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CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING WORK IN ASIA PACIFIC



Foreword

Guided by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and in an effort to eradicate poverty and reduce exclusion and inequalities, while maintaining peace and security, the UNDP Strategic Plan (2014-2017) calls for stronger integration of governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions at global, regional, and country level.

In Asia and the Pacific, the consolidation of the Governance and Conflict Prevention work under one cluster has led to a number of regional initiatives with specific focus on peacebuilding including a Regional Project on *Supporting Inclusive and Peaceful Societies in Asia Pacific* (SIPSAP).

To take stock of the work done at the country level we are pleased to present *Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding work in Asia Pacific*, a report put together by the Bangkok Regional Hub with inputs from Country Offices engaged in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding.

The study consolidates information on the work done by the Peace and Development Advisers under the umbrella of the UNDP/DPA *Joint Program on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention*, those carried out under the N-Peace Program and the initiatives part of regular UNDP programming.

This mapping exercise is meant to serve multiple purposes. It will provide our leadership in Headquarters and RBAP senior management with a complete picture of the Conflict Prevention work in which UNDP is engaged in Asia Pacific. The report serves as a knowledge management tool and a vehicle to share good practices and lessons-learned among practitioners working on Conflict Prevention in the same region and beyond.

Regional Policy and Programme Support (RPPS) Advisers and Specialists at the Regional Hub will find in this document the information needed to identify existing entry points for linking their work (for example on Gender, Youth, Local Governance, Rule of Law, Livelihoods, etc.) with Conflict Prevention activities. This will facilitate their efforts in using the "Conflict Prevention lens" when engaging in policy and programming work. It will ultimately help us in mainstreaming in our work the SDG16's objective of promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies.

This report covers the period up until March 2016 and will be updated on a regular basis.

I would like to acknowledge colleagues who contributed to this publication: Livio Sarandrea who conceptualized and led the preparation of the report, and Supharat Kaewkhonkaen who provided the statistical data and consolidated inputs provided by country office focal points.

My gratitude also goes to the Country Office Support and Quality Assurance team and to Jane Lawson of the UNV team in Bangkok for their review of earlier drafts and precious inputs.



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Background/Context

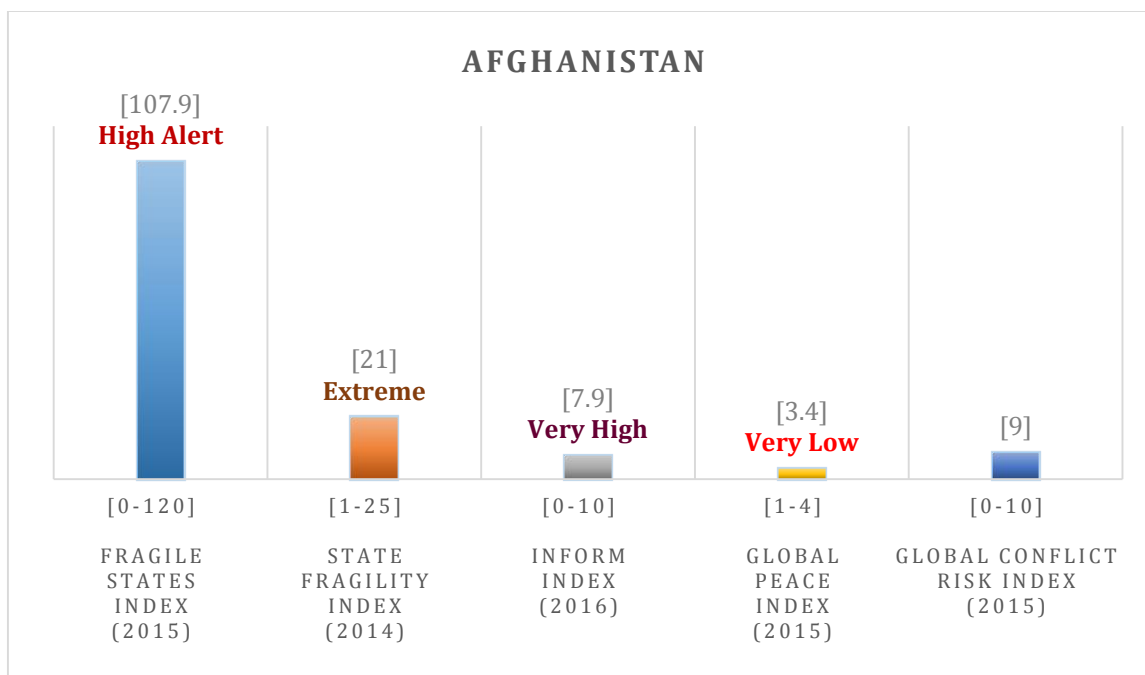
The collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001 raised great hopes among the people of Afghanistan and the international community of a peaceful, democratic and stable Afghanistan. The country, ravaged by nearly three decades of war, lacked strong working institutions and almost every institution needed to be built from scratch. The Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2004 and 2005 were watershed events and raised the hope of stabilising the country by ushering in critical reforms in all aspects of Governance including reforming the security sector to enable the provision of peace and security to its citizens.

The experience of these years highlighted the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to engage Afghans of all backgrounds and perspectives in a dialogue in support of a peace process. With this in mind, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) developed the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Policy (APRP), a nationally led and implemented program, combining political, security and development dimensions of peace building. The GoA presented the summary APRP outline at the London Conference in January 2010. In this Conference, the International Community welcomed GoA's commitment to reinvigorate Afghan-led reintegration efforts by developing and implementing an effective, inclusive, transparent and sustainable national Peace and Reintegration Programme and gave their commitment to establish a Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund (P&RTF) to finance the APRP. UNDP was asked to develop a project in support of the APRP, providing technical support to the Joint Secretariat (JS) of the High Peace Council (HPC), on managing the two windows of the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund; on supporting the central structures to deliver planning, monitoring, coordination and reporting on key components of APRP; and on supporting the subnational structures of APRP to deliver activities at the local level. A National Consultative Peace Jirga (NCPJ), attended by 1600 delegates, was held in Kabul in June 2010 to discuss the establishment of the APRP framework for national peace. The NCPJ resolution gave a strong mandate to President Karzai to pursue peace and he issued a decree on June 29, 2010 that detailed the APRP structure and directed its implementation.

However, despite the promise of the early to mid-2000s, a peace process with the Taliban did not materialize and conflict continued and intensified. The APRP originally designed to focus on peacebuilding and the reintegration of former combatants, found this original purpose dependent on a peace process that so far has proved elusive.

Following the elections in 2014, during which the outcome was disputed, a negotiated settlement led to a peaceful political transition to the National Unity Government (NUG) under the leadership of President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah. The new NUG decided to intensify its efforts at establishing a peace process with the Taliban, and focused its peace program more on high level reconciliation and negotiation in order to try to reach a peace agreement. A strategy for the APRP to support this approach was approved by the APRP Technical Committee in November 2014. The vision had been that APRP would be the vehicle to support and facilitate the negotiation process. Following a period of uncertainty in 2015, the leaders of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan officially announced the appointment of the chairman and members of the High Peace Council (HPC) and its secretariat on 23 February 2016. The new HPC leadership and members include Jihadi leaders, religious scholars, political figures, tribal leaders and elite women which demonstrates national consensus around the peace process. On behalf of the government of Afghanistan, the new HPC leadership will be involved in peace talks with the Taliban.

UNDP's project in support of the APRP ended in March 2016 and discussions with the government and donors are on-going on a successor project that would take a more modest approach focusing on strengthening the key structures of an institutional framework for peace and ensuring that a rapid build-up is possible to support a peace and reintegration process once a peace agreement is reached.



Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP)

Since 2010, APRP has worked to promote peace, reconciliation and security in Afghan communities through outreach, reintegration, and community recovery initiatives. UNDP has provided support for the peace and reintegration efforts of the Afghan Government by assisting the Joint Secretariat (JS) of High Peace Council (HPC), Financial Oversight Committee Secretariat (FOCS) and partner Line Ministries (LMs) in the implementation of this Afghan-led programme. APRP had two funding windows in 2015, which were funded through the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund (APRTF) - with UNDP support and another with the support of the United Kingdom through a bilateral agreement with the Afghan Government. In addition to the management of the former, UNDP also provided technical support to the APRP Joint Secretariat/High Peace Council and the management of the latter. In 2015, UNDP focused on supporting the APRP in working towards the achievement of three main outputs:

1. Two windows of the Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund are effectively managed;
2. APRP central structures effectively deliver planning, monitoring, coordination and reporting on key components of APRP; and
3. Subnational structures of APRP effectively deliver key components at the local level.

Project Duration

According to the APRP Programme Document the duration of the programme is for five years between August 2010 and July 2015. In 2014, plans were formulated to extend the APRP until the end of 2015. Based on this plan, the key points are to continue the peace programme with the focus on high level negotiations, reconciliation efforts, sub national peace activities, small grants, reintegration of anti-government elements (AGEs) and mobilization of public support to the peace process in 2015.

Accomplishments

APRP became an integral part of the GoA's vision for peace and reconciliation. The Programme was on track in pursuing its goals and evolved to become a National Priority Program (NPP) with a robust structure and implementation capacity at national and sub-national levels. The APRP recorded significant results with national level negotiations and local peace processes initiated by provincial leaders.

At the strategic and political level, the HPC, with support from its international partners, sought to reach out to the leadership of the insurgency, establish important contacts and address some of the key obstacles and arguments of the Taliban for continuation of the violence. These efforts were aimed at increasing the awareness and knowledge about the peace process, and may have garnered greater public support for peace and created greater understanding of how the insurgency operates, how it is supported and how to reach out to it. The HPC also launched an extensive outreach in the region to build understanding among key regional players and promote the message of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Through multiple regional and international events and forums, the Council strived to change the perception of the regional countries about Afghanistan. The HPC tried to convince them that instability in Afghanistan is not in favour of any regional country, but rather poses a serious threat to the stability of the whole region. While these efforts have yet to bear fruit in the form of a peace agreement, the quadrilateral peace talks now under way, including the US, China and Pakistan in addition to Afghanistan, may suggest that they have not been entirely in vain.

At the sub-national level, Provincial Peace Committees (PPC), supported by Provincial Joint Secretariat Teams (PJST), were established to engage in local outreach, negotiations and reintegration programs in 33 provinces across the country. The successful nationwide establishment of PJST and PPCs structures could serve as a strong foundation for long term support for the implementation of a peace agreement as well as conflict resolution and prevention efforts at the local level. Despite the absence of a peace agreement, the PJSTs and PPC's were able to achieve the following as of 31 December 2014:

- 9,512 former combatants have renounced violence, including local commanders and leaders.
- 9,320 former combatants have received livelihood support through transitional financial assistance.
- 156 Small Grants Projects have been implemented and 130 projects have been completed. The projects are designed to provide livelihood assistance to former combatants and to reach out to more than 181,939 beneficiaries in communities around the country.
- 820 former insurgents and 1,058 community members in eight provinces work on road maintenance jobs provided by the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW).
- 1,965 former insurgents and 3,435 community members (2,220 male and 1,215 female) in 20 provinces have benefited from vocational training projects.
- 805 former insurgents and 2,867 community members in nine provinces were provided with labour opportunities implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) through 57 reforestation projects, 1200 Ha of land in pistachio projects, and 55 irrigation projects.

Challenges

One of the main challenges APRP faced is the lack of a clear indication from HE President Ghani that he wanted to work through the APRP HPC and JS. With this ambivalence regarding its immediate functions and lack of leadership, it has been very difficult for APRP to achieve much over the last year. UNDP decided to close its programme of support to the APRP in March 2016 and is in discussion for a more modest programme support of the HPC.

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA (Department of Political Affairs) Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

There is currently no Joint Programme activity being implemented in Afghanistan.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

UNDP has been providing support to the government of Afghanistan on women's leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building, and in promoting the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and related resolutions, at regional, national and community levels. In 2012 two national dialogues on Women, Peace & Security (WPS) issues, including women's inclusion in Afghanistan's peace process, and providing space for interaction between Members of Parliament, CSO representatives, members of the High Peace Council and women representatives of the Provincial Peace Councils from some of the most conflict-ridden parts of the country. The network has also facilitated cross-country knowledge sharing, to leverage experience of network members who have led the development of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 in their own countries. Two pillars frame the N-Peace Afghanistan 2013 Country Plan: I) Enhancing the leadership skills of women peace builders and promoting the key role of women in the peace process; II) Serving as a platform to enhance women's participation in the peace process by bringing together key stakeholders through dialogue and creating connections for joint advocacy.

In June 2015 the Government of Afghanistan launched the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security putting in place a framework to implement UNSCR 1325. The eight-year action plan (2015–2022) aims to strengthen women's participation in decision-making, elections and peace processes UNSCR 1325.

Legislation to support women's rights and protection from violence, namely the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law, has been in effect since 2009, but only by presidential decree. Recently, it is being brought before Parliament by women's rights activists, who aim to cement it with a parliamentary vote to prevent its potential reversal by any future presidents.

Last conflict analysis was carried out: TBC

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Background/Context

Almost twenty-five years (1973 - 1997) of political turmoil and armed conflict had rendered the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) inaccessible for mainstream development in Bangladesh. The majority of inhabitants were left in conditions of extreme poverty and facing tensions over issues of land tenure, access to resources and weak law enforcement, all together contributing over the years to a sense of insecurity and frustration with regard to the national government.

The CHT Peace Accord signed in December 1997 with the aim of resolving the insurgency through political and peaceful means is acknowledged as a significant political achievement which generated high expectations for peacebuilding and opportunities for development. The Accord recognizes the CHT as a tribal-inhabitant region with provisions to introduce greater regional autonomy with the establishment of the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and three Hill District Councils (HDCs) with authority *inter alia* over general administration, law and order, local police, land and land management, development, education, health, environment and forestry (except reserved forest).

Needs to engage in development activities was immediately realised by the government which in 1998, requested UNDP to field a multi-disciplinary needs assessment mission to the CHT to map out local population's priorities in development. However, the kidnap-for-ransom incident in February 2001 involving three EU national experts postponed donors support development interventions until 2004 when the 'Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the CHT (called the CHT Development Facility)' started.

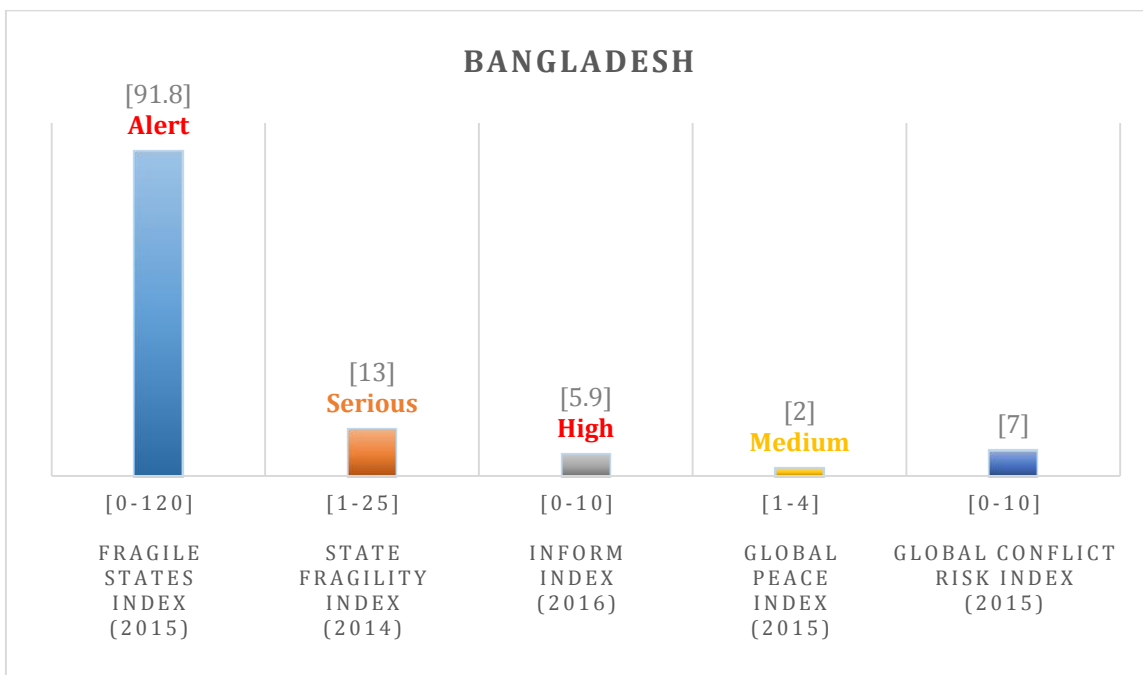
The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) was designed to respond to the Peace Accord (PA) signed in December 1997. After more than 25 years of violent conflict it became possible to pursue a programme of socio- economic development. The core government institutions with responsibilities for managing and implementing development in the CHT are the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs, (MoCHTA), the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and the Hill District Councils (HDCs).

The CHTDF programme has been implemented for 12 years by UNDP who have worked with central and local government, CHT communities and NGOs to prevent new conflicts from emerging. Development was implemented by building the capacity of the permanent institutions so that they were enabled to implement a community empowering process for sustainable and self-reliant development. Initially there were four focal programme components - capacity building (institutional), confidence building through community empowerment and service delivery, health, education and economic development. The programme components were designed to provide support to the fledgling institutions with the responsibility to implement development in the CHT.

In the 18 years since the PA was signed, 'peace' in regard to armed conflict between armed factions fighting government forces, has generally prevailed but the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) still deploys 25% of its army in the CHT and civilian rule is still not fully implemented. Forest areas in the CHT account for 25% of the total forest area in Bangladesh. A traditional system of governance was in place prior to the PA and the services and goods that were provided by GoB were extremely limited. Educational and health services provision outside of the district HQs were extremely limited prior to CHTDF interventions but now over 300 schools are functioning.

The global objective of CHTDF is 'to give a firm grounding to the CHT Peace Accord through supporting the GoB and the institutions of the local communities of the CHT to pursue sustainable socio-economic development'. The purpose of CHTDF is 'to strengthen capacities and empower the key CHT institutions and

local communities to plan, manage or support self-reliant development activities, confidence building dialogues and other conflict reduction initiatives, and also to benefit from region wide priority development services such as health and education.



Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Policy and Programming Responses

CHTDF along with development partners have explored different avenues to support the government on the Peace Accord implementation including expanding engagement with a wider range of accord stakeholders. Lessons learnt from the program have illustrated the importance and effectiveness of diversifying the stakeholders in addition to the governmental institutions to advance the Accord implementation.

Since 2003, UNDP in association with Development Partners (DPs), has supported the Government of Bangladesh to implement the Peace Accord through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). This is intended to support institutions in the CHT especially those directly related to the PA. It is based on principles of local participation and decentralized development. The work is divided into:

- Capacity development and service delivery;
- Policy advocacy and confidence building;
- Gender equality and social inclusion;
- Community empowerment, economic development and agriculture.

A Review of the programme from 2005-2013 concluded that the CHTDF had largely met its objectives but that there were unresolved issues of sustainability, especially concerning some of the institutions, health facilities and education. In 2013 UNDP also conducted an extensive socio-economic survey which confirmed the developmental achievements but drew attention to ongoing tensions, mainly arising from the limited implementation of the PA.

The CHTDF is unique in being explicitly targeted towards implementation of the PA. Its activities include:

- Close links with government especially Ministry of CHT Affairs;
- Support government processes relating to the PA notably resolution of land issues;
- Liaison with diplomatic and development actors;
- Support to the special institutions of the PA and traditional leadership;
- Development at local level through participatory methods as a confidence building measure;
- Gender

The CHTDF is particularly noted for its work on governance, notably the formation of development committees at village (Para) level. Specific efforts in relation to confidence building include:

- Support to policing in remote areas, promotion of 'mixed' policing and community policing;
- Formation of a network of peacebuilders;

The CHTDF is part of a wider Programmatic Framework of UN agencies in which it leads on governance issues.

A. Capacity Development and Governance

Through CHTDF's support, the CHT Regional Council, HDCs, and the three traditional Circles have successfully developed long-term strategic visions and goals. They also have strengthened capacity through the technical, logistical and financial assistance.

Through the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) acceleration framework, the Facility is also ensuring HDC, Upazila and Union Parishads – often confused due to overlapping mandates – to coordinate their development work and be more aligned to the local MDG targets.

As a result of the Facility's support, HDC's are more capacitated to deliver services in the health and education sectors. Through localized service models established with our assistance, 500,000 people in hill tracts have gained access to health services and 20,000 children (47% girls) have been able to attend school.

Encouraged by the success of these service models, the Facility is now striving towards the establishment of a national financing framework to ensure the sustainability of these services.

B. Policy Advocacy and Confidence Building

In 2013-2014, government, UN agencies, and other stake holders were brought together to support victims of communal violence through early recovery interventions and mediation.

C. Gender Equity and Local Confidence Building

Mainstreamed and targeted interventions have helped the programme address social inequality based on gender, ethnicity and age head-on. The Facility engages over 100 Trust-builders from diverse ethnic backgrounds to promote peaceful dialogues and prevent violence. Similarly, nearly 200 youth have benefited from CHTDF's Sports for Peace, martial arts and debating initiatives. Legal aid support for victims of gender based violence is another focus of our work to combat violence against women in the region.

D. Community Empowerment, economic development, agriculture & food security:

Communities have been empowered to manage their development affairs through Para (village) Development Committees (PDC) and Para Nari (women) Development Groups (PNDG). Both provide a

platform for communities to participate in service and resource planning with local government institutions, making sure that their voices are heard. CHTDF is now support neighboring Paras to come together to jointly plan and implement 236 economic development projects. These initiatives have been transformational in achieving self-reliance and larger development outcomes.

Agriculture – Agriculture is an important source of income for the majority of people in CHT. The Facility is supporting marginalized formers to increase their productivity, diversify incomes, and shift towards collective agro-businesses through producer groups. Consequently, 1500 farmers now have stronger bargaining power and access to higher profits. Further, 905 Farmer field Schools have been established and are helping farmers’ gain new farming techniques, while food security in the region is being combatted through Rice banks.

Natural resource management – The Facility is working to address forest degradation and deforestation through capacitating communities and CHT institutions in participatory forest management and diversifying sustainable livelihoods. This intervention will directly benefit 5838 households.

Accomplishments

- 3,507 villages are now managing their own development affairs through Para Development Committees, in turn benefiting 115,107 households across the region.
- 1,548 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were established in CHT in which 34,276 marginalized farmers gain new and innovative farming techniques.
- 50,000 households have increased food security as a result of 1,729 established Rice banks.
- 829 infrastructure facilities established, responding to community needs.
- Hill District Councils are successfully managing the delivery health services, treating 2.5 million patient cases and ensuring over 2,800 safe births since the commencement of the project.
- More than 20,000 children in the CHT have gained access to education through 315 schools managed by the Hill District Councils.
- Advocacy efforts have contributed to the commitment by government to transfer 1,500 indigenous/tribal police officers to be stationed in their home district. Over 208 police officers have been transferred to date.
- 600 Community Police Forums have been reactivated and 610 local police personnel trained on the CHT context.

Project Duration

April 2003—30 September 2016 (estimated)

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

Peace and Development Advisor has just been hired. Activities will be defined in due course.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2015 but was not officially endorsed and published due to political sensitivity.

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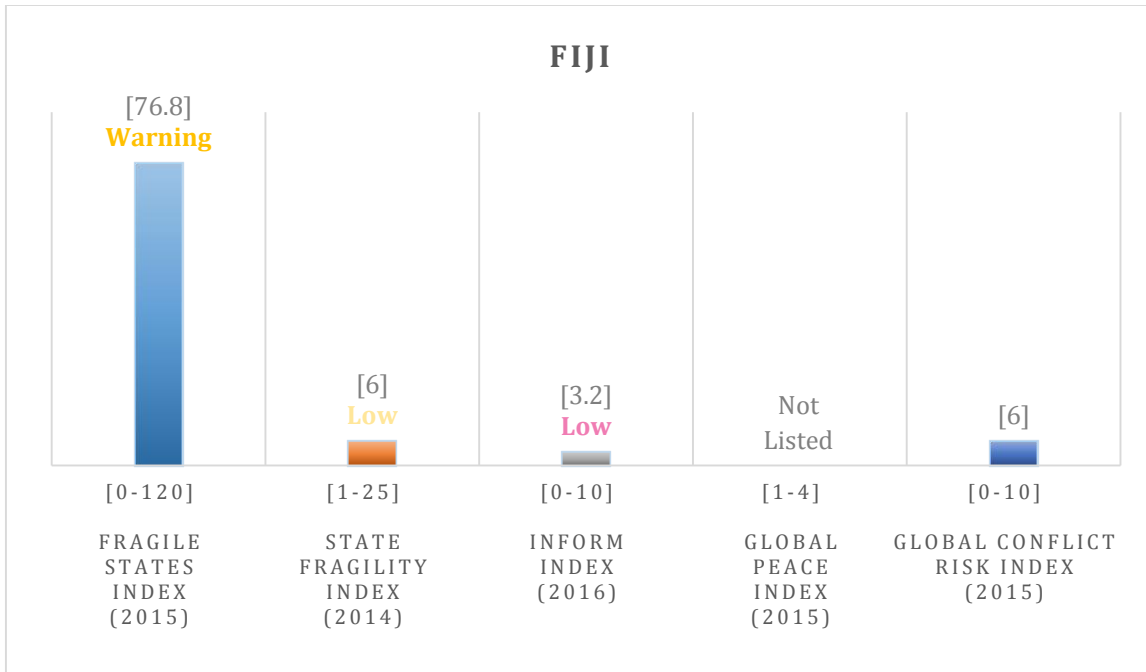


Background/Context

The Republic of Fiji has a record of several coups in the past with instability resulting from issues of identity between indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians, the protection of traditions versus modernity and equal rights, and the competition over land and access to resources. Inequalities and structural divisions in legislation and policies have previously encouraged ethnic polarization and social and economic tensions. There is still a feeling of discomfort by indigenous Fijians, which constitute the majority, of losing their identity, political control and rights to communally owned land. Indo-Fijians, in turn, worry that there might still be ethnically driven instability down the line and they might again be evicted from lands that they have farmed, as tenants, for generations. Until the first coup 1987, the Indo-Fijian community had a slight majority (52 %) but afterwards, mainly due to emigration, only represents about 38 % of the population. Additional factors impacting on the conflict dynamics in Fiji include the legacy of the “coup culture”, a strong role of the military in the political process, rural to urban and peri-urban migration with an increased number of squatter settlements and high unemployment, and increasing poverty in rural areas impacting all community independently of ethnicity.

A new constitution, enshrining a strong Bill of rights and the principle of non-discrimination as well as provisions for a secular Fiji was enacted in 2013. In September 2014, after eight years of military rule, the first democratic elections took place and Parliament got re-established. There are still lingering concerns by some segments of the ethnic Fijian population about land ownership, the secular state, a common citizenry and the role of the military. An increasingly large youth population caught between tradition and culture which relegates them towards a more “silent” role and modernity and inclusive decision making, is trying to be part of the socio-economic and political discourse. From the PDA’s anecdotal evidence gathered so far, young people want Fiji to be a multi-cultural and safe place with rights for everybody and no discrimination be it ethnicity, gender or other.

Against this background, it is critical that all citizens have unbiased and accurate information about all aspects on the road to democracy easily and widely available. In addition to having a joint understanding of what the different terminology means and how different aspects of a democratic system may be implemented, people must be given sufficient opportunities to safely and peacefully discuss/debate controversial issues in ways that bridge divisions rather than deepen them (dialogue spaces) and serve to build new relationships of trust. These relationships of trust can move constituencies towards each other without resorting to violence and/or further division.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

The PDA in Fiji supports the country’s democratic transition mainly in developing synergies between citizen’s engagements in the nascent democracy and builds on relationships and dialogue spaces developed with the key interlocutors including high level political stakeholders in Parliament and Government. Within the above context, and given sensitivities in this early days of the country’s transition to democracy, the PDA, as part of the CO work, manages a 3 million USD (2013-2016) Citizen’s engagement program funded by the EU which entails grants to CSOs to engage in public debate of issues of relevance to them and give voice to sections of society particularly excluded such as youth and women in urban and rural areas. This project also establishes links and citizen’s engagement with the newly established Parliament and the Executive.

Key focus areas:

High level dialogue and citizen’s engagement in Fiji’s democratic transition:

- Engagement with political parties and stakeholders (MPs, party leaders) on common issues across parties to build trust and confidence in political processes and maintain buy-in throughout the transition to democracy; strategic engagement with women MPs and civil society on a joint platform to raise visibility inside and outside Parliament on women related issues such as increased participation in political and economic decision making and a joint approach against GBV which is very high in Fiji (64 %).
- High level leadership and youth empowerment initiative in the remote island of Rotuma with Chiefs and Community leaders as well as youth resulted in the first every joint UN-EU-Ministerial visit to the island to engage communities and youth (Minister of youth, employment and rural development/outer islands). The engagement initiative led to the instalment of a Chief after a long dispute, youth leadership training and the formation of a women’s group to more actively influence local political and economic decisions.

- High level engagement across the security sector, the Executive and Parliament as well as civil society to prepare the ground for the implementation of a security sector support and oversight strengthening program in line with a concurrent review of the national security strategy.
- Strengthening of dialogue and mediation capacity of Government and civil society on natural resources. Using the services of a natural resource conflict resolution expert from Peru, a series of workshops were held targeting to enhance dialogue and mediation capacity of the Ministry of Lands as well as the Itaukei Affairs Ministry, their provincial leaders and youth. Participants made important recommendations to policy makers that will improve the management of conflicts around natural resources including legal reforms, capacity building, strengthened relationships and stronger environmental impact assessments.
- In an innovative project approach, through the citizen's engagement project facilitation of a process whereby a Ministry (Itaukei Affairs) together with CSOs, jointly develops a first civic education and leadership training curriculum for traditional rural community leaders thus making it nationally owned and validated. The curriculum entails conflict management and reconciliation, good governance and leadership, natural resource management, climate change and disaster risk management, health and wellbeing, financial literacy and equitable service delivery. Embedded in the Itaukei Ministry and strategic linkages to other Ministries such as the Ministry Rural and Maritime, as well as with the National University's formation programs will make it sustainable. The program is inclusive to indigenous and non-indigenous communities thus fostering national reconciliation and can be disseminated through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and other channels. Expected launch by the Prime Minister in April 2016.
- Over 40 small grants to youth and other CSOs engaged on a variety of issues ranging from GBV and women's empowerment, youth voices in the transition, service delivery, and peacebuilding and community dialogues.

In the upcoming period, greater support to bottom up national level initiatives will be given through making grants to CSO coalitions around issues of national importance to strengthen civil society advocacy and engagement with the Executive and Parliament. This strategy should enable more national level as well as local level policy dialogues on issues of key importance to the communities. It will require the provision of technical support for the development of CSO networks and coalitions around key themes and issues and helping them design appropriate dialogue processes. The selection of grants needs to be done through established criteria including strategic impact with initiatives having wider policy ramifications.

Accomplishments

Already a year after the establishment of Parliament, and as a result of ongoing facilitation and engagement between Parliamentarians and CSOs, the newly established Parliament Committees are more confidently engaging with CSOs, and NGOs are able to provide independent information. The result of this has been that a steady stream of national NGOs have responded to public calls by Parliament to provide inputs to bills, petitions and committee hearings to look into the possible ratification of international treaties. On the other hand, communities are more knowledgeable and confident on the role of Parliament and how to engage with MPs and Parliamentary processes. This can be seen by a rising number of petitions lodged.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

The work illustrated above led by the PDA is part of the country office programme, SCEFI (Strengthening Citizen's Engagement in Fiji Initiative).

Programme Duration

2013-2016

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

NA

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2014 (Governance assessment)

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Background/Context

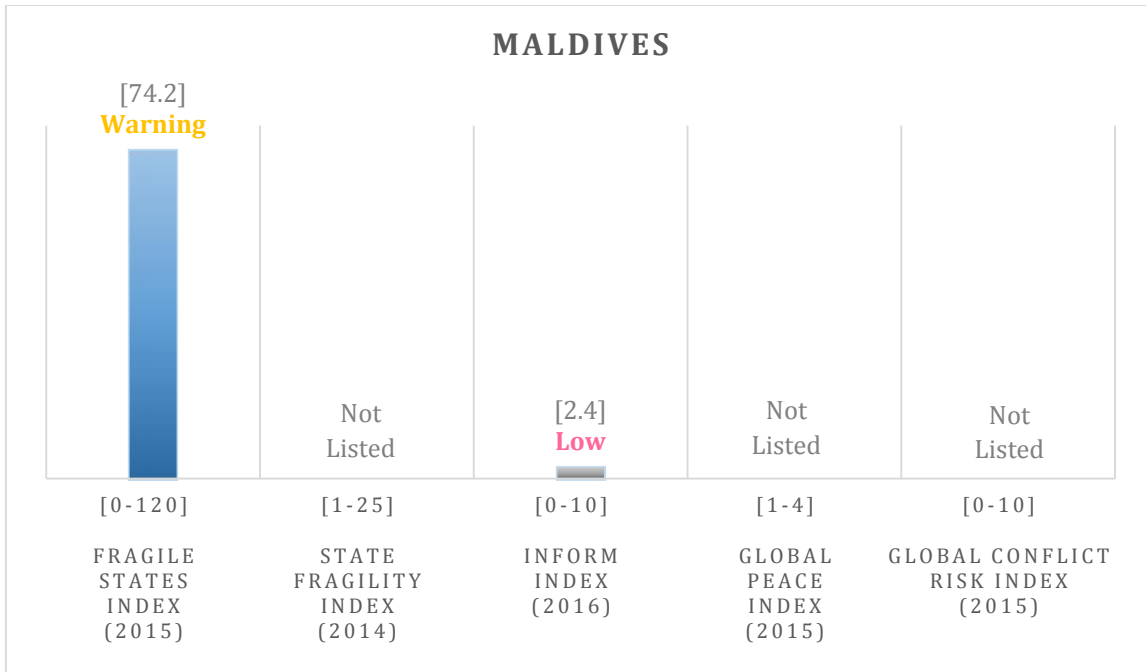
As a young Muslim democracy, the Maldives faces a number of challenges in promoting long-term stability. Maldives is the richest country in South Asia with over \$7,500 GDP per capita (2014) and a total population of only 340,000. However, corruption, lack of dialogue and trust between the population and the authorities, including ongoing tensions between the opposition and the government, coupled with unequal power relations, weak rule of law, and international pressure over the government's human rights record, feeds discontentment and resulted in a number of political crises since Maldives became a multi-party democracy in 2008 following 30 years of one-party rule under Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

The incumbent President Abdulla Yameen is consolidating power in order to secure his second term at the 2018 presidential elections, while his Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), directly or indirectly, controls all three branches of the government, as well as the police and the military. This new political arrangement, a realignment of the old political power structure briefly threatened by the presidency of Mohamed Nasheed, leader of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), marks a return of an authoritarian governing ethos, a gradual erosion of democratic processes, a continuation of political patronage, and increasingly diminishing prospects for the emergence of an informed and empowered civil society, accountable institutions, and the eventual consolidation of a functional multi-party democracy.

Initial optimism about Mr. Nasheed's presidency (2008-2012) subsided as his term as a president was marked by constitutional gridlock, with a strong opposition loyal to former president Gayoom, and supported by religious conservatives influential in the Parliament (Majlis). The current political crisis started in February 2015 with the arrest and consequent imprisonment of Mr. Nasheed has reached its culmination in November 2015 with the introduction of the state of emergency, which although lasted only for six days, indicated at the weakness and fragility of the governance structures.

The year of 2015 turned out to be the most tumultuous year in the recent political history of the Maldives. The country witnessed arrests and imprisonment of a number of prominent political figures, including a former president, impeachment of two vice presidents, constitutional amendments, significant reshuffling in the cabinet, ruling coalition, and law enforcement structures, which highlighted the fragility of governance institutions.

Maldives is also experiencing beneath the surface tensions, which would lead to political and social instability, due to the rapid growth of conservatism; the spread of extremism (between 50-200 Maldivians have joined the Islamic State); stronger ties between the government and organized crime; and the growing socio-economic inequality. These tensions, particularly the spread of extremism impinges on women's participation and leadership, and proportion of women in political decision making has remained significantly low, compared to other countries in the region.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

First PDA (with a title Social Cohesion and Governance Advisor) was deployed between November 2009 and November 2011 and worked on identifying/promoting areas for multi-pronged UN support in Maldives through ‘Building Trust, Confidence and National Capacities’ project. A study on “Women in Public Life” published in 2011 became the first baseline to assess the level of women’s political participation in the country.

The second PDA (March 2012-August 2014) was deployed as a response to the political crisis resulted in change of power, interim presidency and a new electoral cycle. The UN engagement included high-level visits of the Assistant Secretary General (ASG) for Political Affairs, working-level DPA missions, deployment of three different members of the Standby Team of Mediation Experts, deployment of two Human Rights Advisors (HRA), an electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), and deployment of a senior electoral expert. ASG involvement focused on encouraging dialogue and reform, and coordinate support to Maldives’ democratic transition. Standby Team members supported political party talks, the Commission of National Inquiry in 2012, and the establishment of a Maldivian-led “Panel for National Harmony” (PNH) in 2013. The electoral expert led UN engagement around the complex 2013 presidential electoral process.

The incumbent PDA, deployed in July 2015 amidst yet another political crisis, is currently working towards engaging political parties in continuous dialogue, also with involvement of DPA on the ASG level, in order to create a platform for addressing political differences. Support to UN agencies, primarily UNDP, is provided for conflict sensitivity programming, widening social cohesion on the community level, promoting women’s participation in political decision making, as well as identifying sensitive areas for future engagement related to global trends of countering violent extremism.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Given the complex political situation in the Maldives, conflict prevention work is often integrated in most development interventions. UNDP's flagship Integrated Governance Programme (IGP), developed by the country office together with national partners in 2012, seeks to directly respond to the need for a more resilient and peaceful society. The first phase, completed in 2015, focused on three key areas, such as capacity building for transparent institutions, access to justice, and promotion of social cohesion. Although there are no separate conflict prevention activities, the components on dialogue, consensus building and cohesion are well mainstreamed in activities within all three result areas.

UN's largest joint effort in the country, Low Emission Climate Resilient Development Programme (LECRd), also has an important dialogue component which addresses vulnerable groups and their capacity to participate in decision making processes. The recent adoption of UNDAF for 2016-2020, new Country Programme Document (CPD) 2016-2020, and the second phase of IGP (2015-2020), as well as the deployment of a new PDA in July 2015, with growing collaboration with DPA and OHCHR, would create more opportunities for better programmed work on conflict prevention in the Maldives.

Accomplishments

- Community Based Theatre approach is employed in the Maldives in order to promote community-base, grassroots and people-led dialogues on sensitive community issues and conflicts. Since 2013 almost 100 young people across the country were trained in facilitating forum theatre activities and sessions. The CBT methodology is used as part of a series of community level dialogue and discussion forums to enhance local capacities on managing change and conflict prevention. Besides, youth was engaged in a number of leadership programmes to expand knowledge and capacity on democratic principles and functions of parliament, issues such as gender equality, conflict resolution, human rights, extremism and intolerance;
- Important work was carried out to establish networks of community dialogue facilitators in developing conflict resolutions and dialogue facilitation capacities at the community level in a number of selected target communities. To strengthen the above, a Social Cohesion and Development Analysis (SCDA), was also developed which identified the local capacities for peace and social cohesion. UNDP engaged all partners in a high-level policy forum to initiate discussion on Community Dialogue and Participatory Planning. The forum reinforced the need for dialogue at the local level and the decision to pilot issue-based dialogues was validated. As a result, in 2015 UNDP launched issue-based dialogues in Lhaviyani Atoll.
- To increase women's voices, UNDP facilitated an interactive platform where women leaders had the opportunity to share their challenges and experiences. Best practices from other countries are used to expand the discourse on gender equality in an Islamic society. Additionally UNDP, supported the Government in their efforts towards gender parity through the development of a Gender Equality Policy which will be rolled out in 2016
- As part of the current Media Strategy, localized basic journalism training modules were developed and 20 local aspiring and practicing journalists were trained on responsible and conflict sensitive 'do no harm' reporting. Support was also provided to the Maldives Broadcasting Commission to develop a regulation on community broadcasting. The Regulation will provide a solid guiding framework for Community Broadcasting as a means to foster greater engagements within communities and like-minded network of social issues.

Going forward

- Conducting a comprehensive conflict analysis with the aim to identify gaps in UN programming. Some sources indicate that decentralization and population consolidation, increased radicalization, as well as shrinking democratic space may trigger potential conflicts in the future contributing to more instability and political complexity. Using good practices from PAPEP experience in Latin America would be one of the avenues;
- Radicalization is often cited as one of biggest challenges to the country's future development. In combination with traditional Islamic values in a homogeneous society, weak law enforcement, as well as increasing organized crime, it becomes a sensitive issue that would be difficult to address using conventional approaches. Social cohesion concepts and emerging innovative techniques should be explored in order to integrate deradicalisation efforts in usual UNDP dialogue-based interventions;
- More active work with key political parties would be carried out in order to increase confidence in political processes and support the ongoing political dialogue in various formats, including high-level facilitation by DPA and support to structural capacity of the parties, including their women and youth wings;
- Since no new knowledge is generated nationally, more work would be carried out with the Maldivian National University in order to build its research and teaching capacity in the area of conflict prevention, political science and development studies;
- Scaling up of issue based dialogue at the community level to strengthen engagement between communities and their elected leaders and governance institutions.

Project Duration

IGP first phase: 2012-2015

IGP second phase: 2016-2020

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in January 2015 on Social Cohesion and Development Analysis, and Political Analysis (covering 2015) in January 2016.

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Background/Context

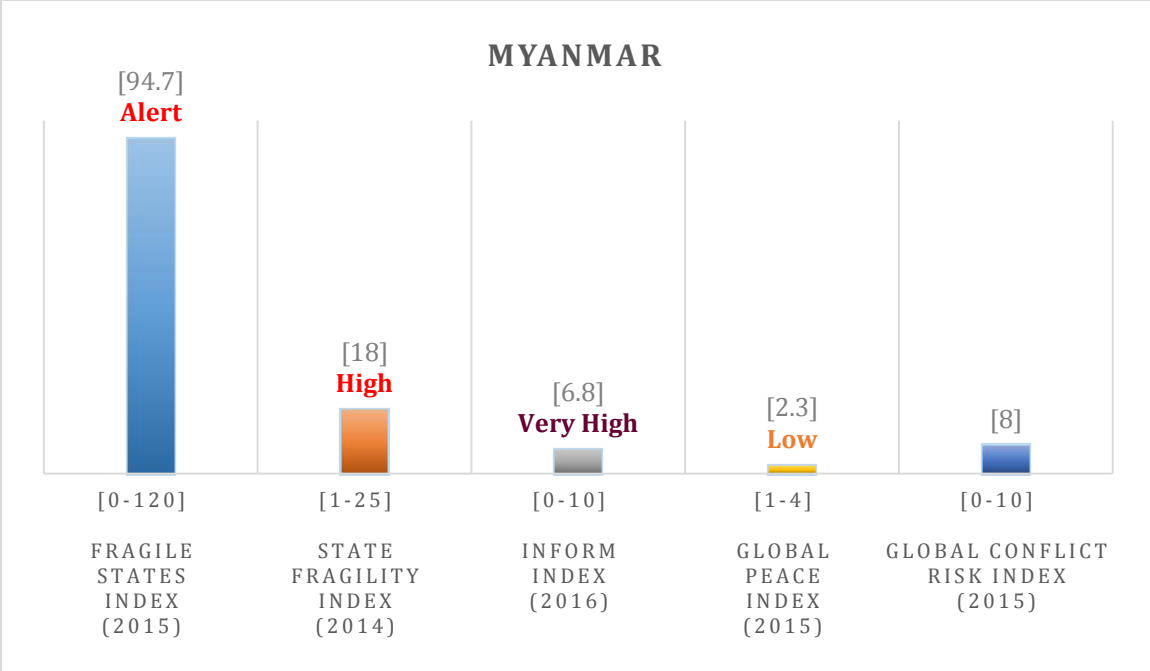
Myanmar is one of the most diverse countries in Asia, with a wealth of ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural identities.

There is a complex peace process, aimed at brokering a settlement between the Myanmar Government and the Ethnic Armed Groups (EAGs) and achieving peace in the country's ethnic states. Myanmar has also experienced inter-communal violence, primarily in Rakhine state but also elsewhere. Myanmar's civil wars and inter-communal violence have resulted in death and injury, displacement, damaged private and public property, disrupted livelihoods and social services, and fragmented family and social relations. On 15 October 2015, the Government of Myanmar (GoM) and eight Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Although the geographic area covered by the agreement does not include important northern states, its signing did herald the beginning of a new chapter of the peace process. The NCA included a commitment by both signatory groups to set-up a ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) to investigate possible violations to the accord. It also included a commitment to launch a Union Peace Dialogue that would lay the political foundations for bringing a definitive end to the war. The government had initially considered including a 30 percent quota of women's participation in the NCA, the final agreement however was much watered down and only commits to including 'an appropriate proportion of women'.

The November 8, 2015 general elections and landslide victory by the opposition National League of Democracy (NLD) brought the start of a tremendous shift in the political landscape. Although this shift came late in the calendar year, it was immediately clear that new dynamics related to the peace process, as well as the larger political transition were being created.

Since emerging from military rule, in recent years Myanmar's administration has pursued an agenda with stated aims to significantly increase economic growth, widen and deepen relationships with ASEAN and the international community, end armed conflict, and make measurable improvements to the lives and prospects of Myanmar's people. Over this time period, expectations for change amongst Myanmar's people have taken root, and many are demanding improved livelihoods, access to better services, and greater political inclusion. The expectations for change have recently been reinforced by the results of the nationwide elections and the overwhelming victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Despite impressive economic progress, Myanmar records low human development, positioned at 150 out of 187 countries in the 2014 Human Development Index (HDI) rankings. The challenge is to enable growth and tackle vulnerabilities, so that the country's economic progress translates into developmental benefits for all. At the same time Myanmar is exposed to a wide range of natural hazards and disaster risks are likely to be further exacerbated due to processes attributed to climate change and variability, mismanagement of natural resources and extractive industries, deforestation, and environmental degradation.



Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

UNDP’s country programme document for Myanmar (2013-2017) seeks to support the government in its objectives to achieve democratic transition of the country through contributions to democratic governance; local governance and local development; environmental governance and disaster risk reduction. Several areas of this work both directly and indirectly interface with peace support and peacebuilding, while not being necessarily or explicitly labelled as such. These include: support to institutional governance reforms, civil society and media strengthening, livelihoods & social cohesion at the local level (local governance programme) and institutional and policy support to public administration reform, access to justice & rule of law, and parliamentary strengthening at the national level (democratic governance programme). Hence, two of the three main pillars of the country programme are already contributing to the peacebuilding in Myanmar, while the third pillar (environmental governance) is expected to commence similar contributions in the near future.

Core mandate and central value proposition of UNDP’s country programme concerns building strong institutions to ensure their resilience and responsiveness and to improve the trust with the people. To this end, a broad typology of UNDP’s programme activities in relation to peacebuilding is as follows:

- Developing capacities of key national institutions to better engage in the peace process and to take forward the settlements and arrangements reached;
- Developing capacities for dialogue, peacebuilding and social cohesion of stakeholders to lead political and public dialogue in support of the peace process;
- Facilitating specific opportunities for relationship building between stakeholders at the local level to address trust deficits in support of peacebuilding;
- Facilitating stronger baselines and analyses to inform conflict-sensitive policy-making, planning and programming;
- Contributing to ‘peace dividends’ for conflict-affected communities and strengthening relations between isolated and conflicting communities;

- Innovating approaches to serve as prototypes for political and public dialogue for the peace process and peacebuilding.
- Integrated area-based programmes for states affected by conflict

Developing technical and institutional capacities of key government institutions

Technical advisory services to key institutions of the executive, legislature and judiciary on access to justice, rule of law, parliament, public administration and local governance. The services are provided through dedicated placement of full-time advisors with strong international comparative experience. The senior advisors provide on-demand technical advice to key government institutions on topics such federalism, decentralization, transitional justice and peacebuilding.

Support to regional and state parliaments. Targeted capacity building of members of regional and state parliaments on their representative, legislative and oversight functions, and more specialized training on public account committees, rules of procedure and community outreach. Facilitated knowledge and experience sharing with other countries and national and sub-national parliaments.

Rule of law and access to justice. The Rule of Law Centres (RoLs) established in partnership with the Union Parliament provides training in knowledge, skills and values about the law. Target beneficiaries of the Project are legal professionals, including lawyers and community representatives. The Project also focuses on increasing public legal awareness through community outreach activities, including community forums to bring together community members and local officials (where possible) to discuss and learn about local justice issues, with the long term goal of building trust in the justice system. Four Centers have been established to-date, 2 of which are in conflict-affected states. The project also includes a focus on empowering women and vulnerable groups to claim and have their rights adjudicated and grievances remedied.

Support to public administration reform. Leading the development of a nationwide Framework for Administrative Reform and improving public sector capacity-development. Through sustained collaboration with the Union Civil Service Board, facilitating the rollout of training modules on international human rights law, peacebuilding and dialogue.

Subnational government strengthening. Using the findings of the nationwide local governance mapping (see below) and providing a package of capacity-development for local administrations on inclusive local development planning and budgeting, strengthening of citizens-government interface specifically targeting conflict-affected states. Also includes support to Government to set-up One Stop Shops (OSS) which aim to bring public services closer to the people.

Developing capacities for dialogue, peacebuilding and social cohesion of stakeholders at national and local level & facilitating opportunities for relationship-building between stakeholders at the local level

Strengthening dialogue capacities and platforms. Working with the General Administrative Department (GAD); Myanmar Police Force and Ministry of Border Affairs, this work aims to strengthen confidence and capacities for dialogue through training and support. In select locations, UNDP undertakes a parallel body of work with CSOs, with the intention of establishing dialogue platforms between local government institutions and CSOs, once confidence and trust levels have been sufficiently built.

Strengthening social cohesion competencies at local-level. Strengthening social cohesion capacities through outreach and training of local administrations, non-state actors and CSOs. This work serves as a peacebuilding platform by facilitating a 'community of practice' between local governments, non-state actors and CSOs at the local level.

Support to networks of rural women groups. Continuing from UNDP's past multiyear community development interventions, this work focuses on sustainability and empowerment of 'self-reliance groups' (SRGs), which are village-based women's self-help organizations that have now formed networks at township and national level. Grant support and training to 31 township-level groups representing over 20,000 persons, to strengthen their institutional capacities to service their members and to interface with local administrations and play stronger roles in peacebuilding.

Support to Township Dialogue and Information Centers (TDICs). Three pilot TDICs will serve as local hubs for dialogue and information sharing between local administrations, CSOs, media and communities. The form of each TDIC will be decided as a collaborative effort between the local stakeholders based on their needs.

Establishing strong baselines

Local governance mapping (LGM). A baseline of local governance structures for all states and regions of Myanmar, based on a sample of 56 townships, has been established. The mapping assessed the quality of local governance drawing from the perspectives of both service-providers and the citizens. LGM modeled several ways of engaging citizens and facilitating dialogue between citizens and local governments. Through wide dissemination and dialogue the findings will contribute to more informed national and local development planning and service-delivery to the benefit of local communities.

Study on people's access to justice. The assessment inquiries into local justice issues, priorities and needs; institutional arrangements in place; how communities decide on how and where they seek justice and what challenges they face; informal and customary justice practices in place, the degree to which they are being accessed, and their interaction with formal justice institutions; people's perceptions of, satisfaction with, and trust in formal and informal justice institutions and mechanisms; impact of broader political issues on both access to justice and justice service-delivery.

Enhanced socio-economic data, especially poverty data. Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA), supported by UNDP and the World Bank will collect vital information about poverty in the country and shed light on income distribution and growth across the country.

Improving socio-economic opportunities and strengthening inter-community relations

Village-level livelihoods and social cohesion activities. Livelihoods support in 315 villages across 25 townships in 7 ethnic states through social protection, capital assistance, skills training and infrastructure as an entry-point for strengthening village CBOs, increasing women's representation in CBOs, and facilitating interaction, exchange and dialogue between different and in many cases isolated or conflicting communities. The programme has adopted a flexible response mechanism to respond to evolving needs of communities affected by natural disaster or conflict. Ongoing work combines the introduction of last-mile technologies to rural communities and using this to strengthen entrepreneurial and leadership capacities of young men and women.

Innovating approaches for inclusive local governance, dialogue and peacebuilding

First time application of tools such as Citizens Report Cards and Community Dialogues in Myanmar as part of LGM, dialogue platforms and Township Dialogue Information Centers and community-level social cohesion strategies have been developed in collaboration with national and local stakeholders. These serve as prototypes that can be integrated into local governance systems and political and public dialogue processes in the future.

Integrated area-based programmes for states affected by conflict

UNDP is in the formulating 2 integrated interventions for Rakhine State and Mon/Kayin States respectively that combine conflict prevention, dialogue and trust-building activities with institutional strengthening and community resilience-building for recovery, governance and development.

Programme Duration

2013-2017 (based on CPD)

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

In September 2015, the Joint Programme deployed the first Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) to Myanmar. As Myanmar's context is very dynamic, particularly following the October 2015 signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and November 2015 landslide victory of the NLD party, and the PDA function is continually evolving. The principal areas of work currently carried out by the PDA include:

- Provide strategic and analytical advice to the RC/RR in relations with State and Non-State actors and civil society in the context of peacebuilding, and to identify strategic entry points for programmatic engagement on the peace process
- Serve as a technical-level liaison for the RC/RR to the NCA-related structures including the ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee and Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, as well as with the senior commanders of NCA signatory and non-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations.
- Provide guidance and management support to the operations of the Peacebuilding Cluster in the RC's office, including coordination of PBF projects and preparation of background analyses on the peace process and peacebuilding.
 - Technical and coordination support to UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) - funded initiatives. The "Contributing to Myanmar's Peace Dividends in Mon and Kayin States" (IRF-75) involves seven UN agencies, with a PBF contribution of USD \$1.6 million and a global combined budget of USD \$2.4 million dollars.
 - Technical and coordination support to the PBF-supported project for establishing the "Centre for Diversity and National Harmony" (IRF-114), an institution set-up to conceptualize, inform and enhance the debate on social violence and its prevention, which includes a PBF contribution of USD \$2.5 million and a total budget of USD \$3.5 million.
- Help establish and strengthen the UN's strategic partnerships in the area of peacebuilding with key national and international actors and development partners including policy and donor coordination forums and mechanisms. This principal forum for policy discussion among Member States is the ambassadorial-level Peace Support Group (PSG).
- Provide direction of the UNCT with regard to peacebuilding interventions and work to strengthen the capacity of the UNCT to undertake conflict analysis and mainstream conflict sensitivity in programming.
- Provide technical support to inter-communal violence prevention efforts, including to UN-partner the Center for National Diversity and Harmony (CDNH).

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

UNDP partners with NPEACE to identify and nominate women leaders and women's organizations in-country for their work in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. Myanmar has been part of the N-PEACE network since 2014, and in 2014 and 2015, Myanmar's nominations won across several categories. UNDP has

also supported the participation of Myanmar women in a number of capacity-development and training workshops organized under the N-PEACE umbrella.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2014

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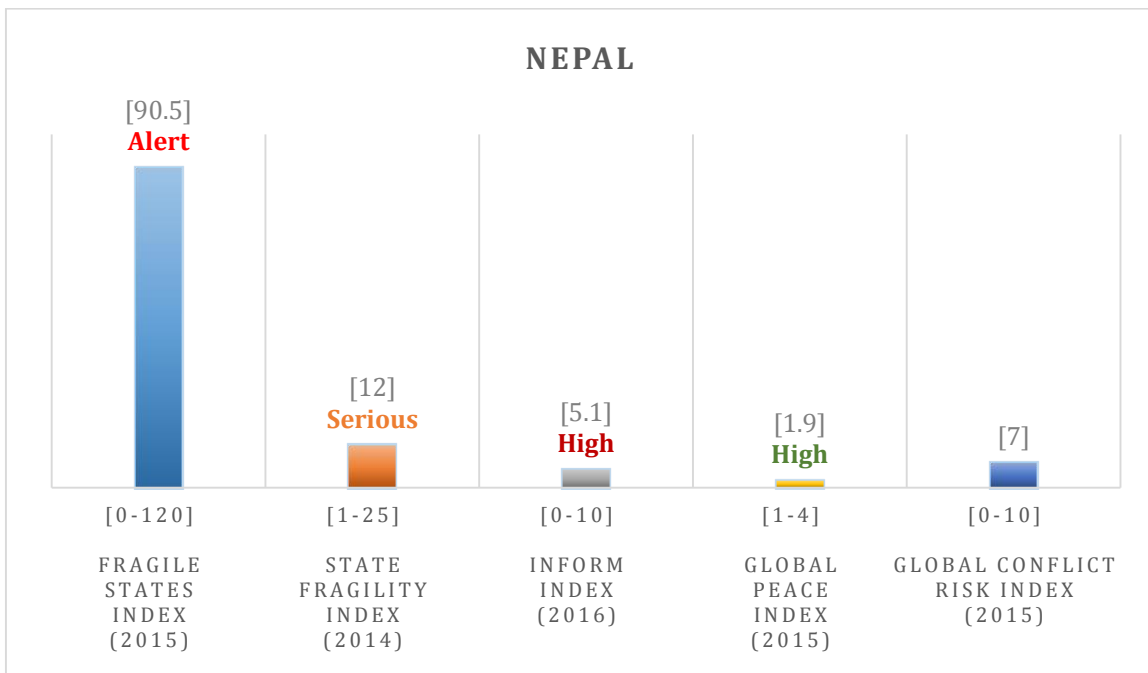
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Background /Context

The ten year long armed conflict from 1996 to 2006 launched by former Maoist rebels led to more than 13,000 people killed, left many more injured and thousands missing. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in November 2006 between the Government of Nepal and the then Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)-Maoist, signaled an end to the armed conflict and a transition of the Maoists into a political party. Open elections to all parties in 2008 for a Constituent Assembly (CA) to draft Nepal’s new constitution elected 601 members, including previously marginalized groups and 33 percent women. With peace process in Nepal regularly stalled by political impasses, in May 2012 the CA was dissolved after failing to deliver a new constitution. After a long gap, the government announced a new CA election in November 2013.

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2006, many important steps have been taken to successfully bring a definitive conclusion to the armed conflict. Some key aspects of the peace process, however, have not been fully implemented and several root causes of the conflict have not been fully addressed. Nepal continues to experience a complex post-conflict transition characterized by political instability and the absence of consensus on many pivotal issues. The Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) is designed to assist the Government of Nepal, political parties and civil society organizations to successfully navigate the challenging transitional period by promoting participatory dialogue on contentious issues, timely engagement with emerging political, resource or identity tensions, and greater awareness of localized conflict dynamics among development actors.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

There is currently no Joint Programme activity being implemented in Nepal.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) contains three programmatic pillars: (i) Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue (CLD) (ii) Conflict Sensitivity (CS), and (iii) Early Warning/Early Response (EWER). It has additional project on land issues (Gender Promotion Initiative- Land), to promote women's participation and inclusion in land policy dialogue and planning. Through the UN Peacebuilding Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) funding, CPP also implements a Gender Promotion Initiative in Central Tarai (GPI-Central Tarai) CPP promotes dialogue and collaboration among political parties, government officials, civil society members and key social groups on contentious transitional issues. The CS pillar assists actors in developing conflict-sensitive planning and implementation to prevent conflict escalation as well as supports system to rapidly respond to localized tensions. The EWER system is a mechanism to work with local peace structure and government agencies for an early warning and early response on conflict.

Besides its activities at the national level, the CPP works in districts that are some of the conflict flashpoints namely Kailalai and Kanchanpur (Far West Region office in Dhangadhi), Banke and Bardiya (Mid-West office in Nepalgunj), Chitwan, Parsa and Bara (Central Region office in Bharatpur), Sunsari and Panchthar (Eastern Region office in Damak), and Baglung and Kaski (Western Region office in Pokhara, which is in the process of being set up).

The core goal is to support efforts to build consensus, at both the national and local levels, and avoid the escalation of social, political or other tensions. CPP works for this by building Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue skills amongst Nepal's leaders and institutions, focusing on leaders from politics, civil society, government, youth, women and ethnic groups. The CLD works with the actors to engage them in dialogue on contentious issues, and develop common grounds for consensus both nationally and locally in selected districts through its regional offices in five locations. Another goal of the project is to assist the Government of Nepal, as well as the UN Country Team, integrate conflict sensitive approaches into their efforts. This helps ensure that policies and programmes are well-adapted to avoid inadvertently fueling tensions. Finally, the program intends to promote multi-sector mechanisms for early warning and early response to the conflict.

Gender & Social Inclusion Interventions

Gender composition: Total 1001 participants—69 per cent Male and 31 per cent Female

- 37% of the beneficiaries are political party leaders, 32% are civil society representatives, 14% media personnel, 4% religious leaders, 3% government officials and 2% Local Peace Committee officials
- 25 % of the CPP programme beneficiaries are Madhesis, 14% hill Janajatis, 5% hill Dalits, 2% Muslims, and 54% are hill Brahmin and Chhetris, CPP has a GESI sensitive approach to engage with women leaders and members from the marginalized communities
- Supported Women Security Pressure Group on dialogue and facilitation skills as well as capacity building of Inter Party Women's Alliance at Kathmandu and programme districts.

Accomplishments

- Following the May 2012 constitutional crisis, the CPP supported constructive dialogue among top Nepali leaders and contributed to building consensus for the establishment of an interim government and subsequent holding of new elections for a Constituent Assembly.
- Prior to the November 2013 national elections, the CPP successfully engaged with Electoral Officials and Political Parties to promote a peaceful electoral environment, and de-escalation of tensions with boycotting groups.
- In the Far West region, created a dialogue forum among senior political leaders and aided in reducing inter-ethnic tensions between Tharu and Pahadi groups, and laid the foundations for constructive engagement on federal issues in the new constitution-drafting process.
- Trained more than 1,000 leaders including government officials, political party representatives and civil society actors on collaborative leadership and dialogue skills, and multi-stakeholder dialogue forums have been established in all five Development Regions with a focus on districts with high indices of political, resource and identity conflict.
- Key government training institutes including the Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) and the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) have included Conflict Sensitivity in their curriculum, and more than 600 civil servants have received “Do No Harm” training.
- The National Planning Commission (NPC) has, following a training of staff at the NASC, incorporated conflict sensitive elements into its planning guidelines.
- NASC and LDTA have incorporated conflict sensitivity in their curriculum for the benefit of training government officials. Nearly 600 civil servants have been trained in the Do No Harm approach. The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation (MoPR) has formulated Peace Sensitive Development Approach Paper to mainstream peace sensitivity in the programmes and policies of all the ministries and commissions. NPC has been trained in peace-sensitive planning and is working towards adopting peace-sensitive planning guidelines. Seven UN agencies have already applied conflict sensitivity in their project plans and implementation. After having done a scoping and research, UNDP-CPP has developed a strategy for the MoPR to implement the EWER system in a few districts and Village Development Committees (VDCs).

CPP has a strong capacity-building element, and more than a thousand leaders from government, political parties, and civil society have been trained in collaborative leadership and dialogue skills. This has included both national and local level representatives of political parties, civil society, government agencies, media, business and religious communities. These leaders have applied their skills on leadership, collaboration and dialogue in different geographical contexts to build consensus through dialogue on issues of conflict related to politics, identity and resources. The culture of collaboration and dialogue was helpful in preventing violence during 2013 elections. Through the CLD activities, various multi-stakeholder and sectorial dialogue forums have been formed in the CPP programme districts.

Going forward

Expected Results

- National political leaders will have achieved consensus on critical transitional issues including a new constitution, transitional justice mechanisms, land policy and local elections.
- Emerging local political, resource and identity-based tensions will be systematically identified and promptly addressed by joint Government-civil society conflict Early Warning/Early Response mechanisms
- Nepali leaders at both the district and national level will have developed a strengthened culture of participatory dialogue tend to use it as a central tool for addressing contentious issues, and in doing so promote consensus-building and avoid the escalation of conflict.
- Government and United Nations development efforts will incorporate conflict sensitive approaches that promote social cohesion and minimize socio-political tensions.

After two years of intensive work in capacity building of political and civil society leaders on Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue, CPP will support in applying their skills in their respective geographical and professional areas to address political, identity, and resource-based conflicts. Through field offices set up in the regions, CPP intends to engage key actors of conflict in constructive dialogue to help them find local remedies to local tensions. The regional field offices will continue engaging key actors of conflict; conduct capacity building training for leaders and motivate them to apply the skills in resolving conflicts. Nationally, the program will create a forum where senior leaders engage in dialogue around remaining contentious issues of peace process and constitution writing and resolve their differences to conclude the transition. It intends to make an optimum use of facilitators and its center-level capacity to engage key actors of peace process in intensive dialogue around contentious issues.

The Conflict Sensitivity pillar envisions Nepal's future national development plans to be conflict-sensitive, with a strategic contribution to consolidating peace in the country. Conflict sensitivity should also be reflected in various government policies, from institutional frameworks to annual work plans and individual performance reviews. The Government, with the assistance of the UN Country Team, will ensure that development programming in Nepal would have a maximum positive impact on its peace dividends and minimize the likelihood of starting new cycles of conflict. Via its Early Warning/Early Response pillar, CPP aims to support a national system that detects, analyzes and manages emerging district level conflicts.

Project Duration

2010-2017

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

Since 2011, the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) agenda and implementation of Nepal's National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 & 1820, has been the focus of activity carried out under the N-Peace initiative in Nepal. Leading government and civil society representatives from Nepal have also engaged in cross-country knowledge sharing so network members can benefit from their experience in NAP development and implementation. In 2013, N-Peace Nepal activity aimed to continue progressing the NAP's implementation with a focus on its participation pillar, which promotes the following objective: To ensure equitable, proportional and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision making of conflict transformation

and peace building processes. This agenda is being pursued via a series of dialogues, outreach and advocacy efforts, and training initiatives.

Nepal was the first country in South Asia and second in Asia to launch a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 [2011/12 – 2015/16] in February 2011. The Nepal NAP development process has been celebrated as one of the most consultative NAP processes to date, engaging stakeholders at all levels via 52 district level consultations in the five development regions. Coordinated by the Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction, the NAP contains five pillars; Participation; Protection and Prevention; Promotion; Relief and Recovery; and Resource Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. In May 2013, the Global Network of Peacebuilders, its Nepali members and partners launched the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 Nepal NAP Localization Guideline to promote implementation at subnational and regional levels. Nepal National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & 1820.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2013 by the UNCT in Godavari, Kathmandu.

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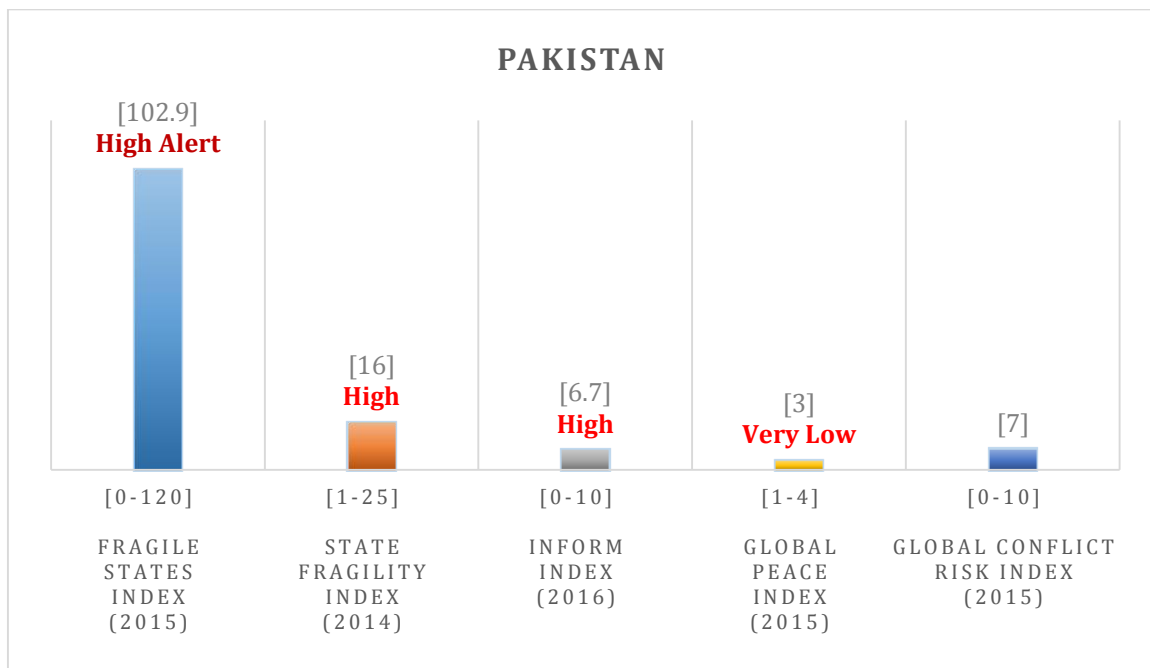


Background /Context

Pakistan’s recent history and experience of development have been deeply impacted and defined by increasingly critical and worsening security challenges. Over the last few years, the country has experienced a proliferation of extremism, radicalization, armed violence and militancy. These growing crises have eroded existing governance structures and opportunities for development, while generating significant headwinds for sustainable peace and growth.

Within this backdrop, women continue to pay a high price. Extreme radicalization and political insecurity have resulted in a regressive legal environment (particularly informal legal mechanisms), gender-based violence and economic hardship¹, placing Pakistan the second lowest country after Afghanistan on the Gender Development Index in South Asia².

This domestic environment of governance malfeasance and a myriad of conflicts and insecurity negatively impact the dramatically expanding youth population – more than 60% of the country’s population is currently under the age of 30. This substantial youth bulge offers, in equal measure, prospects for peace and growth driven by dynamic, engaged and productive young citizens; or alternatively, a recipe for disaster through disengagement and entrenched economic disparities. Harnessing, or conversely, mismanaging Pakistani youth’s potential will orchestrate short and long-term prospects for peace, stability and growth in the country and the region.



¹ <http://www.icanpeacework.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ICAN-Pakistan-Brief.pdf>

² Human Development Report, UNDP (2015). http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/PAK.pdf

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office Programme

The Youth and Social Cohesion project is undertaking initiatives that enhance the prospects for peacebuilding through two routes: direct youth mobilization and engagement, as well as increased stakeholder knowledge and understanding of conflicts and security challenges in Pakistan. These two routes offer meaningful platforms and points of intervention for the project. Through direct engagement with youth in conflict-prone and conflict-affected communities, the project is working towards provision of opportunities and pathways for vulnerable youth to enhance engagement and sustainable growth in communities. The empirical data, research and knowledge-based work undertaken by the project aims to enhance the capacity of policymakers and activists to better understand the nature and structure of conflict and violence in Pakistan – particularly as it implicates and impacts the country’s youth. These integrated streams aim to mitigate the impacts of and helping erase the drivers of violence and extremism in Pakistan.

Youth and Social Cohesion addresses the need to improve data and analysis on conflict and radicalization in Pakistan. The project will provide Government and civil society actors with technical expertise and evidenced-based policy tools and options from its mapping and research interventions. The project will also work with communities in selected conflict-prone districts and agencies of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen youth participation and engagement in decision-making and providing facilities for community activities and services targeting youths. The project will equally target young women, as well as young men.

The project has been designed to launch integrated and consolidated interventions that aim to strengthen the roots of peace and harmony amongst Pakistani youth as a countermeasure to growing violence and extremism. To pursue this overarching objective, the Youth & Social Cohesion is taking the lead in bringing together stakeholders from the national-international and public-private realms to share knowledge and expertise and deliver tangible outputs that help bring peace among Pakistan’s youth.

Project objectives

- 1. Research, Understanding, and Capacity Enhancement: Enhanced understanding among institutions and civil society organizations regarding the drivers of conflict and radicalization amongst youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.** UNDP’s work and interactions in Pakistan have revealed that the current understanding of and responses to violent extremism and radicalization, with regards to Pakistan’s youth are inadequate and inconsistent. Specifically, current policies and programmatic support rely frequently on data-deficient resources and sources, which is undermining the efficacy and efficiency of policies. To overcome these challenges, the Youth & Social Cohesion project has undertaken several research-based activities and partnerships to:
 - Provide support to researchers and institutions investigating the linkages between the drivers of conflict and radicalization and Pakistan’s youth;
 - Share knowledge and understanding amongst Government, civil society, academic, and private sector stakeholders to improve the current state of knowledge and understanding of the core issues confronting Pakistan’s youth; and the dynamics of conflicts and radicalization in this context;
 - Build the capacity of Government and civil society partners and stakeholders to use better data and empirical evidence to formulate policies and programs that seek to build and strengthen peace in Pakistan;
- 2. Action/Delivery-based: Social cohesion and community resilience strengthened among youth in selected conflict prone districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.** UNDP aims to enhance social cohesion and community resilience for peace and harmony by building community spaces and infrastructure that will

provide youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa opportunities for increased engagement, individual enrichment and growth, and community empowerment. These spaces will launch specific activities (sports, mentorship, skills and business development) that will serve two specific purposes: increase social cohesion and engagement within local communities; and regenerate socialization entry points for youth to repair and strengthen state-society relations and trust. The proposed community spaces will be built in various Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that are active landscapes of violence and extremism in Pakistan.

The project specifically targets poor and underprivileged youth in rural areas and aims to advocate for the formulation of local government policies targeted towards these groups. Local and provincial governments are also an important participant stakeholder and beneficiary in this process. The Project will stimulate youth to form local organizations so that they engage in activities that will reduce their propensity towards violence that can undermine security in the area, and thereby the possibilities for social and economic development.

Project Duration

The Project was launched in 2015 and will extend till December 2017 based on current resources and commitments.

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

There is currently no Joint Programme activity being implemented in Pakistan.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

Details on N-Peace work in Pakistan will be updated.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in late 2015 and will be completed by March 2016. The project launched a comprehensive conflict mapping and analysis exercises for four Districts of South Khyber Pakhtunkhawa. This empirical study is gathering evidence from conflict-affected communities, as well as relevant stakeholders to map and assess conflict profiles, causes, actors and dynamics.

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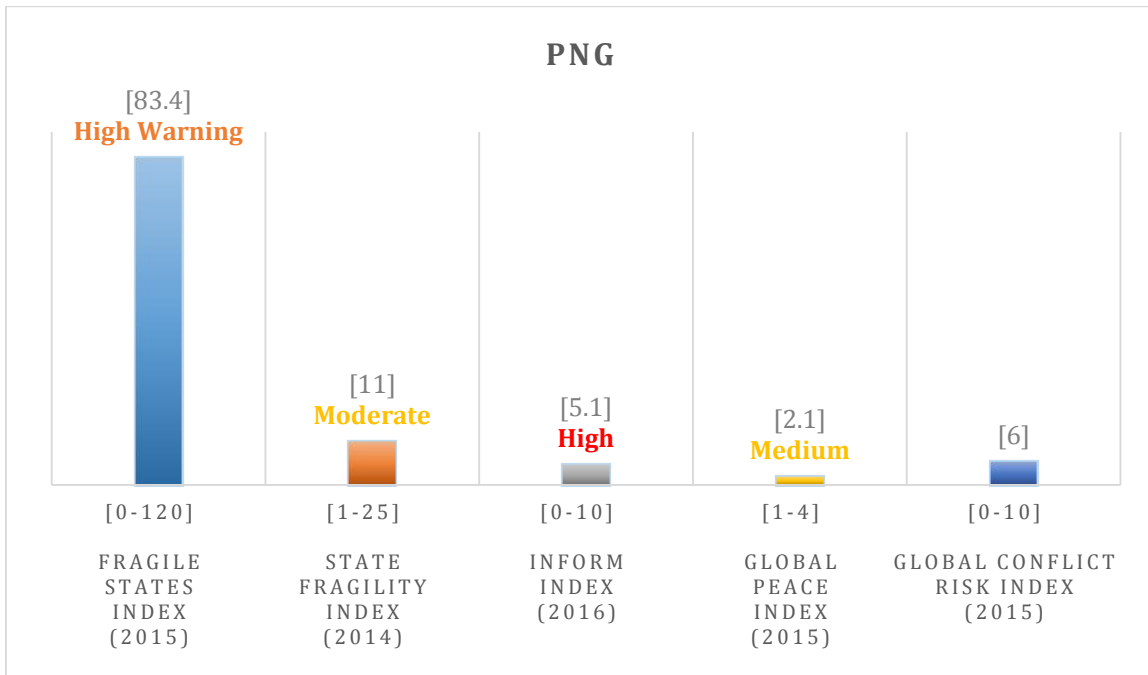
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Background /Context

Following nearly a decade of a bloody conflict from the late 1980s with estimated deaths of up to 20,000 people, the PNG national government and Bougainville political actors signed the Bougainville Peace Agreement in 2001 (BPA). The conflict had also turned from a conflict between Bougainville and the national government into a civil war between various factions within Bougainville. Social grievances, political infighting and disagreements about the use of revenue from the Panguna copper mine in Central Bougainville and its environmental effects were key triggers of the conflict.

The Peace Agreement provided a legal basis for the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). It also included provisions for weapons disposal, good governance arrangements and a referendum on the political status of Bougainville. The referendum on the political status of Bougainville is expected to take place between 2015 and 2020. Some Bougainvilleans (e.g. Former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) Commander Sam Kauona) feel that the BPA has inherent gaps and that not all the armed factions (e.g. Meekamui Factions) involved in the conflict signed the agreement. Despite this, the peace process in Bougainville is widely recognized as a successful peacebuilding effort. There has not been a return to any significant violence since 2001. Yet the post-conflict environment remains fragile and poses a significant barrier to stability and development.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

In late 2013, following the UN Secretary-General’s declaration of PNG’s legibility for support from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the UN and the ABG undertook an extensive and highly participatory peace and development analysis (PDA). The analysis found that Bougainville should not be classified as ‘post-conflict’ and that the historical drivers of conflict remain present today.

The PDA identified the following current conflict factors:

- 1) Resistance to outsiders because of a perceived threat to Bougainville resources
- 2) Unequal distribution of benefits from the Panguna Mine
- 3) Internal disputes over land and other resources
- 4) Leadership rivals and divisions.

Other contributory factors were:

- 1) Heavy handed actions by those in authority
- 2) Insecurity as a result of the presence of arms
- 3) Weakening traditions and irreversible cultural change
- 4) Lack of trusted information sources and
- 5) Distrust and skepticism in leadership.

In August of 2015 the PBF Project Document was signed by the peace partners. The three major outcomes that the various work streams and concisely groups UN Peacebuilding efforts in the next three years are:

- 1) Strengthen dialogue between the leaders of the national government and ABG as partners in the BPA;
- 2) Raise awareness on the BPA especially regarding peaceful referendum processes;
- 3) Promote social cohesion in response to the conflict and foster reconciliation, community healing and security.

The Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) works closely and jointly with the Country Office through the provision of conflict analysis, intelligence and insights.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Under the Delivering as One (DaO) modality, UNDP leads and contributes to the UN's area-based, multi-sectoral programming. Guided by the 1st UNDAF pillar 'Governance for Equitable Development', the UN 4 year Strategy and subsequent Joint Annual Work Plans for Bougainville, UNDP remains focused on meeting Bougainvilleans' aspirations of peacebuilding and reconciliation, longer-term socio-economic recovery, including reintegration, rehabilitation and trauma counseling for ex-combatants and others affected by the conflict.

Objectives

- Support inclusive dialogue, involving the National Government, the Autonomous Government, district and local level Governments, former combatants and the general public, in particular women and youth;
- Support the review of the BPA, to assess progress of peacebuilding, socio-economic recovery and long-term development and support the acceleration of progress;
- Identify follow-up activities to the 2012 weapons assessment on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to comply with the pre-condition for referendum;
- Support decentralized and inclusive governance structures and planning, budgeting and implementation decision-making processes for locally adjusted restoration of peace, security and livelihoods that benefit the most marginalized and excluded population groups;
- Strengthen Security Sector Reform, Restorative Justice and Rule of Law to improve effective and efficient delivery of security and justice services without discrimination and with full respect for human rights;

- Increase mutual accountability by strengthening the Bougainvilleans' demand for and use of social services, and ABG's capacity to deliver those services more effectively.

Accomplishments

- Brokerage of the 2011 Konnou Peace Agreement between factions, putting an end to a 6-year localized conflict in South Bougainville and allowing thousands of Bougainvilleans to move freely and use health and education services;
- Facilitation of the Tsiroge Peace and Security summit of 2012 which was a precursor to the development of the ABG Peace and Security framework;
- Development by ABG of the Bougainville Peace and Security Framework and its Implementation Strategy, that serve as a guide for strategic, coherent, well-coordinated and whole-of-government processes and measures for Peace, Security and Development ;
- 2012 Weapons Assessment carried out, identifying recommendations for the way forward on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration;
- Eligibility of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville for the UN Peacebuilding Fund support granted by the UN Secretary General.
- Deepened dialogue process among the Me'ekamui fighters, and between former combatants and the ABG, on collaboration for peace, security and development;
- Peace and Security or Development Coordination Committees established in five districts, which assume the responsibility of bottom-up peace and development planning and implementation;
- Increase of women and youth representation in local and district governance institutions by 85%.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2013 and finalized in 2015.

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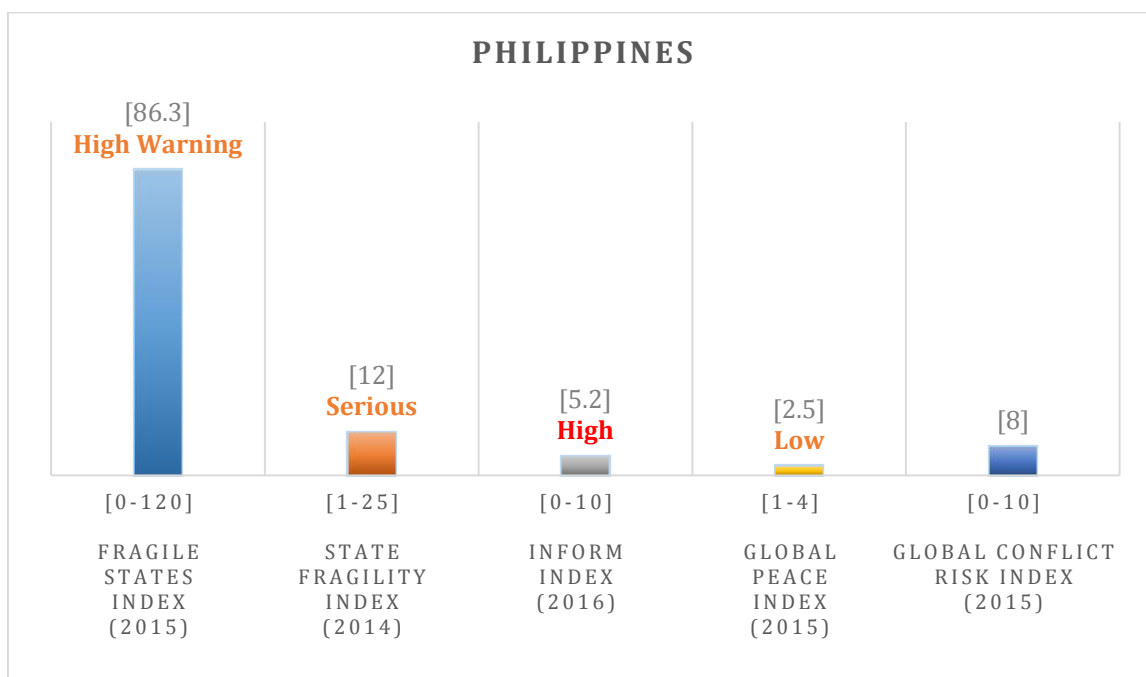


Background /Context

The Philippines has experienced armed conflict for almost fifty years. It is among five countries worldwide that have been affected by long-drawn-out violence (2010 Human Security Report). Various studies, including the Philippine Human Development Report (2005) point to, among others, social inequity and injustice as the roots of conflicts in the country. This sense of injustice stemming from several factors-- including loss of access to land, economic inequality, inadequate delivery of public services, and exclusion and marginalization of minority groups and the poor from the political and socio-economic mainstream—has fueled two long-standing conflicts: the communist insurgency which is active in various provinces across the nation, and the Bangsamoro struggle for self-determination, largely confined to Southern Philippines (Mindanao).

The Government of the Philippines (GPH) has pursued peace processes with the different rebel groups since the 1970s. The peace process in Mindanao has produced peace agreements between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front/MNLF (1976; 1996) and with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front/MILF (2014). The implementation of agreements with the MNLF, however, became the source of contention and renewed fighting between the parties. On the other hand, peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People’s Army/ National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) have been intermittent and are currently in impasse.

The Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB) signed in March 2014 between the GPH and the MILF has led to the drafting of a Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which is currently under deliberation in Congress before it is passed into law and later ratified in a plebiscite. The transition to a new political entity and the transformation of MILF combatants to civilian life are two of the critical processes which are essential to long-term peace, security and development in Mindanao as well as the entire country.



Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC)

The Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC) was launched in April 2013 by agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation (MILF) and the Government of the Philippines (GPH). The Facility is expected to run until 2016, corresponding to the timetable for the establishment of the Bangsamoro as stipulated in the CAB, subject to annual review.

The primary purpose of the Facility is to support the transition to the new political entity by providing technical support to the parties, primarily the MILF, and where requested, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) Panel and Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) and its technical working groups. Since its creation in April 2013, the Facility has provided technical advice on key issues in the transition to the Bangsamoro such as governance, economic development, public administration, justice, combatant transition and security as determined by the GPH and MILF Peace Negotiating Panels and the BTC. FASTRAC has provided support for the drafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL); outreach and communications on the CAB and the BBL; and support for joint transitional bodies such as the BTC and the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC), as well as for independent bodies jointly created by the parties such as the Independent Commission on Policing (ICP) and the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC).

FASTRAC is governed by a Consultative Committee composed of representatives of the GPH and the MILF, the UN and the World Bank. The Facility is implemented jointly by the UNDP and the World Bank, with funding support from UNDP BPPS, the World Bank and bilateral partners that include Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It has a budget of USD 4.1million and is expected to run until March 2016.

Increasing public confidence and participation in support of the implementation of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement (Peacebuilding Fund)

This is an inter-UN agency project which is financed by the UN Peacebuilding Fund in the amount of USD 3 million. USD 950,000 of this amount is allocated to UNDP, to support activities, outreach and advocacy for a peaceful political transition. It seeks to support the implementation of the 2014 Bangsamoro Peace Agreement with initiatives to reduce barriers to the acceptance of the agreement among key actors and populations. The participating UN agencies aside from UNDP are ILO, FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women.

Initiatives under this project include support for peace advocacy and communications; support to broader participation of political leaders and technical support towards the formation of political parties for development of new democratic processes and institutions, and protecting rights and addressing needs of critical constituencies in the new Bangsamoro entity, including IDPs and young people in conflict-affected and marginalized areas.

The project is being implemented in cooperation with the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, over an 18-month period (December 2014-May 2016).

Sustaining Peace in the Bangsamoro

Following the successful negotiation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the drafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), this programme aims to support the parties to the peace process to consolidate a lasting peace in Bangsamoro. The programme seeks to contribute to efforts which sustain the momentum for peace and create an enabling environment for a successful transition to the new Bangsamoro, and is designed to remain responsive to efforts to sustain peace in the region, even in a scenario where the legislative process for the BBL.

Now awaiting download of funds from UNDP headquarters, the programme will support catalytic initiatives and capacities across several outputs, including: a) broadened platforms for dialogue and political

participation in the development of Bangsamoro governance b) viable social and economic alternatives for former combatants and their communities and c) security, and effective and equitable access to justice and rule of law during the transition period and under the initial period of the new Bangsamoro government. The core strategy behind the project is to build capacities for the achievement of a Bangsamoro government that is participatory, effective and accountable.

The lead national partners for this programme are the GPH, the MILF and its affiliated entities, and the regional government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Civic organizations, research institutions, and organization representing minorities, women, youth, and indigenous persons are also crucial partners.

The programme has an initial budget of USD 1.2 million (BPPS funding, with possible additional donor support in the future) and is expected to run until April 2017.

Supporting the Transition to Bangsamoro: Strengthening Institutions for Peace and Human Rights (Assisting the TPMT to Monitor and Report on the Peace Process)

This project has two major components, one intended to support the human rights infrastructure in the Bangsamoro through the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC), and the other to support the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) of the GPH-MILF peace process. The human rights component of the project is managed by the Governance unit of UNDP CO-PHI. The TPMT component of the project is managed by the CPR unit. UNDP provides support to the TPMT through effective fund management and administrative assistance as it performs its monitoring functions.

The TPMT was established by the parties in October 2012 with a mandate to monitor all of the agreements between the MILF and the Philippine government. It is an independent body composed of representatives from two international and two national groups associated with peacebuilding and mediation. The Chair of the TPMT is a former EU ambassador to the Philippines. The TPMT provides periodic reports and updates to both parties. The TPMT has been able to successfully organize discussions with the relevant peace process bodies and stakeholders, providing them with independent information and analyses on developments and ways forward.

Given its mandate to monitor implementation of all agreements between the parties, the TPMT will continue to function in 2016 (or possibly an extended period), as the last stage in the peace process, assuming that it continues to be on track, is the negotiation of an “exit agreement” upon certification by the TPMT that all agreements have been duly complied with.

This project is funded by the EU (€1.915 million or approx. USD 2.6 million. The TPMT component of the project has a budget of €718,642.07 or USD 975,000).

Supporting an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Peace in the Bangsamoro (SUPPORT PEACE – Bangsamoro) (Upcoming Project for Bangsamoro)

With funding support from the European Union (EU) amounting to € 1.2 million or approximately US\$ 1.31 million, this project aims to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability that has been achieved so far in the Bangsamoro, and to support the strengthening of enabling conditions for the continuation of the peace process beyond the Aquino administration which will end in May 2016. This will be done by (1) providing administrative and fund management support to the TPMT in the monitoring of the implementation of the CAB, thus contributing to transparency and confidence-building for the peace process; (2) supporting capacity building for local leaders and other stakeholders relative to public administration and parliamentary processes; and (3) strengthening the constituency for peace in the Bangsamoro, particularly in strengthening the role of the youth sector in peacebuilding, and in ensuring the continued strong engagement of women in peacebuilding. Expected to run for a period of 18 months starting first quarter of 2016, the project is being finalized with the European Union.

Strengthening the National Peace Infrastructure (SNPI)

This project supports government efforts to build peace in communist insurgency-affected areas of the country. Specifically, it supports capacity-building and transformation processes for former combatants in the Cordillera region and the islands of Negros and Panay, whose groups had previously signed peace agreements with past government administrations; these agreements are considered to be only partially implemented. The SNPI project supports government efforts to bring closure to these previous agreements and help the former combatants to transition to normal economic life and participate in governance processes.

The SNPI project works with the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process in moving forward “closure agreements” between the government and the Cordillera Bodong Administration-Cordillera People’s Liberation Army (CBA-CPLA) and Rebolusyonyong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas/ Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade-Tabara Paduano Group (RPM-P/RPA/ABB-TPG). SNPI also supports the localization of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security which is the main planning instrument of the government in implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on ensuring women’s participation in peace processes and their protection from sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Project Duration

Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC), April 2013 –June 2016.

Increasing Public Confidence and Participation in the Implementation of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement, December 2014-May 2016.

Sustaining Peace in the Bangsamoro, April 2015 –April 2017.

Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) of the GPH-MILF peace process, January 2014 - December 2016.

Strengthening the National Peace Infrastructure (SNPI), 2012-2018.

Supporting an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Peace in the Bangsamoro, 2016-2017.

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

Activities are being defined by the recently hired PDA.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

During 2012, the first year the Philippines has been part of the N-Peace initiative, implementation of the Philippine NAP on UNSCR 1325 & 1820, promoting women’s leadership as peace builders and enhancing the knowledge and skills of women peace advocates has been the focus of activity. With rich experience from the Philippines on NAP development, implementation and localization, leading CSO stakeholders have engaged in N-Peace cross-country knowledge sharing initiatives. Two objectives frame the 2013 N-Peace Country Plan for the Philippines: I) Enhancing leadership skills and promoting women’s meaningful participation in the peace process, and implementation of the PNAP UNSCR 1325 & 1820; and II) Supporting the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for implementation of the PNAP on UNSCR 1325 & 1820. This agenda is being pursued via outreach and advocacy, trainings, and dialogue forums.

Latest conflict analysis carried out in 2010 (Mindanao).

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Background /Context

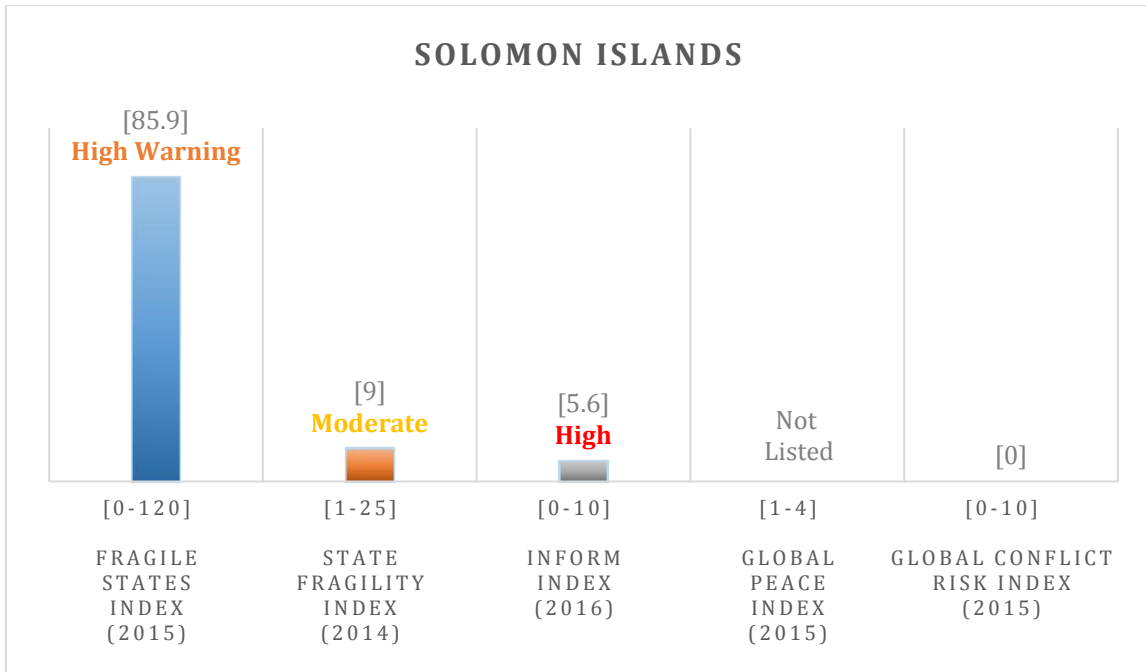
Since independence Solomon Islands has struggled to maximise its development potential but still remains a Least Developed Country (LDC). Progress in the Solomon Islands did not benefit citizen alike. The main reason is leaders may not have taken advantage of the full array of development choices (education to improve the human capital of the country, private sector development, inclusive economic growth) available to them. A development leadership distanced from its people has meant democratic reforms are being implemented more slowly than might be possible and a newly emerging democratic voice is only sporadically heard. Growth of the media has allowed many citizens to hear Government first hand via the increased numbers of radio and TV sets available to them. Feedback mechanisms however, where citizens can relay opinions and comments back to the Government, are being developed more slowly like for instance independent surveys conducted by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Since independence, Solomon Islands has maintained its traditional belief and tribal structures, based around the tribe and the clan, which run in parallel to systems encoded in civil law. Solomon Islands can be described as having both a modern civil code system, with a Parliament and an independent Judiciary, and a customary legal system, which can lead to conflicts of interest at the level of the hierarchy of law.

In the area of education Solomon Islands has something to celebrate with educational improvements being made steadily through the 1990s and beyond. Functional literacy is relatively high, whichever definition is being used. It is likely that Solomon Islands will achieve the Millennium Development Goals in countries know, managing a country is not an easy task, with competing requests for resources, time and allocations. Some stakeholders are disappointed, feel disenfranchised and take their frustrations out on other (usually less powerful) groups. Where democratic systems are not able to cope with this (often rapid) change in relations, conflicts can occur. These conflicts can be devastating as they can stop human development in its tracks; at worst, conflict can push development back to levels seen in earlier years, a setback no country can afford. Solomon Islands has gone through such a conflict and feels the effects even today.

UNDP is preparing a multi-year programme to support sustaining stability and strengthening social cohesion in the Solomon Islands in light of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Island (RAMSI) exit, Bougainville spill-over effects and the current political crisis in the country and efforts to ensure peace and stability in the next five years.

Solomon Islands, being a post conflict country is in transition and is trying to rebuild its future and sustain stability after the end of conflict through the Townsville agreement in 2000. The agreement has provided a unique opportunity for the country to reconcile and rebuild its future with the support of the international community. It is also an opportunity for the Solomon Island Government (SIG) and other national actors to take a lead in conflict prevention and resolution. The previous support to stability from RAMSI, the UN and the recent peacebuilding programme have contributed to security and stability, but the Solomon Islands is likely to face a new potential crisis and instability in 2016 onwards.



Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

UNDP is developing a programme to mitigate and prevent the future crisis and thus seeking support from all stakeholders. With the existing support from the remaining BCPR fund. Since earlier 2015, UNDP implemented capacity building for peace and development especially assisting the Ministry for National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP).

- Providing capacity support to Ministry for National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) on program design and strategy aiming at more effective work by the ministry on conflict resolution and reconciliation at the sub national level, including the implementation of the nation-wide approach for peacebuilding.
- Convening and facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue on governance, stability and social cohesion. Since last year, 2015, UNDP initiated a regular meeting between key stakeholders to discuss social and political issues, especially with regard to RAMSI exit and transition.
- Youth and social cohesion, promoting youth participation in peacebuilding in Solomon Islands and increase youth's voice. UNDP has been organizing youth forums in Honiara by bringing youth from various ethnic groups and initiate their cooperation and participation in supporting unity and peacebuilding.
- Development of a nationally owned multi-year programme on peacebuilding and social cohesion. The multi-year programme is to support national efforts on pursuing stability, reconciliation and national unity between Solomon Islanders beyond the issues of the two provinces – Guadalcanal and Malaitans.

Going forward

- Support MNURP capacity to implement the national peace policy, including actions articulated in recently adopted Cabinet Paper: peace centers in 4 provinces functional and delivering results; capacities strengthened to facilitate dialogue/negotiation to bring closure to unresolved grievances/disputes.
- Citizen engagement for a unified/cohesive Solomon Islands: convening and facilitating of dialogue circles across different relevant levels/sectors, on issues critical to reconciliation and social cohesion, including government's reform agenda (anti-corruption; political integrity/stability, accountability, inclusion of women), with involvement of academia, parliamentarians, leaders at provincial and local government (including traditional and faith-based), CSOs, gender equality experts and advocates, in a manner that is mutually reinforcing of other ongoing projects and programmes.
- To encourage analysis and knowledge locally, more work would be carried out with the National University of Solomon Islands and cooperation with other UNDP offices in Asia Pacific in order to build its research and analysis capacity in the area of peace building, development and social cohesion.

Project Duration

2015 - 2018

Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

There is currently no Joint Programme activity being implemented in the Solomon Islands

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2003.

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Background/Context

After more than 25 years of violence the armed conflict in Sri Lanka ended in May 2009. However under the previous Government few meaningful steps were taken to promote accountability and national reconciliation or to meet the political aspirations of the Tamil community. With a population of about 20 million, Sri Lanka's major ethnic groups are the Sinhalese (74 per cent) and Tamils (18 per cent). Over the years, the growth of assertive Sinhala nationalism fanned the flames of ethnic division, and civil conflict erupted in the 1980s against Tamils pressing for self-rule. Most of the fighting took place in the north but the conflict also penetrated the heart of Sri Lankan society in the 1990s. The violence killed tens of thousands and damaged the economy of South Asia's potentially most prosperous societies. There was wide spread concern about the fate of civilians caught up in the conflict zone during the final stages of the conflict, the confinement of nearly 300,000 Tamil internally displaced persons (IDPs) to camps for months afterwards, and allegations of grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law by both warring sides.

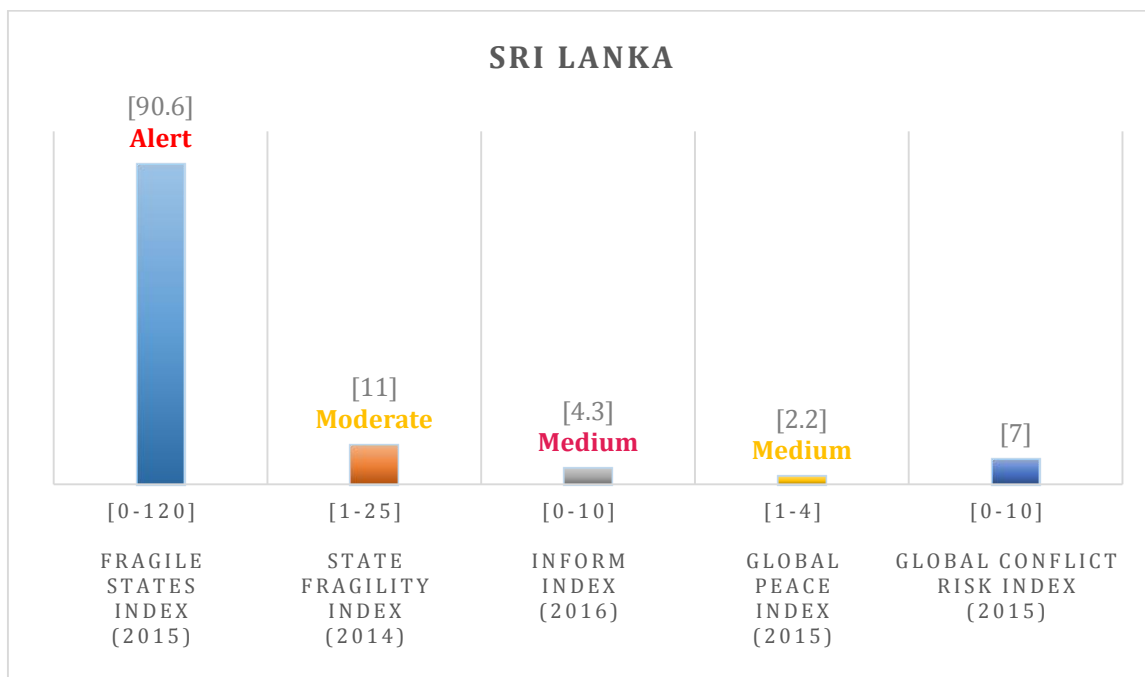
The previous Government until January 2015 prioritized economic recovery - construction of new roads, bridges, medical facilities, schools, housing, demining and resettlement of internally displaced persons – as a strategy to sustain peace. The approach directly undermined addressing the core grievances of the minorities and the root causes of the conflict, which include structural issues revolving around power sharing, discrimination, access to land and militarization. Full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, and therefore the effective functioning of the Northern Provincial Council and greater and meaningful power sharing are key demands of the Tamil community today. The Government's approach of "limited and selective engagement" with the international community added to the political complexity, leaving little space for the UN to engage on issues of reconciliation and accountability. International concern expressed through the three Human Rights Council Resolutions (2012 to 2014), resulted in the government introducing ad-hoc mechanisms to deal with issues of accountability, such as Commissions of Inquiry³ which lacked independence and credibility and failed to satisfy victims or meet international standards. In all, after a thirty-year conflict, the biggest challenge that still remains is the process of reconciliation and this has to come from within Sri Lanka, its people and its government.

Following the political transition that took place in 2015, the context for peacebuilding dramatically changed in Sri Lanka. Until that point, the space for UN engagement on issues such as reconciliation and accountability was largely constrained. The strategy of the RDA was to find entry points to address the structural drivers of conflict while integrating social cohesion and confidence building initiatives into UN programming. In addition, the RDA sought to position UN as a knowledge leader through policy oriented research on issues of reconciliation and peacebuilding while taking forward the dialogue on political settlement in close coordination with DPA.

However, following the Presidential elections in January 2015, the new President and Prime Minister expressed strong political commitment to securing long term peace and reconciliation premised on principles of good governance while strengthening democratic institutions and ending impunity and inequality. At the same time, they re-affirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to working with the international community and the United Nations, and fulfilling obligations under the international human rights architecture. With the

³ Presidential Commission to Investigate into Missing Persons (2014), Army Court of Inquires, International Advisors appointed by the President to investigate into the last stages of the conflict (2014).

landscape significantly changed, the RDA has worked closely with the RC to establish the comprehensive engagement with the Government by bringing to bear the good office of the Secretary-General, whilst also laying the groundwork for longer term support under the Peacebuilding Fund.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

Key initiatives led by the Reconciliation and Development Advisor

Leading the Peacebuilding Fund Engagement with Government, UNCT and UN HQ: Following the political transition in January 2015, the Secretary-General expressed his commitment to support Sri Lanka’s peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts and encouraged the country to access support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Since then, the Reconciliation and Development Advisor has been facilitating the UNCT’s and the Government’s engagement with the Fund, initially providing technical support to design catalytic/quick-impact proposals for support under the PBF’s Immediate Response Facility (IRF) and later, guiding the initiation of the process to develop the Peacebuilding Priority Plan. The Plan is a necessary first step for the UNCT to access the longer term funding under the PBF’s Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility.

Political Update for the UNCT: Amidst the rapidly changing political dynamics, the Reconciliation and Development Advisor provides a political update as a standing item at each monthly meeting of the UNCT. The objective of the update is to promote a common understanding of the context amongst the agencies, and where necessary to encourage the UN to adopt a unified approach to issues.

Policy oriented analysis to position UN as a knowledge leader: With the intention of positioning UN as a knowledge leader on peacebuilding issues, two strategic assessments of the peacebuilding context have been conducted. One was a national level survey undertaken in 2014 during a highly sensitive time politically, when there was almost no space for this type of work. It was therefore conducted in a low profile manner with the results being used to inform the UNCT’s own strategic planning or shared on a bilateral basis with key partners. Given the richness of the findings, a second similar survey focusing on only one region of the country

was conducted in 2015 that looked in more detail at certain issues linked to confidence amongst minority communities in the overall peace process.

Importantly, with the space for peacebuilding related work having now opened, the results of both surveys have helped to drive and focus much of the early work conceptualized under the Peacebuilding Fund, and are also forming the basis for the Peacebuilding Context Assessment currently being collated as an initial step in the process of preparing the Peacebuilding Priority Plan.

Importantly, under the Peacebuilding Fund, UN will be working with the ONUR to institutionalize the strategic context assessment methodology, as an annual exercise to be conducted by the ONUR. The intention is that the nationally driven assessment provides the baseline for national efforts to promote reconciliation, and enables the ONUR to fulfil its role in monitoring progress and advocating for greater attention to critical issues.

Finding entry points to work on structural drivers of conflict

Engagement with the Sri Lanka Police to institutionalize Standard Operating Procedures for addressing crimes against women in partnership with UNPOL: The RDA liaised with the Global Focal Point to in UN Police to provide technical support for the development of a manual on SGBV for all new recruits and Standard Operating Procedures for the Investigation of SGBV Crimes. The initiative helped build trust and through fostering a partnership between the UN and the Police, has provided a foundation on which to expand into further work on Security Sector Reforms

Land Mediation with the Ministry of Justice: The RDA brought on board the land mediation expert from the DPA Standby Mediation Team to support the government to develop a framework for land mediation specifically targeting the post conflict provinces of the North and the East. This builds on the long established Community Mediation Boards. The work was conducted closely with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Land, and proposed system will be initiated once approved by a Cabinet Gazette.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

The UNDP supported Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration (SELAJSI) Programme which began in 2013 and ends in 2017 is built on the premise that stronger legal systems and more equitable access to justice for all, would lead to a more inclusive and integrated society. With this as its foundation, the Programme consists of interventions on strengthening criminal justice processes and prevention and response to gender based violence alongside other interventions specifically on social integration. Social integration is here interpreted broadly, where while addressing some of the more obvious barriers to social inclusion and reconciliation such as issues of language, it also aims at greater inclusiveness for vulnerable groups and communities who have been marginalized due to a variety of factors. The Programme has;

- i) Translated and consolidated the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, which are two core pieces of legislation in Sri Lanka.
- ii) A special translation unit supported at the Ministry of Justice translated 120 case briefs from the first instance courts in the North and the East from the Tamil language to English. Without this translation, the case briefs could not be brought before the Court of Appeal in Colombo for a period of nearly 10 years.
- iii) Supported the provision of basic legal documentation (i.e. birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, national identity cards, etc.) for an estimated 5,000 individuals.
- iv) Supported the effective implementation of the Official Languages Policy through the establishment of two language learnings labs enabling a greater number of government officials

- and members of the public to learn either Sinhala or Tamil (the Official Languages in Sri Lanka), and fostering volunteerism for the promotion of translation support services.
- v) Undertaken initiatives to bring together and empower women and youth from different geographical areas and socio-economic groups for leadership and social integration
 - vi) Supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs to undertake a consultative process and develop a National Action Plan to address Gender Based Violence. This Draft plan is currently under review and expected to be finalized in 2016.
 - vii) Supported the development of a National Policy on Legal Aid. The Draft is prepared to be submitted for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.
 - viii) Supported the Attorney General's Department with technical expertise to clear the backlog of cases relating to Narcotics, Child Abuse, and Public Complaints.
 - ix) Introduced a referral mechanism as a pilot mechanism in two districts in order to provide greater protection for victims of sexual and gender based violence.
 - x) Provided legal aid support for around 350 remand prisoners.

Furthermore, under the IRF facility of the Peacebuilding Fund, UNDP plans to support crucial peacebuilding opportunities brought about by the political transition that are aimed at promoting reconciliation in Sri Lanka and also giving priority attention to trust and confidence building measures amongst groups most affected by the inter-ethnic conflict. To achieve these goals, the UNDP will support the work of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) to kick-start the process of relationship building and reconciliation and help build the capacity of the Northern Provincial administration and Eastern Provincial administration to effectively deliver public services, with a focus on the most vulnerable and conflict affected communities. UNDP will also provide technical support for the newly established Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms responsible for ensuring a coordinated and coherent Government strategy to progress peacebuilding.

Project Duration

Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration (SELAJSI) Programme--2013-2017

Support to Promote National Unity and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka (funded by the PBF- IRF)—2016-2017 (18 months- to be initiated)

Support to Strengthen the Provincial Administration in Sri Lanka (funded by the PBF-IRF)—2016-2017 (18 months-to be initiated)

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis carried out in September 2014. The RCO is currently undertaking a peacebuilding context assessment which will serve as the conflict analysis to inform the Peacebuilding Priority Plan.

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Background /Context

The southernmost region of Thailand has been affected by conflict since 2004. Despite ongoing efforts by various actors to resolve it, violence and insecurity continues to be a part of everyday life for those living in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla. According to Deep South Watch, as of December 2013, 5,956 people have been killed and 10,703 injured in 13,895 violent incidents. Research shows this violence has hampered socioeconomic and human development in these provinces. The UNDP's Human Achievement Index 2014, for example, ranks Narathiwat lowest (76th) on the Education Index and Pattani 75th on the Income Index.

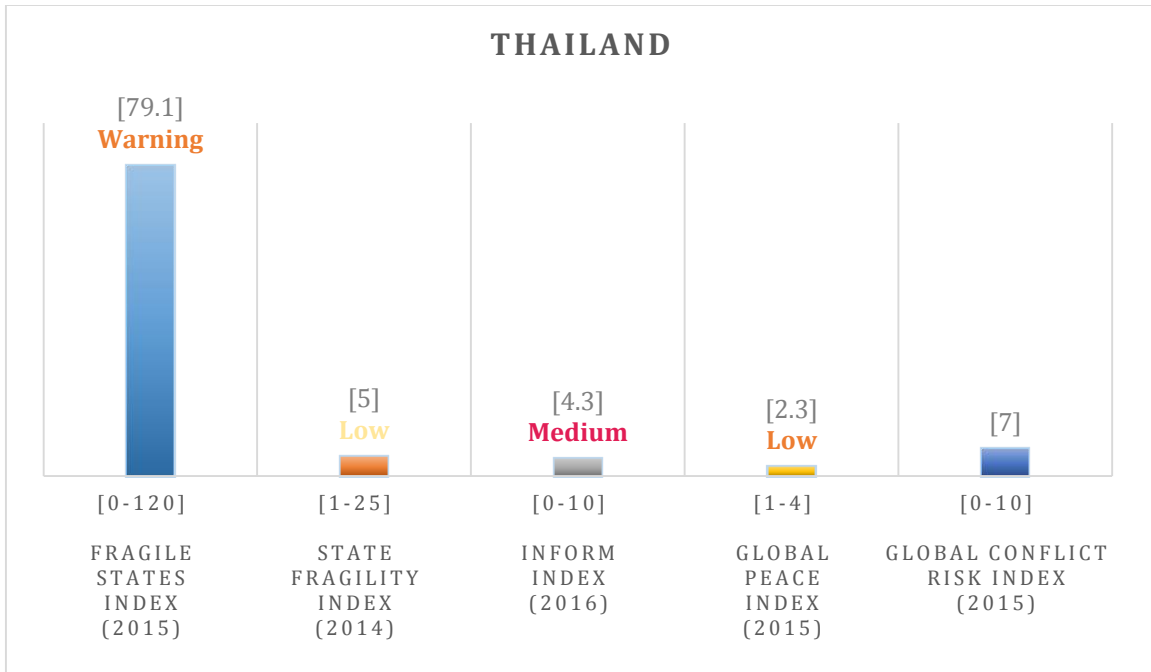
Women and children are particularly vulnerable: more than 3,000 women have become widows since 2004, finding themselves sole breadwinner despite fewer skills, less means, and more responsibility. Meanwhile, at least 5,000 children have been orphaned, with around 50,000 outside the formal education system and many at risk of becoming involved in drugs or other types of crimes.

A STEP in the Right Direction

In 2010, in a bid to address the wide range of challenges facing the southern border provinces, UNDP launched its STEP project. Its overall aim was to contribute to social cohesion and prevent an escalation in the violence through a two-pronged approach that empowered community and civil society networks while also strengthening the capacities of relevant government agencies.

Between 2010 and 2012, STEP Phase I saw UNDP Thailand develop the capacities of a range of stakeholders – from government agencies through to community-based organizations, creating common spaces for peace dialogue and increasing access to dispute resolution mechanisms.

It also began improving livelihoods of conflict-affected, women-headed households in these provinces through the Local Business Initiative, launched with Prince of Songkla University. Women's entrepreneurial groups in Pattani received product and package development training, improving their business plans and increasing the quality of local products – so much so, they quickly more than doubled their income.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

The Peace and Development Advisor works in close collaboration with the country office and produces an integrated output.

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

Phase I

STEP Phase I was a success, with strong commitment in coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC).

In August and September 2013, everyone involved in the project came together to evaluate its impact and share lessons learned. Conclusions were positive, noting the project’s significant contribution towards expanding civil society and empowering community-based organizations, human rights defenders, women’s groups, youth networks and peace-building platforms.

This paved the way for larger-scale initiatives and national-level advocacy, in Phase II.

Phase II

In close consultation with all relevant government agencies, and other stakeholders, three areas were identified to fill development gaps in fragile areas:

- Enabling an environment for the peace process and capacity-building for peace infrastructure
- Empowering vulnerable groups to access justice through the support of key institutions and networks
- Broadening participation for community development and social cohesion

On this basis, and following several other consultations with responsible parties, the STEP II Project was formulated with a focus on ensuring peace-building efforts at grassroots level feed into a broader national peace effort, in order to build on the progress made and ensure any change made is sustainable. With this in mind, UNDP Thailand will work with a team of local and national experts with the aim of achieving the following three results.

1. The inclusive participation of all peace networks in the peace process

The Royal Thai Government, as stated in objective eight of the National Security Council's policy statement, aims "to create an environment suitable for peaceful solution to the conflict and for establishing an assurance that all stakeholders participate in the peace-building process".

In line with this, UNDP Thailand will take the opportunity to intensify and broaden its support of the peace-building process. Among its priorities will be:

- strengthening existing peace-building networks, including peace platforms
- boosting links between peace-seekers across all levels of society
- supporting the development of a Peace Resource Centre, as a hub to link public and policy makers
- engaging with local and national media
- developing an internship programme for peace-building experts to gain experience
- training a team of local and national peace builders who will meet regularly to identify opportunities for action and efforts

2. Access for vulnerable groups to effective legal services and quality legal protection from key duty bearers

As suggested by SBPAC, the project will look to plug gaps in local legal knowledge by:

- expanding, and training, community volunteer legal networks
- building the capacity of community and religious leaders as focal points for alternative forms of legal assistance
- supporting the capacity-building of medium-scale service providers working directly with the most vulnerable
- improving the effectiveness of existing legal assistance mechanisms

3. Skills and resources for vulnerable communities so they may establish and manage development initiatives based on locally appropriate and sustainable practices that contribute to human security and social cohesion

UNDP in Thailand believes in supporting women and civil society organizations in strengthening their role as peace builders, promoting understanding within and between multicultural communities. With this in mind Phase II will include:

- more sustainable livelihood activities to boost the income and thus, living conditions of conflict-affected, women-headed households
- occupational training based on an assessment of needs and market demands
- an expansion of the small grants programme focused on building social cohesion within communities
- evaluating completed projects with a view to up-scaling successes and overcoming economic marginalization

Partnering For Success

Engaging with stakeholders, and expanding to other relevant partners, is crucial to ensure the STEP's success continues.

1. Academic Institutes

Prince of Songkla University, key in the region and with an important role in policy advice for local authorities through research and consultancies, is also considered a safe space by stakeholders and helps local communities. We will continue to work closely with it, for all of those reasons and more. Other institutes include PSU Islamic College, Yala Islamic University and Rajabhat, all of which are expected to contribute expertise relevant to the local context.

2. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Key CSOs, at local and national level, will be main partners, including with the livelihood programme. They have valuable local language skills and/or expertise to be drawn upon for various STEP components.

3. Local Leaders and local volunteers

Local volunteers have often experienced the same problems as beneficiaries, helpful in establishing trust and positive communication. Local leaders can help link local communities with local authorities and support the implementation of community projects and innovation.

4. Government

The project has enjoyed strong government support from national through to local level. SBPAC will continue to be a pivotal partner in Phase II, along with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice. Collaboration with selected governor offices may be needed where the majority of sub-projects will take place and some local authorities may also be involved, project-dependent. Other authorities include the Law Reform Commission of Thailand and the National Human Rights Commission.

5. UN Agencies

STEP Phase II will see UNDP Thailand work complementarily with the World Bank, UNICEF and UN Women all of whom are already working with key stakeholders, in key areas, in the south. Together, we should deepen the impact of UN work in the region.

Project duration

Phase II is being implemented over a three year period from January 2015 to 2017

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2013

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Background/Context

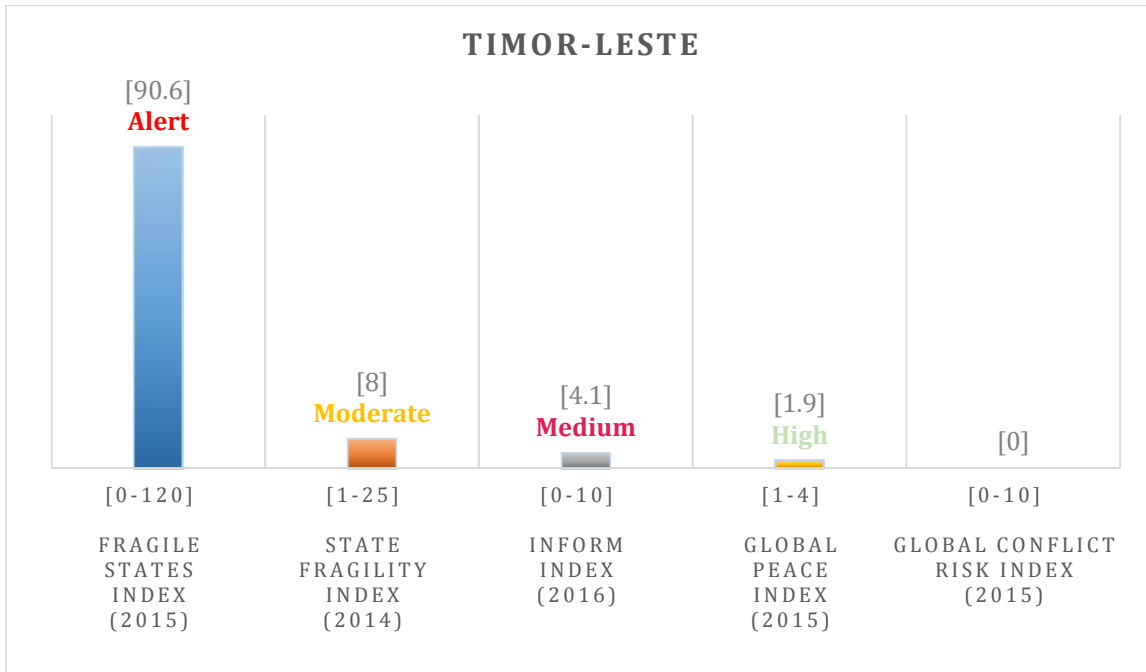
The Timorese first declared independence from Portugal in 1975. Just nine days after this declaration, neighboring Indonesia invaded, occupying the country for the next 24 years. In 1999, through a Popular Consultation conducted by the United Nations, the people decided that they want the country to become fully independent. However, there was widespread violence in the lead-up to and immediately after the announcement of the Popular Consultation results. As much as 70 per cent of the county's infrastructure was destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless and more than 1,200 were killed. An estimated 230,000 people were forced into the Indonesian territory of West Timor. In response to the crisis, the UN Security Council authorized an intervention force to restore order and then established a transitional administration to run the nascent country while formal institutions were established.

In May 2002, the independent Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste was born.

In 2006, tensions between the national police and the armed forces resulted in open conflict between the two institutions, a breakdown of law and order and the displacement of more than 150,000 people. Political and security efforts to resolve conflict and to bring stability continued and despite attacks on both the President and the Prime Minister in 2008, the country gradually recovered from the crisis.

In 2012, Presidential and Parliamentary elections were held peacefully and fairly and the last UN peacekeeping mission since the 1999 referendum drew down at the end of 2012, taking Timor-Leste off the agenda of the UN Security Council. In 2016 the country will organize local suco elections, followed by parliamentary and presidential elections in 2017. These upcoming elections may result in a transition to a younger generation of Timorese political leaders and as such have the potential to mark the beginning of a new political era in the country.

Timor-Leste has made notable progress in its recovery from the crisis of 2006. The UN continues to play a role in providing support to the government to further strengthen national capacities in key areas of conflict management. Building upon these achievements, there is now a solid opportunity for the country and development partners to take a long-term view to addressing structural issues and other causal factors to ensure that peace and development are sustained.



Work done in the context of UNDP/DPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

The Peace and Development Adviser has identified the following priority areas:

1. *The economy.* In 2012, the Government led a Fragility Assessment to review Timor-Leste’s progress against five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals agreed to as part of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The assessment identified that while Timor-Leste has made substantial progress in certain areas, the economic foundation, in addition to justice, remains weak. The assessment noted persistently high youth unemployment, poor human development outcomes, regional inequities and perceptions of unfairness in the distribution of oil revenues.
2. *Youth.* With one of the fastest growing populations in the world, Timor-Leste’s demography is expected to place considerable pressure on the economy, resources and social services. Research at global level has found that rapid demographic change can lead to violence and that when young people—particularly young men—are unemployed, alienated and have few opportunities, violence can be mobilized in the way that thousands of disaffected, unemployed urban youth contributed to the upheaval in 2006. Indeed, several of the underlying factors that fostered the 2006 crisis persist: high youth unemployment, lack of opportunities, and perceived disadvantage among youth. At present, youth represent the largest instigators of violent incidents in the country.
3. *Elections.* The 2017 Presidential and Parliamentary elections will be the first national election taking place without the presence of a UN mission in the country. With the recent political transition, when Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao stepped down in February 2015 halfway through his second term, and the rise of a new political party who enjoy support from students and youth groups, the upcoming elections have the potential to solidify a profound transition of power from the resistance-era leaders to a new and younger generation.

The PDA also provides support to strategic areas of engagement that leverage national partners and global experience by:

1. *Supporting the g7+ and the national New Deal implementation process.* As a founding member of the g7+ group of fragile and conflict-affected countries, Timor-Leste promotes peacebuilding and statebuilding through country-owned and country-led dialogue and planning. As one of seven pilot countries of the New Deal, Timor-Leste also promotes the New Deal's five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals: fostering inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution; establishing and strengthening people's security; addressing injustices and increasing people's access to justice; generating employment and improving livelihoods; and managing revenues and building capacity for accountable, fair service delivery.
2. *Managing risks to development.* The Fragility Assessment notes that while Timor-Leste has witnessed a decrease in conflict at the community level, several areas remain of concern, particularly in the context of weak capacities and the extent to which isolated incidents could deteriorate into wider violence or conflict. The main areas of concern include youth violence, including the participation of youth in martial arts groups or gang and group violence, tensions among the political elite, and land-related disputes.

The PDA also provides technical support to the UNCT on conflict prevention/peacebuilding issues pertaining to existing and planned programmes and projects.

1. Identifying entry points
2. Technical support
3. Conflict sensitivity analysis and training offered to UNCT members and Development Partners

Main priorities support

1. *Economy.* The PDA works with UN agencies and national counterparts to ensure that labor and small business programmes address the drivers of conflict, including through the creation of job opportunities for youth and advancing economic diversification. In addition, the PDA ensures that existing and planned activities are conflict sensitive. The PDA has identified new entry points with the Government, including conflict prevention through youth employment for which the PDA has worked with the UNDP regional service centre to prepare pilot solutions for the Prime Minister.
2. *Youth.* The PDA provides support to the UN to identify entry points to enhance Government capacities in youth-focused areas such as peace education, youth participation and youth employment, including support to at-risk youth in social enterprise value chains, and advocating to expand financial services and savings groups to youth. To enhance UN coordination, the PDA helped the UNCT design and launch a Youth Results Group, which has, since its launch, provided critical inputs to the Government, including the National Youth Strategy. Furthermore, the PDA has supported the Youth Results Group by raising awareness on youth issues in Timor-Leste and has facilitated a conflict analysis exercise as part of the Group's joint programme development process.
3. *Elections.* Although specific activities for the upcoming the 2017 elections have not yet been confirmed, it is foreseen that the PDA will assist the UNCT, in particular UNDP, to include a conflict preventative and sensitive approach in the UN's election support. The PDA has already provided input into the UNDP election support programme document and is working on gearing the civil-society led

Early Warning, Early Response system to enable monitoring of election related violent incidents in the country. Furthermore, the PDA continues to provide analysis related to key political developments

Engagement strategies support

1. *Supporting the g7+.* Working closely with the g7+ Secretariat in Dili, the PDA provides support through two main pillars: a) g7+ global engagement and b) New Deal Implementation. The PDA promotes strategic opportunities for Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation as well as regional exchange. As the country proceeds with its TRUST assessment, priority setting and development of a Compact, the PDA provides support, where demand is warranted, to national counterparts in New Deal implementation and is currently identifying opportunities for synergy with the SDG implementation process. Moreover, the PDA is supporting capacity development of the Secretariat through recruitment of new staff and assisting with the organization of g7+ meetings and conferences.
2. The PDA designed and secured funding from the European Union to scale-up the country's early warning system to become more relevant to the current context, and more preventive. In addition to the ongoing monitoring of incidents at the sub-district level, the project builds capacity within the early warning system to examine underlying factors, analyze trends over time, identify vulnerabilities, and monitor macro political and economic developments in order to help decision makers effectively manage risks to development. As such, the project aims to develop the system into a robust basis for dialogue on public policy strategies and priorities and will bring together relevant national counterparts to identify opportunities for preventive action.

Programme Duration

2013 -2015

Work done in the context of UNDP Country Office programme

The Peace and Development Advisor works in close collaboration with the country office and produces an integrated output.

The EWER project and the g7+ support are both part of the UNDP CO programme. In addition UNDP is supporting social cohesion and conflict prevention through its "Timor-Leste Resilience and Social Cohesion Project" in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS). The project's main objective is to support the government of Timor-Leste to consolidate its capacities to institutionalize conflict prevention at the national and community levels. Since the 2006 crisis, UNDP has been supporting post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding efforts in Timor-Leste. Building on its successful experience in facilitating reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through mediation and community dialogue post-crisis, the MSS established in 2010 the Department of Peace Building and Social Cohesion (DPBSC) and requested UNDP support. This project builds on this strong partnership with MSS and will strengthen the institutional capacity of DPBSC staff to analyze the root causes of social conflict as well as design more conflict sensitive protection programs and policies. This project works with MSS and other Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) stakeholders to institutionalize conflict sensitive approaches to program planning and policy that strengthen social cohesion and ensure effective conflict prevention in Timor-Leste.

Work done in the context of N-Peace network initiative

N/A

Latest conflict analysis carried out - No conflict analysis has been carried out

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Technical Notes

Fragile States Index - The Fragile States Index draws on a combination of qualitative and quantitative sources to assess the conflict risk and fragility of countries based on twelve political, social, and economic indicators. In drawing on thousands of reports and information from around the world, detailing the existing, social, economic, and political pressures in 178 countries, the data is weighed using Fund for Peace's proprietary Conflict Assessment System Tool (CAST). Countries are grouped according to their respective level of fragility, ranging from Very High Alert, High Alert, Alert, Warning, and Low Warning to Stable.

<http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/methodology>

State Fragility Index - The State Fragility Index and Matrix 2014 lists all independent countries in the world in which the total country population is greater than 500,000 in 2014 (167 countries). The Fragility Matrix scores each country on both Effectiveness and Legitimacy in four performance dimensions: Security, Political, Economic, and Social, at the end of the year 2014. Each of the Matrix indicators is rated on a four-point fragility scale: 0 "no fragility," 1 "low fragility," 2 "medium fragility," and 3 "high fragility" with the exception of the Economic Effectiveness indicator, which is rated on a five-point fragility scale (including 4 "extreme fragility"). The State Fragility Index, then, combines scores on the eight indicators and ranges from 0 "no fragility" to 25 "extreme fragility." A country's fragility is closely associated with its state capacity to manage conflict; make and implement public policy; and deliver essential services and its systemic resilience in maintaining system coherence, cohesion, and quality of life; responding effectively to challenges and crises, and sustaining progressive development.

<http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/SFImatrix2014c.pdf>

INFORM Index - The Index For Risk Management (INFORM) is a collaborated between the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team for Preparedness and Resilience and the European Commission. Designed largely for use by the humanitarian community, the INFORM model balances two major forces: the hazard & exposure dimension on one side, and the vulnerability and the lack of coping capacity dimensions on the other side. Hazard dependent factors are treated in the hazard & exposure dimension, while hazard independent factors are divided into two dimensions: the vulnerability dimension that considers the strength of the individuals and households relative to a crisis situation, and the lack of coping capacity dimension that considers factors of institutional strength. The Index tracks changes over a three year period.

<http://www.inform-index.org/InDepth>

Global Peace Index - The Global Peace Index measures the state of peace in 162 countries according to 23 indicators that gauge the absence of violence or the fear of violence. The Global Peace Index is a composite index comprised of 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators that gauge the level of peace in 162 countries. These indicators can be grouped into three broad themes: the level of safety and security in a society, the number of international and domestic conflicts and the degree of militarization. The index indicators a country's relative peace by providing a combined and weighted score, with scores closest to 1.0 indicating greater "peace". The index also compares annual scores to those allocated previously, indicating whether a country's score has increased or decreased during the last 12 months.

<http://www.visionofhumanity.org/#/page/our-gpi-findings>

Global Conflict Risk Index

The Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI) is an index of the statistical risk of violent conflict in the next 1-4 years and is exclusively based on quantitative indicators from open sources. With the assumption that structural conditions in a country are linked to the occurrence of violent conflict, the GCRI collects 25 variables in 5 dimensions (social, economic, security, political, geographical/environmental) and uses statistical regression models to calculate probability and intensity of violent conflict. To determine the intensity of a conflict, the GCRI uses a scale from 0-10 which allows a set of useful gradations. Intensity level 0 is equivalent to a situation where no conflict is present in the country at all. Level 1-4 covers conflicts that are conducted without the use of force, but in which conflict actors have resorted to measures outside of established regulatory means or have threatened to use force. If force is used by one or several conflict actors, conflicts are considered violent (Level 5-7) or highly violent (Level 8-10). <http://conflictrisk.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

TABLE of Conflict Indices for selected UNDP Asia Pacific COs

Country	Fragile States Index¹ (2015)	State Fragility Index² (2014)	INFORM Index³ (2016)	Global Peace Index⁴ (2015)	Global Conflict Risk Index⁵ (2015)
Afghanistan	High alert 107.9	21	7.9	3.427 (increase)	9
Bangladesh	Alert 91.8	13	5.9 (increased)	1.997 (decreased)	7
Fiji	Warning 76.8	6	3.2 (no change)	Not listed	6
Maldives	Warning 74.2	Not listed	2.4 (no change)	Not listed	Not listed
Myanmar	Alert 94.7	18	6.8 (increased)	2.323 (increased)	8
Nepal	Alert 90.5	12	5.1	1.882 (decreased)	5
Pakistan	High alert 102.9	16	6.7	3.049 (increased)	8.5
Philippines	High Warning 86.3	12	5.2 (no change)	2.462 (increased)	8
PNG	High Warning 83.4	11	5.1 (no change)	2.064 (increased)	6
Solomon Islands	High warning 85.9	9	5.6	Not listed	0
Sri Lanka	Alert 90.6	11	4.3 (increased)	2.188 (increased)	7
Thailand	Warning 79.1	5	4.3 (no change)	2.303 (decreased)	7
Timor-Leste	Alert 90.6	8	4.1 (no change)	1.860 (decreased)	0

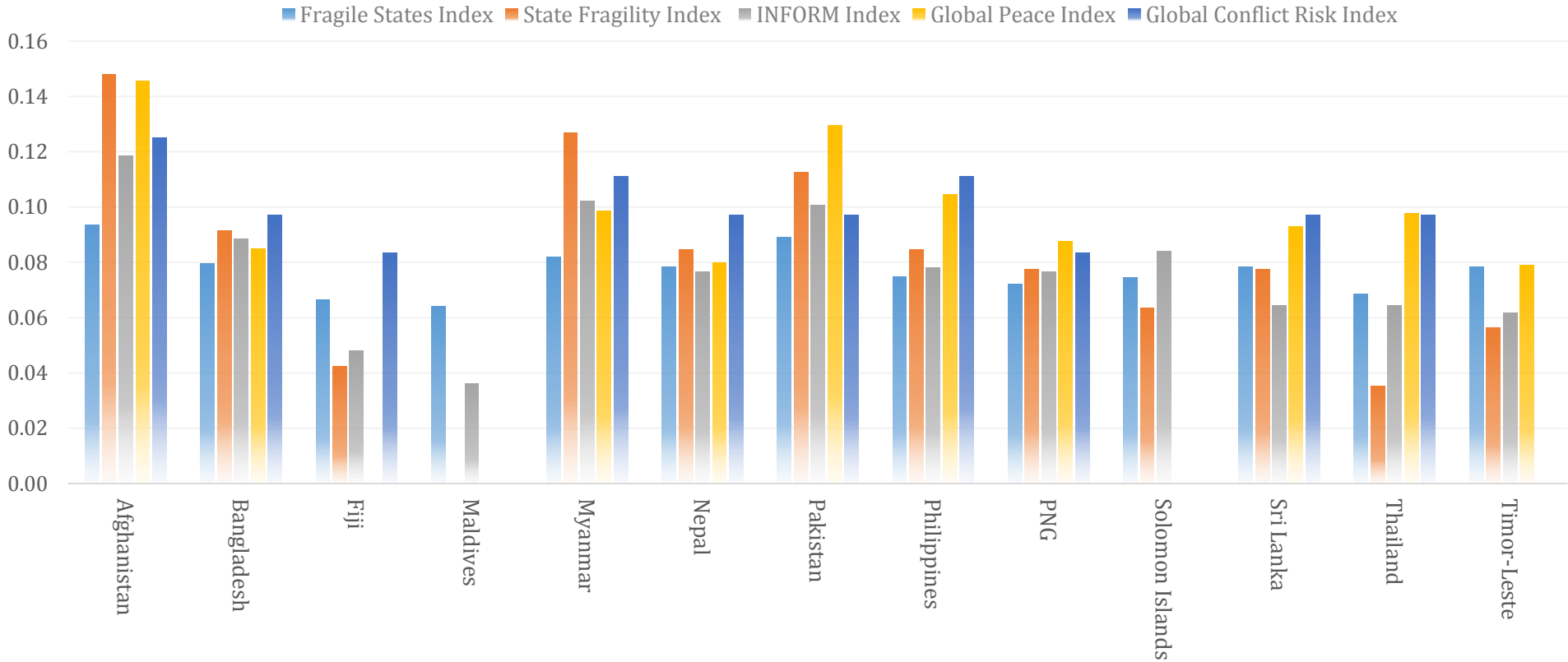
Weight	Fragile States Index ¹ (2015)	State Fragility Index ² (2014)	INFORM Index ³ (2016)	Global Peace Index ⁴ (2015)	Global Conflict Risk Index ⁵ (2015)
1	Less stable/ Warning	1-7 Little or No/Low	0-2.0 Very Low	1-1.4 Very High	0-2
2	High Warning/ Very High Warning	8-11 Moderate	2.1-3.5 Low	1.5-1.8 High	3-4
3	Alert	12-15 Serious	3.6-5.0 Medium	1.9-2.1 Medium	5-6
4	High Alert	16-19 High	5.1-6.5 High	2.2-2.8 Low	7-8
5	Very High Alert	20-25 Extreme	6.6-10 Very High	2.9-4 Very Low	9-10

Sources:

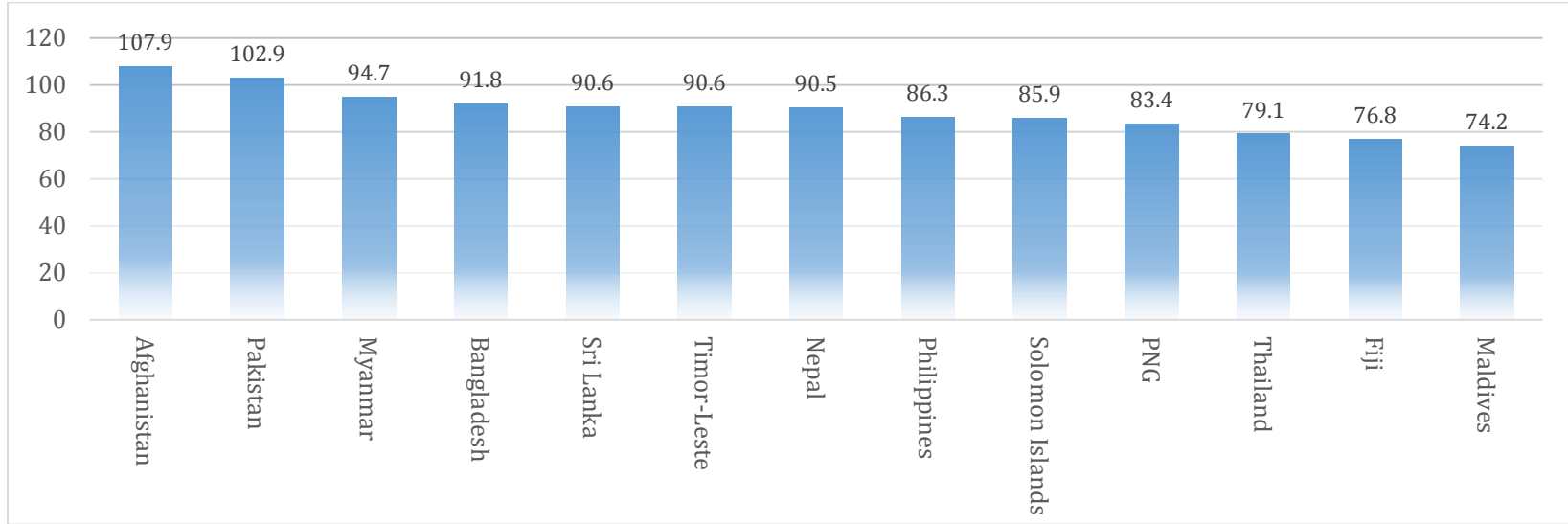
1. **The Fund for Peace**, Fragile States Index 2015 [<http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/>].
2. **Center for Systemic Peace**, State Fragility Index and Matrix 2014, [<http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/SFImatrix2014c.pdf>].
3. **INFORM Index for risk management** [<http://www.inform-index.org/Results/Global>].
4. **Institute for Economic and Peace**, Global Peace Index Report 2015 [http://static.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Peace%20Index%20Report%202015_0.pdf].
5. **Global Conflict Risk Index** [<http://conflictrisk.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>].

CHARTS OF CONFLICT INDICES

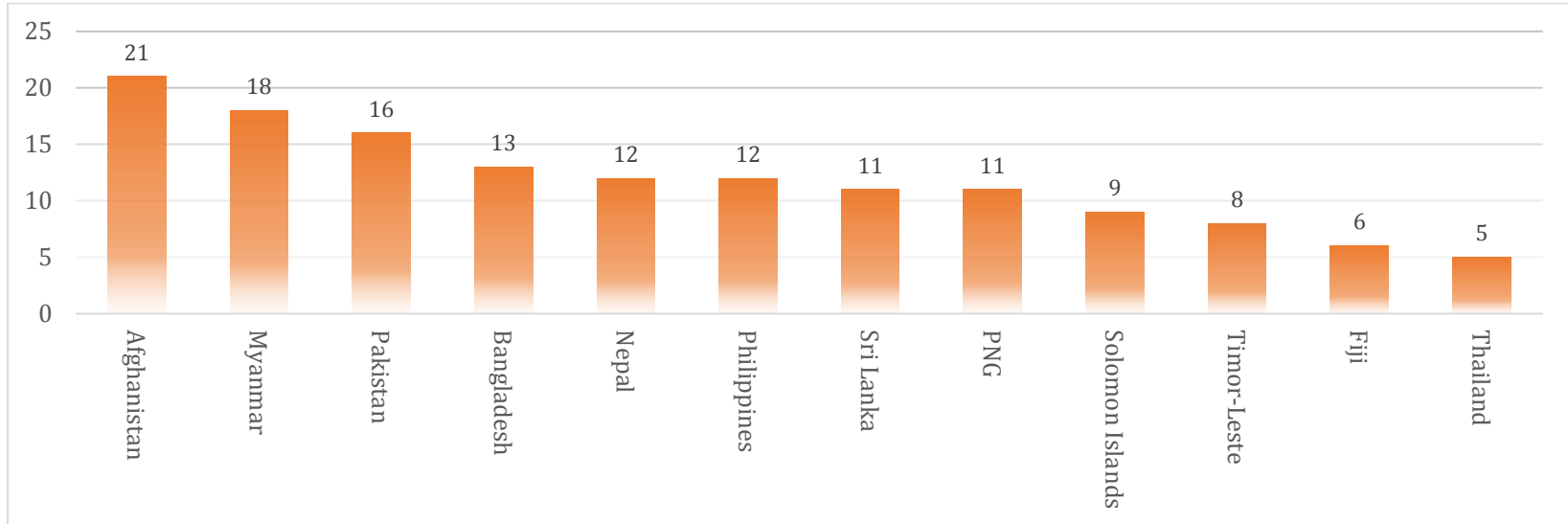
SELECTED UNDP ASIA PACIFIC COs



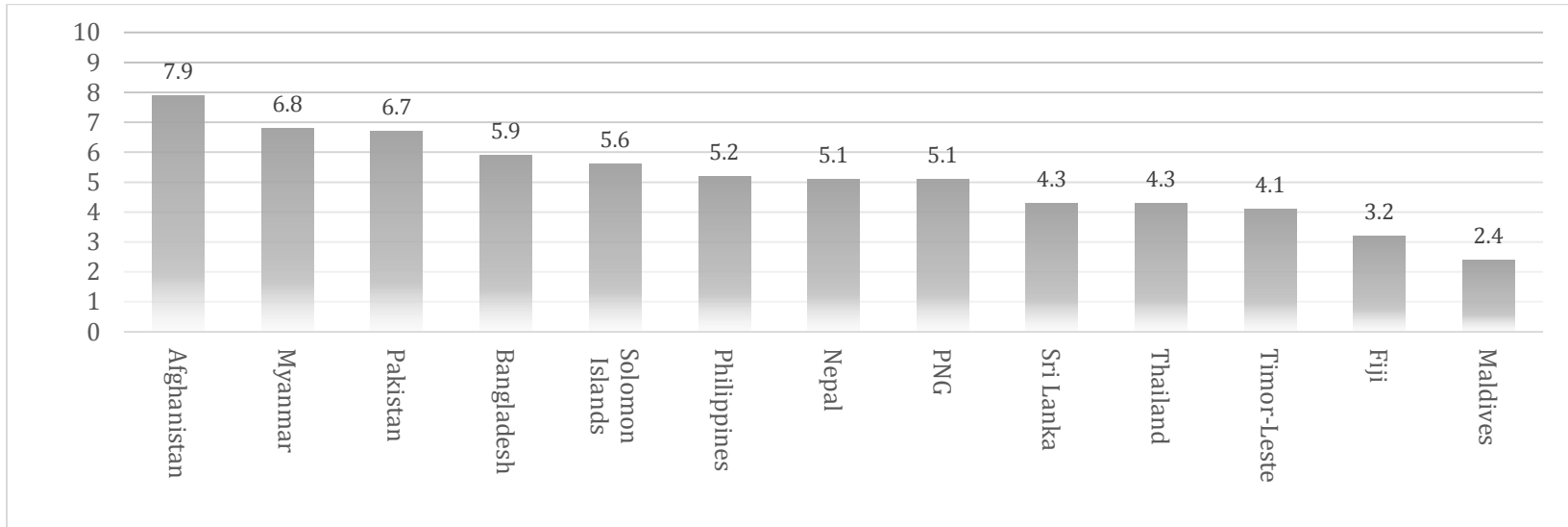
FRAGILE STATES INDEX



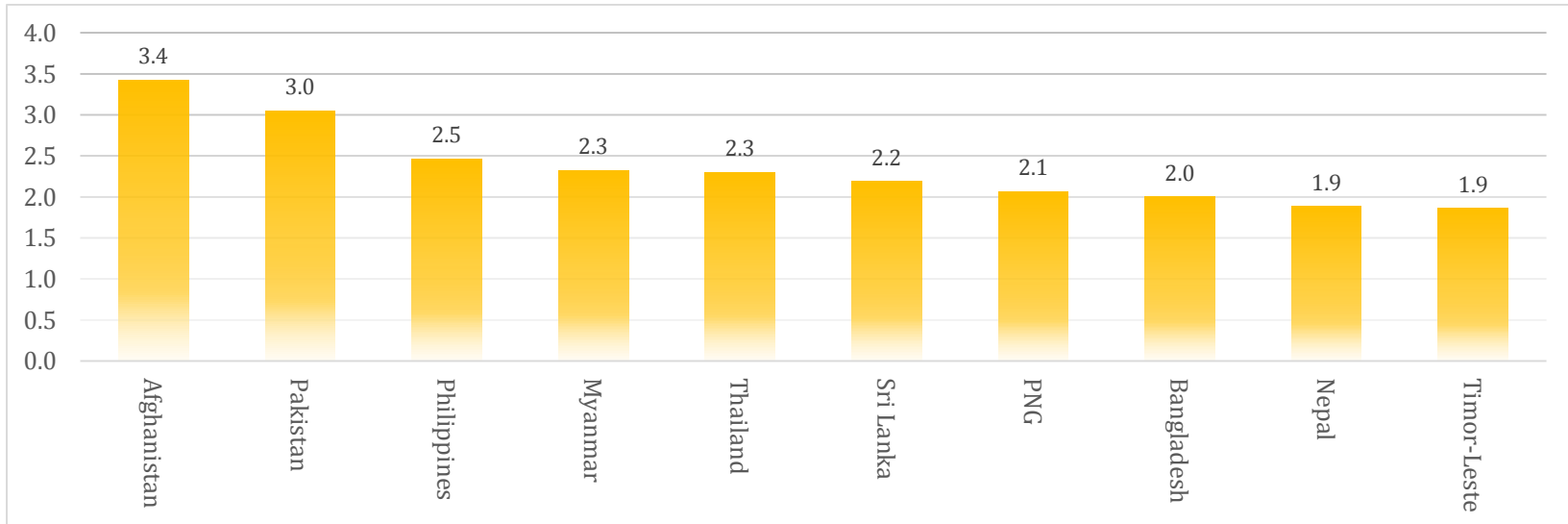
STATE FRAGILITY INDEX



INFORM INDEX



GLOBAL PEACE INDEX



GLOBAL CONFLICT RISK INDEX

