

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

PROVIDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Democratic governance plays a key role in achieving the MDGs; in reducing rates of poverty; in managing and preventing conflict; and in tackling climate change. As a result, demand in this area claims the largest share of UNDP's expenditures. Indeed, democratic governance is central to the achievement of the MDGs, as it provides the 'enabling environment' for the realization of the MDGs and, in particular, the elimination of poverty. UNDP's work in this area focuses on support for the expansion of people's opportunities to participate in political decision-making; making democratic institutions more accountable and responsive to citizens; and promoting the principles of democratic governance — in particular anti-corruption efforts, gender equality and human rights.

Not only does UNDP support an election somewhere in the world on average every two weeks, it also works to strengthen one out of every three parliaments and helps a number of countries in ensuring that laws work for everyone. UNDP works closely with national stakeholders and key institutions, such as min-

In terms of gender equality, in 2009, UNDP supported special measures in 59 countries to increase the representation of women at all levels of government, including training for women candidates on leadership and campaign management. In **Malawi**, UNDP, with support from Norway, partnered with the Government and the *One UN* team on a parity campaign that increased the percentage of women in office in the May 2009 election from 14 to 22 percent.

ELECTORAL SUPPORT

In 2009, UNDP supported elections in 35 countries through technical, advisory and financial assistance. Since most donor funds target electoral events, UNDP launched a three-year, \$50 million fund to help countries improve their electoral laws, processes and institutions and to enhance the participation of women in electoral processes.

The 2009 Parliamentary election in **Lebanon** was the fairest in that country's recent history, thanks in part to a UNDP programme of technical support to the electoral process. That support included setting up a system for voter identification and registration that resulted in an additional 300,000 voter identification cards being issued in record time by the Government.

UNDP also worked with the Government to run a public awareness campaign, establish a hotline for people to call with election questions and provide a series of training sessions on electoral coverage for members of the media. The programme made a special effort to reach out to Lebanon's marginalized populations, particularly women, by promoting their participation. In one highly contested district, Zahle, 60 percent of registered women voted as opposed to 56 percent of registered men.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC), a UNDP elections programme is supporting the Congolese Independent Electoral Commission — put in place during a transitional political period — in organizing local

UNDP SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Countries receiving UNDP support in 2009	132
Percentage of UNDP democratic governance projects that contribute to gender equality	78%
Countries receiving UNDP electoral support in 2009	35
Countries receiving UNDP support to their parliaments	54

istries, the judiciary, parliaments and electoral commissions, developing their ability to bring about lasting and effective change.

In addition, for governments to be more effective, people must have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. State institutions like the judiciary and the police force must be capable of responding to people's needs and adhering to international standards on corruption, human rights and gender equality.

elections. UNDP is also supporting the establishment of a new, permanent electoral commission in preparation for the next presidential elections, scheduled for 2011. In 2009, the Commission was able to update DRC's voter registry system in the capital city of Kinshasa, a process that is being continued in the rest of the country. Additionally, the programme has procured over \$24 million worth of electoral material, including software upgrades, voter cards, solar panels and generators for registration efforts in the field and civic education material.

Finally, with logistical assistance from the UN's peacekeeping mission in DRC, UNDP contributed to the training and payment of electoral workers and the deployment of equipment throughout a country the size of Western Europe. UNDP is also providing crucial support to the Parliament as well as the provincial assemblies in the form of information technology equipment and training on resource mobilization, the internal workings of democracies and the promotion of women in government.

JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Law and order is a serious problem adversely affecting individual safety, national security and economic growth in many developing countries. In **Bangladesh**, an ongoing joint UNDP and government police reform programme has led to the establishment of the country's first ever Victim Support Centre, in the capital city of Dhaka. In 2009, the Centre assisted 270 crime victims seeking support. The Centre is staffed by police officers and Civil Society Organization representatives who have been specially trained to provide medical, legal and counselling services as well as short-term accommodations when needed.

More importantly, however, the Centre resulted from the creation of a crucial and strategic partnership between the Bangladesh police force and 10 leading NGOs, bridging a traditional divide between victims' support groups and the police. Over the long term, UNDP's police reform programme in Bangladesh is supporting the police's ability to contribute to a safer and more secure environment based on respect for the rule of law, human rights and equitable access to justice, with a special focus on the poor, the marginalized and women and children.

UNDP continues to work on a national level worldwide to strengthen women's property, inheritance and land rights, examine how informal law can be brought closer to international norms and standards and improve women's legal rights and access to justice.

UNDP is supporting the Government of **Morocco** as it implements its groundbreaking Family Code, which was passed in 2004 and promises women greater equality and protection of their human rights within marriage

Locally elected officials take literacy classes in Burkina Faso through a UNDP democratic governance programme.



and divorce. In 2009, UNDP — along with UNIFEM and UNICEF — began supporting five model tribunals in major cities in Morocco to ensure that the new, progressive family code is implemented and enforced. A total of 90 judges and 25 clerks received training in human and child rights, the importance of considering gender in their work and the social psychology of the family. Thanks to the success of integrating social workers within the five pilot sites, the Ministry of Justice has decided to recruit additional social workers across all regions of Morocco.

SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

A UNDP-supported programme through the Ministry of *Panchayati Raj* (rural self-governance) in **India** aims to empower women and include them in the political process, including locally elected women representatives. Over the past five years, the programme has provided more than 100,000 women community representatives in 12 states with leadership training, access to valuable face-to-face

sessions with district officials and support for their election campaigns. Additionally, the programme financed a public awareness-raising campaign on the importance of elected women officials. In 2009, over 10,000 women benefited from these UNDP-supported initiatives. Put together, this has resulted in a significantly more enabling environment

for women leaders, many of whom were newly elected following a significant change in Indian law concerning gender and local governance.

In **Georgia**, UNDP, in partnership with the Government — and with funds from the United States Agency for International Development and the United Kingdom

UNIFEM: PROMOTING EQUALITY THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

When a distraught mother discovered that her 14 year-old daughter had been repeatedly raped by her guardian, desperately-needed help was provided by an officer at the Gender Desk at the Rwandan National Police Headquarters. The officer, who had been trained in dealing with victims of sexual violence, arranged for the girl's free medical treatment in order to preserve critical evidence.

The Gender Desk was established five years ago with joint support from UNDP and UNIFEM — a UNDP-affiliated fund — to improve the police response to cases of sexual and gender-based violence. A specifically designated interview room allows women to speak in confidence with a trained police officer, and incidents can be reported through a nationwide toll-free hotline. Motorcycles, provided by UNIFEM and UNDP, allow for the fast dispatch of officers, especially in rural areas.

Across Africa today, an increasing number of law enforcement institutions are sharing successes in order to improve their response to violence against women. Much of this originates with the widely recognized work that began in Rwanda in 2004 to establish gender desks in police stations and to provide training curricula for police and defense forces, supported by UNIFEM and UNDP.

Over the past two years, police officers from **Burundi**, **Somalia** and South **Sudan** have travelled to Rwanda for study tours with the Rwandan police and are now adapting what they learned. The national police of **Nigeria** have now invited Rwandan police to train their forces on preventing sexual and gender-based violence and response. Manuals and curricula developed by both the Rwanda National Police and the Rwanda Defense Forces with support from UNIFEM have been

used to train security forces in **Burundi**, **Fiji**, **Kenya** and **Tanzania**.

The Rwanda Defense Forces have also been invited by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, which comprises 11 African nations, to train other countries' defense forces to prevent and respond to gender-based violence as well as how to involve women in peacekeeping operations. The training modules have also been shared with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations' teams that are responsible for women's protection and the UN's peacekeeping police forces in Darfur.

In 2009, gender desks based on the Rwandan model were established in South Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania and **Uganda** with UNIFEM support. The Tanzania Female Police Network, working in collaboration with the Police Academy and the Women's Legal Aid Centre, established gender desks at 30 police stations.

Nigerian police in two states have adopted official registers in police stations to keep track of cases of violence against women. These stations are linked to state and community level committees (including government doctors and hospitals and human rights lawyers) who have been trained and equipped to provide appropriate responses to victims of gender-based violence.

UNIFEM focuses its activities on one overarching goal: to support the implementation at the national level of existing international commitments to advance gender equality. UNIFEM's efforts on the ground work to advance the internationally agreed MDGs and other development objectives. Taking innovation to a national or regional scale is critical to achieving the MDGs.

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The number of countries in which UNIFEM-supported Gender Desks have been or are in the process of being established.

Department for International Development — has accomplished a civil registration reform project that is considered a national success. The programme supported the standardization of old archives through a digitization process and the improvement of the physical and technical infrastructure of the Civil Registration Agency. This modernization process has resulted in a rehabilitated agency that is now seen as one that provides quality service to citizens in a prompt and friendly manner.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

UNDP recognizes that minimizing corruption is a critical component of reducing poverty and bringing about gains in human development. UNDP's emphasis on long-term systemic changes and the human dimensions of development, coupled with its impartiality, underscore its unique contributions in promoting good governance and public accountability and transparency. In 2009, 112 countries benefited from UNDP's technical support for action aimed at forming anti-corruption policies and organizations, as well as improving the participation of civil society and the media.

UNDP also organized a number of anti-corruption training activities initiated from a South-South point of view, a development approach that calls for the exchange of knowledge and experience between developing countries. For example, in 2009, UNDP and the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) produced a training workshop for regional journalists on the investigation and reporting of corruption, held in Johannesburg, **South Africa**. The training brought together 20 senior journalists from 11 African countries in addition to trainers from the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism. Nearly all the participants rated the training they received as "excellent," and UNDP is working with MISA to develop a manual that will allow it to conduct similar training in Asia and Latin America. Going forward, MISA will also partner with UNDP Country Offices in order to run similar training on a national level across the region.

In 2009, UNDP also provided 16 countries with technical and financial support to strengthen country-led assessments of governance reforms. For example, UNDP supported

the Congress of **Paraguay** to conduct a self-assessment survey and develop indicators for monitoring the effects of democratic governance. The results offer a database of evidence that are shaping public policy, helping the Government to differentiate policy impacts on various demographic groups, including women and the poor.

E-governance, a term that refers to the provision of public services via the Internet, has tremendous potential as a way to further good governance and democratic participation, especially in remote and rural areas. A unique UNDP-supported e-governance programme in **Bhutan** is contributing to the

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Government's pledge to provide 80 percent of the rural population with access to online public services by 2013. The programme has been piloted in Bhutan's Department of Forestry and allows regular citizens and government officials the ability to interface with government offices via the Internet.

For example, people in rural areas can now apply online at community information centres for permits or for necessities like firewood and fencing poles without having to travel to district headquarters; they can then track the status of their applications and receive permits from local offices. As a result, the time for processing most permits and clearances has been reduced from weeks to less than a day, bringing about greater transparency, efficiency and accountability in public service delivery at the local level. The Government now plans to provide e-governance services nationwide and to expand it to include 33 additional public services. ●

UP CLOSE: INDONESIA

A DECADE OF ELECTORAL SUPPORT

INDONESIA FACTS

- 25% women in Regional House of Representatives
- 92% literacy rate
- 17% people below the national poverty line

For more than a decade, UNDP has been working closely with Indonesia in its shift to a system of democratic governance. This support began as financial and logistical support for free and fair elections and, over the years, has transformed into policy support for the building of sustainable electoral institutions, giving Indonesia the ability to run its electoral cycle independently from beginning to end.

Indonesia is the world's third largest democracy. When the democratization process began in 1998, one of the most urgent priorities for the Government was to hold a free and fair election, so it turned to UNDP for technical assistance. In partnership with government agencies, civil society organizations and a number of donors such as Denmark, Japan and The Netherlands, UNDP helped to launch a massive programme of technical electoral assistance.

The programme focused on electoral management, voters' education and election monitoring. However, since this was the first democratic election to be held in Indonesia since 1955, UNDP also provided logistical support, from the printing of ballot papers and the procurement of indelible ink to assisting in vote tabulation. In addition, it coordinated \$60 million in donor support to the elections.

The 1999 election was a resounding success. UNDP's support had helped to usher in a new democratic era in Indonesia. In recognition of this fact, in 2004, the Government requested UNDP's electoral assistance once again for the country's first direct presidential election and first election for a new parliamentary chamber called the House of Regional Representatives. Although UNDP still provided logistical and aid-coordination assistance as in the previous election, it began to focus more on providing technical support to the Indonesian Election Commission, which directly managed the elections.

The 2004 election was viewed by many international observers as one of the most successful elections ever run in a transitional democracy. A year later, Indonesia began a new initiative that would change the landscape of electoral politics there, with the introduction of a local election for governors, mayors and district heads. Doing this would complete Indonesia's transition to popular elections for all legislative and executive positions throughout the country.

While holding these new local elections was a complicated process, it was especially challenging in the special autonomous province of Aceh, where a history of separatism and conflict threatened the area's stability. The Independent Election Commission in Aceh requested UNDP's technical assistance in the management of the local elections. With support from the European Union, The Netherlands and Spain, UNDP's elections support programme in Aceh provided significant assistance to the ultimately successful elections, resulting in a new era of peace for its people.

Four years later, the Government of Indonesia again requested UNDP assistance for the legislative and presidential elections, scheduled for 2009. By that point, Indonesia had made great strides since its first election a decade previously. UNDP shifted its support away from technical assistance for specific elections and toward building up electoral systems and institutions. Thus UNDP adopted a new approach based on the electoral cycle, meaning its electoral support programme would not end with the election.

With support from the Governments of Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, UNDP established a long-term multi-donor programme aiming to make Indonesia completely self-sufficient. While the programme provided support to the 2009 elections in the usual areas of technical assistance, civic educa-



A woman votes in April 2009 legislative elections in Indonesia. UNDP has been providing electoral support in the country for more than a decade.

tion and aid coordination, it also stepped up support to Indonesian institutions like the National Planning Agency in order to create a permanent aid coordination centre.

The programme is currently assisting the General Election Commission in the establishment of an Electoral Resource and Information Centre, which can be accessed by local election commissions and the general public. It is setting up an internationally recognized training curriculum for election workers and is establishing a national civic education centre with branches in all 33 of Indonesia's provinces.

This will ensure that voter education is continuous and not tied to electoral agendas or calendars.

This programme of long-term electoral support was developed jointly with the Government to ensure that the institutions and mechanisms established with UNDP support are fully managed and funded through Indonesia's national budget. This final programme of electoral support thus crowns UNDP's decade-long efforts and provides a viable exit strategy, guaranteeing that Indonesia, its Government and its people are equipped and ready for a future of democratic governance.