FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP's work in Conflict Prevention

Through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports national and local institutions and leadership in their efforts to prevent violence, manage conflicts constructively, and engage peacefully in political transitions and rapid change processes.

Lasting peace requires that the key actors in a country possess their own skills, forums, and institutions to work together across political and sectarian lines to address these challenges— the absence or presence of these capabilities can make the difference between violence and turbulence on the one hand, and peace and growth on the other. UNDP works to support countries to strengthen their own capacities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

Discussions in a women's focus group supported by UNDP in Kenya 2010. Photo: UNDP Kenya

Supporting local infrastructures for peace

UNDP's work on preventing violent conflicts complements other parts of the United Nations (UN) focusing on preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping. UNDP is also a major implementer of the UN's Peacebuilding Fund. Strengthening

Conflict prevention is cost-effective

- Economic losses from post-election violence in **Kenya** in 2008 have been assessed at US$3.6 billion. In contrast, a UNDP-supported violence prevention effort in the run-up to the 2010 constitutional referendum (explained below) cost only about $5 million.

- The UN Flash Appeal estimated the recovery costs from inter-ethnic violence in mid-2010 in **Kyrgyzstan** at $71 million. In contrast, regional and UN efforts to restore political and inter-ethnic confidence cost approximately $6 million. Subsequently, the constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections in 2010, both expected to be plagued by significant turbulence, transpired peacefully.

internal national and local conflict management capabilities ensures that the results of preventive measures are deepened and sustained at all levels of community and civil society within a country. Where the UN's mediation has not been sought, such capabilities provide an effective alternative. And for countries facing recurring turbulence as a result of global social, economic, and climatological shocks, such capabilities are essential to finding inclusive, sustainable solutions.
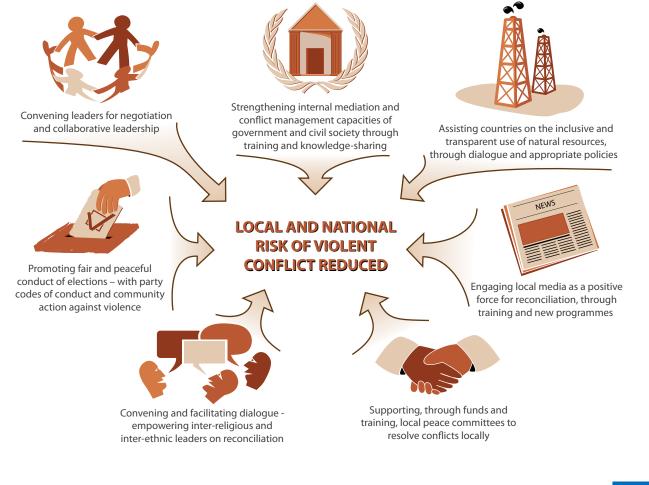
UNDP in Action: Results

In **Ghana** in 2010, the UNDP-assisted National Peace Council successfully mediated the Bawku conflict, which had started to claim lives. This has paved the way for economic and civic activities to resume, such as the reopening of markets, schools and health facilities, the return of civil society organizations and the holding of local level elections.

In 2010, UNDP assistance for internal dialogue and timely civic action was instrumental in achieving peaceful elections in **Togo** and **Solomon Islands**, where previous polls in 2005 in both countries had been violent.

UNDP played a critical role in preventing violence in connection with **Kenya's** 2010 referendum on its Constitution. UNDP worked with national partners on reaching consensus on the draft Constitution prior to elections; instituting credible electoral procedures; and implementing an early warning and response system that used text messaging, media alerts and UNDP-trained "peace monitors" who were deployed to over 100 districts. Post-election violence in 2008 cost Kenya nearly 500,000 lower and middle-income jobs; over 300,000 people were displaced from their homes and 1,200 lives lost. In contrast, the 2010 referendum did not see a single incident of violence.

In 2011, a UNDP-supported platform of church leaders successfully mediated an end to a 2-year political deadlock in **Lesotho** that had raised potentially violent tensions.

In **Guinea-Bissau** local tensions were diffused and conflicts resolved through a UNDP-supported platform of 20 youth organizations focused on inter-ethnic dialogue in their respective communities.

The longstanding violent conflict in Agila of Benue state in **Nigeria** was resolved through local mediation efforts conducted by a local women's organization with financial and technical support from UNDP.

What UNDP does to support National Capacities for Managing Conflict

Convening leaders for negotiation and collaborative leadership

Strengthening internal mediation and conflict management capacities of government and civil society through training and knowledge-sharing

Assisting countries on the inclusive and transparent use of natural resources, through dialogue and appropriate policies

Promoting fair and peaceful conduct of elections – with party codes of conduct and community action against violence

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RISK OF VIOLENT CONFLICT REDUCED

Engaging local media as a positive force for reconciliation, through training and new programmes

Convening and facilitating dialogue - empowering inter-religious and inter-ethnic leaders on reconciliation

Supporting, through funds and training, local peace committees to resolve conflicts locally

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