

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



## Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Violent conflicts and natural disasters can wipe out decades of development gains. UNDP addresses the effects of these man-made and natural crises as part of its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP identifies the needs of men, women and children in crisis and strives to address them—whether as immediate as helping cyclone victims restart their lives, or as complex and long-term as a recovery plan to resettle earthquake victims, from relief to reconstruction.

## Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

UNDP programmes address the root causes of conflict by strengthening national conflict management capacity; integrating conflict prevention into national development planning; and building consensus out of disputes through multi-stakeholder dialogues.

**Ghana:** Building on the assistance provided to the Government since 2004, UNDP contributed to the establishment of the National Peace Council in 2007 -- the first entity of its kind in Africa. The new Council mediated several domestic conflicts at the invitation of the President of Ghana, and facilitated the presidential candidate selection process of the two major national political parties.

## Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

UNDP provides technical advice on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. Additional support helps communities to receive returning ex-combatants, address the availability and misuse of weapons and reduce the incidence of armed violence.

**Nepal:** In support of the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and in the framework of the 2006 peace deal, UNDP contributed to the registration of Maoist combatants in 2007 by fielding registration experts from the successful Afghanistan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programme. As a result of the cooperation between the UNDP Afghanistan and Nepal country offices, UNMIN rapidly completed the first phase of registration and weapons storage. By March 2007, a total of 31,152 Maoist Army combatants and 3,475 weapons had been registered.

## Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery

In times of crisis, it is often marginalized populations, such as women and children, who suffer the most. Rape and sexual violence in conflict situations are not collateral damage: they are

methods of war. Perpetrators of these war crimes must be held accountable—by their communities, governments and by the international community.

In 2007, UNDP launched an *Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery*. The action plan offers a comprehensive approach to address the needs of women and girls in crisis and gives them a voice in the recovery process. It aims to:

- Stop violence against women;
- Provide justice and security for women;
- Advance women as decision-makers;
- Involve women in all peace processes;
- Support women and men to build back better;
- Promote women as leaders of recovery;
- Include women's issues on the national agenda;
- Work together to transform society.

**Côte d'Ivoire:** In 2008, UNDP helped launch the first post-conflict support centre for women and girls in the country, based in Man in west Côte d'Ivoire, a region particularly affected by conflict. This centre, run by a local women's non-governmental organization, is one of few in Africa (similar centres exist in The Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone). The centre is designed to provide psychological, health and economic services to women and girls affected by the conflict.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:** UNDP has recently initiated a programme designed to strengthen women's security and access to justice in an effort to scale up the response to sexual violence against women and girls in the Eastern part of the country.



**A woman ex-combatant being taken to a transit centre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

## Mine Action and Small Arms

UNDP is the lead UN agency addressing the long-term socio-economic impact of landmines and explosives used in war. The presence of these explosives, in addition to killing and maiming hundreds of people per year, restricts access to public areas,

UNDP Cumulative Programme Expenditure (2004-2007) for Crisis Prevention and Recovery	
US\$ millions	
Recovery	561
Special initiatives for countries in transition	352
Conflict prevention and peacebuilding	239
Natural disaster reduction	209
Mine action	114
Small arms reduction, disarmament and demobilization	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,567</b>

limits availability of land for agriculture, and prevents infrastructure repairs—hindering the distribution of public goods and services. UNDP also provides assistance to more than 20 countries to reduce the number of weapons in circulation and supports policy initiatives to ensure that small arms and light weapons (SALW) control is part of the development agenda at international, regional and national levels.

**Regional Initiatives:** In 2007, UNDP supported the launch of the Central America Small Arms Control Project to help governments in Central America address small arms-related issues regionally. UNDP also assisted nine national SALW commissions from the Economic Community of West African States by launching surveys to assess the scope of the small arms problem in the region.

**Cambodia:** At least 60,000 people in Cambodia have been killed, disabled or injured by landmines over the past 25 years. As these accidents usually occur during farming activities, UNDP is working to remove mines from more than 1,200 hectares of farmland, mark dangerous areas clearly and raise public awareness about safety precautions.

**Iraq:** With financial support from the US Government, UNDP assists the Iraqi Mine Action National Authority to plan, coordinate and implement mine action activities in the country. For example, UNDP has provided training to national mine action staff and has facilitated the participation of an Iraqi delegation to the 2007 Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

## Rule of Law

With field presence and expertise in over 160 countries, UNDP plays a significant role in promoting the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict countries.

**Sudan:** Established in 2004, the Rule of Law Programme in Sudan is one of UNDP's most comprehensive. It addresses the broader spectrum of rule of law: from capacity development of the national judiciary, Ministry of Justice, law enforcement and corrections, to legal aid and legal information at the community-level. Designed to counter "rule by force," part of the programme is implemented in Darfur, where UNDP seeks to: 1) respond to the immediate and medium-term needs of threatened populations and non-functioning institutions, laying

the building blocks for a full-fledged recovery phase; and

2) build the capacity of national stakeholders to:

- address the existing rule of law vacuum;
- actively contribute to defuse conflict and restore justice; and,
- ensure ownership and capacity in future peacebuilding efforts.

## Disaster Risk Reduction

Understanding the risks related to natural disasters is the first step towards managing a crisis. UNDP helps to integrate disaster risk reduction into development planning, build the capacity of national institutions to address disaster, and systematically integrate risk reduction into disaster response.

**Kyrgyzstan:** In 2007, UNDP supported the National Disaster Management Programme to help local communities in Osh, Jalalabad and Batken provinces to establish, train, and equip 40 Rural Rescue Teams. These teams will become a key component of the state civil defense system managed by the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The Rescue Teams also developed disaster response plans and implemented mitigation projects to reduce risk and better prepare for future natural disasters.

## Early Recovery

A relatively new concept, early recovery addresses a critical gap in coverage between humanitarian relief and long-term recovery, between reliance and self-sufficiency. While working within a humanitarian setting, early recovery team workers have their eyes on the future, assessing damages to infrastructure, property, livelihoods, and societies. Their goal is to enable a smoother transition to long-term recovery—to restore livelihoods, government capacities, shelter—and to offer hope to those who survived the crisis.

**Lebanon:** In the aftermath of the 2006 conflict in Lebanon, UNDP provided technical and financial support to the Prime Minister's Office as part of its recovery portfolio and the overall coordination effort required after the initial humanitarian phase. As part of this support, UNDP assisted the government in effectively managing external resources and building a transparent monitoring and evaluation system. This system currently includes routine information systems from line ministries and a donor assistance database.

**Peru:** Within days of the earthquake that struck on 15 August 2007, causing massive damage in the city of Pisco and seriously affecting surrounding cities on the Pacific Coast, UNDP deployed a team of early recovery advisors to support national institutions such as FORSUR (Fund for the Reconstruction of the South) and provincial state institutions with immediate recovery activities. Training was also provided to these institutions on land zoning and planning, and risk management.

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