles/meii/features/2014/01/24/feature-02](http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/features/2014/01/24/feature-02)

<sup>67</sup> *The Peace and National Partnership Agreement*, 21 September 2014, p. 1.

## CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

During 2014 security incidents, including terrorist attacks and kidnapping of internationals in Sana'a and other programme locations required shuffling of international staff between Sana'a and a temporary office in Dubai. The security situation limited access and movement undermining delivery and partnerships. At the time of publication, airstrikes, fuel shortages, violence and insecurity led to the evacuation of international staff and have limited movement and functionality in country.

Earlier in 2014 political stasis and opposition to transition had slowed down crucial progress in human rights and transitional justice. The decisions of the Land Commission were not being enforced and the Minister of Legal Affairs in charge of Transitional Justice process was surrounded by violent protesters for several days. The human rights institution law was slowed and the Minister of Human Rights was attacked in her office. Since September 2014, with Houthi presence in the ministries, there were no reliable government partners.

In spite of these challenges, the Country Office continued to engage on development of access to justice and community security programme focussing on services. The framework was tacitly endorsed by both governments and supported by a range of bilateral donors including EU, UK, the Netherlands and US. Given the present situation in the country, UNDP is considering measures of immediate assistance in the humanitarian context.

### KEY RESULTS

- The Dismissals Commission finalized 20,000 cases. 5547 individuals received lump sum payments 100,000 YR (around \$500 USD) from Compensations Fund.
- The transitional justice Commissions managed to finalize 50,000 cases (Land Commission 30,000 cases and Dismissals Commissions 20,000 cases) and to insert 100,000 documents into databases (Land Commission 30,000 documents and Dismissals Commissions 70,000 documents).



Woman campaigns for peace and human rights. UNDP/Yemen





# PART 3

## III

## Financial Information

Financial contributions to UNDP's rule of law, justice and security work are made in various ways, through country-level cost sharing agreements with Country Offices<sup>68</sup> or contributions to global-level trust funds. Contributions can be earmarked to a specific country programme or project, or can be earmarked thematically through the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund (CPR-TTF).<sup>69</sup> This thematic area is integrally tied to the priorities identified in the UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017).

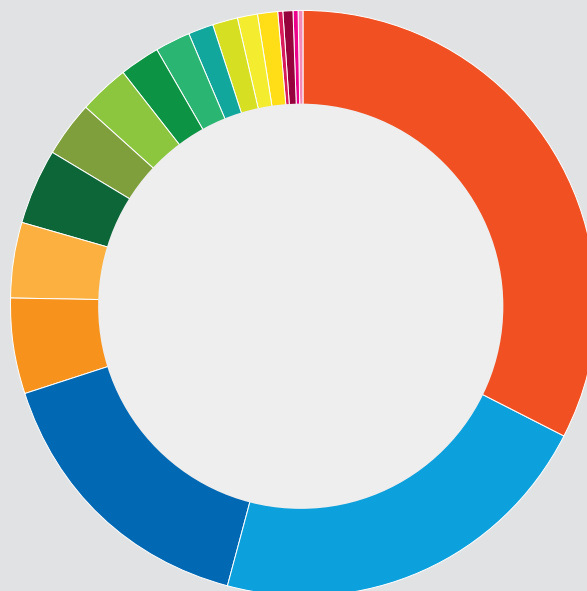
Through the Global Programme, UNDP has provided seed funding to over 40 countries that contributed to developing a portfolio that delivers around \$220 million USD per year. The following tables and charts indicate the total mobilized resources since the Global Programme's inception in 2008 through 2014 as well as for 2014 alone.

<sup>68</sup> Indicated as "Country Window Contributions."

<sup>69</sup> For further information, see: [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/crisis\\_preventionandrecoverythematictrustfund/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/crisis_preventionandrecoverythematictrustfund/)

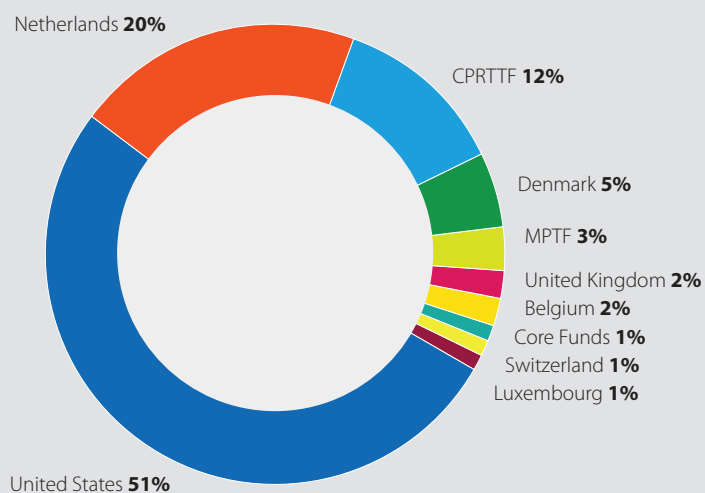
## TOTAL MOBILIZED RESOURCES 2008-2014

● Netherlands	54,471,798
● CPR-TTF	36,004,440
● United States	26,489,308
● Japan	9,000,000
● Canada	7,153,428
● Sweden	6,694,561
● Germany	5,331,536
● Australia	4,443,307
● Denmark	3,739,940
● Norway	3,443,321
● Core Funds	2,230,143
● UN Action/MPTF	2,199,462
● Switzerland	1,773,878
● Belgium	1,716,772
● United Kingdom	870,772
● Luxembourg	538,206
● France	554,800
● Ireland	350,825
○ Austria	5,738
○ Private contribution	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,013,235</b>



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME 2014

Donor	Contributed in USD
The Netherlands	7,623,888.18
Core Funds	433,707.97
Switzerland	549,450.55
MPTF	1,069,131.00
United Kingdom	712,293.48
CPRTTF	4,592,500.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>14,980,971.18</b>
<i>Country window Contribution to Rule of Law portfolios 2013</i>	
Belgium	889,453.62
Denmark	1,997,780.24
Luxembourg	538,206.90
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,425,440.76</b>
<i>Other contributions under global agreement (not through the CPRTTF)</i>	
United States	19,156,308.00
Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands	In kind contribution - loaned staff
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>19,156,308.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,562,719.39</b>





## ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES - GLOBAL PROGRAMME 2014

Country	Project	Authorized Spending Limit 2014	Expenditures against Global Programme/CPR TTF Funds in 2014
Afghanistan	Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan (JHRA Phase 2)	325,000.00	215,555.77
Timor Leste	Justice System Programme in Timor Leste	500,000.00	488,421.61
DRC	Joint Justice Programme to Support DRC Criminal Justice; Community Security Project	1,900,000.00	814,625.15
Guinea Bissau	Rule of Law and Justice	1,194,000.00	523,475.25
Bahrain	Capacity Building of the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution	100,000.00	14,129.09
Colombia	Setting the Field to Strengthen Capacities to Contain and Reduce the Levels of Insecurity in Colombia	300,000.00	90,879.08
El Salvador	Enhance local governance, rule of law, justice and security	278,000.00	137,208.64
Guinea	Supporting Community Police for a response to Ebola that includes Security	350,000.00	195,205.77
Jamaica	Citizen Security and Social Cohesion in Jamaica - Support to the Commission of Inquiry	200,000.00	92,440.47
Kenya	Reducing Armed Violence and Establishing Community Security in Kenya's Arid Borderlands	150,000.00	382,752.42
Kosovo	Support to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Kosovo	500,000.00	78,469.15
Kyrgyzstan	Enhancing the Democratic Rule of Law to Promote Peace and Stability	617,000.00	246,794.55
Liberia	Strengthening Rule of Law in Liberia	900,000.00	429,541.71
Myanmar	Strengthening Police Reform in Myanmar	500,000.00	390,067.09
Nepal	Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security	500,000.00	192,142.54
Sierra Leone	Improving the Rule of Law and Access to justice in Sierra Leone	950,000.00	370,535.54
Tunisia	Support to the Operationalization of the Transitional Justice Process in Tunisia	800,000.00	199,496.36
Mali	Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North of Mali	700,000.00	118,261.65
Bosnia I Herzegovina	Supporting the Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina	500,000.00	532,317.05
Central African Republic	Community Protection and Resilience	3,797,780.00	1,019,562.18
Somalia	Access to Justice	538,206.90	423,201.99
Nicaragua	Arms control and violence reduction	368,000.00	16,466.22
Burundi	Gouvernance et Etat de Droit	889,453.62	1,045,003.47
RoLS Country Support	Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations	3,399,094.00	4,584,683.00













*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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. The 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 co-led by UNDP and DPKO, was a notable development in this regard.

This report gives a synopsis of the results achieved in 2014 at the country-level through UNDP implemented programmes, including through the Global Focal Point, in assisting 38 crisis-affected countries to deal with the legacy of violence, increase safety and security for all, build confidence through accessible and effective justice and security institutions, and improve the delivery of justice and security for women. Serving the UN System through rule of law, key policy developments and response to crises are also highlighted.

We would like to thank Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States for their contributions in 2014 in support of UNDP's work on strengthening the rule of law as well as Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, and Japan for their previous support in the second phase.

