



JOINT UNDP-DPA PROGRAMME ON BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

UNDP and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) have collaborated on the development and implementation of conflict prevention initiatives in the field through the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention (Joint Programme). First launched in 2004, the programme has grown significantly in recent years. Over the past decade, support from the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme has made a contribution to strengthening conflict prevention capacities at national and local levels, and supported national architectures for peace, mediation, and dialogue. During that period, support has also contributed to mitigating tensions around elections and referenda in countries as diverse as Fiji, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, and Togo.

The deployment of PDAs represents the most visible element of the partnership, though the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme provides broader support (captured in the next box). As of September 2015, there are currently 36 PDAs deployed, and it is expected that the overall number will exceed 40 by the end of 2015. This represents an increase more than double the number of PDAs deployed in 2010. During that time, the annual budget of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme has reached approximately USD 10 million. Current donors of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme include the European Union, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

The partnership is overseen and guided by a Senior Steering Committee, co-chaired by DPA and UNDP at ASG-level. The Steering Committee is supported by working level representatives who meet regularly to discuss PDA deployments, other types of support to PDAs and Resident Coordinators, and engagements with partners across the UN system such as the Peacebuilding Fund and United

Nations' Volunteers, as well as with external partners such as the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

While the average PDA deployment is approximately 2 years, there is an emphasis on hiring national PDAs to ensure capacity to carry the work forward and to ensure national ownership. Increasingly, these efforts are complemented by the deployment of national and international UNV/PDAs, with a focus on civil society engagement. Cost-sharing PDA deployments, particularly from a PDA's second year, is a core aspect of the Joint Programme's approach to sustainability. PDAs also make important contributions to the UN's resource mobilization efforts in-country. From 2012 and 2014, PDAs have helped mobilize well in excess of 20 million USD.

Key outputs (2015 – 2018):

- Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) deployed to help build long-term capacity of national partners and UN Country Teams to undertake conflict/political analysis, and design and implement conflict-sensitive programming;
- Enhanced mechanisms and capacities for collaboration and dialogue;
- Mechanism for deployment of short-term expertise to respond and engage in crisis settings more responsive;
- Coordinated and complementary UNDP and DPA support, analysis, and engagement in target countries;
- Enhanced capacity of UN Country Teams, DPA, and UNDP to share good practices, lessons learned, and engage in community of practice.

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