UNDP Results
Somalia

Approach

Since 1991, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been helping the people of Somalia to recover from years of conflict while setting the country on the path to development.

UNDP’s strategy in Somalia focuses on making progress towards peace and meeting people’s humanitarian and recovery needs by addressing gender issues, boosting access to social services, improving livelihoods, reducing poverty, promoting good governance and improving human security.

UNDP will help make this happen through long-term assistance that builds the skills of authorities to deliver essential public services, basic security and conflict resolution processes. As the political and security situation in each region develops differently, UNDP adapts its approach based on different needs and accessibility in Puntland, south central Somalia and Somaliland.

Access to some parts of the country remains extremely difficult due to the fragile security situation. To address this challenge, UNDP works with the Government, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups to reach communities in all regions of the country.

RESULTS

Responding to crisis

In July 2011 the UN declared famine in two regions of southern Somalia, following a severe drought that affected the entire East Africa region. UNDP was a critical part of the immediate response, addressing underlying factors like livelihoods and governance. As a result:

- More than 70,000 people benefited from UNDP-rehabilitated infrastructure, including 80 wells capable of storing 380 million litres of water (equivalent to 152 Olympic-sized swimming pools); 94 kilometres of road; 25 km of canals; 18,000 newly-planted trees; and various markets, hospitals and schools.
- UNDP distributed 20-litre water containers and 1,500 energy-saving stoves to 3,000 households;
- UNDP facilitated the provision of short-term employment to 18,907 beneficiaries through a cash-for-work programme, of which 6,643 were women and 3,781 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This generated around 600,000 workdays for people affected by crisis in Mogadishu and parts of south central Somalia.
- Women who participated in these work schemes subsequently started 300 businesses with the money they earned, including tea shops, produce stalls and other small shops.
Governance and rule of law

UNDP is working towards establishing good governance and public accountability systems at all levels of government. Results include:

- A provisional constitution developed with UNDP support was adopted in August 2012. UNDP provided immediate, hands-on electoral advice and logistical and security support, enabling the country to select members of Parliament and conduct a transparent election for both the Speaker and President in August and September 2012.
- The training of 14,000 civilian police officers, including 5,500 in south central Somalia, 5,000 in Somaliland and 1,500 in Puntland.
- Legal aid is now available outside regional capitals, thanks to UNDP support in setting up mobile courts, making it much easier for citizens to access justice. In 2011, 1,236 people accessed legal aid services to resolve disputes in Puntland, as well as 6,403 in Somaliland and 692 in south central Somalia.
- UNDP’s work in local governance and public financial management enabled the Offices of the Auditor General to improve the quality and depth of Government audits in Somaliland and Puntland. For the first time in 2011, the auditor generals in both regions completed central government and local government audits.

Poverty reduction and environmental protection

UNDP works with vulnerable Somali communities in Puntland, Somaliland and south central Somalia to overcome conflict and post-conflict hardships by providing livelihood opportunities. Beneficiaries include people affected by drought and conflict, with a particular focus on women and minorities. Results include:

- Production of the first Somalia Human Development Report in 11 years. The report, Empowering Youth for Peace and Development, was launched by UNDP in September 2012.
- Provision of short-term employment to 4,965 people, including 2,785 women and 2,453 IDPs, creating over 147,608 workdays between January and September 2012.

Cross-cutting themes

Gender

- UNDP provided grant support to Somali women’s groups, allowing them to advocate for the 30 percent quota for women’s representation in Somalia’s new political institutions. The quota was almost achieved at 27 percent in the National Constituent Assembly.
- Somaliland’s first-ever female prosecutors were appointed in 2010, and in 2012 four women were appointed as Deputy Attorney-Generals. All women completed law degrees thanks to UNDP scholarships.

HIV and AIDS

As a trusted development partner and co-sponsor of UNAIDS, UNDP’s main focus is to build the capacity of government at all levels as well as work closely with civil society to support a well-coordinated and effective response to HIV and AIDS. As a result:

- In 2011 UNDP initiated a programme that encouraged “community conversations” in four HIV ‘hot spot’ districts in Puntland and Somaliland, reaching a total of 3,375 people.
- UNDP also supported several workshops on ‘Knowing your Rights’ for people living with HIV and AIDS in partnership with two universities in Somaliland and south central Somalia.

For more information:

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