Security and development: Security services, when operating in line with the human rights-based approach, underpin social and economic development, and protect sustainability efforts. Only strong and legitimate institutions can address and prevent the evolving landscape of insecurity characterized by violence, crime, and terrorism – often exacerbated by weak governance, low resilience and climate change. In that sense, human security offers an integrated and multidimensional conceptual framework that promotes a people-centered approach to security systems. UNDP is exploring ways to root this approach in its programming response looking at the complementarity and synergies between top-down and bottom-up approaches, managing support to state and non-state security actors, and promoting inclusiveness and local ownership.

What we do

• Strengthen and support national and local strategies to promote people-centered and prevention-oriented approaches to security.

• Engage communities and individuals to help identify the security problems they face, and to develop potential solutions in a transparent, inclusive, and effective way.

• Support to ensure the human rights compliance of the law enforcement services, and to protect women and children including through the fight against gender-based violence.

• Provide policy and strategic advice as well as technical support to the security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) processes and to the capacity building of the security sector including police service development and community policing.

• Enhance the democratic oversight, accountability and gender responsiveness of security institutions.

• Prevent and address illicit trade, accumulation, proliferation and misuse of SALW and ammunitions.

• Support national stakeholders to reduce conflict-related deaths and all forms of violence, including through community security and social cohesion, within broader stabilization, peacebuilding, and recovery initiatives, and in connection with the longer-term reform and development process of the security system.

Challenges we face

• Conflicts, all forms of violence and persecution.

• Increasingly complex and multifaceted insecurity characterized by transnational organized crime, illicit flow and trafficking of arms, terrorism and cybercrime.

• Displacement and poverty triggered by conflicts and fragility.

• Lack of livelihood and economic opportunities that often lead to the manipulation of youth and their recruitment by the armed groups, criminal networks and terrorist organizations.

• Social unrest and gender-based violence magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Collapse of state capacities and bad governance of the security sector.

• Politization of the security sector and shrinking of civic space.
To learn more:

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