

UNDP Results

Democratic Governance



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Approach

Democratic governance is a cornerstone of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) work, instrumental in empowering nations and communities in 177 countries and territories around the world, as well as advancing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight international goals that aim to reduce poverty by half.

UNDP supports governments to establish effective, fair, responsive and independent electoral, justice and security institutions and processes that promote the rule of law and resilience, particularly for women and vulnerable groups.

More than half of UNDP's democratic governance expenditures go to support the 48 Least Developed Countries and those countries in special development situations such as Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia. At the same time, UNDP has a critical role to play in middle-income and more stable countries. In 2011, UNDP helped over **130 countries** and devoted **US\$1.5 billion** in resources to democratic governance, making UNDP one of the world's largest providers of democratic governance assistance.

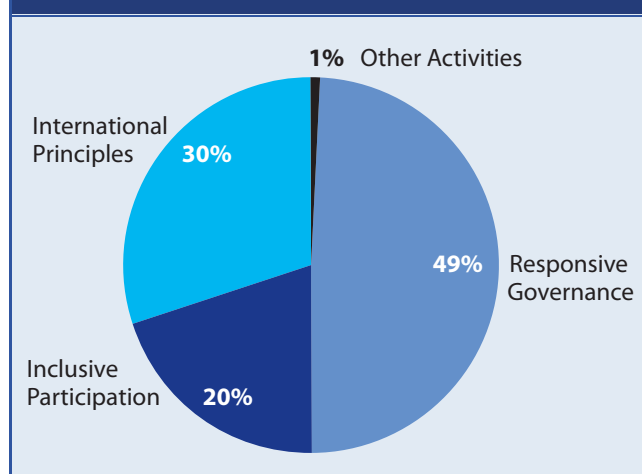
R E S U L T S

Fostering inclusive participation

UNDP strengthens democratic participation in four areas: civic engagement; electoral systems and processes; parliamentary development; and e-governance and access to information. UNDP supports one in three parliaments in the developing world and an election every two weeks. In 2011, UNDP helped 15 countries adopt initiatives that successfully increased the percentage of eligible voters, many of them women.

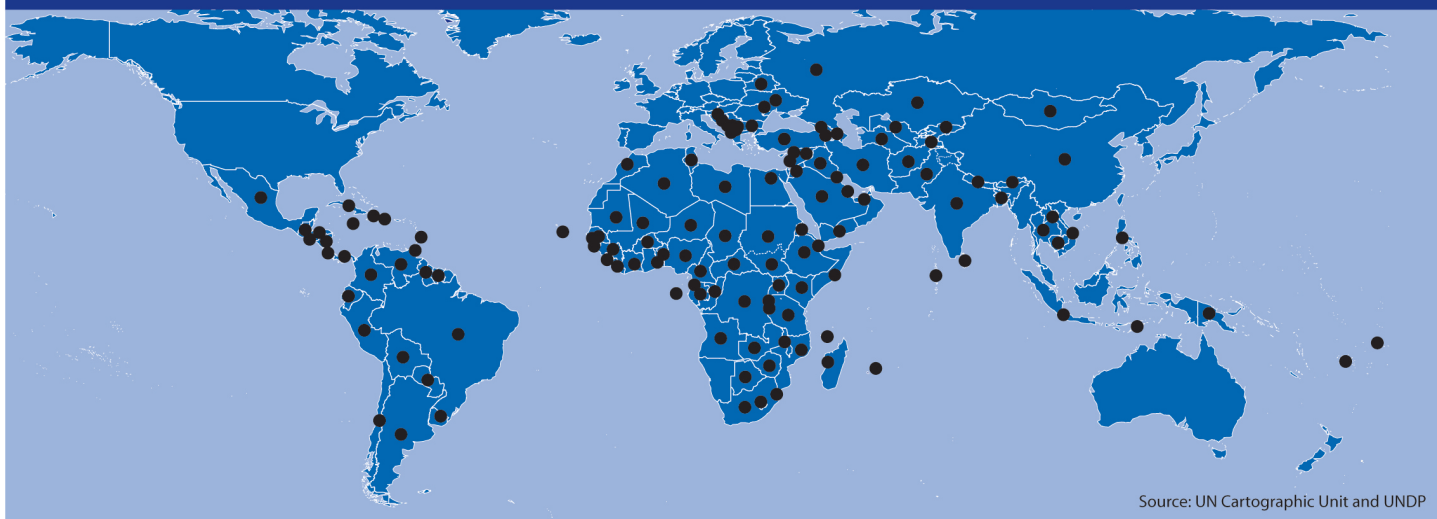
- In **Tunisia**, UNDP helped mobilize a record number of young people to participate in the country's first democratic election in October 2011 through traditional and social media campaigns.
- In **Zambia**, UNDP's support to the Electoral Commission included voter-education initiatives, the training of journalists on ethical reporting of elections and the training of 15,000 police on human rights and election monitoring. UNDP also supported the training of 50,000 electoral officers and more than 1,400 voter education facilitators, resulting in a credible and transparent September 2011 election.
- In **Afghanistan**, women won 27 percent of parliamentary seats, exceeding a 25 percent quota reserved for them during the 2010 elections in September, following a programme of UNDP electoral assistance that included awareness-raising and training on gender-related issues.

Democratic Governance Expenditure: 2012



Source: UNDP Operational Support Group, September 2012

UNDP Support to Democratic Governance: 2011



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Promoting rule of law and access to justice

Fairness, equality and justice are essential for democratic governance. Respect for the rule of law promotes peace, protects human rights and sustains progress for all people. UNDP is currently helping 90 countries provide improved access to justice to their citizens; it is also supporting efforts for uphold judicial and transparency standards in key institutions, making them more responsive to the people they serve.

- In **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNDP support for the establishment of mobile courts and legal aid centres resulted in the conviction of 193 members of the police and army for mass rapes and crimes against humanity.
- In **Somalia**, the UNDP-supported Somaliland Women's Law Association provided over 1,000 people access to legal-aid in 2011. As a result, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence received critical legal support and, in many cases, a conviction.
- UNDP supported the Government of **Burundi** in the training of more than 1,400 judges, clerks and administrative staff as part of an ongoing judicial reform process.
- Over 450,000 poor and disadvantaged people facing legal problems have benefited from a legal empowerment and assistance project supported by the Government of **Indonesia** and UNDP.

Mainstreaming international principles

Through partnerships with several UN agencies, UNDP works under the auspices of international legislation tackling corruption and upholding women's and human rights to further development goals.

- In the countries of **Montenegro** and **Serbia** and in **Kosovo**, UNDP has helped over 34,000 Roma and their families to access health care and other social services thanks to a programme that provides them with much-needed legal status.
- In 2011 alone, UNDP reviewed laws affecting people living with HIV in 15 **Pacific Island countries**. As a result, UNDP is now supporting HIV law-reform efforts in half a dozen countries there, including **Fiji**, which removed its discriminatory 'sodomy law' and later passed human rights-compliant HIV and AIDS law.
- In **Turkey**, UNDP is working with the Government to identify and address gaps in the country's National Anti-Corruption Action Plan; UNDP's advocacy also resulted in the Prime Ministry Inspection Board's commitment to restructuring based on international recommendations.

For more information:

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