

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

BUILDING BACK BETTER

States suffering the effects of conflict and disaster are among those most in danger of failing to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Human development in these countries is jeopardized by a broad range of complex threats, including gender inequality, inadequate policies addressing ex-combatants, the proliferation of small arms, weak judicial and law enforcement systems and poor disaster preparedness. With technical and financial assistance from UNDP, many such states are making headway. However, sustained support, along with further strengthening of international policy and partnerships, will be essential over the next five years.

A UNDP programme in **Nepal** trained 310 judges on gender-based violence and established 20 community mediation centres in four districts to handle family and domestic violence cases. Additionally, the programme formed 70 paralegal committees in seven districts specifically tasked with handling cases of gender-based violence. UNDP also trained the 901 members of these paralegal committees – 90 percent of whom are women – and established four legal aid desks that received 265 cases related to gender-based violence in the first nine months of operation.

Eighty percent of conflict survivors in **Colombia** are women. In collaboration with UNIFEM, UNDP is supporting local women's organizations in five conflict-affected regions to actively participate in peace and reconciliation processes. In 2009, UNDP's work there has directly benefited more than 600 women representing 385 women's organizations and their 14,000 members from across the country by strengthening their networks with each other. The initiative has resulted in a series of policy proposals that include women's issues and perspectives in truth and reconciliation efforts.

PREVENTING CRISIS

The effects of natural disasters and political crises are exacerbated by the ongoing global recession as well as conflicting demands for increasingly limited natural resources. As a result, UNDP's work in disaster risk reduction is highly sought after.

As a consequence of UNDP's support in institutionalizing tsunami early warning systems in countries devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, these vulnerable states are better equipped to issue alerts than they were five years ago. **Indonesia** was able to issue a warning within five minutes of detecting a major earthquake in September 2009, leading to the successful evacuation of residents to designated safe sites. In 2009, this initiative contributed to the ongoing development of an Indian Ocean-wide standard oper-

5 minutes

The speed with which Indonesia was able to issue a tsunami warning after detecting a major earthquake in September 2009. UNDP support has helped institutionalize tsunami early warning systems in the countries devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Last year, 87 UNDP Country Offices supported national governments in crisis prevention and post crisis contexts, ranging from direct technical and financial support to policy leadership and to the coordination of international agencies to ensure effective and timely response to crisis. Most importantly, UNDP works for long-term, sustainable recovery from crisis, taking into account the economics, infrastructure and political and social climate needed to keep countries on track.

GENDER AND CRISIS

In 2009, UNDP made significant efforts to ensure the protection of women and to enhance their contributions to crisis prevention, peacebuilding and recovery. UNDP paid increased attention in particular to addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings, in response to UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008).

ating procedure for early warning systems. Indonesia also took the lead in testing this preliminary procedure, which involved the participation of 18 Indian Ocean countries and coastal communities in a successful drill of the system.

Mexico has weathered a series of very destructive hurricanes along its southern coasts over the past decade, making a comprehensive disaster plan for an already vulnerable population critical. Storms, cold fronts and fires have taken their toll as well. UNDP's long-term disaster risk programme there, in partnership with national and local government, has been adopted by seven states in Mexico's south-east region. UNDP provides training to local communities and organizations in identifying risks, and then preparing for them. The programme focuses particularly on taking into account gender equality and intercultural factors that often require carefully tailored plans. Looking forward to 2010 and beyond, UNDP plans to bring the programme not only to additional Mexican states but also to other countries in the region.

RECOVERING FROM CONFLICT

In May 2009, the cessation of a three-decade civil war in **Sri Lanka** also brought with it the internal displacement of almost 300,000 people. UNDP worked closely with the Government to provide legal identification documents to over 29,000 people who had lost their original documents in the conflict or no longer had access to them.

As a result, key issues of internally displaced people were better addressed. UNDP also expanded its demining activities in the north, allowing for the return of nearly two thirds of the displaced populations by mid-March 2010. Furthermore, UNDP provided 2,000 people from 56 affected villages with start-up grants to help them develop new livelihoods.

With an expanded presence in **Iraq**, UNDP is well positioned to help the State and the population to rebuild their country and their lives, according to their own priorities and needs for long-term development recovery. In 2009, Iraq reached a number of critical milestones in its quest to establish a strong democracy, including holding provincial elections across much of the country that, in turn, paved the way for parliamentary

elections in 2010. UNDP worked closely with Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission, providing guidance on establishing standard procedures for polling, and creating — together with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) — a long-term programme dedicated to developing the Commission's managerial skills and organizational and strategic planning know-how.



Government working groups plan the national budget in Southern Sudan with UNDP support.

Iraq's 2009 provincial elections were noted for the Commission's innovative public outreach campaign, which used new media tools like blogs, instant messages and YouTube. The 2010 election was also a milestone because it demonstrated the Commission's ability to run elections independently.

UNDP has over 50 years of experience working with the people of **Afghanistan**, through crisis and peace. During the last eight years, UNDP has been centrally involved in the international community's response to the ongoing crisis in the country. Today, UNDP's programme in Afghanistan is its largest, with some 22 UN Member States entrusting UNDP with resources, out of which \$557 million was delivered in 2009 to bolster Afghanistan's capacity to provide for its people. These efforts ranged from stabilization and peace-building to strengthening democratic governance, reducing poverty, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction.

An independent 2009 assessment exercise of development results found that UNDP has contributed to most of the major achievements of the peace process in Afghanistan since 2002. In 2009, UNDP focused on areas essential for stability and security in a highly

complex and insecure environment. Due in part to UNDP's work on the rule of law, police across the country were paid in a regular and timely manner, with 99.7 percent of police personnel now covered by an electronic payroll system. Close to 900 women were recruited into the police force, 700 illegally armed groups were voluntarily disbanded and close to 50,000 illegal weapons were collected.

UNDP's work in the **occupied Palestinian territory** is aimed at reducing poverty and rebuilding livelihoods. Immediately following the December 2008 escalation of violence in Gaza, UNDP worked with the Palestinian Authority and national and international partners, in the assessment of damages and immediate needs as well as the development of rebuilding plans. In 2009, UNDP

Demobilizing combatants and reintegrating them back into society is a critical part of **Sudan's** 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, ending the civil war in Southern Sudan and marking the end of Africa's longest civil war. As of August 2009, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme in Sudan had resulted in the demobilization of over 12,000 ex-combatants in the South, including 2,000 women. UNDP provided the technical and financial support needed in the reintegration phase of the Government-led programme.

Participants receive short-term assistance, including items like clothing, mosquito nets, cash payments and family food rations. They are also given counselling on possible livelihood options to help with the reintegration process. For example, participants can choose to become a farmer, small business owner or mechanic; they then receive vocational training, the necessary materials and equipment to begin their new livelihoods and ongoing advisory services as they begin their new lives.

UNDP SUPPORT TO CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

Countries receiving UNDP support in 2009	87
Number of crisis and post-crisis countries where UNDP worked to strengthen rule of law in 2009	20
Percentage of Myanmar households affected by Cyclone Nargis that consider themselves "noticeably improved" following UNDP's early recovery work	71%

oversaw the disbursement of emergency cash assistance packages to 8,700 families whose houses were damaged or destroyed, the launch of an \$8 million programme to assist farmers whose farms sustained serious damage and the removal of more than 90,000 tonnes of concrete rubble from houses and public buildings.

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants is a critical component of post-conflict recovery, contributing to security and stability so that recovery and development can begin. It also prevents a return to violence. Effective, lasting peace-building cannot happen until ex-combatants and their communities have experienced economic and social reintegration. In 2009, UNDP supported 8,000 ex-combatants in the **Central African Republic**; 60,000 in **Colombia**; 800 in **Comoros**; 1,800 in **Kosovo**; 15,000 in **Nepal**; and 15,000 in **Sri Lanka**.

SMALL ARMS, ARMED VIOLENCE AND MINE ACTION

The availability of small arms in contexts of growing socio-economic inequalities, rapid urbanization, unemployment and breakdowns in the rule of law increases the likelihood of armed violence and organized crime in both conflict and non-conflict settings.

Tens of thousands of small arms and light weapons and thousands of tonnes of ammunition have been collected and destroyed globally as a result of UNDP's work (see *Up Close: Croatia*, page 26). In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 95,000 weapons and 5,000 tonnes of ammunition were destroyed as a result of UNDP efforts. These initiatives have been complemented by efforts to strengthen national policies and laws on controlling weapons, as well as reducing the demand for weapons through the development of community safety plans.

With over 1 million people — 80 percent of them civilians — killed or injured by landmines in the past 30 years, often long after a conflict has subsided, UNDP believes that clearing mines is necessary for affected countries to achieve economic and social stability.

More than a decade after the 1999 Kosovo conflict left behind a trail of mines and unex-

ploded ordnance along **Albania's** northern border, the country was declared officially mine-free in 2009, thanks to a joint UNDP and Government demining programme that also provides ongoing assistance to mine victims. The programme cleared 12,000 anti-personnel mines, 152 anti-tank mines and 5,000 rounds of ammunition and unexploded bombs in north-eastern Albania. Such efforts have helped to end accidents due to unexploded mines.

RULE OF LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

During armed conflict, rule of law is replaced by 'rule of force.' Injustice, insecurity and violations of international and domestic law dominate the lives of millions of people, many forced to flee their homes and communities. In the absence of the rule of law, no one can recover from war and no post-conflict society can be rebuilt. UNDP's work in strengthening the rule of law in over 20 crisis and post-crisis countries continued to expand and deepen in 2009.

UNDP supported the training of 5,400 law enforcement and justice providers in 17 countries in 2009. In **DRC**, where rape is endemic, five new legal aid clinics were established for women with UNDP support. Legal aid and access to justice reached thousands of displaced and war-affected people in countries like **Chad, Nepal, Sierra Leone** and **Somalia**. Women who survived rape were able to reclaim their rights and dignity in courts of law in **Chad, DRC, Kosovo, Sierra Leone** and **Sudan**. Community policing brought a sense of security to exposed communities in **Liberia, Somalia, Sri Lanka** and **Sudan**.

RECOVERING FROM NATURAL DISASTER

In September and October of 2009, 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region were struck by a series of disasters, including a tsunami, an earthquake, typhoons and flooding, resulting in a serious loss of life and livelihoods in countries ranging from **India** to **Samoa**. The Asia-Pacific region is subjected to over 70 percent of the world's natural disasters in any given year. UNDP played a key role in relief and early recovery planning, including the coordination and delivery of international assistance, in all of the affected countries.

12,452

Number of anti-personnel mines that a UNDP programme cleared from north-eastern Albania; UNDP also cleared 152 anti-tank mines and 4,965 rounds of ammunition and unexploded bombs.

In Samoa, in response to a tsunami that killed 100 people and caused over \$100 million in damage, UNDP led the early-recovery response, coordinating the efforts of over 60 humanitarian agencies and organizations. As a result, assistance to the Samoan Government and people was targeted and timely. Humanitarian and government partners finalized an early-recovery national plan within 10 days of the tsunami, the Prime Minister endorsed it and it received all the resources needed to cover its \$100 million price tag.

UNDP's success in leading recovery efforts that focus on rehabilitation and long-term development is evidenced in its work in **Myanmar** and the country's ongoing response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. A recent impact study of UNDP's early recovery programme has found that 71 percent of affected households consider their lives to be "noticeably improved"; more than 60 percent of people engaged in the fishing industry, which was completely destroyed, have fully recovered their livelihoods; and more than 75,000 households were able to restart agriculture, fishing or trading activities after receiving small loans.

UNDP has also helped more than 500 villages to establish disaster-management committees, which, in turn, have developed disaster-management plans that focus on reducing risk, mitigating impact and improving disaster response. Finally, an ongoing UNDP microfinance initiative has written off nearly \$3 million in outstanding loans for households that were hit hard by the cyclone. It has also restarted loan activities. As a result, the programme has restored \$1.3 million to more than 76,000 people living in 1,060 villages that suffered some of the worst effects of the cyclone. ●

UP CLOSE: CROATIA

CONTROLLING ARMS, PREVENTING VIOLENCE

Of 49 major conflicts in the 1990s, 47 were waged with small arms as the weapons of choice. Small arms have been responsible for, on average, over a quarter of a million deaths per year, with an ever-increasing number taking place in non-conflict settings.

Years of full-scale conflict in **Croatia** dating as far back as World War II and as recently as the 1990s have left behind a dangerous legacy, including the widespread, illegal possession of weapons. As a result, parts of Croatia are experiencing rising levels of armed violence and crime, putting human development gains at risk in a country still scarred by the effects of war. Indeed, armed violence in Croatia has risen over the past six years, and the great majority of the public believes their communities are less safe now than they were 20 years ago.

The continuing availability of firearms means that disputes can rapidly escalate into armed incidents. Between September 2007 and the end of 2009, an arms collection campaign organized by UNDP and the Ministry of the Interior resulted in the collection of more than 39,000 firearms, mines and other explosive weapons; one million pieces of ammunition; and over 1,000 kilogrammes of explosives. During the initial nine months of the campaign alone, more than 16,000 weapons were voluntarily surrendered.

UNDP designed the arms collection campaign by drawing on best practices from collection programmes in the region and from around the world but the approach was tailored to the distinct needs of Croatia. In addition to the voluntary collection of arms, the programme also conducted evidence-based improvement of the Croatian police force and provided an analysis of armed violence and crime in Croatian society. Finally, UNDP assisted the Government in the destruction and recycling of surplus weapons.

The arms collection campaign mobilized a number of public figures, including athletes, musicians and artists to participate in awareness-raising activities. A famous Croatian pop group produced a song about the campaign. At the same time, both local and national media actively covered the campaign and broadcast public service announcements on television and radio for free. A free telephone hotline was established providing information on the surrender. From the beginning, public messaging stressed that weapon owners were surrendering their arms to contribute to economic development, human security and to protect their families from accidents.

In 2009, UNDP focused on raising awareness of the dangers of illegal firearms in regions of Croatia that were heavily affected by the 1990s war. The regions are experiencing rising levels of armed violence and are still experiencing acute pressures as they transition to a post-conflict society. The campaign is continuing in these places through 2011, and is relying heavily on support from war veteran associations, women and youth NGOs, representing the three groups most affected by the rise in armed violence. In September 2009, the Government adopted a new weapons control strategy specifying the arms collection campaign initiated by UNDP and the Ministry of the Interior as a main tool for going forward.

CROATIA FACTS

97,012 people in
Croatia are refugees
98.7% literacy rate
22% women in
Parliament



Croatian police officers explain voluntary weapons surrender, part of a UNDP-supported awareness campaign.