

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



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Livelihoods and Economic Recovery

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) provides technical, advisory, and programme support to UNDP Country Offices in crisis and post-crisis contexts.

Assistance to Country Offices includes: the design and implementation of crisis-sensitive employment and livelihood initiatives, disarmament demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and associates, and mine action in early recovery settings.

Since the 1990s more than 100 conflicts have ended around the world. In the aftermath of such conflicts, it is not only lives which are lost, the socioeconomic and political architecture are also destroyed. Important infrastructures are often leveled, governments weakened, foundations for economic recovery erased, and lingering injuries from landmines and small arms haunt recovery efforts.

Disasters affected three times more people in the 1990s than in the 1970s, and economic losses were five times higher. The situation is expected to worsen as global warming increases the frequency and intensity of severe weather events worldwide. In post-disaster situations, people's livelihoods are often shattered. UNDP assists national actors to respond to the emergency and recovery needs of the population following the onset of natural hazards.

UNDP's approach

Emergency employment, local economic recovery and infrastructure rehabilitation

As the lead agency for early recovery, UNDP works with national and international partners to assist crises-affected communities in restoring their livelihoods and productive activities, and in rehabilitating destroyed infrastructure. UNDP focuses on a "three track" approach that includes: (i) livelihoods stabilization; (ii) local economic recovery and reintegration; and (iii) long-term recovery and inclusive growth. We provide conflict and/or disaster risk-sensitive emergency employment and public works schemes, including cash-for-work, and other labor intensive projects. Vocational training and small enterprise development help communities to transition from emergency to longer-term development objectives.

A special focus is given to women, youths, internally displaced persons, returnees, people with special needs and former combatants.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants

UNDP works in nine priority countries, focusing on economic, social and community reintegration, and livelihoods programmes. In addition to supporting individuals by providing them with employment opportunities, UNDP strengthens the capacity of communities to absorb returnees and supports their reintegration to help re-establish the social fabric often shredded by years of conflict or natural disaster.

UNDP also assists crisis-affected people through community-wide violence reduction programmes.



Nirmala Mahato is one of 32 members of a group in Nepal initiated with support from UNDP's Livelihoods Recovery for Peace programme. It creates employment opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised communities, reaching 3,375 poor households so far. Nirmala and eight others have leased 35 hectares of land for vegetable farming. Today the leased farm is lush green with vegetables like gourds, long beans, brinjals and chillies. "I am grateful for the support; in the past five months I was able to pay back the rent for the lease of this land." Photo: UNDP Nepal

Mine action programming

Landmines, abandoned munitions, unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) are a threat to human lives, impede development and hinder the use of natural resources. UNDP supports Mine Action programmes in 40 mine-affected countries, out of which 28 have recently received substantial programmatic and technical assistance. UNDP works with national governments to develop the capacities of authorities to put in place policies and strategies mandated to remove landmines, UXOs and ERW from contaminated areas, and effectively use the mine free lands for economic recovery and development. UNDP through the United Nations Mine Action Service contributes to UN advocacy in support of treaties and other international legal instruments related to landmines and ERW, including cluster munitions. UNDP continues to emphasize the potential link between mine action programmes and poverty reduction through mine clearance initiatives that create livelihood opportunities.



A child walks through the Bangboka airport near a mined area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Photo: Irin - Gwen Dubourthoumieu, DRC

UNDP in Action

In 2011 UNDP provided at least 5 million workdays of emergency employment to citizens in countries recovering or at risk of crisis.

In **Haiti** the construction of new roads and canals, as well as drainage rehabilitation benefitted over 200,000 people. About 2,700 Haitian professionals have been trained, 300,000 temporary jobs created with 40 percent of female employees, 50 percent of earthquake debris removed, and 20 percent recycled.

In **Uganda**, 200,000 workdays were created, with 60 per cent of total workdays going to women.

In **Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People**, more than 60,000 people were enabled to set up small and micro businesses.

In **Myanmar**, UNDP assisted over 15,485 crisis affected citizens (11,614 women), in creating new small enterprises.

Over 600,000 men and women benefitted in one year from the rehabilitation of infrastructure such as schools, health clinics, markets, roads, and drainage systems in countries where UNDP actively supports livelihoods and economic recovery efforts.

UNDP, in 2011 alone, created sustainable job opportunities for 31,393 male and 6,782 female former combatants in 15 different countries. In **Nepal**, 2,384 soldiers discharged from the Maoist army received vocational training and support for small business creation, out of 4,008 that were discharged in total. In **Burundi**, UNDP provided short term employment and educational training for 15,989 former combatants. Following the July 2011 referendum leading to the establishment of the independent state of **South Sudan**, UNDP is assisting the government to develop national strategies to reintegrate ex-combatants and associated members.

In **Croatia**, UNDP assisted the national government in securing 55,339 firearms, 1.8 million rounds of ammunition, and nearly two tons of explosives. In **Angola** UNDP supported a mission that secured 76,000 illegally held weapons. After many years of technical support from UNDP, **Burundi** and **Guinea-Bissau** declared themselves free from mines in 2011. Likewise, **Bosnia Herzegovina** destroyed its final stockpile of cluster sub-munitions in January 2012. Despite the political upheaval in **Egypt**, UNDP support to mine action resulted in the establishment of the Executive Secretariat for Demining and Development of the North West Coast. The cleared land was handed over to the Ministries of Housing and Agriculture.

As of 2011, with UNDP support, out of 20 target countries 16 have adopted mine action plans consistent with international best practices. Progress has been made in the remaining countries, despite political instability in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Where are we heading

Over the coming three years, BCPR's Livelihoods and Recovery Group under its newly formulated change strategy is seeking US\$65 million to respond to conflicts and natural disasters. The team is producing and rolling out knowledge management products to help practitioners design and implement initiatives focusing on emergency employment and enterprise development, rubble removal and infrastructure restoration.

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