

The Development Advocate

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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Sumaya Al Arounony casting her ballot in the Tunisia Constituent Assembly Elections. (Noeman AlSayyad/UNDP)

BY JAMEL HAOUAS

Tunis, Tunisia—Sumaya Al Arounony, a second year student of informatics from the coastal town of Ben Arous in Tunisia, had never voted before. But, on the morning of 23 October 2011 that was not the only reason for her eagerness to vote. She was also a candidate and, at 22, one of the youngest on the list.

"I am tenth on my party list. I have little chance of winning but I felt I had to do something for my country," she enthusiastically explained. "Today, I vote for Tunisia."

Millions of other Tunisians showed a similar kind of determination to make the elections for Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly work. The Assembly has been pushed to prepare a new Constitution for Tunisia, act as interim Parliament and nominate an interim Government to rule until new elections are held under the new Constitution.

In fact, out of the 4.1 million Tunisian citizens who registered to vote, a record-breaking 76 percent actually voted, according to the Independent High Authority for the Elections.

Like Al Arounony, many young voters were exercising their right to vote for the first time in their lives.

In such a young, highly "wired" population like Tunisia – 1 in 3 Tunisians is an Internet user and 1 in 4 has a Facebook account – resorting to social media to reach out to youth with civic education content was a natural choice.

Three weeks before Tunisia's first free democratic elections, UNDP teamed up with the country's Radio Mosaïque FM to launch "Democratweet," a voters' educational game aimed at mobilizing youth to actively participate in the electoral process and to educate them about the importance of voting to ensure their

rights and freedoms. Radio Mosaïque FM is Tunisia's leading radio station. It also operates Tunisia's most-trafficked website and a Facebook page that gets 400,000 hits per day.

"Because they represent a significant portion of the population, and because of the pivotal role they played in the revolution, it was very important to reach out to youth, especially in pre-election campaigns," said Philippa Neave, Public Outreach Adviser in UNDP's Support to the Electoral Process in Tunisia project.

Game players learned about the democratic system, the role and tasks of the National Constituent Assembly and the institutional framework for elections. The game also included information on the electoral process, including election procedures, and the importance of a large voter turnout if the results are to be accepted by Tunisians. UNDP also [PAGE 4](#) ▶

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to introduce the first issue of *The Development Advocate*. It showcases the 12 winning entries of UNDP's first annual storytelling competition in an easy-to-read and cost-efficient newspaper-style format.

When we asked our colleagues around the world for submissions, we received more than 180 stories from 67 Country Offices. All of the stories you are about to read tell of the transformational change we contribute to across the four pillars of our mandate: poverty reduction; democratic governance; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and sustainable development.

The 11-member jury which selected the winning stories included a number of prominent international journalists and the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, as well as UNDP communications and programme experts. The winning entries showcase the kind of development we need to share with the countries in which we work, our donors and the broader public.

We were especially keen to record UNDP success stories which best exemplify our tagline, "Empowered lives. Resilient nations." We believe the winning stories do just that, from the story of young people voting for the first time in the new Tunisia, to UNDP's role in the creation of new laws protecting people living with HIV and AIDS in Kyrgyzstan.

UNDP will continue to work for the kind of real change described in these winning stories. I welcome your comments and suggestions on how to refine and improve the next edition of *The Development Advocate*.

Sincerely,
Helen Clark
Helen Clark

"NOW I EXIST:" HANDING OUT IDENTITY CARDS



UNDP-sponsored programme delivers free identification cards to the Burundi population. [PAGE 3](#) ▶



BRINGING OUT THE RURAL WOMAN VOTE

UNDP supports electoral cycle processes in Timor-Leste. [PAGE 4](#) ▶

LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS



UNDP helps protect the privacy and dignity of HIV+ people in Kyrgyzstan. [PAGE 9](#) ▶

“ I found myself confronted with 20 first-rate essays ... penetrating, vibrant accounts of transformative moments in human experience. ”

CAPTURING TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT RESULTS THROUGH STORIES

BY CHRISTOPHER BOIAN

How do you quantify dignity? What is the mathematical equation for overcoming adversity? Where is the algorithm for finding the courage to speak the truth?

As I read and reread entries in the UNDP storytelling competition, I grew, successively, interested, impressed and, finally, deeply moved by these vital, first-hand accounts of people striving, of forward progress, of communities working to become a little better – of humanity developing. And as a member of the jury for the competition, I wrestled with the dilemma: is it possible, objectively, to rank these brief works, each of which describes a reality of its own?

I encountered steely bravery: women overcoming fear to give testimony in criminal cases in Croatia. I discovered a dedication to improving public health: cleaner, safer, more economical cooking stoves for families in Peru. I marveled at unadulterated compassion: care for individuals and entire populations ravaged by the earthquake in China. I glimpsed maternal wisdom: marginalized Timorese women being invited into the conversation on the governing of their society. I cheered robust passion: young people in Tunisia not just voting but running for public office. And I witnessed essential humanity: help with the identification cards needed in Burundi to access the most elementary of social services. Each of the stories I reviewed was pristine in its uniqueness. Each was illuminating on a variety of

levels. And each affirmed powerfully that, yes, even amid the crassness and cynicism of our time it is still worth making a little effort to take care of each other and, yes, change for the better is possible.

As an international journalist for the past 26 years, I have found myself making all kinds of judgments in all kinds of places and situations. Journalism is, after all, very much the craft of separating the wheat from the chaff, of judging what matters more and what matters less. Never before however had I been asked to offer up my judgments on the relative merits of stories like those in the UNDP storytelling competition. Like any career journalist, I like to think I know a good news story when I see one. But for this project I found myself confronted with 20 first-rate essays – not “breaking news”, in the traditional sense, but penetrating, vibrant accounts of transformative moments in human experience nonetheless. How on earth, I wondered, would I be able to say that this story is “better” than that one? On the basis of what criteria? And who was I anyway to issue any pronouncement on the relative merits in descriptions of real people confronting real physical danger in Cyprus, spiritual anguish in Tajikistan, economic detour in Zambia, social challenges in Fiji? In short, I was daunted by the assignment, by the need to do it justice.

In making my choices, I looked at a range of factors in each story. In no particular order, these included: the power

and efficiency of the writing; reflection of the UNDP motto “Empowered Lives. Resilient Nations.”; the scale of impact of the project examined; the timeliness and “newsworthiness” of the topic; the human drama; the practical education for readers. In addition to the judging criteria I was given, I attempted to formulate a few additional pointers that were as objective as possible and to apply these equally to each entry. I took notes, I added and divided numbers (rankings that I assigned to specific aspects of each story), I read all entries at least twice and I double-checked my figures. In the end, I made my selections for the competition, ranking entries first by region and then picking my overall top three. And in the process, I arrived at an answer to my own questions: There is no easy way to quantify dignity. There is no perfect algorithm for honesty. There is no satisfying way to assign a ranking, within the constellation of human activities, to the sometimes prosaic chore of simply trying to become better.

What there is, however, is the capacity of people like those writers who entered this storytelling contest, and like the UNDP itself, to shine a bright light on a few things, decent and good and great, that people around the world do with their days. This is the fabric of civilization, the core of self-respect, the essence of hope for our common future. In that respect, I regard every contestant in this storytelling competition as the winner.



CHRISTOPHER BOIAN is director of *RIA Novosti*, an international news agency in Moscow. He has worked as a journalist for 26 years with international media outlets, including *Agence France-Presse* and the *International Herald Tribune*, reporting on armed conflicts and a number of major global news stories.

STORYTELLING CONTEST JURY MEMBERS

CHRISTOPHER BOIAN (biography above)

AIKO DODEN is a senior commentator at NHK, Japan’s public broadcasting corporation, where she analyzes international development issues on Africa and Southeast Asia. She also anchors NHK’s premier English debate programme, “Asian Voices” and is a popular face on NHK TV and NHK World Network.

ALISTER DOYLE is a Reuters journalist and a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a focus on climate change. He has been a journalist since 1982, and an environment correspondent for Reuters since 2004, with postings in Brussels, Central America, London and Paris.

GIE GORIS is editor-in-chief of the Flemish magazine *MO**, which focuses on globalization matters. He is also president of Africalia, a non-governmental organization that supports artistic and cultural projects in Africa. His recent reporting includes

conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and on music as a natural resource for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

KIRSTEN LARSEN is a journalist, diplomatic correspondent and part-time editor of a prime time radio programme called Orientering for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation. For the past 18 years, she has covered the UN, with a special focus on development, humanitarian affairs and political affairs. She has also reported on Afghanistan.

FRANK SESNO is Director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington D.C. He is a former CNN Senior Vice-President, with more than 30 years of global reporting experience. He is also creator and host of PBS’ Planet Forward, which addresses energy and global environmental issues.

ROBERT SKINNER is Senior Director for UN Relations and Special Initiatives at the UN Foundation (UNF). Previously, he spent nearly nine years as a Foreign Service Officer

in the US State Department in Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago as well as at the US Mission to the UN in New York.

LIZWI NKOMBELA is a Counsellor for the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations. South Africa has been elected to the Board of UNDP/UNFPA for a three-year term, which started in January 2010.

The jury included three additional UNDP communications and programme experts.

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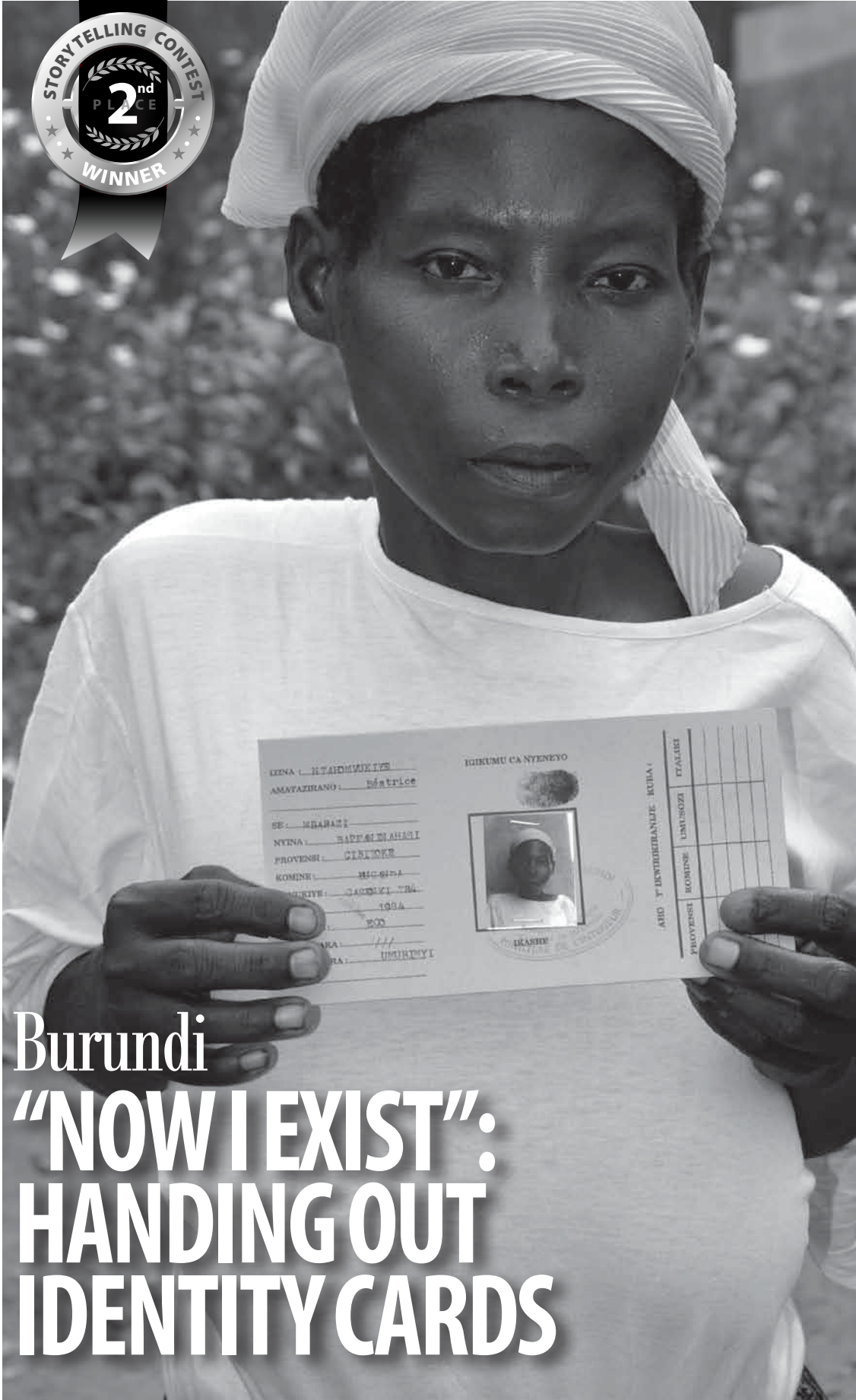
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Burundi “NOW I EXIST”: HANDING OUT IDENTITY CARDS

BY AARON NSAVYIMANA

Bujumbura, Burundi — Those of us possessing an identity card can imagine how things would be without one. Those of us who don't possess one don't need to imagine. We know. We know we can't vote, can't be heard, and certainly can't run for office. But it doesn't stop there.

Mayisha Sikitu lives in Buyenzi, a neighbourhood in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. She has five children —

Karara, Hami, Jola, Mariam and Hodari. She gave birth to her youngest, Hodari Karibu, at a hospital in October 2009 through a social programme that covers free birth-giving care. She wasn't able to benefit from the same programme for Karara, Hami, Jola and Mariam because she did not have an identification card, for which she could not afford the processing fees.

In 2009, however, Sikitu took advan-

tage of a UNDP-sponsored programme that delivered free identification cards to Burundi citizens as part of UNDP's support to the 2010 election process.

As a result, 968,882 Burundians, 59 percent of whom were women, received their identification cards. With additional support from the Government of Switzerland, the campaign was very successful in mobilizing citizens. A healthy turnout resulted in an average

of 40,000 cards being issued per day, empowering an additional almost 1 million Burundians to benefit from the rights and responsibilities of being recognized citizens.

"It was important for me to be able to get an ID card for free," Sikitu said. "I hadn't been able to afford one before, and had convinced myself I did not need one since I rarely left my neighbourhood. What I did not understand then is all I could do with an ID card."

Besides receiving free care when she gave birth to Karibu, Sikitu is now able to travel and be a witness at official functions.

"Before I had my ID card, if I needed to take the bus to go to town to sell my crops and buy necessities, I ran the risk of being ordered out of the bus," she explained. "Without an ID card, policemen could not identify me and I became a threat. A couple of times the police made me get out of the bus and sit down on the sidewalk. Not only was I not able to sell my crop on those days, but I lost some of it, and for several days my children went hungry."

Forty-six percent of Burundi Senators

are women, the second highest such average in the world, second only to Bolivia. But Sikitu sees the impact of the free delivery of identification cards has had on the women around her.

"Unlike me, my eldest daughter, because she had an ID card, was able to marry legally," Sikitu said. "With my ID card, I was able to be a witness at her wedding. With our ID cards, a friend of mine was able to run for office and I, along with many women in the neighbourhood, was able to vote for her and elect her. Now I am thinking about running for office myself."

When asked what she likes best about her ID card, Sikitu smiles and then responds with a degree of rare intensity: "Now I can vote. Now I can move. Now I don't need to say 'Wait, I'll go get my husband' anytime something in our lives needs fixing. Now I exist."



AARON NSAVYIMANA is a Public Information Associate in UNDP Burundi. Before joining the UN, he worked as a reporter for the Burundi Press Agency from 1989 to 1991.

Must read in 2012!



In the run-up to **Rio+20**, this Asia-Pacific Human Development Report—to be released in March 2012—takes a bold look at climate change and what can be done about it. Tackling head-on the issue of poverty reduction and human development, the Report argues that the option to **grow now, clean up** later no longer exists for developing countries. The Report reveals how the world's most dynamic region can prepare itself, produce and consume differently, build rural resilience and create cities for the future we want.

Watch for the Report release at:
<http://asiapacific-hdr.aprc.undp.org/>

The Report will be available from
the UN Bookshop: <https://unp.un.org/bookshop/>



DEVELOPMENT CROSSWORD ANSWERS
DOWN: 1: Energy; 2, 13 and 20: Millennium Development Goals; 3 down and 23 across: Cash for; 5: Food; 6: HDI; 8: Million; 9: New; 19: Green; 27: You, me, us; 28: Oil • ACROSS: 10, 4 and 11: Rule of law; 7 and 25: Environmental Sustainability; 12: REDD; 15 down and 16, 18 and 30 across: Empowered lives, Resilient nations; 22: People; 21 and 24: Micro-finance; 26 down and 31 across: Bio-fuel; 29: HDR



For the 2010 special voter registration campaign, 65 registration teams travelled throughout Timor-Leste signing up over 15,000 elderly women for the first time and encouraging female voter participation in general. (UNDP Timor-Leste)

Timor-Leste BRINGING OUT THE RURAL WOMAN VOTE

BY JOHN FENECH

Dili, Timor-Leste — Senora Mendonça Côrte-Real, a grandmother from the capital city of Dili in Timor-Leste, is now the country's oldest registered voter after having finally been given the chance to exercise a democratic vote for the first time at the ripe old age of 92.

She celebrated by attending a special event, along with Timor-Leste's President, celebrating the success of the 2010 national voter registration campaign



Ms. Balbina Mendonça Côrte-Real, 92, is the oldest registered voter in Timor-Leste. (Marcos Tadeu/UNDP)

that focused on marginalized Timorese women. The ongoing campaign has been registering these women and others in the run-up to the nation's second ever presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012.

Timor-Leste is one of the world's youngest nations and is currently undertaking an ambitious project to build a democratic society and culture in a country that, after being subject to foreign rule for over 400 years, has barely had any prior exposure to democratic governance.

In 2007, UNDP and the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste jointly embarked upon a comprehensive electoral cycle support project in partnership with the State Secretariat for Electoral Administration, the National Electoral Commission and multiple international donors. The \$US5.3 million project is focused on consolidating democracy in a country only recently emerging from conflict and also has been strengthening the democratic institutions needed to facilitate a strong and thriving democracy.

Targeted voter-registration outreach programmes formed part of the project, aimed at taking electoral information and registration facilities out to under-represented groups. In 2010, those programmes specifically reached out to elderly and illiterate women.

Female participation in civic or political affairs has historically been quite low, partly because most women in Timor-Leste spend much of their time struggling to make a living through farming while running a household. Additionally, the illiteracy rate of elderly, rural women is one of the highest in South East Asia.

For the 2010 special voter registration campaign, 65 registration teams travelled throughout Timor-Leste's 13 districts, successfully signing up over 15,000 elderly women for the first time. The teams also worked to encourage female voter participation in general.

This emphasis on women's involvement in the voting process has been part of a Government-led effort, supported by UNDP, to fast-track female participation in decision making. The progress is

For the 2010 special voter registration campaign, 65 registration teams signed up over 15,000 elderly women.

already evident:

- The Government and National Parliament have adopted policies in relation to elections at all levels of government by reserving seats especially for women in the Community Councils and in the National Parliament.
- Timor-Leste has one of the highest percentages of female political representation in Asia. By the end of the 2012 elections it will be among the highest in the world with a minimum of 1 in 3 parliamentarians being women.
- The national electoral database reveals that approximately 50 percent of all registered voters are women.
- Finally, strong leadership shown on this issue has also helped break new

ground at the village level with 10 women becoming the chiefs of their respective villages, a domain traditionally monopolized by men.

The progress made towards a burgeoning civil society and democratic culture is already an incredible achievement for Timor-Leste. But the sign of a truly healthy democracy is one that values and promotes participation by all its citizens, and as 92-year-old Senora Mendonça Côrte-Real can attest to, Timor-Leste is quickly making that a reality.



JOHN FENECH is a UN Volunteer and Communications Officer in UNDP Timor-Leste. Prior to UNDP, he worked for several non-governmental organizations in Australia, including World Vision and Oxfam.

COVER STORY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was very important to reach out to Tunisian youth, because of the pivotal role they played in the revolution.

commissioned an election song, called "Enti Essout (You are the Voice)." The song was written, composed and performed by a group of emerging young artists on the contemporary world music scene who retain strong Tunisian roots.

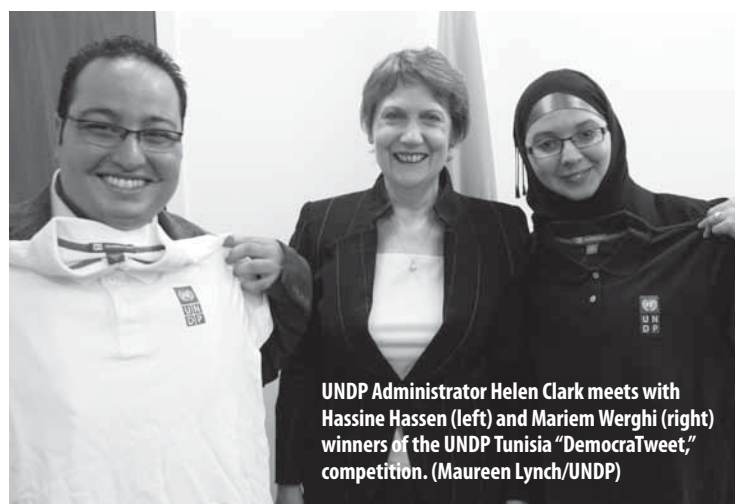
It encouraged Tunisian youth to play an active part in the construction of a new Tunisia. Launched four weeks before the elections, the song quickly went viral, with more than 100,000 free downloads (www.entinessout.com). For many of its fans it became the election's anthem.

"Given the legacy of elections under

the old regime, there was a lot of suspicion and fear. People were intimidated by the elections," Neave said. "We wanted to turn that around. With the game and the song, we wanted to make elections fun, an event to be celebrated and enjoyed."

UNDP, together with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the European Union, also worked closely with the country's Election Authority to provide technical support for the development of a comprehensive public information and communication strategy for the elections.

This effort included support on



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark meets with Hassine Hassen (left) and Mariem Werghi (right) winners of the UNDP Tunisia "DemocraTweet" competition. (Maureen Lynch/UNDP)

three consecutive and comprehensive campaigns that, despite severe time pressures, reached the wide population through television, radio, newspaper ads, billboards and face-to-face communication. The first campaign was most

successful and mobilized large numbers of Tunisians to register to vote. The other two provided information on special voting centres for those who failed to register on time and motivated people to go out and vote.

UNDP also helped the Authority to develop a step-by-step training video on elections procedures for its staff, which was then adapted into an informative TV spot for the general public.

The huge turnout in the 23 October elections was a credit, first and foremost, to the will of the Tunisian people, who seem to have resolved to allow nothing to stop their voices from being heard.

Or, as the "Enti Essout" song declared in its refrain: "They will never prevail, even if they raise walls, my people, you are the voice (the vote)."



JAMEL HAOUAS is a communications consultant for UNDP Tunisia. Before joining the UN in 2011, he was a marketing communications adviser in the private sector in Paris.



Stricken with polio at age 10, Umaru Kargbo now supports his family as a shoemaker. (UNDP Sierra Leone)

Sierra Leone TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

BY ABDUL KARIM BAH

Makeni, Sierra Leone — The story of Umaru Kargbo, in Sierra Leone's northern city of Makeni, 113 miles from the capital city of Freetown, is one of resilience and of sheer determination to lift oneself out of poverty. It is also the story of how a country, once riddled by suffering and stagnation caused by years of civil war and gun-toting youth rampaging through the countryside, is slowly managing to include marginalized youth into participating in national development and social transformation.

Youth unemployment is one of the major causes of war in Sierra Leone and a serious threat to the peace that prevails in the country today. An estimated 800,000 youth between the ages of

15 and 35 are actively searching for employment. Some of these youth lack skills and education, but it is even more difficult for those with disabilities and only a basic education to compete for the limited jobs that are available.

Umaru, more popularly known as K-man, is one of those young people facing a bleak future, a future of begging on the street and in local markets to make a living. When he was 10 years old, Umaru was stricken by polio, an acute viral infectious disease that is widespread among children in Sierra Leone and leads to infantile paralysis. Three years ago, Umaru, 29, moved from his small hometown to Makeni, the biggest city in northern Sierra Leone, where he survived by begging on the streets.

Umaru had attended school for only nine years. In Makeni, his fellow disabled peers advised him that begging was the only way for disabled people to make a living. Two weeks after the start of this life of danger and hunger, however, Umaru was selected for training through a UNDP-supported youth employment

project in Makeni. He was placed as an apprentice in a workshop where he learned how to make shoes.

"I had decided that I did not want to be a beggar, I want to do something more fruitful and dignified with my life. The training was good," a smiling Umaru explained. "I was supplied with basic materials like adhesives, leather, nails, a hammer, and I was also given a weekly allowance of about Le 15,000 (US\$3.50) for my upkeep while in training."

A recent independent study of 17 youth employment programmes administered by UNDP and the Government of Sierra Leone shows that the programme that trained Umaru has transformed the lives of 10,000 young people.

UNDP's Chief Technical Adviser Keith Wright said a recent study on the project demonstrated an immense impact.

"The study showed that there was an average increase in the income of the youth by more than 197 percent. Communities also reported that there was improvement in their food security, and the likelihood that they could afford school fees," Wright said.

In the past two years, Umaru said he has achieved a lot. He finished the apprenticeship and has started his own small business, which enables him to earn his living without begging.

"I have a family now, and a child. I am responsible for their food and his education. On average I earn about \$7 a day. On a good day, I earn even more. Now I am

happy and proud," he said. His mother, Isatu, used to cry endlessly after he was struck by polio.

"But now she knows I can do something for myself," he said.

"You see this shoe here," he continued, holding up one of his customers' shoes. "I charge \$1.20 to repair it; and these sandals I made, I charged \$8 for each. My life has changed, I run my own workshop and I am even training other disabled and polio victims. Hopefully, I will get more support to expand my workshop into a factory that will produce more and train more young disabled people."

UNDP has been working with various local partners — including CAUSE Sierra Leone, a youth-focused agency in Makeni — to support the country and address the issue of youth employment and empowerment. The \$2.1 million youth employment and empowerment programme is funded through the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Governments of Ireland and Norway. The programme is designed to strengthen national policy, strategy and coordination for youth employment as well as sustain the establishment of basic support services for youth, including mentoring for micro and small enterprises and the establishment of career advisory services in the country's universities. As a result, 5,000 young people have started their own businesses. This is done through the Ministry of Youth Employment and Sports and the newly established National Youth Commission.

Back in Makeni, for Umaru, the impact of the project is not just that he now has a regular and significant income but that his social status as a dignified member of society has been restored. "The most important thing is that now I have hope for the future," he said.



“My life has changed. I run my own workshop and I am even training other disabled and polio victims.”



Sebi Nafukwe, like many other women living on the Zambia side of Lake Tanganyika, has managed to expand her business, and is now able to support her family's nutritional requirements and send her children to school. (Patson Mwasila/UNDP)

Zambia VILLAGERS TURN THEIR BACKS ON OVERFISHING

BY VILLE SAIKKU

Mbete, Zambia — Sebi Nafukwe, who never had any agricultural experience before, is busy harvesting rice for the first time in Mbete village, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Zambia. She is one of 700 women who have turned their backs

on fishing from the lake after overfishing made it difficult to turn a profit.

These days, Nafukwe and the women in her local women's association are making Kwacha 1.4 million (US\$279) a year per household from the sale of the rice they are farming, after an

initial investment of only Kwacha 300,000 (\$60).

"We never knew farming could be so economically rewarding," she said with a sense of surprise and accomplishment.

The women, encouraged by the success of the rice farming, have expanded their business activities to poultry, vegetable gardening and fish pond farming. With this new income, they are now able to support their families' nutritional requirements and send their children to school.

The introduction of a revolving fund in 2009 dedicated to the environmental and economic management of Lake Tanganyika — an effort supported by UNDP and with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) — has enabled Nafukwe and many like her to take out small loans. With these loans, communities are investing in developing environmentally-friendly, sustainable livelihoods. They are building fish ponds, raising poultry and growing crops like rice and maize.

At the same time, they are planting cenna and pine trees to control sedimentation loss from the effects of erosion on the steep slopes of Lake Tanganyika. Sedimentation pollutes the water, prevents natural vegetation from growing and kills fish. Lake Tanganyika, the second deepest lake in the world, provides a

livelihood for 7 to 10 million people living in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. Since the project began, the sedimentation rate of Lake Tanganyika has fallen from 159 tonnes per day to 115 tonnes per day in the Lufubu River catchment area, where 2 of the 11 participating villages are located.

Buka Buka Fish (*Lates stappersii*) used to be caught throughout the year on the Zambian side of Lake Tanganyika up until the mid-1990s. Due to overfishing, changes in habitat and a wide range of other factors, the Buka Buka Fish is very rarely caught between April and October.

As fisherman John Simwiinga watched the fish stock in the lake dwindle, he realized he would have to turn to fish pond farming for survival. But Simwiinga lacked both capital and know-how. However, after attending a practical training on fish farming offered by the Lake Tanganyika programme, he received a loan of Kwacha 10 million (\$1,923) to set up his dream business.

"I have stocked 15,000 fingerlings in these ponds," Simwiinga said, pointing proudly at four ponds stretched over 130 square metres.

He now earns over Kwacha 15 million (\$2,884) every six months, an income that he and his family had never before seen.

"Before we were nomads... clearing trees and tightening our nets to catch the ever dwindling fish from the lake," Simwiinga said. "But now, with the support of UNDP, we have not only become settled but also financially stable."

Newly-created village communities have been instrumental in instilling peer pressure to repay the loans at a rate of 100 percent. To apply for a loan from the revolving fund, recipients must be socially responsible and active members of the community with no history of domestic abuse or violence.

Willies Simfukwe, district commissioner of Mpulungu and the chair of the district development coordinating committee, explained that the economic gains have not only contributed to the project's main goal — reducing sedimentation and overfishing — but it has also stimulated a change of attitude among the communities.

"People have developed a habit of saving, they have opened a savings account, something that was unusual before," he said.

Meanwhile, in Mbete village, Sebi Nafukwe has been proudly working in the field alongside women from her fish-farming community group. She hopes one day she and other members of the community will be able to afford a rice polishing machine that will bring them even more income and free up their time for other productive activities.



“With the support of UNDP, we have not only become settled but also financially stable.”

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ARAB STATES

occupied Palestinian territory NEW NETS HELP FISHERMEN IN GAZA BECOME SELF-RELIANT

Fishermen haul in their catch with the new nets provided by the DEEP project. (Tanya Habjouka/UNDP-PAPP)

BY DANIA DARWISH

Swedish Village, occupied Palestinian territory

The Swedish Village, a remote village of fishermen in the far south of the Gaza Strip in the occupied Palestinian territory, is home to some 95 households living under extreme poverty. Visitors to the Village – built by the Swedish Government in the 1960s – can immediately see the poor infrastructure and inappropriate living conditions tolerated by its 700 inhabitants, who live on less than \$US1 per day.

Part of a larger fishing community in the Gaza Strip, the fishermen of that area have faced years of neglect in terms of development activities. But that is not their only worry.

"We were born fishermen. My father was a fisherman and my grandfathers before him. Before, fishing was safer and more productive. Now, we are subject to different risks," said Kamel Abu Odah, a 50-year-old fisherman with a family of eight and a long-time resident of the Swedish Village.

"We have grown so poor that I cannot buy fishing nets anymore. They are too expensive. I can hardly provide daily food,

send my children to school or get appropriate medical care," he added.

Abu Odah, who used to earn \$250 to \$350 a month, now benefits from a \$4,000 in-kind grant of fishing nets, provided by UNDP's Deprived Families Economic Empowerment Programme (DEEP). His was one of nine households to receive these nets in his village, based on a needs assessment that flagged his family as extremely poor and in need of a small grant to get back on their feet.

With new nets that enable him to catch different sizes and types of fish, and trained in bookkeeping to monitor his income and expenditures, Abu Odah and his two sons have resumed their daily fishing trips.

His business has expanded, and his brother and nephew are also benefiting from the project. His records show that his income has increased to between \$1,300 and \$1,500 a month.

"I can now save money, buy the boat I always dreamt of and send my daughter to university next year," Abu Odah said.

DEEP is a \$48 million poverty reduction programme, funded by the Islamic Development Bank and implemented across the West bank and Gaza by UNDP.

To date, the Programme has created 12,000 permanent employment opportunities through grants for microenterprises and has helped over 66,000 families to graduate from poverty to economic self-reliance.

DEEP's strategy is to help people decide on the best means to address their own needs, come up with their own solutions and feel ownership of their new small business or other income-generating initiatives. Its participatory approach makes sure that projects are tailor-made for specific communities. The Programme's goal is to overcome the long-term problem of dependency produced by the political crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory. In Gaza alone, over 75 percent of the population receives aid in the face of food insecurity and restrictions to economic and social growth.

DEEP's approach goes beyond tradi-

tional interventions such as short-term employment; instead, it is a dynamic approach that looks at the development of a family as a unit.

In Gaza, DEEP faces many challenges due to restrictions, resulting in a lack of raw materials, a rapid increase in prices and an unstable exchange rate.

In the face of all these restrictions, UNDP, with its partners, is striving to make sure the programme operates smoothly. To date, the DEEP programme has managed to provide support to more than 500 families to improve their livelihoods, ranging from Abu Odah's fishing nets to helping a young

woman in the West Bank set up her own photo and video studio. UNDP's work is aided by local non-governmental organizations and partners.

Through DEEP, participating families are not only improving their livelihoods,

“
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my daughter
to university
next year.
”

but also beginning to perceive themselves differently as agents and producers of their own well-being as they attend DEEP meetings and speak of their needs and experiences.

"My life has changed. Now, I am planning to build a concrete ceiling," said Abu Odah, whose home is covered with tin like many in his community. "You cannot imagine how cold winter gets here, since we live close to the beach. My grandsons always get sick."

Abu Odah is one of many of DEEP's successes. The Programme was nominated for the Palestine International Award for Excellence and Creativity in October 2011, based on its pioneering approach to sustainable socioeconomic development to fight poverty in the occupied Palestinian territory.

DEEP's methods undergo continuous review, improvement and modification to remain relevant and responsive to the needs of Palestinian families. Its success in the occupied Palestinian territory is suggesting possibilities for expanding the programme regionally.



Indonesia FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Under a UNDP governance project, women in North Moluccas province get a briefing on legal rights. (UNDP Indonesia)

BY TOMI SOETJIPTO

Tobololo, Indonesia – Three years ago, Indonesian housewife Ibu Odah had little knowledge of legal affairs.

Now, the mother of two is at the forefront of a legal fight against domestic violence in the remote island of Ternate, in the North Moluccas province of Indonesia.

With the knowledge and expertise that she has acquired, Ibu Odah is now able to provide free legal advice to victims of domestic violence in Tobololo village. As a trained paralegal, Ibu Odah has so far handled three cases of domestic violence and succeeded in bringing them to the local judicial court.

To an outsider this may not be considered very significant but within her community, where domestic violence is viewed as a private affair and where many victims tend not to speak up for fear of retaliation, this is seen as a remarkable achievement and a positive beginning. Not long ago, domestic violence was usually handled within the family according to *adat* laws (social customs), not by official legal channels.

Ibu Odah is one of hundreds of thousands of people who have benefited from a legal empowerment and assistance project supported by the Government of Indonesia and UNDP. It seeks to expand access to justice for all Indonesians but particularly for the poor and marginalized.

The project, which is funded by the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, helps to increase the poor's awareness of their legal rights, as well as developing the capacity of government and non-governmental actors to better serve and protect the rights and interests of the poor.

With the backing of her husband, Ibu Odah signed up for paralegal training after learning about the importance of social justice at a community meeting organized in her village by one of UNDP's

“control over their lives.”

This national strategy focuses on several themes so that the benefits of legal empowerment go beyond personal legal disputes. These include legal and

In Central Sulawesi Province, people from Tangkumaho village and surrounding areas have been able to defend their land and mangroves from destruction by a private company that

illegally. The community managed not only to preserve their way of life but they also protected their land from destruction.

Meanwhile, in Ternate, Ibu Odah's domestic violence campaign has resulted in a breakthrough for women's rights on the island. One of the cases she handled involved an unmarried couple and she was able to push for a legal conviction from the judicial local court despite the fact that the country's Anti-Domestic Violence Law had previously been applied only to married couples.

Ibu Oda hopes that other women in her community will follow in her footsteps, and that in the future there will be many more people like her working for social justice.



Over 450,000 poor and disadvantaged people facing legal problems such as land disputes, discrimination, domestic violence and corruption have benefited from the programme.

programme partners.

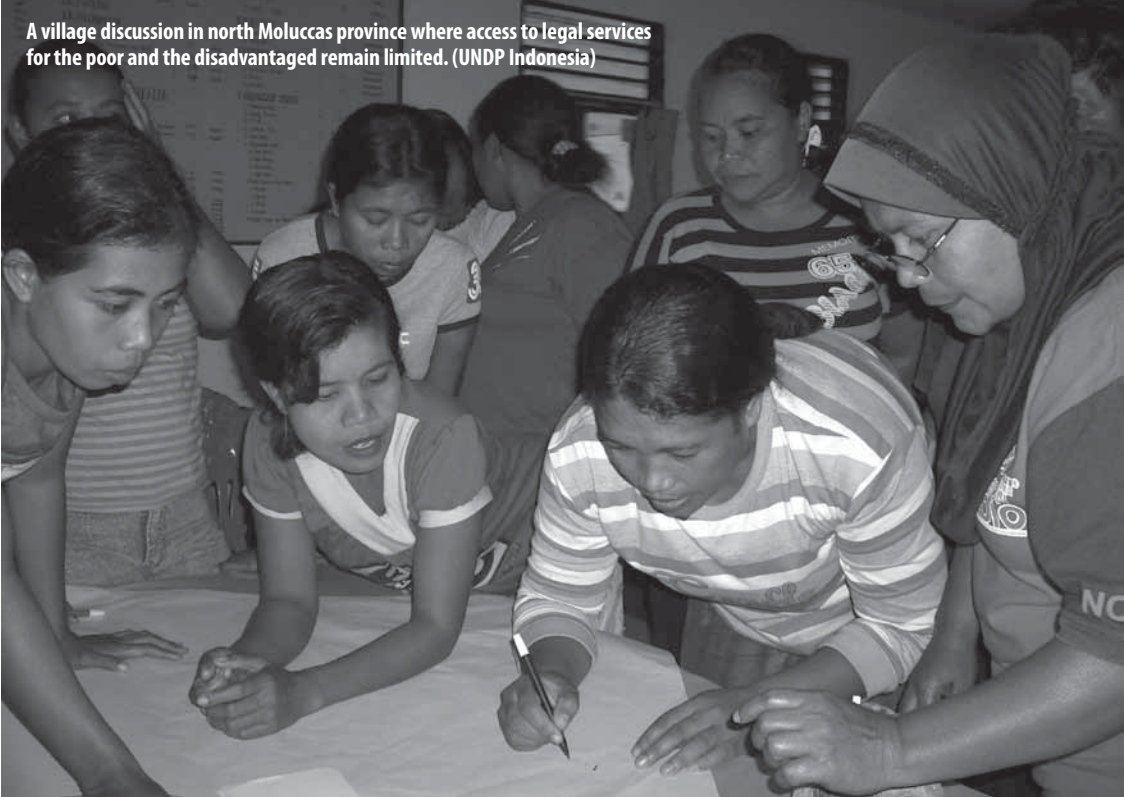
Even though Indonesia has recently graduated to become a lower middle income country, half of the country's 240 million people still live on less than US\$2 a day and women make up the bulk of the most vulnerable population. Legal awareness remains low in the country, mainly on account of poverty and illiteracy. An assessment of legal awareness in five provinces by UNDP and the Government of Indonesia recognized the importance of access to justice in combating poverty and the need to focus on the poor and disadvantaged and their access to justice. This has in turn informed the national strategy for access to justice that is included in the ongoing national development plan.

Over 450,000 poor and disadvantaged people facing legal problems such as land disputes, discrimination, domestic violence and corruption have benefited from the programme.

In a recent statement, the programme's director, Diani Sadiawati, said that adequate legal services and training can help disadvantaged communities, women and citizens with low education levels take

judicial reform, legal aid, local governance, land and natural resources and the rights of women. While supporting access to legal services, the strategy recognizes that justice for the poor involves ensuring fair and equal access to all public services.

plans to build commercial fish ponds. Armed with the knowledge of their legal rights, the community was very pro-active in demanding legal proof of the company's permissions. As it turned out, the company had been operating



A village discussion in north Moluccas province where access to legal services for the poor and the disadvantaged remain limited. (UNDP Indonesia)

China DISASTER RELIEF AND EARLY RECOVERY: BUILDING BACK BETTER AND GREENER

UNDP's earthquake recovery programme in Sichuan Province has benefited villagers Qing Lihua and Qiu Shibin. (UNDP China)

BY ZHANG WEI

Qinghe Village, Sichuan Province, China—Before the devastating Wenchuan earthquake in southwestern China on 12 May 2008, 62-year-old Qing Lihua's main source of income and food for his family was chicken farming. After the earthquake destroyed his home in Qinghe Village, Sichuan Province, however, he lost everything, including his chickens.

Qing was one of the 40 million people who were affected by the earthquake,

which killed almost 90,000 people. The destruction left behind untold levels of poverty and loss in communities that were already living a marginal existence.

At the request of the Government of China, UNDP stepped in, launching a two-year, US\$5.3 million programme to assist 20 of the poorest villages that were affected by the earthquake. With its already long-standing presence in China, UNDP was uniquely placed to assist.

From the early days of the relief operation, it was clear that the recovery

process would be long and difficult. In addition to meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of the tens of

millions of survivors, the Government and aid groups needed to quickly establish the foundations of a sustainable, long-term recovery plan. This required bridging the gap between initial relief efforts and the longer process of rebuilding physical structures, restoring social services and livelihoods and creating a prevention and recovery process for future crises.

One of UNDP's first steps was to launch a cash-for-work programme to assist the reconstruction of affected areas. Through this scheme, and others like it, villagers were paid when they pitched in to help rebuild critical facilities, such as roads, irrigation and water supply. They also worked to restore farmland in an area that is heavily dependent on agriculture.

"By taking part in cash-for-work, I am able to support myself," said villager Wang Bilie. "Working has helped me through this difficult time. I am busy and productive every day, and am able to financially support myself. I have hope for the future."

As recovery continued, the need for a specific strategy to help the extremely poor became more and more apparent. Like most disasters, the earthquake had a disproportionate impact on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women, children and the elderly.

As a result, UNDP's rehabilitation programme tackled issues like livelihood rehabilitation, legal support and social services for victims such as counseling, as well as ramping up energy and environmental planning and community-based disaster risk management.

UNDP's disaster risk reduction training helped communities respond more

effectively to subsequent disasters. In July 2010, torrential rains engulfed Luoheizui Village in Gansu Province. As the local reservoir overflowed with water and the dam threatened to collapse, the village committee safely evacuated villagers to higher ground, applying emergency response skills learned from drills.

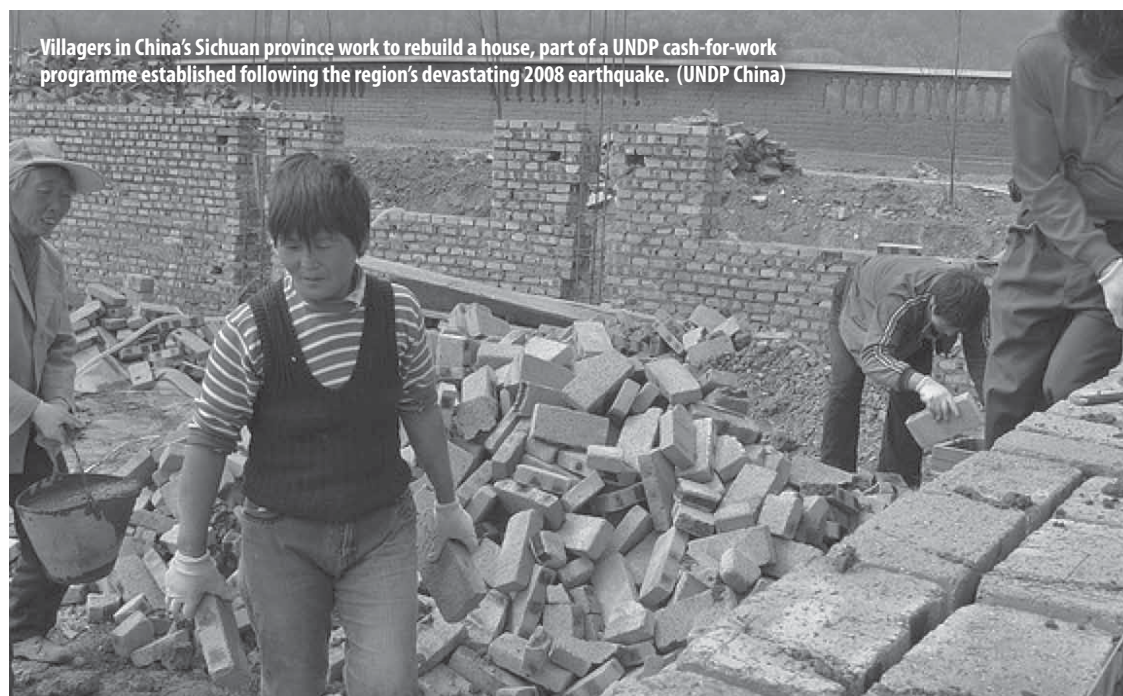
In all, almost 8,000 people have directly benefited from UNDP's work, demonstrating that trusted development partners can play a vital role in disaster recovery, even in places like China where the Government's capacity to respond is already high. Lives and homes have been successfully rebuilt, local employment opportunities have been created and communities have been empowered to respond better to disasters while protecting their livelihoods and families.

Meanwhile, in Qinghe Village, Qing has not only received a new shelter and chickens, both with UNDP's support, but he also benefited from the expertise and advice of Professor Shu Gang from Sichuan Agricultural University. Shu helped him to improve breeding techniques and secure a dependable market for his stock. As a result, although Qing now raises fewer chickens than before the earthquake, survival rates have increased and his annual income has grown by 10 percent.

"By raising chickens I have made a good profit and now other people in our village have begun to raise chickens as well," said Qing, who is now helping his neighbour, Qiu Shibin, to establish a successful livestock business.

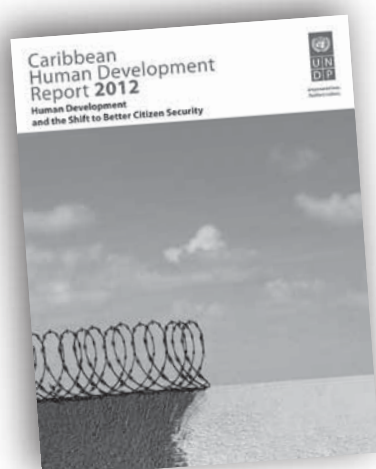


**I am busy and productive every day,
and am able to financially support myself.
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Kyrgyzstan PROTECTING THE PRIVACY AND DIGNITY OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS

BY LARISA BASHMAKOVA
AND JYLDYZ KUVATOVA

Bishkek, Kyrgystan – When he learned that he had acquired HIV from injecting drugs, 35-year-old Mirlan (not his real name) sought help from the Regional AIDS Prevention Centre in Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan. One day in 2005, television reporters showed up with a request to film the Centre's work.

Hoping to attract attention in the press, the chief physician asked Mirlan to do an interview with the reporters. He refused, but still ended up on TV, clearly identified as a person with HIV. While Mirlan wasn't looking, the doctor had held open some curtains so the reporters could film him without his knowledge.

After the broadcast, Mirlan's life took a dramatic turn for the worse, deepening the downward spiral that began when he stopped taking anti-retroviral drugs and lost a successful business. People jeered at him on the streets of his small provincial hometown, and refused to serve him in stores. Classmates at school called his children "AIDS carriers." Under great emotional duress, his mother died from a heart attack. Mirlan, despite his rapidly declining health, filed a case in court, helped by a UNDP-supported legal aid clinic.

He would not live to see the end, but he would leave a legacy: a landmark judgment against the doctor. For the first time in Kyrgyzstan, a court case legally upheld the human rights of a person living with HIV. It was possible because the Government, advised by UNDP, had adopted a new AIDS Law to protect people like Mirlan.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

A small country with a limited economic base, Kyrgyzstan has faced a challenging transition from the days of Soviet dependence. Budgetary resources have been short, and health care spending has

declined sharply, even as a new threat from HIV began to emerge.

Kyrgyzstan still has a relatively low prevalence of HIV but the virus is spreading at one of the fastest rates in the world. The country's location, at the crossroads of drug trafficking through Central Asia, has helped drive the number of injecting drug users up by 50 times in the last two decades, with a current total of around 25,000. Mostly men, they account for about two-thirds of HIV cases. Recent increases in the number of women and children with HIV indicate the epidemic is slowly but surely spreading into the general population.

Stopping the spread of HIV requires coordinated actions on many levels: new laws and state programmes, prevention and care services, resources, partnerships and behavioural changes. Kyrgyzstan started with few of these pieces in place. But with assistance from international partners such as UNDP, it has begun to put them together.

PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW

Early HIV initiatives focused on directly reaching communities most vulnerable to the virus, especially injecting drug users. In 2000, UNDP helped Kyrgyzstan become one of the first countries in Central Asia to pilot syringe exchange programmes. In 2002, it became the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States to offer methadone substitution treatment to heroin and opium addicts.

Important momentum came in 2005 from a new national AIDS law that UNDP helped to develop and get approved by the Parliament. That law is now considered one of the best of its kind in the post-Soviet region. It grants priority access to primary care facilities and medication for people living with HIV, and stipulates punishments for cases of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS — like

the one Mirlan filed. For the first time, the law called for legal distinctions between voluntary and compulsory HIV testing, with a requirement for informed written consent in all cases except those mandated by court order.

Subsequent policies and regulations built on the new law. The Criminal and Administrative Code partially decriminalized some activities involving drugs without an intention to sell. In 2007, a new regulation encouraged referrals of drug addicts to syringe exchange and methadone therapy programmes, rather than simply carting them off to jail. This measure has helped reduce the overall

number of prisoners in Kyrgyzstan by almost half, from 17,000 in 2007 to 9,500 in 2009.

To support these changes, UNDP has helped government officials develop a training programme on HIV for law enforcement agencies. An order from the Ministry of Internal Affairs now requires all police officers working with high-risk populations to learn about issues such as the vital importance of needle exchange programmes in protecting key populations at higher risk, and the rights of people with HIV under the Constitution and other laws, as well as personal protection measures.

The difference can be seen on the streets. Police officers who once harassed and arrested injecting drug users now send them to programmes that can save their lives.

IMPROVING PLANS AND SERVICES

The year after the 2005 AIDS Law, the Government adopted a national

AIDS programme to conform to it. The programme built on the latest international standards, such as by covering actions in the multiple arenas required to address HIV, including health, justice, law enforcement, education, social protection and information. It prioritized at-risk populations, such as injecting drug users and prisoners. To implement the programme, UNDP, in cooperation with other international organizations, assisted with setting up a national committee to coordinate HIV activities, along with a unified system for monitoring national and provincial activities.

The programme has helped ensure that HIV and harm reduction services — comprising testing and outreach, as well as syringe exchanges and methadone substitution programmes — now reach 60 percent of injecting drug users. By 2011, the Ministry of Health was operating 30 methadone treatment centres. Three additional programmes were running within prisons. In Bishkek, which has had some

of the longest-running needle exchange and methadone treatment services, HIV infection rates among users are half the national average.

Consultations on testing have been introduced in healthcare organizations across Kyrgyzstan, and public advocacy has conveyed the message on billboards, radio and television, that testing is an important routine medical procedure. Around 350,000 people now undergo it each year.

The national programme has strongly emphasized civil society participation in

stopping the tide of HIV infections. Under the protections of the 2005 AIDS Law, more groups of people living with HIV have formed, and civil society leaders, for the first time in Central Asia, have publicly emerged from marginalized communities, including former injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men.

UNDP has worked closely with these groups to provide seed funding and develop the technical skills they need to advocate, run organizations and provide services, including in connection with the public health system. As HIV threatens to spread beyond injecting drug users some non-governmental groups have pioneered Kyrgyzstan's first services tailored to women and girls living with HIV.

Other essential civil society contributions have come from religious leaders. Since Kyrgyzstan is a majority Muslim country, UNDP engaged the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kyrgyzstan and the State Commission on Religious Affairs in training Muslim imams to help break through the silence, fear and lack of knowledge that often surround HIV. In worship services and other religious activities, they preach about healthy lifestyles and the need to respect one another, regardless of HIV status.

"Everything I do in order to stop HIV is done in the name of God. I am helping people to avoid misfortune and sorrow," says Maksutov Jusupjanajy, the Chief Imam-Hatib of the Alai District in Osh Province.

AIMING FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Kyrgyzstan today has a foundation in place for stopping the spread of HIV. But it faces formidable hindrances to its next challenge: rapidly expanding the coverage and quality of HIV care and prevention services so that everyone has access to them.

The obstacles include ongoing political and economic instability, and the cross-border flow of narcotics, which continues unabated. The fact that HIV infections appear increasingly in small rural communities with limited medical care may prove to be an extra burden on an already overstretched healthcare system. And Kyrgyzstan is highly dependent on external financing for HIV programmes that has declined considerably in the face of the global economic crisis.

Hope comes from the growing cadre of officials and civil society advocates who have gained experience in working on HIV programmes sponsored by UNDP and other international partners. The latest national HIV prevention programme, drafted in 2011, aims for a full menu of protection and prevention services in all healthcare locations, and its targets include ensuring that over 80 percent of children and adults with AIDS can receive anti-retroviral treatment, up from 23 percent at present.

In 2011, the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria agreed to provide Kyrgyzstan with US\$31 million toward the goal of universal access to services for people living with HIV. Much more will be needed to hit that goal, but it is an important advance in the right direction for a country striving to stop a terrible epidemic.



ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY JANLY RAKHMANOVA

EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Croatia WITNESS SUPPORT OFFICES HELP TO DELIVER JUSTICE



The courtroom in Zagreb. (UNDP Croatia)

BY SUNČICA PLEŠTINA

Vukovar, Croatia – “As an employee of a retail chain, to my greatest regret, I was the witness of an armed robbery. It was an extremely traumatic experience that forced me to change my job,” writes M. K., who requested anonymity in her letter to the President of the Vukovar Court. “Four years after the event, I received a summons to testify against the suspected perpetrator, and my agony started again. For days I could not sleep ... fearful of meeting the suspect and of his revenge. I was reliving the fear and stress of that day.”

Fortunately, along with her summons, M.K. received contact information for the Office for Witness and Victim Support attached to the Vukovar County Court. The day before her testimony she visited the office. Branka Lučić, the office head, and her assistant Daniela Čukelj welcomed M.K. and explained the court process and what to expect, even showing her on a diagram where she would sit. When she

went to court to give evidence, M.K. was joined by the office staff.

“On the day of testimony, a day which I feared for years, Branka was there to support me. With her gentle voice and light conversation she diverted my attention away from the process. It worked on me better than any medication. Fear was replaced with peace, security and a sense of awareness that I was doing the right thing. Afterwards I was completely calm; I went to work and felt wonderful, like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders.”

Support offices like the one in Vukovar were created by UNDP, working together with the Croatian Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court. In just three years, the seven witness support offices in operation – four set up in 2008 and another three created in 2011 – have already provided support and counselling to 7,500 witnesses, and the number is rising steadily as the availability of this assistance becomes more widely known.

Originally intended to provide

protection to the victims of war crimes committed during the 1991-95 war that accompanied the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the offices soon expanded to address the needs of any victim who otherwise might be too fearful or traumatized to testify. Assistance has been provided in cases of domestic violence, assault, robbery, rape, murder, corruption and organized crime in addition to war crimes. The offices provide services free of charge, and witnesses enjoy full confidentiality.

When the first four witness support offices were created in 2008, UNDP hired the office staff (generally psychologists or social workers), provided them with specialized training, and secured and refurbished offices and waiting rooms. The private waiting rooms serve a vital function, as they give witnesses a secure refuge where there is no risk of an encounter with their assailants in the courthouse corridors. The offices also enlisted the help of a network of trained volunteers, many of them law students;

this now numbers over 200.

UNDP and the Government then launched a nationwide public awareness campaign informing citizens that the victims of crimes have rights that are protected and where they should turn for help. A dedicated website was also created at www.mprh.hr/mphr-en with practical information about trial proceedings. Finally, starting in November 2008, a leaflet detailing the services of witness support offices and contact information was attached to every court subpoena. These efforts prompted an increase in the number of visitors to the support offices, and this in turn improved the response rate for witnesses in court cases.

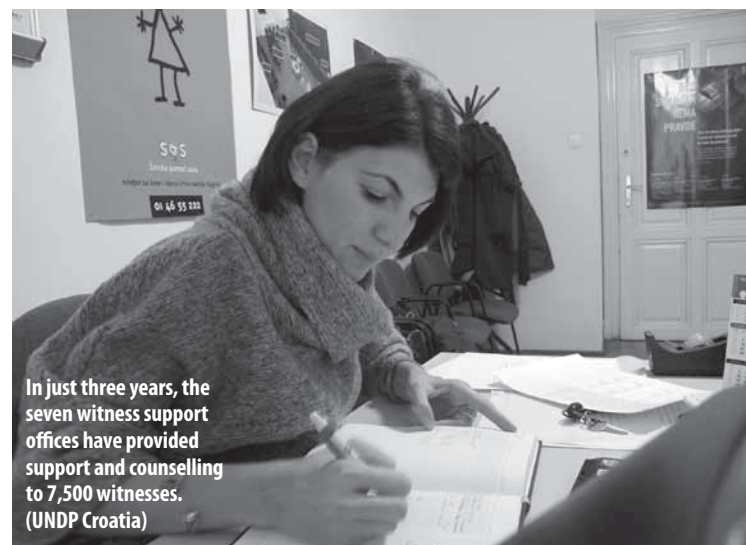
After a first successful year, the Ministry of Justice and court administration undertook to cover the costs of the support offices, ensuring their sustainability. A second wave of Witness and Victim Support Offices was created by UNDP and by early 2011 every major Croatian city had one. All seven of the offices were set up on a budget of under \$1.1 million, with funding from UNDP, the Netherlands, Spain, the United States and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; the Ministry of Justice has pledged to take over funding for the three new offices in 2012.

Public opinion surveys show 40 percent of Croatian citizens believe that the penal system fails to address the needs of crime victims. A significant share who say they have been victims of a crime admit that they have never reported the offence to the police.

When UNDP first raised the idea of witness support offices, Croatian judges were sceptical, fearing interference in their own work. Now, however, they are among the system's biggest advocates. They cite a reduction in the number of proceedings that are stalled because witnesses fail to appear in court; an increase in the number of particularly vulnerable victims who decide to report crimes and give evidence; and a rising number of victims and

witnesses who are willing to testify.

The Croatian model of witness support offices has been recognized internationally as a success story and a model for other countries. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe praised the work of UNDP in a 2011 resolution, calling the programme “a cornerstone for justice and reconciliation in the Balkans” and urging that witness support offices be established and funded across the region.



In just three years, the seven witness support offices have provided support and counselling to 7,500 witnesses. (UNDP Croatia)



Photos: Valeria Witters for UNDP

UNDP's Match Against Poverty

Each year since 2003, the UNDP Match Against Poverty raises global awareness of and advocates for human development and the end of poverty. At the 9th Match in December 2011, Goodwill Ambassadors **Zinédine Zidane, Ronaldo and Didier Drogba** led a team of star players to take on HSV Hamburg in a charity game that was broadcast in 40 countries, and which raised funds for the crisis in the Horn of Africa, where more than 13 million people are suffering from drought, conflict and food insecurity. To date, the Matches have raised more than US\$4 million for initiatives in 30 countries throughout the world.

Join the effort: undp.org/hornofafrica



Watch for the 10th Anniversary Match in December 2012!

Peru IMPROVING COOK STOVES AND ACCESS TO ENERGY

BY JAMES LESLIE

La Mar Province, Peru — Cooking on a wood fire has always required a great deal of effort for 48-year-old Pilar Valladolid. She is supported in this duty by her 8-year-old daughter, Pamela. Together they have to walk more than an hour to collect the firewood they will use to cook with during the coming days, just as Pilar used to do with her mother when she was a girl.

Pilar and her family live in a small town in the highlands of La Mar Province in the northeast corner of the Ayacucho region in the Peruvian Andes. Her husband José and their four sons usually return home in the evening after a long day harvesting

potatoes. There are more than 3,000 potato varieties in Peru, and farmers like José are the guardians of this rich agro-biodiversity.

Cooking over a wood fire has always been the norm here. In the poorer areas of Peru, families live in houses made of clay walls and earthen floors. They eat, sleep and relax in one common space.

Traditional wood fire kitchens have a low level of energy efficiency. They use too much wood and since they are not equipped with chimneys, the smoke produced remains indoors, damaging the health of the families who depend on them.

Improved cook stoves are more energy efficient than traditional ones, since they generate the same level of heat with up

to 50 percent less firewood, reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. At the same time, the improved stove design includes a chimney to eliminate the smoke from the house, reducing the incidence of respiratory problems.

In 2009, UNDP developed a programme with Peru's Ministry of Energy and Mining that provided 25,000 improved

Pilar Valladolid's health—and that of her family—has improved since she received a new, energy-efficient cook stove. (Musuk Nolte/UNDP)

cook stoves to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the country. The programme is cross-cutting in nature, addressing a number of development challenges, including health, climate change and forest preservation.

Two new partners have since signed on, the regional governments of La Libertad and Arequipa. Altogether,

“Thanks to my improved cook stove, everything has changed; the smoke always goes outside.”

the goal is to provide another 125,000 improved cook stoves, ultimately benefiting 750,000 people.

By November 2011, the programme had resulted in the construction of 75,000 stoves in various provinces of the country, including those with low human development indicators.

In Ayacucho, Pilar and other people who have received the new cook stoves are already benefiting from cleaner indoor air. They no longer suffer from smoke bothering their eyes while they cook. Since they now need to collect much less firewood every day, they have more time to help their children with homework and they are free to dedicate part of their time to other income-generating activities.

“With the implementation of the improved cook stove programme, La Libertad region will avoid the emission of 41,000 megatonnes of CO₂ a year,” said José Murgia Zannier, the region's president.

UNDP provided technical assistance as part of a regional project called Carbon 2012, which helped the initiative and others like it to access carbon markets. As a result, the programme will be able to access additional international financial resources to help make it sustainable. For example, the funding will be used to invest in the maintenance of existing cook stoves, as well as continued awareness-raising regarding the benefits and training in appropriate uses of the stoves for families like Pilar's.

“Because of the smoke produced by my stove I suffered from bronchitis and my walls were black. Today, thanks to my improved cook stove, everything has changed; the smoke always goes outside,” said Angélica Flores Farfán, who has also benefited from the programme.



Guatemala EXHUMING THE STORIES OF GUATEMALA'S LOST

BY HÉCTOR MORALES DELGADO

Guatemala City, Guatemala — After 36 years of internal armed conflict in Guatemala, thousands of confidential facts about the actions of the State have been registered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They include serious violations of human rights and attacks directed at the civilian population.

All of this information is on record but has resulted in few legal proceedings.

Rebecca Morales, 80, maintains hope that three decades after the disappearance of her son, clues can be found to show where, how and why Marco Arnoldo never appeared later that morning when, half a block from his home, the justice police carried him away with a basket of

bread still in his hand.

Despite signing the Peace Accords in 1996, this Central American country has not been able to comply with certain international requirements related to transitional justice, a set of measures put in place to address a legacy of human rights abuses.

In 2010, UNDP initiated the the Transitional Justice Programme (PAJUST for its initials in Spanish), to help bring about closure for families, dignity for victims and reparations for survivors of the internal armed conflict. A number of partners provided support, including the Government, civil society groups, the Governments of Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, and

Spain's Basque regional government.

“We were all very anxious to see the results and that the initiative would actually lead the country toward an authentic consolidation of peace. Fortunately, today we are beginning to see the first fruits,” said Xavier Michon, UNDP's Country Director in Guatemala.

The programme has also been successful at providing official records of police and military operations during the conflict after tapping institutions responsible for the files.

“The archives of the national police have been critical and are now accessible to any interested person,” said the Network's director Gustavo Meoño. Some years ago it was unthinkable that a person like him should be at the head of this institution because he himself was persecuted during the armed confrontation.

The main strength of Guatemala's transitional justice programme is the support it receives from the combined wills of PAJUST's partners. With UNDP's technical and expert support, for example, PAJUST has been able to investigate human rights violations through archival, forensic, anthropological and criminal means. This improves the prospects of success for the programme and is producing visible progress in achieving justice and national reconciliation.

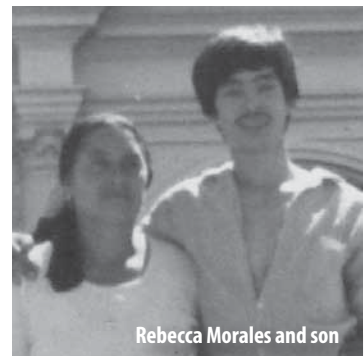
For her part, Ana Carla Ericastilla, Director of the General Archive of Central America, says that nearly 13 million pieces of data out of 20 million

available have been digitized to date, with technical support coming from the Government of Switzerland. This archive now includes systematized information from various national and departmental security forces, and essentially provides a detailed account of numerous violations against the human rights of more than 2,000 Guatemalans.

“We opened a room with electronic service for public access to declassified documents,” says Ericastilla. These documents have attracted hundreds of people per day who peruse them for information about friends and loved ones.

Rebecca Morales believes that the data obtained from the archives and exhumation processes offer hope for knowing how her son Marco Arnoldo died. Her son lived with her when he was abducted just a mile from where the majority of exhumations have taken place.

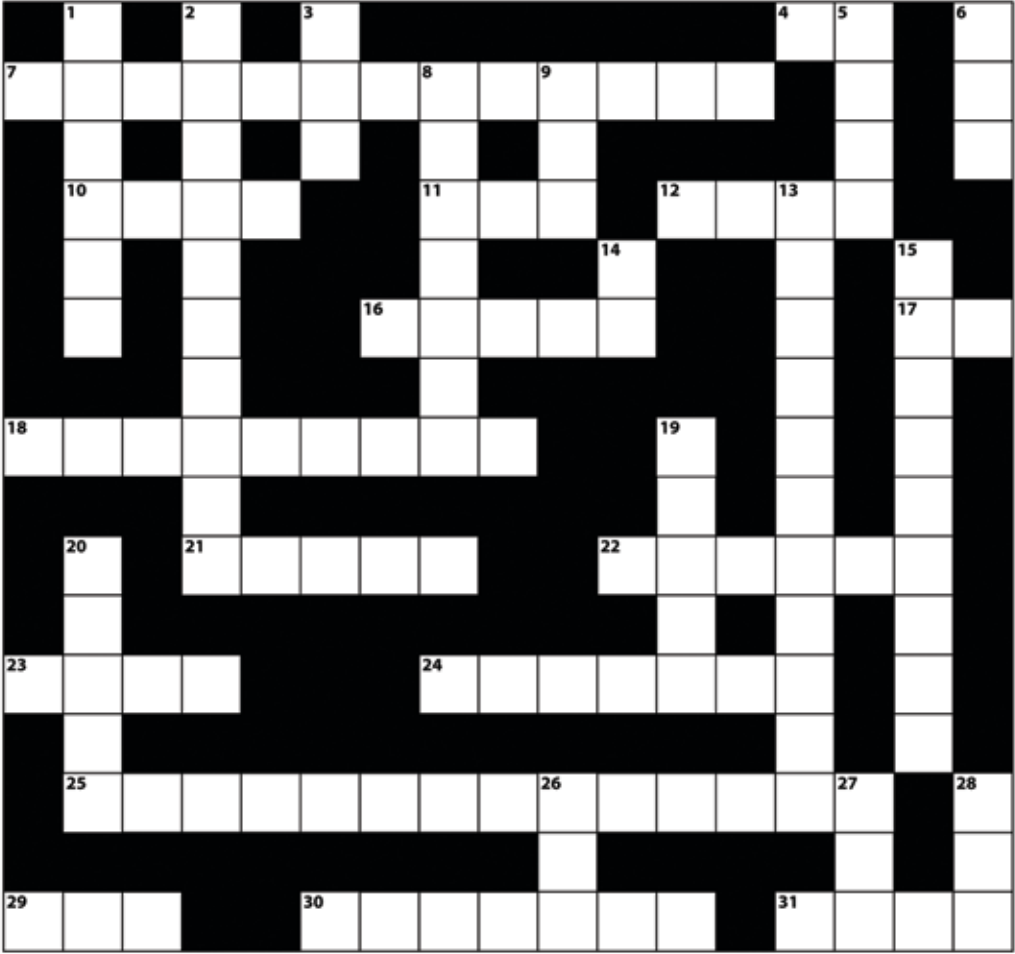
“Simply the news of knowing what could have happened to my son already changes life for us,” Morales says.



Rebecca Morales and son

“Simply the news of knowing what could have happened to my son already changes life for us.”

A DEVELOPMENT PUZZLE



- Down**
- 1: This is equal to MC multiplied by MC (6)
 - 2, 13 and 20: Just three more years. . . (10,11,5)
 - 5: 1 down for people (4)
 - 6: Acronym, important indicator in the 29 across (3)
 - 8: The bottom billion comprises one thousand of these (7)
 - 9: Development gives people ... opportunities (3)
 - 19: As the world warms up, this becomes the new black (5)
 - 27 down, 17 across and 14 down: Working together means ... and ... and all of ... (3,2,2)
 - 28: Less of this and more of 26 down and 31 across, please (3)
- Across**
- 10, 4 and 11: Alongside democracy, an important principle for good governance (4, 2, 3)
 - 7 and 25: Keeps your surroundings going (13,14)
 - 12: Acronym, UN deforestation programme (4)
 - 15 down and 16, 18 and 30 across: UNDP's tagline (9,5,9,7)
 - 22: There are seven billion of these (6)
 - 21 and 24: The opposite of Big Money (5,7)
 - 23 across and 3 down: UNDP programme featured in this publication ... / ... work (3,4)
 - 26 down and 31 across: Anagram, 'of blue, I' (3-4)
 - 29: Acronym, UNDP's flagship publication (3)

FOR SOLUTION, GO TO PAGE 3.



WHAT IS THE SOUND OF A TREE NOT FALLING?

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