

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



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Resilient nations.

Governance in post crisis settings

A quarter of the world's population lives in countries where state capacities are limited and societies experience high levels of fragility due to the repercussions of war or disaster. In these contexts, states cannot provide security and basic services to their citizens or effectively manage the process of recovery.

At least 30 of those countries are currently afflicted with armed conflicts that threaten citizen's lives, undermine the rule of law, and disrupt the political order. Many more countries are affected by widespread organized crime or drug-related violence on top of social and political unrest.

Countries in fragile contexts are the farthest from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The 2011 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report estimates that none of the states undergoing fragility will achieve a single MDG by 2015.

When governments cannot fulfill their obligations to provide social services and security, vicious cycles of violence and poverty emerge, as the basic foundations of the state, society and citizenship are undermined.

Under those conditions the rights of women, youth, minorities and children are frequently marginalized or violated, property rights are ignored, and economic, social and political development are endangered.

UNDP's approach

One of UNDP's key development priorities is to help governments and citizens get back on their feet and enhance governance capacities in crisis-affected countries, as this is the only way to secure long term development. UNDP works with governments and their citizens in fragile and post-conflict settings to restore state authority and help rebuild the necessary trust in institutions in order to forge a social contract between a state and its citizens.

UNDP's governance work in countries affected by crisis focuses on:

Building effective and responsive state institutions

UNDP works to ensure that state authorities prioritize the needs of the most marginalized and crisis-affected people in the recovery process, and that the state has the capacity to perform core functions to address those immediate needs.

UNDP helps rebuild infrastructure such as police stations; provides rapid assessments of existing local government capacities and assists them by deploying national or international experts to enable the provision of recovery essential services. UNDP works with authorities always emphasizing fairness to prevent the cooption of those services by elite or other powerful groups. To ensure communities participate in the rebuilding of their lives, UNDP supports women's groups, traditional leaders and young people in taking an active role in planning processes and overseeing government performance.



Four fundamental interlinked elements for recovery from conflict and fragility

Promoting inclusive political processes

UNDP helps create spaces for those who have been marginalized and excluded from decision making at national and local levels. In many other contexts where elections take place soon after peace agreements, UNDP facilitates electoral activities and supports the emergence of new political actors amongst women and young people. UNDP engages parliamentarians in peace building and in generating greater accountability to their constituencies and helps the political reintegration of former combatants. It also assists civil society participation in the political process by articulating their needs and priorities in political transitions.

Creating resilient and just societies

UNDP engages with local governments and civil society to develop initiatives that improve justice, prevent armed violence and conflict, and increase oversight of the military forces. UNDP also supports the creation of mechanisms to lay out architectures for peace with the ultimate goal of reinforcing the resilience of the society to crisis.

Strengthening partnerships

UNDP fosters partnerships with national and sub-national governments, UN Agencies, international organizations and civil society to ensure its support is well coordinated and resources are used effectively, maximizing the comparative advantage of all development actors.

UNDP in action

In **Southern Sudan**, UNDP facilitated consultations involving all ministries and development partners to identify key functions where the government needed to improve its performance— such as the rule of law and citizens' security— in order to ensure stability in preparation and during the 9 July 2011 referendum on independence. Building on the successful referendum, UNDP supported the government's design of a strategy aimed at developing the capacity of national institutions to deliver on the first ever National Development Plan, currently under implementation in the new Republic of South Sudan.

In **Somalia**, during 2010, UNDP supported local governments to produce for the first time annual development plans in partnership with the communities that they represent. This resulted in the rehabilitation of vital community infrastructure that improved access to services such as health centers, water boreholes, irrigation systems, roads, market places and garbage collection points for 140,000 people.



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A man at a Juba polling station on voting day in the Southern Sudan referendum.

In the run up to **Tunisia's** historic 2011 Constituent Assembly elections, UNDP provided technical support to draft new laws with the full participation of non-governmental organizations, and trained 45 women to conduct successful electoral campaigns. In addition, UNDP worked with representatives from more than 50 political parties to promote collaboration and support a more consensus-based transitional process.

In **Colombia**, UNDP supports the government's efforts to create peace and development plans that allow victims of paramilitary and guerilla violence greater access to government officials and a more effective restitution of land seized through conflict. UNDP has supported 796 civil society organizations that represent victims of conflict including 83 women's groups. As of January 2011, 121,000 hectares of land had been handed over to 38,000 rural workers.

In **Jamaica**, UNDP has worked with the government to address one of the highest homicide rates in the world. UNDP instituted security and social cohesion initiatives that resulted in a decrease of serious crimes in 10 out of 13 communities covered by the initiative.

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