



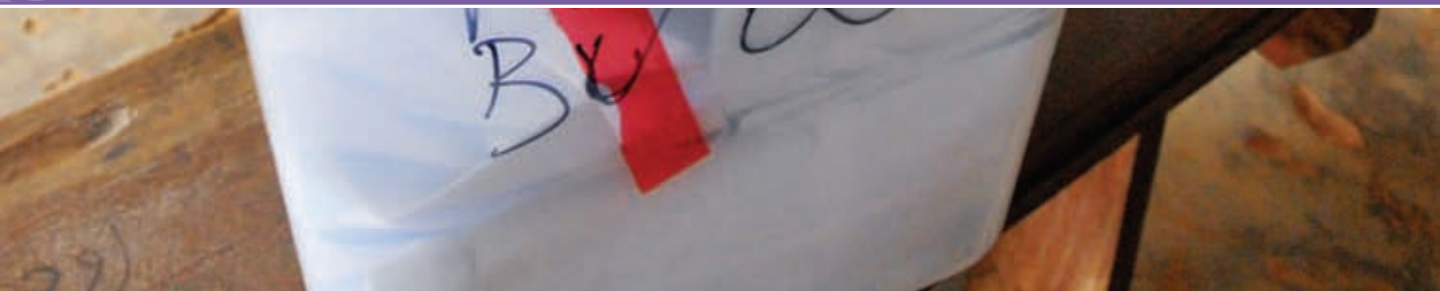
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Resilient nations.*



United Nations Development Programme

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

**FOSTERING DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES IN  
AFRICA**







## FOREWORD



Over the last two decades, Africa has seen a virtual sea change in governance, as a result of national and regional efforts that have pushed democracy further into standard practice.

Africa now has the highest number of countries with democratic systems to date since the 1960s. The continent has demonstrated increased experience and collective skill in dealing with political conflict. Between 2010 and 2011 for instance, African countries conducted a record 40 elections.

Last year alone was marked by a number of important electoral successes, including the referendum leading to South Sudan's independence, the transition to civilian rule in Niger, and a peaceful transfer of power to Zambia's political opposition.

In addition, the proportion of women in African parliaments is higher than it has ever been. In Rwanda for instance, that figure stands at 56 per cent, the highest in the world, while Burundi now has 46 percent of women in the senate, the highest percentage in the world of women in an upper house.

Nonetheless, considerable challenges remain. In 2010 and 2011, these were epitomized by the post-election crisis in Ivory Coast, where presidential elections led to a four-month standoff resulting in violence, displacement and extensive physical damage.

Preserving security, bolstering democratic institutions, fighting corruption and promoting human rights and the rule of law will remain important priorities for Africa, a region that remains prone to violent conflict and abuse of power.

Giving youth a voice and the ability to participate in political processes will be an important part of this project. Empowering young people carries wide-ranging benefits for their economies and societies. This will be important and challenging in view of the high rates of youth unemployment throughout the continent.

UNDP recognizes that democratic governance is central to Africa's development. We help to involve Africans in decision-making, contribute to making democratic institutions work better, promote principles of governance and link countries up with the necessary knowledge so they can develop their own national solutions.

In addition, we support regional institutions and processes so countries can examine and encourage each other to comply with a wide range of African and international human rights, democracy and governance treaties and standards.

Africa is on the verge of achieving a development breakthrough. By embracing a culture of participation, openness, accountability and peaceful resolution of conflicts, African countries will truly be in a position to foster and achieve long-term, people-centered development.

**Tegegnework Gettu, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General ,  
Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa**



# ELECTION SCHEDULE

## ELECTION SCHEDULE (2012)

ANGOLA	Aug or Sept 2012	Presidential & National Assembly
BURKINA FASO	May 2012	National Assembly
CAMEROON	Jun or Jul 2012	National Assembly & Communes
GAMBIA	29 mar 2012	National Assembly & Local
GHANA	7 & 28 Dec 2012	Presidential & National Assembly
GUINEA	2012	National Assembly
GUINEA-BISSAU	Mar & Dec 2012	Presidential & National Assembly
KENYA	2012 or 2013	Presidential, National Assembly & Local
LESOTHO	Feb or May 2012	National Assembly
MADAGASCAR	2012	National Assembly
MALI	29 Apr, 1 July 2012	Presidential & National Assembly
MAURITANIA	Mar 2012	National Assembly & Senate
MAURITIUS	Feb 2012	Regional Assembly
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	Jun 2012	National Assembly
SENEGAL	26 Feb, 17 Jun 2012	Presidential & National Assembly
SIERRA LEONE	17 Nov 2012	Presidential, House of Representatives & Local
SEYCHELLES	May 2012	National Assembly
TOGO	Oct 2012	National Assembly
ZIMBABWE	2012	Presidential, National Assembly, Senate & Local

[Dates are subject to change.]



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Members of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) arrive at the rally in Juba, as South Sudan prepares for its independence. (Photo: UN/Paul Banks)

## BACKGROUND

Over the last ten years, following decades of economic stagnation and declining living standards, Africa has experienced high rates of economic growth. According to the African Economic Outlook for 2011, Africa's economies have weathered the global crisis and, assuming economic normality returns, growth is expected to accelerate to almost 6 percent in 2012, with a possible return to levels achieved before the crisis.

In the last decade, many countries around the region were able to capitalize on this trend, accelerating progress toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For instance, Africa has forged ahead in the area of universal education. The region has also made progress in a number of areas such as gender equality and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Yet, a lot remains to be done to translate this economic growth into substantial reduction of poverty, as shown by insufficient progress on the goals relating to maternal mortality or access to safe drinking water, which will likely not be reached in 2015. Democratic governance is both a means to achieving human development and an end in itself. It consists in encouraging institutions and processes that are responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, expanding choices for individuals, communities and nations. Democratic governance is



associated with security, accelerated growth and investment, sound financial management, and effective and equitable social policies. It also embodies principles of justice, human rights and fairness, giving people a secure space so they can voice their opinions freely.

Africa's response to the recent global economic crises –characterized by improved fiscal discipline – and the region's willingness and ability to stem conflict and promote democracy are encouraging. These responses also underline the important role of the State in addressing critical national, regional and global challenges.

The first quarter of 2011 was one of the most turbulent in Africa's history. In North Africa, peaceful popular uprisings toppled long-standing authoritarian regimes in Tunisia and Egypt, while neighboring Libya descended into civil war. Further south, in Côte d'Ivoire, presidential elections led to a four-month standoff resulting in violence, displacement and extensive physical damage in what was once one of West Africa's most peaceful and prosperous countries.

On the other hand, 2010 and 2011 saw a number of encouraging developments. The independence of South Sudan on 9 July, 2011 marked an important milestone for the region. In March 2011, Niger held a peaceful presidential run-off vote, completing its transition to civilian rule. In September 2011, Zambia's incumbent peacefully handed the presidency over to a veteran opposition leader. In Guinea, voters turned out in large numbers in June 2010 to elect a new president in the West African country's first democratic election.

Notably, Africa has the highest number of countries with democratic systems to date since the 1960s. A large majority of African countries now conduct regular elections at the national, regional and local levels, enabling populations to choose their political leaders and therefore increasing the legitimacy of these leaders.

Progress in women's political representation has been commendable. The South African election of April 2009 saw women's representation in Parliament rise to 45 percent (from 34 percent before the election). Uganda's parliament is now comprised of 34.9 per cent women, while in Rwanda; the proportion of women in parliament is now 56 percent, the highest in the world.

**"The elections [in Niger] symbolize a return to a governance system that is capable of tackling the country's development issues".**

Khaldiata Lo N'Diaye, Former United Nations Resident Coordinator in Niger, on the January 2011 presidential election, which paved the way for a transition to civilian rule.

Another indication that Africa is embracing democratic principles and processes, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) helps African countries to monitor each other's compliance with a wide range of African and international human rights treaties and standards. In 2011, APRM conducted reviews in Sierra Leone, Zambia and Kenya.

In 2012 and beyond, African countries will continue to face complex development challenges, both domestic and international. The recent food, fuel and financial crises, coupled with threats from climate change and the recent instability in North Africa are likely to affect the region's progress toward achieving the MDGs in 2015. The likelihood of violence and insecurity, particularly along fragile borders, will constitute additional challenges for peace and the rule of law in a number of countries. Together, these will place formidable pressure and create additional demands on African States.



# OUR APPROACH

## UNDP'S APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

In response to these demands, UNDP focuses on enhancing the capacity of African States to deliver development while making sure people, communities and civil society organizations are included in decision-making processes. UNDP aims to:

- Expand people's opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, particularly women, youths, marginalized groups and the poor;
- Contribute to build responsive institutions and making them more accountable;
- Promote international and regional principles of democratic governance; and
- Promote knowledge on governance and share best practices among African decision-makers.

UNDP responds to country-specific demands, helping countries to formulate and implement nationally-owned solutions to help them achieve the MDGs. We also work with Africa's regional institutions, assisting them to develop and implement standards and policies that address national and regional development issues. Our strength is in our ability to pool experiences and knowledge from across the world while adapting that knowledge to specific local and national settings.

### Involving People in Decision-Making

Participation gives people a voice in the democratic process. Yet many countries often lack specific systems and institutions to ensure people are represented across the board.

#### Electoral Cycle Support

In 2011, UNDP supported 19 largely peaceful elections across Africa. Completing its transition to civilian rule, **Niger** held a peaceful presidential run-off vote in March 2011, hailed by international observers as free and fair. UNDP mobilized USD 40 million among the donor community, managed a basket fund that helped the country's electoral commission to organize six ballots and worked with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to mobilize and educate the most vulnerable groups, including women, nomadic communities and people with disabilities. One of the new civilian government's priorities will be to finalize a plan to decisively tackle food insecurity, under a scheme that will tackle bottlenecks and identify practical solutions to end hunger in Niger. In addition, for the first time in the country's history, a woman presidential candidate ran for office and 14 women were elected as parliamentarians.

In **Zambia**, the election of 20 September 2011 led to a peaceful transfer of power. UNDP is managing a USD 19 million election support project, in partnership with the Electoral Commission of Zambia, spanning the period from 2009 to 2012. 50,000 polling staff were trained using revised material and a new strategy developed through the project; the project helped to register 1,279,246 new voters through mobile technology; produced and distributed the electoral code of conduct across the country in seven languages; and trained approximately 15,000 police officers on issues pertaining to human rights and policing elections.

In **South Sudan**, UNDP provided support to the January 2011 Referendum on self-determination, managing a US\$66 million fund for electoral cycle support which enabled the distribution of civic and voter





Liberian elections staff count ballots from the presidential run-off of November 2011  
(UN Photo/Hien Macline)

education materials, procurement of 7.5 million ballots and registration of more than 3.9 million voters. UNDP also trained local media, judges and police officers to ensure security during the referendum, while at the same time helping to deploy nearly 3,000 domestic observers (40 percent of them women) throughout the country. With a voter turnout of 97.58 percent, far surpassing the required 60 percent threshold, the referendum was credited by both national and international stakeholders as free, fair and transparent.

In the run-up to the **Nigerian** general election of April 2011, UNDP helped the Independent National Electoral Commission to enroll a record of 73.5 million voters, including large numbers in the North. With contributions from Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea, UNDP also managed a USD 80 million basket fund to facilitate a number of activities between 2009 to 2015, including support for non-violent campaigning, advocacy for the participation of women voters and candidates, and training of the national police on election security and human rights.

## Technology and Elections in Tanzania and Zanzibar

In the run-up to the general election of October 2010, UNDP helped the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) to establish a text messaging system providing voters with registration information. UNDP supported NEC in its negotiations with mobile network operators, and procured hardware and software. About 33,000 voter information requests were handled via this service and the NEC website.



# INVOLVING PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING

## Women in Public Life and Policy

Women's participation in political life and their representation in development policies continue to be a challenge in many African countries.

UNDP strives to ensure that African women have a real voice in all governance institutions, enabling them to participate equally with men in decision-making. The organization also works to ensure gender issues and the specific needs of women are taken into account in national policies and decisions.

For instance, UNDP has been lobbying to instigate minimum quotas for the proportion of women participating in politics, leading to the adoption of laws on quotas by 15 countries. In **Burundi**, the proportion of women in parliament increased from 23% in 2005 to 34% in 2010, while in **Liberia**, women's representation in local councils increased from 10.9 percent in 2004 to 18.9% in 2009.

UNDP also helps African countries to mobilize women during elections. In **Burundi** for instance, the organization supported the government in encouraging women to register, vote and run for office in the 2010 elections. As a result of the country's efforts, women made up 51 percent of the electorate. In Tanzania, UNDP helped to mobilize voters ahead of the elections of October 2010. A total of 800,000 booklets, three million posters and several TV spots targeting women, youth and persons with disabilities were disseminated throughout the year.

We also work to ensure gender considerations are included in national development plans and policies. In **Benin**, for instance, UNDP supported the formulation of a national gender plan, with the participation of many different sectors, including civil society organizations, the private sector and religious organizations. One of the country's key priorities has been to include more women in decision-making positions.

Ahead of the **Liberian** presidential and legislative election of October 2011, resources from a UNDP-managed

Recruits for the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS), days before the referendum on independence  
(UN Photo/Paul Banks)





USD 27 million donor fund were used to support the voter registration process and train 95 professionals from 17 government institutions and 33 civil society organizations in civic and voter education. In addition, 453 female candidates took part in leadership and political participation trainings. More than 80 percent made it onto party lists or became independent candidates for the elections.

## Constitutional Reform

Constitutions are key to ensuring good governance. They define the principles upon which States are based and the procedures determining how laws are created and passed. Several African countries are currently reviewing their constitutions to bring them in line with new developments and the aspirations of their people.

In the historic **Kenyan** referendum of August 2010, citizens voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new constitution that would trigger off a wide set of reforms. UNDP supported the independent Electoral Commission to manage the ballot, helping to deploy 200,000 election observers, providing expertise on the draft and conducting civic education activities. In parallel, the organization helped to develop a nationwide conflict prevention programme and early warning mechanism to avoid a repeat of the post-election violence of 2008.

In **Ghana**, UNDP helped the process of generating and reviewing over 80,000 submissions from citizens as part of the constitutional review process of 2010-2011. UNDP coordinated and managed resources from donors to the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), provided financial and technical support to the secretariat to collect submissions and made use of new media to conduct opinion surveys and key informant interviews. Through this non-partisan process, citizens inside and outside the country shared their views on needed constitutional reforms. The final CRC report was presented to President Atta Mills in December 2011.

**“A new beginning and a remarkable turnaround for the country and its people, who for more than 20 years sought a new constitution.”**

Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, on the peaceful constitutional referendum of 2010.

In **Zimbabwe**, UNDP has been supporting the drafting of a new constitution by managing a multi-donor fund worth US\$ 21 million from the following donors: Norway, France, United Kingdom, Sweden, European Commission, Australia, Netherlands, Denmark, the United States of America and Canada. In addition, UNDP provided technical and strategic advice to a parliamentary committee that is overseeing the drafting of the document. The draft constitution will be tabled in Parliament for discussion once it has been presented to a wide range of stakeholders. The process will culminate in a referendum.

## Support for Political Parties

Political parties are key to promoting strong democracies and healthy public debates. They provide a structure for political participation; serve as a training ground for political leadership; and translate social interests into public policy. UNDP works to strengthen the capacity of political parties in Africa to effectively engage and participate in electoral processes.

In 2010, ending years of unsuccessful negotiations, **Lesotho's** political parties agreed on a broad set of revisions to the country's electoral law. The bill, passed by both houses of parliament in June 2011, aimed to minimize the risk that political parties would manipulate the electoral system to gain additional parliamentary seats. The new electoral law is expected to encourage the peaceful conduct of the election of 2012. UNDP





# MAKING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WORK

has provided financing and technical assistance to the initiative since its inception. It is now helping to disseminate the new law and educate voters with regards to its content.

In **Tanzania**, a project of support to political parties during the 2010 elections contributed to sustaining their capacity to engage and participate in the electoral process. As a result of this, 5,000 party officials were trained on election processes, rules and procedures, including on codes of conduct and interaction with the media.

In 2010, UNDP also helped **Malawi's** political parties to undertake capacity self-assessments. A study, jointly produced by UNDP and the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy, revealed a number of deficits such as poor capacities in the area of administration and finance. To tackle these issues, UNDP trained party leaders and secretaries on a number of operational areas, including financial accountability.

## Making Public Institutions Work

Transparent, efficient and accountable public administrations are critical to delivering public goods to all citizens, especially the most vulnerable. UNDP supports the efforts of African countries to make public institutions more robust, representative, responsive and democratic. We help to strengthen a wide range of democratic institutions, including governments, parliaments, judicial institutions and local authorities.

Members of Rwanda's Lower House of Parliament. The country has the highest proportion of women in parliament in the world. (Photo: UNDP Rwanda)





In September 2011, with more than \$400,000 from UNDP, Benin's parliament inaugurated a radio station offering live coverage of all parliamentary discussions and allowing listeners to react to their MPs' interventions. The programme has an audience of one million listeners in Cotonou and Porto Novo (Photo: UNDP Benin)

## Support for Parliaments

Parliaments play a critical role in legislation, oversight and representation. UNDP provides technical assistance to 28 parliaments in Africa, building the capacity of legislators to perform their functions. In addition, UNDP promotes institutional development and reform; works to strengthen parliaments' relationships with the executive, the judiciary and civil society; and implements programmes to enhance the effectiveness of women members of parliament.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, with support from the Government of the U.K., UNDP helped to set up public discussions to raise awareness on a number of policies, including on poverty reduction and infrastructure. In 2010, over 5,000 citizens held direct talks with local and national assembly representatives during the course of 23 forums held across the country. A 45-minute television programme summarizing the discussions was then broadcast throughout the country by 40 television and radio channels.

In **South Africa**, UNDP facilitated dialogues between parliamentarians and experts in the run-up to the climate change negotiations in Durban. The dialogues informed Members of Parliament on a range of climate-related issues, supporting them to contribute meaningfully to the negotiations.

At the continental level, UNDP is providing support to the Pan-African Parliament, the legislative body of the African Union (AU), which has played a key role in encouraging Member States to ratify African charters on democracy, elections and governance. The parliament is comprised of 225 representatives from national parliaments of 45 African countries.

## Public Administration Reform

UNDP works to help governments and public institutions to deliver basic public services more efficiently. It also supports African countries in shaping public administrations into robust democratic institutions.

In 2010, aiming to make public services more accessible, UNDP helped the Government of **Senegal** to establish a website assisting individuals and businesses to complete all of their administrative queries online: <http://www.demarches.gouv.sn>. The site offers answers on more than 600 different types of processes -- from renewing a passport to signing up for health insurance. It also includes all related forms, a list of laws pertaining to each process and a directory of 400 public institutions responsible for providing essential services.





Supported by UNDP, the Government of **Kenya** has introduced performance-based contracting in its public service. These interventions have earned Kenya a Public Service Award from the U.N. Further, in July 2011, looking into the possibility of establishing performance contracting in Sierra Leone, a UNDP-sponsored delegation of government officials from Freetown travelled to Kenya on a study tour of the country's civil service experiences.

In **Namibia**, UNDP supported the government to substantially increase its ability to deliver crucial civil registry services by streamlining processes and reducing, for example, the processing times for passports and national identity documents from several months to just a few days.

## Economic and Financial Governance

Delivering public services is key to advancing development, while fiscal, monetary and financial policies are essential to ensuring these services receive adequate funding and are managed appropriately.

By 2013, it is expected that all **Burkinabè** ministries will have formulated their budgets based on a new set of directives issued by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Designed in 2009 with the collaboration of technical partners such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and UNDP economists and public finance specialists, the six directives aimed to harmonize budget procedures among WAEMU Member States, paving the way for the adoption of results-based budgets and more transparent use of public funds.



Burkina Faso: Locally elected officials take literacy classes through a UNDP democratic governance programme. (Photo: Giacomo Pirozzi/UNDP)



With support from UNDP and funding from the Government of Belgium, the **Democratic Republic of Congo** now has a single Web space to manage its official development assistance: <http://pga.ministereduplan.cd/>. The system tracks USD 15 billion worth of humanitarian and development aid and offers comprehensive information on 5,700 development projects conducted between 1999 and 2010. Bilateral, multi-lateral donors and the government can now monitor aid flows using personal access codes and the site has a public section so that any individual, journalist or NGO can check trends and overall numbers, improving transparency and accountability.

## E-governance

E-governance involves a public investment in information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve governance services and processes.

For instance, E-governance is a pillar of **Cape Verde's** public administration reform agenda. With USD 1.4 million funding from the government of Spain, UNDP helped the country to conduct an electoral census, deploying biometric technology and training 600 census officials to use the new software. The initiative resulted in the establishment of a voting register for the general election of 2011. In addition, UNDP is currently helping the country to integrate civil registries, border services and voting lists into a single database. In 2012, this effort is expected to lead to the production of new digital national ID cards and passports.



UNDP is helping Cape Verde to integrate civil registries, border services and voting lists into a single database. (Photo: DGAPE)

## Local Governance and Decentralization

Local institutions are key to delivering public services, involving people in the decisions that matter to them and furthering local development. UNDP helps countries to decentralize their agendas, bring people in touch with local assemblies and develop the capacities of local officials and authorities.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNDP is helping the government to plan and implement a new process of decentralization. UNDP developed a strategy to implement the process and help harmonize development objectives and deliverables at the national, provincial and local levels. In addition, representatives in three of DRC's 11 provinces are now able to design their own development plans and mobilize resources to implement them. In parallel, UNDP built five local government structures in Nord-Kivu and is in the process of renovating six in the Equateur province.

In **Mali**, UNDP is leading a vast development programme in three regions situated in the North, all of them characterized by long-standing armed conflict. Interventions targeting 150,000 beneficiaries aim to build the capacities of local governments, tribunals and law enforcement institutions to administer justice and provide security. The programme is also promoting inter-communal dialogue and raising community awareness on peace and human rights issues. In communities where stability, security and trust have returned, UNDP is supporting a revival in economic development through income-generating initiatives that will create local jobs in 68 municipalities.



## Promoting Norms and Principles of Governance

UNDP promotes the integration of international and regional norms and principles of democratic governance, including anti-corruption, human rights, women's empowerment and equal opportunity for all into development.

## Advancing Regional Governance Norms

Global and regional norm-setting is an important way to ensure consistency of both quality and standards. In this regard, UNDP supports regional organizations to establish and implement governance norms throughout the continent. In the area of democracy and governance, UNDP has supported the African Union (AU) to develop and advance important regional principles, standards and norms through the adoption, domestication and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which is central to the consolidation of democratic governance and participatory democracy in Africa. So far, 38 countries have signed the Charter. Since July 2010, UNDP supported the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Pan-African Parliament to accelerate the number of countries that have ratified the Charter from four to 15 by January 2012. The Charter came into force on 15 February 2012.

UNDP has also supported the AU Conference of African Ministers of Public Service to develop and implement regional policies for improved public service delivery in Africa. In 2009-2010, UNDP helped the AU to develop the African Charter on Public Service Principles and Values, adopted at the AU Heads of States and Government Summit of January 2011. The Charter defines a framework to guide public service delivery in Africa through legislative, regulatory and technical measures. To date, 14 countries have signed the charter and five have ratified it. A two-year implementation plan focused on themes and performance indicators was adopted. Also, 5 other African countries have already initiated the ratification process.

At the sub-regional level, UNDP has supported the East African Community (EAC) to conceptualize and develop several important normative instruments to further integration in the Regional Economic Community, including the EAC Protocol on Good Governance, Draft Bill of Rights and the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in the East African Community. In order to raise awareness of these three instruments among the wider public, UNDP also supported multi-stakeholder consultations at both national and sub-regional levels.

## Anti-Corruption

Corruption hurts human development, diverting public resources to private gain and reducing access to public services. Integrity is essential to democracy and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. State institutions must be capable of managing resources to benefit all. According to the African Development Bank (2010), corruption costs African countries an estimated 25 percent of their combined national income – amounting to some \$300 billion a year. It also increases the cost of goods, services and infrastructure by 20%.

A Liberian holds up his ink-stained finger, proof of having voted in his country's constitutional referendum, in Monrovia (Photo: UN/Staton Winter)







# GOVERNANCE NORMS AND PRINCIPLES

Given the significance of this problem, UNDP lends its support to African countries so they can develop and implement national anti-corruption strategies, establish and strengthen anti-corruption agencies and enhance citizens' role in ensuring accountability of public sector officials and institutions.

**"Keeping women away from elected bodies and limiting their political and policy-making contributions diminishes the democratic space and holds back human development."**

Kanni Wignaraja, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in Zambia.

In **Ethiopia**, UNDP has been providing long-term advice to the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, training staff, educating senior officials on anti-corruption issues and helping to launch a massive public awareness campaign on the negative consequences of corruption. As of the end of 2011, the commission had received 2,950 cases, investigated 371 and prosecuted 362 as well as recovered illegal funds and land. The Commission also encouraged more than 17,000 government officials and civil servants, including the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, to register their assets in compliance with a law passed by the parliament of Ethiopia in 2010. The register is expected to be automated in 2012 to give public access to assets declared by public officials.

With technical and financial support from UNDP, **Tanzania** has formulated a national strategy and action plan to fight corruption in key public institutions. In 2009, the government's anti-corruption bureau prosecuted 17 corruption cases, up from only one in 2007. By November 2009, all 25 ministries, 35 departments and 68 government agencies had established anti-corruption cells. In April 2010, the strategy put into place a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess progress on all anti-corruption initiatives. Since then, anti-corruption "clubs" have been established in all secondary schools in Tanzania, aiming to educate Tanzanians from an early age.

At the continental level, UNDP supports the African Union Commission's Advisory Board on Corruption to ensure Member States comply with the African Charter Convention for Combating and Preventing Corruption, which came into force on 14 December 2003. In 2011, UNDP assisted the AU's Advisory Board to develop a 5 year strategic plan to accelerate the implementation of the AU Convention.

## Access to Justice and Rule of Law

The poor and marginalized are often denied the ability to seek and obtain redress in a fair justice system. Thus, UNDP helps African countries to develop national plans and programmes for justice reform. We empower the poor and marginalized to obtain justice and help to protect them legally. We also help to safeguard human rights and ensure women's rights are protected.

Between September and November 2011, the Prosecutor General of **Burundi** dispatched dozens of inspectors to verify detention conditions in the country's eleven prisons. Up until then, the prisons were 60% above their capacity with a population of 10,000 inmates. As of November 2011, the inspections led to the liberation of 1,179 prisoners, some of them illegally detained. Another 3,120 are proposed for release. UNDP trained the inspectors in the areas of prison management, human rights and criminal law so they could report to the Prosecutor General based on set criteria.





UNDP has been working in Burundi to improve conditions for prison inmates. This female-only establishment offers day-care for children. (Photo: UNDP)

In parallel, UNDP has been working with the Ministry of Justice to manage sentences and improve conditions for Burundian prisoners. The organization has been training prison administrations to enforce human rights for inmates. It has also facilitated their contact with legal officials and helped to establish mental health units. In addition, UNDP has been helping the Ministry of Justice to renovate seven of these prisons, five of which are now complete.

In the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNDP and the Swedish development agency, SIDA, have introduced a USD 7 million programme of access to justice that is helping to speed up legal proceedings, implement rulings and represent hundreds of victims. Since 2010, more than 430 lawsuits have taken place. UNDP helped military and civilian prosecutors to collect evidence and prepare their case files, and transported witnesses from remote areas to hearing locations across both Kivus provinces and the district of Ituri. As a result of the programme, 3,111 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were filed in 2010. In September 2011, UNDP support contributed to the first ever prosecution of a Rwandan rebel leader for crimes against humanity which resulted in a life sentence. The accused was found responsible for the murder, rape and torture of more than 450 Congolese citizens.

In **South Sudan**, UNDP worked closely with government ministries and law enforcement agencies to strengthen the rule of law. UNDP built the capacities of legal institutions, helped review criminal justice procedures and bring prisons conditions in line with international human rights standards, and contributed to increasing access to legal services for all. In 2011, UNDP held rule of law forums in every state, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss various problems related to the rule of law and possible local solutions.

## Female Prisons in the Central African Republic

In July 2010, the Central African Republic inaugurated four detention centers for women, secured and managed by female public service employees. UNDP trained the personnel, helped build the centers—ensuring adequate sanitation facilities—and provided essential equipment such as mattresses. The centers now house 54 women.



# GOVERNANCE NORMS AND PRINCIPLES

As a result, UNDP established four legal centres to help women access information about their rights, including in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. At the same time, UNDP worked to extend the state's presence into conflict prone areas by building 54 police posts in 2011, providing training and equipment for police officers and judges, opening roads to facilitate mobility of law enforcement as well as building water reservoirs to prevent conflict over water access.

In **Madagascar**, UNDP provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Justice so it could establish five legal aid centers for the poor in Antananarivo, Mananjary, Manakara, Farafangana and Taolagnaro. Free of charge, the centers have helped to resolve community conflicts among vulnerable groups, documenting and presenting major cases in local courts. The latter processed a total of 2,000 cases in 2011.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNDP, in collaboration with the Government of Japan and the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO), has been training the national police, made up of a variety of former armed groups, to protect civilians and enforce the law. Since February 2010, 2,600 police officers have been trained across the country. In addition, a training center in the Orientale Province was rehabilitated and can now accommodate hundreds of police officers.

In **Sierra Leone**, where sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a serious issue, UNDP financed and provided logistical support to Saturday Courts. The courts provide special attention to women's issues and were established to expedite judicial processes and clear a backlog of 700 SGBV-related cases. First piloted in Freetown, the Saturday Courts have now expanded to the Northern City of Makeni, which has the highest number of declared cases of rape and gender based violence. UNDP has also been training Sierra Leone Police to effectively investigate and prosecute SGBV cases and works more generally to help strengthen national judiciary organs and support the country's national Human Rights Commission.

## Human Rights

At the national and regional levels, UNDP has played an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights. Using a human rights-based approach to development programming, the organization helps to strengthen national institutions that promote and protect human rights, and assists countries to engage with regional and international human rights mechanisms. In Eastern and Southern Africa alone, UNDP supports 11 national human rights institutions, including in **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**.

In addition, since 2008, UNDP has provided technical expertise to **Ethiopia's** National Human Rights Commission so it could investigate public complaints; monitor detention centers, prisons and orphanages; and advise the government on human rights issues. The commission is directly accessible to citizens through 6 branch offices and 120 legal aid centers that provide free legal services to all. The centers were established in partnership with civil society organizations and universities across the country and are capable of assisting the commission in reporting cases of human rights violations. It has monitored 110 of Ethiopia's 120 prisons and used the reports to advocate to both federal and regional governments for improved prison conditions. Over the past three years, the institution has trained dozens of representatives from religious groups, women and youth organizations, media and election bodies.



In addition, UNDP has strengthened the capacities of African governments to implement their obligation under international Human Rights treaties. In Kenya, Rwanda and Mozambique, UNDP supported the governments to undergo their first Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR), a process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. In Mozambique, 90 percent of the recommendations issued as part of the UPR have been included in the country's National Human Rights Action Plan.

In **Zimbabwe**, UNDP has facilitated national consultations on human rights, bringing together the government, Civil Society Organizations and other key stakeholders as part of the UPR process.

International and regional normative frameworks play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights. UNDP has supported the African Union Commission to develop the Human Rights Strategy for Africa. The strategy aims to accelerate the promotion and protection of human rights throughout Africa through the various organs of the AU. In addition, UNDP has collaborated with the East African Community (EAC) in the conceptualization and development of several normative instruments including the EAC Protocol on Good Governance and a draft Bill of Rights.

## Promoting Knowledge and Sharing Best Governance Practices

UNDP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are working on the third edition of the African Governance Report, a bi-annual publication that assesses and monitors progress towards good governance in African countries. In addition, both parties are now preparing the eighth African Governance Forum, a yearly event that has brought together representatives from African countries to discuss key challenges in the area of democratic governance.

African Governance Reports are used as background material as part of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) for both Country Self-Assessments and Country Review Missions. In addition, the fifth African Governance Forum, held in Kigali in 2008, culminated in the decision by the APRM political leadership to review and better streamline the methodology and instruments used. UNDP has been providing financial and technical support to APRM.

Recognizing the challenge of promoting inclusion and participation in African elections, in 2012, the African Governance Report and the African Governance Forum will both focus on Elections, Democracy and Management of Diversity in Africa. ●



Burundi: As part of its support for the 2010 election process, a UNDP-sponsored programme delivered free identification cards to almost a million citizens. (Photo: UNDP Burundi)









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*Copyright 2012, UNDP. Cover Photo: A woman votes in Côte d'Ivoire's legislative elections, at a polling station in Bondoukou. Credit: UN Photo/Hien Macline*