

United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON STRENGTHENING

THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

FOR SUSTAINING PEACE AND FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT

» A "Tango for Peace" event celebrating the signing of the Colombian peace agreement.
© UNDP Colombia / Freya Morales



THE RULE OF LAW CREATES THE FOUNDATION FOR

SUSTAINING PEACE

AS AN IMPERATIVE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY,
DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS.



GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR SUSTAINING PEACE AND FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT

2016 KEY RESULTS IN FOCUS

UNDP provides strategic rule of law and human rights assistance to support national partners build resilient communities in nearly 40 crisis-affected contexts around the world.



THE GLOBAL FOCAL POINT

- Co-led by UNDP and DPKO
- Delivers system-wide rule of law support in nearly 20 different settings



POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Leverage Political Backing
Foster Conflict-Sensitivity
Mobilize Resources

COLOMBIA

The government and the FARC ratified a victim – centered Peace Agreement after 60 years of conflict.

SOUTH SUDAN

The government undertook their first UPR to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights.

MALI

11 courts were rehabilitated, successfully disposing of 1,455 cases throughout the year.

MYANMAR

12 community forums were held to discuss local justice and human rights issues and provide a space for dialogue between stakeholders.



INSTITUTION BUILDING

Increase Technical Capacity
Strengthen Legal Frameworks
Foster Confidence in the State



COMMUNITY SECURITY

Reduce Armed Violence
Enhance Police Services
Create Safe Environments

EL SALVADOR

The national security plan "El Salvador Seguro" was implemented in 26 prioritized municipalities, contributing to the reduction of the homicide rate by 20 points.

PAKISTAN

1,303 police officers, judges, court staff, and prosecutors completed trainings on community policing, contributing to the reduction of the crime ratio by 8%.

SIERRA LEONE

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone carried out inspections of 36 detention facilities leading to the release of 6 inmates who were unlawfully detained.

UKRAINE

The Ombudspersons Office expanded to all 24 regions and provided 4,000 consultations, monitored 716 court trials, and conducted 273 visits to detention centers



HUMAN RIGHTS

Promote and Protect Human Rights
Establish Oversight Mechanisms
Bridge Accountability Gaps



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Empower Marginalized Groups
Raise Legal Awareness
Expand Legal Assistance

KYRGZ REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Justice's "Solidarity Bus" visited 173 village municipalities, providing free legal consultations to 3,386 people.

TIMOR-LESTE

Mobile courts served 807 people, disposing of 3 civil cases and 324 criminal cases, including 198 cases related to gender-based violence.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The Witness Support Network aided 890 victims and witnesses in 1,788 criminal cases.

TUNISIA

The first 4 public hearings of the Tunisia Truth and Dignity Commission were held, enabling 25 victims to testify.



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Provide Truth and Redress
Elevate the Voice of Victims
Promote National Reconciliation



GENDER JUSTICE

Provide Truth and Redress
Elevate the Voice of Victims
Promote National Reconciliation

AFGHANISTAN

The government established an Elimination of Violence Against Women Court, which handled over 174 cases and reached a verdict in 62% of the cases.

STATE OF PALESTINE

The government adopted the Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy, which is the first in the Arab region.

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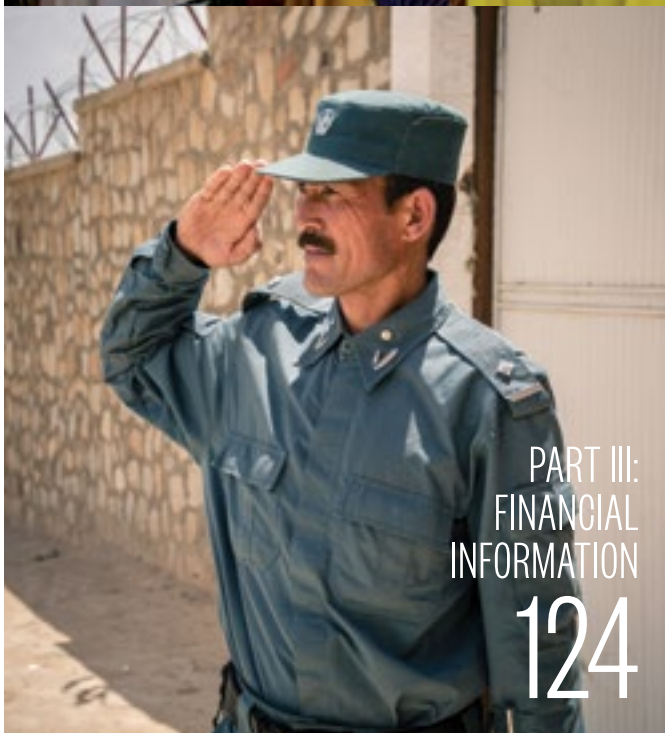
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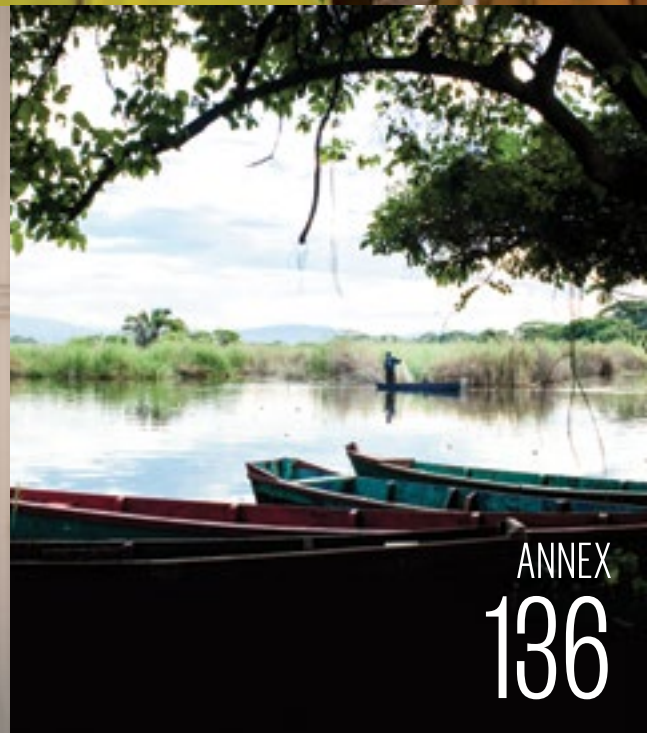
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FOREWORD

STABILITY IN DIVERSITY

2016 proved to be a challenging year in many regards, as the world witnessed worrying trends toward the closing of civic space, a rise of fear-based politics, and the increasing discriminatory acts against marginalized groups.

The international community struggled to adequately respond to the mass displacement of communities from the Middle East and North Africa, the escalation of conflict, and violations of human rights in countries such as South Sudan and Syria, amongst others.

However, amid these challenging times, we have also witnessed how powerful movements for peace can be when they stand together. In Colombia, the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia agreed on a historic, victim-centered Peace Agreement. Meanwhile, UN Member States unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. If anything, 2016 reminded us that strength can be found in diversity. Science suggests that the diversity of organisms in an ecosystem is positively correlated with stability. I believe this to also be true within communities, where diversity of opinion enhances our prospects for sustainable change. In crisis-affected states, fostering respect for diversity is particularly important to prevent the outbreak of, or relapse into, conflict. And respect for the rule of law is critical to fight intolerance through the protection and promotion of universal human rights.

UNDP is fortunate to be a part of the UN rule of law community, which firmly approaches rule of law assistance as part of the broader sustaining peace agenda and has led the charge for joint UN programming through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections. It is vital that we continue to work together to ensure that everything we do contributes to sustainable development within peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Without an articulated and coherent vision, our engagements risk imposing unintended consequences that may inhibit peace, rather than cultivate it.

UNDP's Global Programme on the rule of law emphasizes human rights and prevention at its core. Furthermore, the Global Programme recognizes that our engagements must be politically smart and technically sound. Without the foundation of human rights, the 'rule of law' can quickly be coopted into a 'rule by law' society, where some individuals hold the power to employ the law to meet their own agendas. And, without a politically-enabling environment, peace and development initiatives struggle to effect lasting change. It is now acknowledged that the international community will not succeed in solving problems that are inherently political with purely technical solutions.

To fulfill the implementation of the UN Charter, we must continue to challenge ourselves to do better: better leverage the tools at our disposal; better coordinate with and listen to each other. UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development has been a model in this endeavor. UNDP will continue to support an integrated UN agenda, by drawing on the diversity of expertise and experience throughout the UN system. Together, we can foster and enrich UN rule of law and human rights support to Member States – creating the foundation for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies – and contributing to the realization of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Tegegnaw Gettu
UNDP ADMINISTRATOR A.I.



INTRODUCTION

STRATEGIC RULE OF LAW SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINING PEACE

The support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the rule of law moves beyond traditional development approaches to strategically address the drivers of violent conflict and build resilient communities.

Cohesive societies are a precursor for sustainable development; people cannot realize their full potential nor actively contribute to their community without basic safety and security. To this end, UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development (2016–2020)¹ is designed to increase justice, security, and respect for human rights in contexts affected or threatened by crisis, conflict, and fragility.

Over the course of many years working in complex contexts, we have learned that the cycles of violence, poverty, corruption, and impunity can rarely be escaped without programmes that are designed to mitigate the root causes of these issues. When legal institutions mandated to guarantee basic rights are politicized, or dominated by elites, and fail to provide transparent, accountable, and timely access to justice, the legitimacy and credibility of the state erodes. If left unaddressed, citizens' mistrust in the state – combined with a deep yearning for truth and accountability – can

escalate underlying tensions into full-fledged conflict. Informed by political and conflict analysis, UNDP invests time in developing context-specific and responsive programmes that meet citizen expectations and bring about transformational change. We proactively ensure that our programmes are tailored to address key challenges, involve the relevant partners, and are effectively implemented. Utilizing a rights-based development approach, UNDP supports Member States to foster a rule of law culture in which people experience greater peace and security and can exercise their rights, advance their livelihoods, and protect those of future generations.

We build on long-standing partnerships with international, national, and local actors to create an enabling environment for sustainable peace and development to take root. The Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections (GFP) is one of the flagship mechanisms that UNDP employs to deliver coordinated rule of law assistance. Co-led by UNDP and DPKO, the GFP brings together UN Women, OHCHR, UNODC,

and other United Nations entities to facilitate joint programming and resource mobilization in service of the whole system. Under the GFP, UNDP is supporting “sustaining peace” pilots in Burkina Faso and The Gambia, following the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Sustaining Peace. By placing people at the center and fostering high-level political support, the sustaining peace approach significantly enhances the United Nations’ ability to create tangible impact, including in the areas of conflict prevention, the rule of law, national reconciliation, and human rights.

Another key international partnership is UNDP’s collaboration with OHCHR and the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). In September 2016, senior leaders from each agency agreed to scale-up joint support to national human rights institutions. At the country level, this partnership provides greater capacities, coherent support, and a platform for consistent high-level advocacy in support of national institutions to promote and protect human rights.

UNDP’s partnerships with state institutions have the potential to create broad-based change for people. For example, in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste, UNDP works with the national police to enhance the quality of services for women and girls by developing gender responsive programmes and increasing the number of female police officers. UNDP also supports truth and reconciliation commissions to provide redress and reparations to victims in places such as Tunisia and Sudan. Support for justice and security sector reform is provided by UNDP in Iraq and Guinea, amongst others, to ensure that institutions uphold human rights and deliver services that fully respond to the needs of the population.

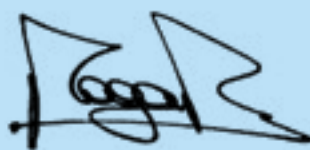
Local partners are crucial for expanding access to justice and advocating for the involvement of communities in the provision of justice and security. For instance, in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the State of Palestine, UNDP partners with civil society organizations to provide free and comprehensive legal aid to

those who otherwise would not have access. Additionally, UNDP supports community policing initiatives, involving a wide range of local stakeholders, to foster mutual respect and people’s confidence in the police in places like Pakistan and Sierra Leone.

Our rule of law and human rights work would not be possible without the generous support from our donors. Since 2008, the Global Programme has received financial contributions from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In this annual report, you will find an overview of the Global Programme’s engagement in 34 countries affected by crisis, conflict, and fragility. Part I, Year in Review, reflects on international policy developments affecting rule of law assistance and provides key country-level results achieved through the Global Programme in 2016. Part II, Country Profiles, presents an analysis of individual country programmes supported by the Global Programme. Lastly, Part III, Financial Information, provides a detailed look at support mobilized for the Global Programme both at headquarters and in the field.

UNDP remains committed to delivering context-specific rule of law, justice, security, and human rights assistance that is informed by the political environment and conflict analysis to contribute to sustaining peace. We look forward to enhancing our partnerships within and beyond the UN to ensure that our support is strategic and responds to the needs and aspirations of the communities in which we operate.



Magdy Martínez-Solimán

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, DIRECTOR OF THE UNDP BUREAU FOR POLICY AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT





PART I

2016

YEAR IN REVIEW



» Ghanaian UNAMID police officer, Mary Sebastian, with school children at the El Sereif camp for internally displaced persons in South Darfur.

POLICIES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Part I of this Annual Report reviews the progress made by the UN system in both policy and practice to enhance the delivery of rule of law and human rights assistance and enable transformative change. Testimonials from our partners are also provided, highlighting the impact we have achieved together. In this section, we present three key policy developments — Sustaining Peace, SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda, and the Humanitarian – Development Nexus — that frame UNDP’s rule of law work in fragile and crisis-affected contexts.



SUSTAINING PEACE

“Having closely consulted UN partners, as well as my predecessor, I strongly believe that the Global Focal Point (GFP) arrangement has become a new, indispensable, and system-wide delivery platform. In the beginning, DPKO, UNDP, and other partners created the GFP arrangement simply to leverage comparative advantages, but over time this partnership has proven to be so much more than the sum of its parts. Together with UN Women, UNODC, and OHCHR, the GFP is conducting joint assessments, formulating country-specific plans, providing expertise, marshalling resources, and focusing attention on rule of law priorities in the world's most under-served communities - thus helping to prevent conflict, provide stability, and sustain peace over the long term. My colleagues and I are strongly convinced that this platform should be institutionalized and further strengthened by providing it with a modest managerial structure.”

ALEXANDER ZUEV

Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions,
UN DPKO

Within a drastically changing political landscape and a global community facing multi-dimensional challenges, the UN Security Council and the 71st session of the General Assembly introduced the concept of ‘sustaining peace’ to unite the work of the UN system and reorient the organization’s focus on peace for all people.² The 2015 UN peace and security reviews, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the proceedings of the World Humanitarian Summit have conveyed a common message of the need for greater focus on the prevention of conflict.³

Sustaining peace once and for all releases peacebuilding from the confines of post-conflict environments, to encompass efforts that prevent conflict and build positive peace; irrespective of which stage of conflict a country might – or might not – be experiencing. This non-linear approach to peacebuilding in all its forms relies heavily on partnerships and provides continuity of services to sustain progress for transformational change.

The UN is taking forward this agenda by placing broad-based prevention at the center of its work and undertaking strategic reforms to enable assistance to be delivered in a more coherent manner.⁴ As such, the many parts of the UN (agencies, funds, programmes,

and the Secretariat), both at headquarters and in the field, aim to overcome the various divides within the organization to avoid the often fragmented responses to contemporary conflicts. Secretary-General António Guterres’ newly established, strategic decision-making process⁵ and integrated prevention platform for early detection and action⁶ are at the center of this effort.

UNDP is committed to supporting these system-wide improvements to better enable national partners to sustain peace. Since 2013, UNDP has led the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections (GFP) with DPKO to foster joint planning, assessment, and implementation of rule of law activities in conflict-affected situations. The GFP is working to concretely advance the sustaining peace agenda through the provision of dedicated, context-specific support, including efforts to strengthen the capacities of UN Resident Coordinators. Following the recommendations from the Interagency Working Group for Sustaining Peace, the GFP is currently developing joint rule of law projects to sustain peace in Burkina Faso and The Gambia. These projects will focus on addressing the drivers of instability and the reforms needed to promote reconciliation and strengthen the rule of law.

» Colombians gather at Plaza de Bolívar to celebrate the new peace agreement that was reached between the Colombian government and the FARC.



© UNDP COLOMBIA/FREYA MORALES

Strong commitments to the rule of law and human rights are imperative to achieving and sustaining peace, as well as to realizing the vision now set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development, UNDP has enhanced rule of law and human rights assistance with focused efforts to build resiliency.

UNDP partners with people at all levels to deliver comprehensive rule of law support that contributes to sustaining peace. For example, UNDP works with Member States to develop capable justice and security institutions and increase access to justice. These efforts are critical for building confidence in the state by ensuring the delivery of quality services to all and ending rampant impunity. UNDP also supports the creation of grassroots infrastructures to promote community safety and security. Such mechanisms create space for dialogue, address the sources of recurring violence, and foster social cohesion. Furthermore, UNDP supports national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to monitor and document abuses. This information is essential to effectively promote early warning and early action for conflict prevention. Additionally, UNDP supports

transitional justice processes that serve to encourage societal healing through truth telling, provide justice and reparations for victims, and help guarantee non-recurrence. Lastly, UNDP's efforts to reform laws and integrate human rights principles into policy and practice help create institutional change to shift power dynamics, promote equality, reduce discrimination, and sustain progress.

Sustaining peace is something that will never truly be completed; the term itself implies continuation. In every society, all stakeholders must put forth constant effort to create and maintain conditions for peace. As such, UNDP remains fully at the service of all Member States to support efforts to foster a more just and peaceful international community.



SDG 16 AND THE 2030 AGENDA

“The Inter-American Association of Public Defense Offices (AIDEF) has worked with UNDP in different activities focusing on access to legal aid as a way of achieving Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda. Among those actions, it is worth highlighting that AIDEF was part of the Steering Committee of the unprecedented Global Study on Legal Aid, research developed by UNDP and UNODC between 2014 and 2016 to establish a baseline understanding of how the right to legal aid in civil, criminal, and administrative cases has been defined and addressed around the world.”

DR. ANDRÉS MAHNKE

General Coordinator,
Inter-American Association of Public Defense Offices

In 2015, the international community agreed to, arguably, the most comprehensive and progressive framework that the world has ever seen to guide sustainable development for all nations. Through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States envisioned a world where poverty and hunger are eradicated, where people live free of violence and fear, and where the planet is protected for future generations.

The 2030 Agenda portrays a clear understanding that human rights, peace and security, and development are deeply interlinked and mutually reinforcing. In many ways, this common understanding served as the precursor for the unifying concept of sustaining peace. The importance of enhancing access to justice, ensuring safety and security, and promoting human rights for sustainable development are reflected throughout the entire agenda, but Sustainable Development Goal 16 marks the intersection between sustaining peace and the 2030 Agenda and is viewed as an enabling goal for the realization of all 17 goals.⁷

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) – for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies – ushers in a new kind of development: one where people have the opportunity to influence the decisions that affect their lives and create communities that thrive. SDG 16 articulates the key role that governance and the rule of law play in promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and in ensuring sustainable development. Specific targets and indicators on national human rights institutions, access to justice for all, effective

justice institutions, and violence prevention are included to guide progress toward the achievement of this catalytic goal.⁸

In 2016, the first year of SDG implementation, Member States took great steps toward realizing their commitments for the planet, people, and prosperity and generated new alliances to make the 2030 vision a reality. For example, UNDP supported Member States to establish the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies to overcome reporting difficulties associated with SDG 16 and related targets, which were not previously included in the Millennium Development Goals and, thus, lack mechanisms for gathering information and demonstrating progress.

The Global Alliance serves as a coordinating platform for UN Member States, the private sector, civil society, and international entities to work together to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The inaugural Global Alliance Steering Committee is chaired by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations and includes the Permanent Missions of Cabo Verde, Mexico, Norway, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, and Tunisia to the United Nations – as well as Deloitte, LexisNexis, and White&Case – and New York University’s Center on International Cooperation, the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation Network, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations. UNDP, together with UNESCO and UNODC, co-facilitate the Global



» A woman at the 2015 Social Good Summit in Pakistan stands in front of the banner for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

© UNDP PAKISTAN

“Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires innovation, new ideas, and ways of working. The Global Alliance, with the support of UNDP, is an institutional innovation to enable the wider international community to join with broad-based national constituencies as partners in creating a better world.”

H.E. ALYA AHMED BIN SAIF AL-THANI

Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations,
Chair of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on
Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies

Alliance Secretariat and liaise with partners across the UN system to support Member States meaningfully report on progress toward peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and its links to the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition to this dedicated initiative, UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development contributes to the realization of the SDG 16 in a variety of ways. UNDP supports Member States to strengthen national systems for sector-wide planning and monitoring on the rule of law, which is critical in prioritizing efforts for justice, security, and human rights.

UNDP strongly advocates for legal aid – most recently by commissioning the Global Study on Legal Aid – to ensure that access to legal aid services is recognized as a key means of ensuring access to justice for all and in reducing pre-trial detention.⁹ At the country level, UNDP supports the deployment of mobile courts to reduce the backlog of cases and to make judicial institutions accessible to people in remote areas. UNDP also partners with local civil society organizations to provide free legal aid services, particularly for women, children, and conflict victims. Additionally, UNDP bolsters the capacities of national human rights institutions, which help to fight impunity for human rights abuses and promote accountability measures. Lastly, enhancing citizen security is a key component of UNDP rule of law programmes, including by establishing initiatives for community-oriented policing and the reduction of illicit arms.

The endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all Members States was a historic accomplishment, but true success remains to be seen in the universal realization of all 17 interrelated Sustainable Development Goals. This is a monumental task, which will only be achieved through cooperation at local, national, and international levels. UNDP will continue to support Member States to overcome challenges for implementation through targeted and responsive programmes for strengthening the rule of law and human rights as the foundation for sustainable peace and development.



THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

Thousands of refugees trapped in overturned boats, a toddler face-down on the shoreline, loved ones separated by borders: As the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes surpassed the highest on record since World War II, images of the devastating effects of protracted conflict have infiltrated the news and have reminded us of our common humanity.

65 million people are currently displaced,¹⁰ and conflict drives 80 percent of all humanitarian need.¹¹ Contemporary conflicts are characterized by widespread human rights violations and breaches of International Humanitarian Law, as seen in the targeting of hospitals, schools, humanitarian workers, and unarmed civilians. The magnitude of these conflicts also affect the ability of neighboring countries to maintain peace and stability.

The international community has struggled to respond to this unprecedented scale of suffering, as the gap between humanitarian need and resources has continued to widen. The overall inter-agency humanitarian appeals during the last decade have increased by nearly 400 percent.¹² The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, unanimously adopted by Member States, set out not to just meet needs - but to reduce risk and vulnerability - providing a reference point for both humanitarian and development actors to contribute to a common vision of a future in which no one is left behind.

Refugees and migrants are among those most likely to be left behind, and as such, require dedicated and comprehensive attention. The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit called for the alignment of humanitarian operations with development initiatives to prevent the relapse of conflict and contribute to the sustainability of initiatives. Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set out a clear vision to “Change people’s lives: from delivering aid to ending need” as one of five Core Responsibilities for the UN.¹³ This notion of the ‘humanitarian-development nexus,’ is about humanitarian and development actors operating from a place of shared understanding, including contextual challenges, root causes of fragility, and both immediate and long-term needs of the population.

The UN General Assembly, in its 71st session, further affirmed these commitments through the endorsement of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.¹⁴ The declaration called for specific issues to be prioritized, such as providing support for victims of sexual violence, efforts to combat the detainment of children, and initiatives to address xenophobia against refugees and migrants. Most importantly, the declaration stressed the importance of the “prevention of violations” and the “implementation of comprehensive responses to refugees,” which requires full cooperation between humanitarian and development actors in the field.

Although UNHCR and UNDP have collaborated internationally and nationally for many years, there is now greater recognition of the importance of developing a more harmonized approach to rule of law, field-based interventions. Thus, UNDP and UNHCR have entered a new partnership to enhance rule of law support for the protection of – and attainment of solutions for – refugees, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, and returnees.

This partnership benefits from each organization’s unique mandate and established mechanisms. UNDP is one of the largest actors providing technical and operational rule of law support through a human rights-based approach to long-term development under the principle of ‘Leave No One Behind.’ Meanwhile, UNHCR is the lead protection agency for persons of concern, with decades of experience providing emergency relief and support in crisis-affected situations. In the years to come, UNDP and UNHCR plan to scale up joint support for the rule of law in both contexts of origin and reception of displaced populations. UNHCR has also recently joined the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections to further institutionalize system-wide support for the rule of law in crises-affected contexts.

Families facing the dangers of the sea over the dangers in their communities are desperate for change. UNDP is committed to finding new ways of working to provide displaced populations with the safety and security they deserve and to address the drivers of violent conflict to foster sustainable peace and development.

“The rule of law fulfills an important stabilizing role amid the vagaries and turmoil of daily life and rapid technological and social developments. It is meant to be a voice of reason, especially in times of turbulence. To be true to its founding ideas of justice and equality, the rule of law also requires progressive thinking, anticipating, interpreting, and developing. This is of particular importance in the context of ensuring international protection to refugees, finding solutions to displacement, addressing the plight of stateless people, and including them all in national legal systems. It is incumbent upon us to rise to the challenges of today’s world and to chart the way forward, informed by the values and principles of humanity. In this sense, UNHCR and UNDP have stepped up collaboration in different countries on rule of law programmes, including through the Global Focal Point Arrangement.”

VOLKER TÜRK

Assistant High Commissioner for Protection,
UNHCR Geneva

» Syrian refugees at the Zaatari Refugee Camp, located near Mafraq, Jordan, which has grown to house nearly 80,000 refugees.





» Residents in Kyauk Ka Char, Shan State, Myanmar.

KEY RESULTS IN FOCUS

UNDP's rule of law programmes are focused within seven inter-related areas of work:

i) A political environment which strengthens rule of law and human rights; ii) Capable and effective justice and security institutions; iii) Community security and armed violence reduction; iv) Strong national human rights institutions; v) Access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups; vi) Transitional justice; and vii) Justice, security, and human rights for women and girls. In this section, we present key results achieved with national partners over the course of 2016.



A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

WHICH STRENGTHENS RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In crisis and conflict-affected contexts, particularly those with a legacy of political violence or undergoing complex political transitions, establishing the rule of law is essential to preventing the outbreak or recurrence of conflict. However, the extent to which this is possible is often dependent on the will of political leaders and powerful societal stakeholders to abide by the social compact. Sound technical assistance will only be impactful if it is combined with political engagement.

National leadership and government structures need to have the political will to uphold the rule of law, honor the social contract, reduce inequality, and value social and political inclusion. Progress in these areas enables the rule of law to be embedded in socio-political culture and values and builds trust between the authorities and society at large.

UNDP seeks to align peacebuilding and development trajectories, and ensure that the linkages between the political environment, institutional deficits, and the needs of people and communities to have security, access justice, and enjoy respect for human rights are taken into account. With this in mind, UNDP designs rule of law programming within a conflict prevention framework to strengthen democratic oversight and good governance, promote transparency and

accountability, foster country-level implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Treaty Body recommendations, and support UN system representation both in country and at headquarters, facilitating high-level engagement, including through the Human Rights Up Front initiative. UNDP supports national partners to meet these objectives in a variety of ways by undertaking conflict analysis, mobilizing resources, and leveraging political backing in support of their aims to strengthen the rule of law and human rights. Strengthening civilian oversight mechanisms and mainstreaming UPR and Treaty Body recommendations throughout reform processes is also crucial to this work. These tools can serve to open the political space necessary for transformative change to take place and contribute to sustaining peace.

FEATURE

REACHING A PEACE AGREEMENT IN COLOMBIA

In November 2016, the Colombian Congress ratified a Peace Agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). This historic agreement ended 60 years of conflict between the FARC and the Government of Colombia – the last “regular” war in the Americas – and was the result of four years of intense negotiations in La Havana, Cuba. However, the first version of the agreement was rejected by a very narrow margin in a national plebiscite two months earlier, despite wide and international support.

The UN’s political mission, as requested by the Government of Colombia, was established through Security Council Resolution 2261 in January 2016, which stipulated that the mission would only begin once a peace agreement was reached.

During this complex period, UNDP contributed to the success of the negotiation process, with the primary aim of supporting victim participation for a victim-centered peace agreement. In the years leading up to the agreement, UNDP, jointly with the National University’s think tank and the Colombian Conference of Bishops, organized national and regional forums that helped civil society and victims’ organizations generate a movement and voice. These forums brought together more than 10,000 people from all walks of life and social groups. Additionally, the Resident Coordinator accompanied 60 victims who provided testimonies at the negotiating table in La Havana, including women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and victims of sexual violence. In the months prior to the plebiscite and the signing of the agreement, UNDP supported the Ministry of Post-Conflict in the design and implementation of a Rapid Response Strategy, including a program involving more than 600 university students for “Manos a la Paz” (Hands for Peace). Each semester, 300 students completed internships in 120 conflict-affected municipalities to contribute to peacebuilding efforts.

UNDP’s support to the transitional justice aspects of the Peace Agreement required deep political engagement. One of the more sensitive aspects of the Peace Agreement is the ground-breaking provision for a Special Jurisdiction for Peace. This national infrastructure will lead the transitional justice process post-agreement, including the establishment of a Truth

Commission and a Missing Persons Unit. In support to the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, UNDP provided strategic guidance on the Peace Agreement chapters in relation to victims – i.e. transitional justice and reparations – with recommendations for the participation of victims in the procedural stages of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and guidance on the legal nature and scope of the Truth Commission. Meanwhile, UNDP’s transitional justice programme supported the national Victim’s Unit, providing reparations to 462 female victims of sexual violence and the families of 74 victims of enforced disappearance affected by the 2002 Massacre of Bojayá.

The signing of the Peace Agreement in Colombia was a historic milestone, but the agreement alone cannot guarantee sustainable peace. The UN system must remain politically savvy, promote human rights, and continue the sustainable peace agenda to support Colombia and its people and build on this positive momentum. The UN political mission in Colombia will greatly contribute in this regard. The mission’s mandate includes the provision of unarmed international observers to monitor and verify the process of laying down arms and to function as part of the tri-partite mechanism – with the government and the FARC – for the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

Additionally, UNDP will continue leading efforts for transitional justice by supporting the Executive Secretary of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace on behalf of the UN system, as stipulated in the Peace Agreement. Ultimately, to ensure sustainable peace, the Government of Colombia will need to demonstrate to each Colombian that peace pays off, through transparency, accountability, and concrete peace dividends.



» Armed forces in Cartagena prepare for the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC.

© UN PHOTO / RICK BAJOJMAS

2016 KEY RESULTS

BURKINA FASO

In November 2016, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Sustaining Peace deployed a consultative mission to Burkina Faso to analyze the countries' efforts to consolidate stability following the 2014 popular insurrection, successful political transition, and the presidential election in 2015. The mission made strategic recommendations for a "sustaining peace approach" to address the root causes of instability, including through politically-driven engagement, emphasizing national ownership, the creation of a minimal support structure, dedicated funding mechanisms, and active coordination bodies to support the UN Resident Coordinator. The mission also recommended that the UN Country Team and UNOWAS expand the nascent security sector reform and transitional justice programmes, supported by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), with assistance from the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections (GFP) to strengthen the rule of law in a comprehensive manner. A GFP mission was sequentially deployed to Burkina Faso in February 2017 for strategic mapping, analysis, and identification of priority areas for strengthening the rule of law and human rights, providing both immediate- and long-term solutions for the population. Building on this analysis, concrete projects are under development and GFP justice capacities have been deployed to support the provision of services to foster confidence in the state and re-establish the social contract.

ERITREA

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has proved to be a key entry point to initiate concrete reform initiatives in Eritrea. In 2016, the Government of Eritrea requested support from the UN Country Team to help implement the 2014 Universal Periodic Review recommendations. UNDP supported the UN Resident Coordinator and the Peace and Development Advisor to develop a programme respectful of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two-year programme began implementation in 2016 and aims to: i) establish and expand human rights architecture in Eritrea; ii) provide support to Eritrean institutions to increase human rights capacities; iii) mainstream human rights and implement UPR recommendations; iv) support advocacy efforts for human rights; and v) enhance coordination between the government and the UN Country Team.

THE GAMBIA

In February 2017, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Sustaining Peace deployed a high-level mission to The Gambia.¹⁵ The mission, supported by UNDP, added immediate capacities to the UN Country Team to reposition its support to the government in the post transition period and led to the development of two priority projects on transitional justice and security sector reform. As of April 2017, both projects have been conditionally approved by PBSO to receive funding

“In advancing the priority the Secretary-General places on prevention, UNDP and the Department for Political Affairs (DPA) collaborate in building national capacities for conflict prevention. This is a highly-valued partnership that brings together relevant UN tools, deploys DPA-UNDP Peace and Development Advisors, and builds the interaction across the peace and development pillars of the United Nations. DPA and UNDP have also partnered effectively through the Global Focal Point, thereby successfully providing coordinated capacity and support to the Special Political Missions that have a mandate in the area of the rule of law. Together, UNDP and DPA co-chair the Regional Monthly Reviews under the Human Rights Up Front Initiative that serve as a horizon-scanning mechanism for early warning and early action. The reviews are a key tool for joint UN analysis and coordination. They serve as a platform to analyze the political, development, and human rights conditions so that we can support national and regional partners to address risks of conflict outbreak or escalating tensions.”

MIROSLAV JENČA

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs,
UN DPA

from the Peacebuilding Fund, and a third project to support the presidency is being finalized. The GFP is also currently developing a programme on the rule of law to build on and complement the Peacebuilding Fund-supported projects. The programme will support a sector wide approach to reforms in justice sector planning and coordination, access to justice, judicial and legal education, community security, capacity strengthening of the police, and human rights strengthening. These projects respond to the immediate needs of the Gambian people and specifically address the needs of youth and women, ensuring that peace and development initiatives are not elite focused, but sufficiently tackle power-sharing, inclusion, and reconciliation.

GUINEA (CONAKRY)

In Guinea (Conakry), UNDP provided direct, high-level advice to the presidency and supported the coordination of working groups, bringing together national and international stakeholders. Two Strategic Orientation Commissions were organized and chaired by the President with the presence of sectoral ministries to take decisions on security sector reform (SSR) strategies. Through these commissions, the President instructed the State Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Budget, and the head of the Programme Management Unit to finalize the Resource Mobilization Strategy, resulting in new pledges from bilateral partners. The Minister of Defense conceptualized the High Defense Council with an operational Secretariat, and the Minister of Interior ensured the opening of the National Police and Civil Protection School and reviewed the SSR steering committee.

LIBERIA

UNDP and UNMIL continue to support Liberia's constitutional review process, which seeks to address many of the root causes of the 13-year conflict. UNDP ensured that over 1,350 people participated in constituency dialogues on the proposals for constitutional review, which include religion, dual citizenship, land governance, and women's rights in 9 districts across Liberia. In 2016, the Lower House endorsed all 25 proposals that were raised during the public consultations. Once these proposals are approved by the Senate, they will be considered in a referendum after the general election in 2017. The new constitution, once adopted, will provide the political leverage necessary to implement key reforms that directly impact the well-being of the population and contribute to sustaining peace.

SOUTH SUDAN

The government participated in South Sudan's first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in July 2016. Prior to this, UNDP and the UNMISS Human Rights Division provided training on state reporting and the UPR process to the South Sudan Inter-Ministerial Working Group. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group in collaboration with the South Sudan Human Rights Commission then went on to facilitate public participation on the UPR process to inform state and civil society reports submitted in March 2016. The forthcoming UPR recommendations, if accepted by the state, will become a public agreement by the government to take concrete steps to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in South Sudan.



CAPABLE AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

Rule of law institutions are frequently undermined by factors such as conflict and violence, criminality, sociopolitical and economic marginalization, or systematic human rights violations. These circumstances – whether individually or collectively – disrupt the accessibility of effective justice and security, and tarnish the legitimacy of the institutions responsible for delivering these services.

Strengthening the rule of law through security and justice services that are inclusive, governed effectively, empower women to access justice, counter impunity, and follow international standards is critical for driving development.

UNDP's approach to institution building is holistic in nature, and emphasizes confidence building between society and the state. UNDP assists national authorities in achieving quick wins through immediate restoration of service delivery, as well as delivers on comprehensive, sector-wide reforms that are inclusive and prioritize

national ownership for long-term sustainability. UNDP helps strengthen the knowledge and skills of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, ministries, civil society, and the police and orients national policies and approaches on localized needs. Across all of these areas, UNDP seeks to enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of security institutions to reduce levels of violence and build community resiliency. Such services aim to engage individuals in the provision of their own security and enable them to pursue productive livelihoods.

FEATURE

ESTABLISHING THE FIRST COURT CASE RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BANADIR, SOMALIA

Since the collapse of the central government of Somalia in 1991, there has not been a streamlined approach to case management. In 2016, UNDP supported the government to establish the first-ever Court Case Record Management System in the Banadir region of Somalia. This system now functions in the courts of Mogadishu and the Attorney General's Office. The case management system is a key step toward reforming the judiciary in Somalia and ensuring a more fair, transparent, accountable, and effective court administration.

During the civil war in Somalia, the judiciary completely collapsed and continues to experience multi-faceted challenges, limiting its ability to deliver justice services to citizens. The implementation of the case management system represents a decisive break from the past, characterized by a lack of proper case recording and handling, as well as incomplete files and the absence of a central filing system. Judges, prosecutors, and registrars often kept case files in their personal custody, thus, restricting system-wide monitoring processes and resulting in the loss of files.

In 2016, UNDP supported the hiring of a national consultant to conduct an inclusive and participatory assessment, with judges, prosecutors, and other stakeholders, identifying gaps and deficiencies, producing recommendations, and designing a suitable and practical case management system. UNDP also provided financial support for required infrastructure, including public information desks, counters for the registrars, archives, computers, and printers. This support resulted in the successful establishment of the management system in the Supreme Court and Attorney General's Office, as well as the Banadir Appeal and Regional Courts. The system included a uniform and integrated procedure for case registration, a

standardized case filing system, and a user-friendly interface for indexing, docketing, tracking, processing, and reporting cases.

The system enabled the Attorney General's Office to produce monthly case statistics from March to December 2016. In these 10 months, the office received 345 criminal cases, resulting in 98 convictions and 106 acquittals. In addition, the Supreme Court, Banadir Appeal Court, and Banadir Regional Court generated a report documenting the handling of 1,315 criminal, civil, and administrative cases. Prior to 2016 the Courts did not possess the capacity to compile such reports, making the production of these case statistics a significant achievement that will lead to more accountable services for the population.

The Attorney General of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Dr. Ahmed Ali Dahir, commended the support of UNDP, stating, "the implementation of the case management system is one of the biggest and most substantive reforms undertaken in the judiciary in Somalia over the last two decades. The initiative is having a positive impact on the administration of justice in the country, improving internal accountability and reducing corruption."¹⁶ The Attorney General further requested that the initiative be expanded to district courts in Mogadishu and the judiciary in emerging Federal Member States. He also requested assistance for introducing an electronic version of the management system harmonized across the entire criminal justice sector. In 2017, the case management system is expected to improve internal accountability within the judiciary, develop court administration and performance, build public trust and confidence, and enhance service delivery.



» Somali National Police officers at the General Kahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

© UN PHOTO / ILYAS AHMED

2016 KEY RESULTS

BURUNDI

In Burundi, UNDP continued to support the Ministry of Justice's coordination frameworks at the national and provincial level to foster improved communication structures, transparency, and accountability throughout the system. As part of the national framework, the ministry gathered representatives of criminal justice institutions to address specific challenges facing the system that directly affect the population. Specifically, these meetings made it possible for the ministry to address the issue of "false" judiciary police warrants. To combat this, judicial authorities agreed that any warrant issued must now include the registration number of the judiciary police officer involved. In the absence of a verification number on a warrant, summoned suspects are not required to go to the police station.

GUINEA-BISSAU

UNDP is engaged in building the capacity of justice sector actors to ensure more effective and expeditious service delivery in Guinea-Bissau. In 2016, the UNDP-supported National Judicial Training Center inaugurated the international training of judges, prosecutors, and clerks under the South-South Cooperation Framework. Through this exchange, 12 judges and prosecutors from Guinea-Bissau benefited from training in Brazil to share knowledge and experiences in the fight against transnational crimes, organized crime, and human and drug trafficking. The beneficiaries of this training programme serve in courts located in remote areas of Guinea-Bissau, thereby expanding the administration of justice.

MALI

UNDP continued to provide support to Mali that enables the Ministry of Justice to establish adequate justice governance and accountability measures, develop human rights and anti-corruption frameworks, and roll out a communication strategy to increase public awareness of the peace agreement and its implementation. UNDP's joint programme with MINUSMA expedited assistance and service delivery by rehabilitating rule of law structures, building the capacity of justice personnel, and deploying government representatives to Northern cities. In 2016, the programme completed the rehabilitation of 11 courts that are now fully operational, disposing of 1,455 cases by the end of the year. In addition, the programme completed 17 legal aid centers and connected them to local courts, which are expected to provide services to approximately 3,000 people residing in Northern regions. The joint programme also supported law enforcement through the rehabilitation of one station for the Gendarmerie in Bankass, two police stations in Mopti and Ansongo, and two central prisons in Timbuktu and Gao.

“The Security Sector Reform (SSR) project implemented jointly by UNDP Iraq and the Government of Iraq is a timely response to Iraq's transition period. It is making a meaningful contribution to create a qualitative shift in the security sector both in the security and criminal justice spheres, as well as ensuring democratic oversight and respect for human rights.”

GENERAL NASEER MUTAR

Secretary General, Investigations and Intelligence Affairs Agency,
Ministry of Interior, Iraq

MYANMAR

Myanmar, the UNDP-supported Rule of Law Centres have been successful in bringing together government officials, justice service providers, and civil society organizations to discuss local justice issues through community forums. The forums have improved awareness of rights, roles, and responsibilities and provided a rare space for community engagement between justice stakeholders. UNDP supported 6 mobile trainings for community leaders in Kachin and Shan states, and 12 community forums in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Myitkynia. Graduates of the trainings held at the Rule of Law Centres reported that they have used the knowledge gained to help resolve legal issues at the local level, including in the provision of pro-bono legal services.

IRAQ

In Iraq, UNDP continued to support the Federal Government of Iraq to implement the National Security Strategy and a Security Sector Reform Strategy. UNDP works with the government on civilian oversight of SSR by engaging with the Parliamentary Defence Committee and civil society groups. In 2016, UNDP supported 33 working sessions on legislative reform, democratic governance and civilian oversight, and gender and security sector reform. Over 110 people participated in the sessions, including members of various government offices, civil society organizations, and academia. UNDP also organized a Regional Parliamentary Conference in December 2016 in Cairo, Egypt to improve regional cooperation on democratic governance and oversight of SSR. The conference brought together Parliamentary Defence Committee members from the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, including Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia.

STATE OF PALESTINE

UNDP and UN Women's joint programme, Sawasya, focused on supporting the State of Palestine to strengthen justice and security institutions and improve service delivery to the population, critical to fostering respect for human rights and the rule of law. For example, the programme provided technical support to establish a unified electronic warrant system across the police, prosecution, and courts, which is expected to significantly reduce delays. Additionally, the programme supported the establishment of 10 separate enforcement offices in the family courts across the West Bank, aimed at increasing the swift implementation of decisions. Furthermore, Sawasya supported mechanisms to increase the accountability and efficacy of the police, such as community policing projects in under-served communities in the West Bank, and the creation of a mobile application to enable citizens to quickly report issues to the police. The programme also worked with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission to pursue corruption cases and implement the UN Convention against Corruption.



COMMUNITY SECURITY

AND ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION

“Yemen is currently suffering a dire humanitarian crisis, with over 18.8 million Yemenis struggling to access basic services. To contribute to the stabilization of the country, my office reached out to UNDP and DPKO to rapidly mobilize expertise in policing and rule of law for supporting the redeployment of the police in key areas of the country. Under the GFP, the UN developed plans for this critical redeployment in support of the safety and security aspirations of the Yemeni people.”

ISMAIL OULD CHEIKH AHMED

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Violence and conflict not only disrupt everyday life, but have long-term effects on a country’s social fabric and economy. Persistent inequality, social exclusion, and under-development are among the underlying causes of violence.

In conflict-affected states, security threats can emanate from numerous sources, including poorly trained or managed civilian security services, armed groups and criminal gangs, or circulation and use of weapons. The resulting absence of safety means people are unable to invest their time or resources to improve their prospects for the future.

UNDP’s community security approach focuses on involving diverse members of the community to identify both the causes of insecurity, as well as solutions to improve their safety. This work is often

linked with measures to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). UNDP also aims to ensure that the security actors in crisis-affected situations are professional, accountable, and aware of human rights, especially to protect the most vulnerable. Strengthening civilian oversight of security services, developing community policing modalities, and training and equipping the police are key ways of enhancing the quality of services and allowing for safe and peaceful coexistence.

FEATURE

**DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL
IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

The negative effects of illicit possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) can be felt throughout Europe, undermining national institutions, economies, infrastructure, and the social cohesion of a country. South East Europe remains an area of concern, as a region of both origin and transit of SALW. As such, the region is reflected as a priority in the European Union Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition.¹⁷

The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), operating under the joint mandate of UNDP and the Regional Cooperation Council, successfully completed the implementation of the EU Council Decision 2013/730/CFSP in December 2016.¹⁸ Over the course of three years (2014 -2016), the EU-SEESAC Disarmament and Arms Control project¹⁹ supported activities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo (UN Administered Territory),²⁰ the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In cooperation with national counterparts, SEESAC increased the security of armament stockpiles in South East Europe, improving infrastructure in 11 storage sites and training 177 members of the police and armed forces on Physical Security and Stockpile Management.²¹ In addition, an estimated 17,266 SALW, 4,967 SALW parts and components, and 12,867 pieces of ammunition were destroyed throughout the region.²² Increased security and reduction of SALW and ammunition stockpiles significantly diminished the risk of theft and illicit proliferation of weapons.

To increase regional cooperation on SALW Control and further strengthen effective rule of law, SEESAC established and facilitated two regional mechanisms: the SALW Commissions²³ and the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network,²⁴ contributing to information sharing and knowledge transfer at both policy and law enforcement levels. Improvement of marking, tracing, and record-keeping of firearms capabilities throughout the region was ensured through support with equipment, tools, training, and standardization of operational procedures.

Lastly, SEESAC supported several local collection and awareness raising campaigns organized in partnership with key institutions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Moldova.²⁵ UNDP's regional social media campaigns discussed the dangers of celebratory shootings and victims of gun violence. Mapping of firearm-related incidents in Serbia, Albania, and Kosovo, and public opinion surveys on perceptions of firearms in Albania, were carried out in support of the effectiveness of these campaigns.²⁶

A new EU Council Decision 2016/2356 was adopted on 19 December 2016, extending support of SEESAC disarmament and arms control activities in South-East Europe for 2017–2019.²⁷ The continuation of these activities is crucial to build on progress made to further decrease the number of SALW in the region and its negative effects on the population, as well as reducing their misuse, illicit trafficking, and proliferation. Moreover, the ability to effectively implement arms control will encourage confidence in national institutions and strengthen rule of law in the region.



» Members of the BiH Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense during a 5 day training on the disposal of small caliber ammunition and usage of an explosive waste incinerator at the military ammunition disposal facility TROM in Doboj.



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2016 KEY RESULTS

EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, UNDP, the EU, and the Organization of American States led the Technical Secretariat of the National Council on Citizen Security and Coexistence, which provided the platform for implementing a holistic security plan “El Salvador Seguro.” The plan was created through a participatory and consensual process, which brought together the various actors of the National Council on Citizen Security, including all political parties, the private sector, academia, churches, and the international community. UNDP focused on the implementation of El Salvador Seguro in 26 prioritized municipalities. UNDP provided technical assistance to security institutions for the development of instruments, mechanisms, and technologies for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, and the organization of services and human resources. El Salvador Seguro considers prevention, control, rehabilitation, protection, and institutional strengthening and has thus far resulted in the reduction of the homicide rate by 20 points.

COLOMBIA

UNDP supported the design and implementation of security and justice services in rural areas of 12 municipalities and one department in Meta and Caquetá, two of the most violent and conflict-affected regions of Colombia. This has led to Integrated Citizen Security and Coexistence Plans in partnership with Colombian law enforcement agencies. In addition, UNDP supported local justice systems in 13 municipalities

in the context of the Rapid Response Strategy of the High Commissioner for Post-Conflict, Human Rights, and Security, which is coordinated with the Ministry of Justice. The Rapid Response Strategy supports conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level, violence and crime prevention in the process of laying down arms, and improved access to justice.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

During 2016, 3,447 police and gendarmerie personnel were officially registered in more than 10 prefectures in the Central African Republic. This enabled the police and gendarmerie to better plan deployment of security forces in the regions, modernize the human resources management system, and improve civilian oversight of security forces in the future. For the first time since the outbreak of the 2013 crisis, police and gendarmerie inspections took place, which enabled the redeployment of 150 police and gendarmerie officers to their rural posts. The reestablishment of the police and gendarmerie inspection unit, including building renovation, equipment acquisition, and training for personnel was crucial to this achievement.

JORDAN

UNDP launched the Community Cohesion Grant Mechanism in Jordan to enable civil society to establish platforms for inter-communal dialogues that will bring Syrian refugees and host communities together to manage perceptions and

INTERNATIONAL SMALL ARMS CONTROL STANDARDS

UNDP, in partnership with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, leads the UN system in developing and supporting the use of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). ISACS provide voluntary, practical guidance on putting in place effective national controls over the full life cycle of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Advocacy by regional organizations – in particular, the European Union, the African Union, and the Caribbean Community – enabled the standards to be used in more than 100 countries in 2016. Innovative uses of the standards, such as the assessment of the safety and security of a floating armory in the Gulf of Oman, also demonstrated their versatility. The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit trained government and UNDP officials from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, as well as officials from Togo and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to use the ISACS Assessment Tool to compare existing national SALW controls with international standards in order to identify priority areas. Furthermore, governments, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations used ISACS extensively in trainings designed to build national capacity on SALW control.

foster consensus on common challenges. In total, the grant mechanism benefited 73 organizations in 7 governorates, with the estimated potential of reaching a population of 2.7 million people. These inter-communal dialogue platforms are designed to encourage continuous interaction and increase trust between communities and in law enforcement. Additionally, UNDP's grant mechanism provided opportunities for civil society organizations to deliver community security and engagement services, which aim to enhance social cohesion in host communities and other areas where security tensions have been identified by the government.

LEBANON

UNDP and UNHCR supported the Ministry of Interior of Lebanon and local authorities to finalize standard operating procedures (SOP) for the Municipal Police through a large consultation process. This is the first time the Municipal Police of Lebanon have had procedures clarifying their role and responsibilities, which is an important step toward professionalizing the police and ensuring that they respond to the security needs of the population. Additionally, with support from the joint project, 503 municipalities (out of 1,108) conducted surveys to measure community tensions in 2016, providing national authorities with a better understanding of local level security needs. The data was processed and analyzed at the national level, through a conflict analysis software, to serve as an early warning tool and improve the

security response in municipalities. This is the first time municipalities in Lebanon have provided comprehensive and harmonized data on the security impact of the Syrian refugee crisis at the community level to the Ministry of Interior.

PAKISTAN

With increasing stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, UNDP has supported the police to readjust their role from traditional law enforcement to focusing on prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships. During 2016, UNDP trained a total of 1,303 police officials, judges and court staff, leaders, and prosecutors (of which 27 percent were female) on community policing. The institutional support provided through the project contributed to a reduction in the crime ratio by 8 percent.²⁸ In addition, enthusiasm and commitment from the police and the community for community policing initiatives continued, with 37 community policing forums supported in 2016. UNDP also established 18 model police stations in the province, refurbishing the stations and promoting gender-sensitive and community-oriented policing.



STRONG NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

Human rights constitute an important and objective tool to understand and address the inherent power issues underlying most contemporary development challenges. In many situations, the lack of respect for human rights fuels instability. The establishment of oversight commissions, such as national human rights institutions (NHRIs), can have a true impact in the reduction of human rights violations, especially in some of the most grievous incidences of torture, arbitrary imprisonment, and murder. Thus, integrating human rights principles within targeted rule of law support is key to sustaining transformative change and enhancing the rule of law, access to justice, and resilience.

UNDP engages with NHRIs and with the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), as key actors for human rights promotion and protection. NHRIs are independent state institutions with the mandate and authority to monitor and advise other institutions, such as the government, judiciary, and parliament, as well as security and law enforcement. In conflict-affected contexts, NHRIs play a crucial role in bridging accountability gaps where other justice oversight and complaint systems fail. UNDP supports Member States to build the capacities of NHRIs and

accountability mechanisms, engage with international human rights machinery such as the Human Rights Councils' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, and develop National Human Rights Action Plans. Furthermore, UNDP applies a human rights-based approach to development and crisis-related programming. This approach helps to strengthen the capacity and accountability of duty bearers and rights holders, and fosters understanding of complex power dynamics for more strategic and sustainable development initiatives that have lasting impact.

“In 2016, UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office have worked together to improve people's enjoyment of human rights across the world; and despite many challenging contexts, we look forward to pushing on with this essential work. Human rights are the core standards which underpin sustainable development - it is this key interlocking principle which drives the 2030 Agenda. Also, by joining efforts to support sound, accessible, and impartial rule of law institutions, and focusing on accountability and transitional justice, we will nourish the sources of peace and security.”

ZEID RA'AD AL HUSSEIN

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



» A Dogon woman winnows millet in Teli, on the Bandiagara Escarpment, in the central region of Mali.
© UN Photo/Marco Dormino



“GANHRI highly values the close cooperation we enjoy with UNDP and OHCHR since 2011, through our strategic partnership in support of NHRIs. Working together, we strengthened coordination and leveraged knowledge to build NHRI capacities worldwide. Looking ahead, we intend to scale up our cooperation through strengthening the global and regional NHRI networks. GANHRI is deeply grateful to UNDP for this unique, trustworthy, and effective partnership. We look forward to continuing to work together over the years ahead, to support NHRIs in sustaining peace, human rights, and development.”

PROF. DR. BEATE RUDOLF

Chairperson,
Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions

FEATURE

MONITORING THE RIGHTS OF DETAINEES IN SIERRA LEONE

The establishment of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone was provided for in the Lome Peace Agreement of 1999, and recommended again in the 2004 Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. In 2006, commissioners were finally sworn into office. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institution has accredited the institution with an “A” status since 2011.

Monitoring prison conditions and the rights of detainees is one of the priority areas for many national human rights institutions around the world. The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone has been working diligently to raise awareness on the plight of detainees and contribute to improving their treatment in places of detention through continuous visits to assess the conditions of detainees in relation to international human rights standards.

With support from UNDP, the commission inspected 36 detention facilities, including police and correctional centers, through initial and follow up visits in 2016. The assessments revealed that conditions of detention remain dire and some instances are life threatening to detainees. Issues such as gross overcrowding, food shortages, a lack of clean water, inadequate sanitary conditions, prolonged detention of suspects within police cells, and delays in charges against pre-trial detainees were identified by the commission as violating the rights of detainees.

Furthermore, the 6 correctional centers inspected were characterized by old, dilapidated structures with

poorly ventilated rooms. Due to the high imprisonment rate, prison congestion remains chronic. For example, the Pademba Road Male Correctional Centre was constructed to accommodate 324 inmates but currently hosts 1,905 inmates. The combination of severe prison overcrowding and the poor infrastructure of the buildings poses a serious threat to the welfare of the inmates, especially during the rainy season.

As a result of the assessments, the commission secured the release of 6 inmates who were on lengthy pre-trial detentions or were detained for several years without indictments or criminal records to ascertain the reason for their incarceration. Additionally, the commission made recommendations for strengthened collaboration and coordination between justice sector institutions (Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Legal Aid Board, Judiciary, Police, and Corrections, as well as civil society organizations), which has improved service delivery to inmates and simplified processes at police stations to enable suspects and accused persons to access justice. This long-term engagement by the commission to monitor the rights of detainees has started to yield dividends, and justice sector institutions are now willing to share experiences about issues and challenges affecting the delivery of services within their respective institutions. UNDP is committed to building on this momentum with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone to continue improving conditions for detainees.

2016 KEY RESULTS

LIBERIA

UNDP and OHCHR partnered with Liberia's Independent National Human Rights Commission to strengthen the transitional justice process commonly known as the Palava Hut. In 2016, the commission trained 249 members (47 percent female) to run the Palava Hut. 125 victims of the conflict participated in Palava Hut to address war-related grievances. Notably, 60 percent of the beneficiaries were female, which is a significant improvement as a previously male-dominated process. Additionally, 8 Palava Hut structures were reorganized to convene pilot talks guided by operating procedures developed in 2015.

HONDURAS

In partnership with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and OHCHR, UNDP supported a capacity assessment and strategic planning process for the National Human Rights Commission of Honduras. The capacity assessment resulted in concrete recommendations for improved implementation of the institution's mandate toward the promotion and protection of human rights. In response to the concerns of, and threats against, human rights defenders, the State Secretariat for Human Rights and Justice – in coordination with other line Ministries and with the support of UNDP – developed a National Action Plan for Human Rights in 2016. The human rights plan promoted advocacy efforts for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators, and justice operators.²⁹ Furthermore, the government launched the National Council for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

NEPAL

In Nepal, UNDP helped improve collaboration between the National Human Rights Commission, the National Dalit Commission, and the Women National Commission to advocate for the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and devise a joint monitoring framework. This collaboration is crucial to hold the government accountable to its commitments made through the UPR process. One result of the advocacy efforts can be seen in the Prime Minister's decision to establish a high-level monitoring group with the national police to address cases of discrimination and gender-based violence. In 2016 alone, the working group monitored 37 cases.

SRI LANKA

UNDP in Sri Lanka supported the Human Rights Commission to conduct a report about children deprived of liberty based on a review of 18 detention centers across the country. In 2016, UNDP and UNHCR supported the Human Rights Commission to ensure the continued provision of services in the conflict-affected districts in the North and Northwest and to strengthen its institutional capacities, including its public

engagement, outreach, and communications. These efforts were complemented by UNDP support for human rights-based policy development, including through the drafting of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-affected Displacement, as well as increased reporting to the human rights treaty bodies.

SUDAN

UNDP increased the accessibility of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission through the development and installation of an automated complaints managements system, enabling people to lodge human rights complaints online. The presence of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission was also expanded into Darfur. This was a major milestone toward providing truth and redress to victims in a previously closed space.

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, the population's access to the national human rights institution, the Ombudspersons Office, has substantially increased with UNDP support. The network of the Ombudsperson Office expanded to cover all 24 regions of Ukraine and includes 21 Regional Coordinators. In 2016 alone, the regional network received 1,238 citizens in their offices, provided over 4,000 consultations, monitored 716 court trials, and conducted 273 monitoring visits to places of detention. The independent information gathered by the commission, is a crucial avenue to generate accountability and provide long-term justice for victims of human rights abuses.



» Women in the Terai region of Nepal, where UNDP supports projects for the protection and promotion of human rights.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Despite widespread development gains achieved under the Millennium Development Goals and the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inequality, discrimination, and exclusion remain severe obstacles to universal human development. Often, marginalized groups are disempowered and deprived of their rights, voice, and agency, which consequently increases their vulnerability. Moreover, the extremely impoverished – and other marginalized groups – may not be aware of their legal rights and often lack legal protection and access to mechanisms to remedy their grievances.

UNDP focuses on addressing the demand-side of security, justice, and human rights to nurture public trust and confidence by supporting the need for accessible and effective services. UNDP supports Member States to expand access to justice, especially for women, youth, persons with disabilities, marginalized groups, and displaced communities. This includes the use of mobile courts to resolve criminal and civil matters in hard-to-reach areas.

Additionally, helping people to understand and enforce their rights, as well as access remedies, is crucial for long-term impact. UNDP engages in community legal awareness programmes and works directly with justice and security institutions to address the needs of disadvantaged groups in accessing justice, from linguistic and geographic barriers to issues of systemic discrimination and marginalization.

FEATURE

**THE FIRST MOBILE COURT SESSIONS
IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains precarious outside the capital Bangui, where the population continues to turn to a range of non-state actors for their protection, namely armed groups and religious institutions, as well as international humanitarian and peacekeeping organizations. In this context, the redeployment of effective administration, including judicial institutions, is critical to reaffirming the presence of the state and increasing access to justice throughout the country.

For the first time since the 2013 crisis, 23 mobile court sessions were organized with UNDP support in the eastern (Bria), center (Bossembélé and Bossangoa), and western (Bouar) regions of CAR. Only civil cases were processed during these first sessions, as the security situation continues to inhibit criminal investigations. Beyond providing access to justice for remote areas, the sessions aimed to foster confidence in the state by demonstrating a break from the past and contributing to the broader peacebuilding process in the country. Over the course of the year, the mobile courts issued supplementary judgements for 7,714 birth certificates, which provided the recipients an opportunity to request birth certificates in order to ensure their rights to education, health, and other social services.

Unfortunately, the supplementary judgements provided through the mobile courts have not yet been transformed into the physical attainment of birth certificates. The Government of the Central African Republic requires the population to pay for the birth certificates, even though the overwhelming majority of people are unable to afford them. UNDP will continue to support the government for identifying feasible solutions to this dilemma that will benefit both the population and the state.

Despite the challenges, the deployment of mobile courts in CAR marked significant progress toward increasing access to justice for the population. Hundreds of people attended each of the sessions, which was particularly impressive considering the sessions focused solely on processing official civil status documents. The high number of attendees at these first mobile court sessions demonstrated the population's true demand for justice. The people of CAR need more than just the presence of the state in their communities; they need services that have a direct impact on their wellbeing. Thus, sustaining peace in CAR will not be met by merely redeploying magistrates and reopening courts, but by providing concrete justice services that respond to the needs of the population. Through this approach, UNDP will remain engaged in efforts to support CAR to strengthen the rule of law and human rights.



“The Access to Justice local network in Gaza Strip is a network of legal aid providers that was established in 2011, with the support of the UNDP-UN Women Sawasya programme in a very fragile, unstable, and challenging environment. The network now, after 6 years of work, has more than 40 pro bono lawyers in the Gaza Strip and is a model for networking and coordination between legal aid providers, with a tangible positive impact for vulnerable people seeking access to justice.”

IYAD ABU HIJAIR

Assistant Secretary of the Access to Justice Network

2016 KEY RESULTS

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Through a small grant programme, UNDP, in partnership with three members of the Free Legal Aid Network in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a significantly expanded territorial coverage and increased access to free legal aid services in four cantons/districts and 18 municipalities, enabling better delivery of justice and referrals. In 2016, the members provided free legal aid services through mobile teams to 69 children and 1,942 women, including 78 conflict-related sexual violence survivors. An additional 734 people received online free legal aid services. UNDP also supported the establishment of a referral mechanism that enhances cooperation and coordination among free legal aid providers, centers for social work, witness support offices, and other relevant actors. This referral mechanism ensured that specialized support was accessible to vulnerable groups in four cantons/districts.

KYRGZ REPUBLIC

UNDP continued to improve access to legal aid and justice services in rural areas of the Kyrgyz Republic through pilot projects in Osh and Chui provinces. The pilot projects provided free legal aid to 18,091 people and advised 16,807 people on topics such as land disputes, inheritance, recovery of alimony, payment of taxes, and real estate. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice reached remote areas with the UNDP-supported mobile legal aid initiative commonly known as the “Solidarity Bus.” The mobile initiative visited 173 village municipalities, where

3,486 free legal consultations were provided to 3,386 people (55 percent female). The state registration service also used a mobile initiative to reach 1,607 people (54 percent female) and helped 1,208 people from the rural communities obtain legal documents to secure their legal identity for their rights to education and other basic services.

KOSOVO³⁰

UNDP supported increased access to justice for women and minorities through the application and promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in Kosovo. In 2016 alone, UNDP helped 651 women resolve their disputes through mediation, of which 139 beneficiaries were from non-majority communities. UNDP also supported the Ministry of Justice to draft the new Law on Mediation, which was approved in the first reading by the Assembly of Kosovo in December 2016. The revised law provides a more efficient, effective, and financially sustainable mediation system, whereby the citizens can resolve their disputes in a much faster and cost-efficient way.³¹ The law provides that dispute settlements of the citizens’ self-referred cases are legally binding. In addition, the law obliges the parties in the dispute to try mediation first, before entering a formal judicial process. In 2016, the number of cases resolved through mediation increased to 812 cases compared to 747 cases in 2015. Once implemented, the reformed law will enable more cases to be resolved, further improving and sustaining people’s access to justice.



» A volunteer paralegal at a UNDP-supported legal aid clinic in Burundi provides guidance to a couple on their rights and the resources available.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, UNDP's support contributed to the institutionalization of legal aid desks, as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Bar Council formally adopted the legal aid desks and recognized the Legal Aid Committees as official committees of the Bar Council. This development was key for enabling poor and marginalized segments of the population to access free legal aid. In 2016, 7,009 community members (3,290 women) accessed free legal aid. UNDP also facilitated a wider dialogue and discussion on the role of community-based paralegals in Pakistan. Key stakeholders have called for the full recognition of paralegals in communities, governments, and the legal system. UNDP supported the development of a new certificate programme at the University of Malakand and trained 170 paralegals (49 percent women), contributing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SOMALIA

In Somalia, UNDP sponsored mobile courts to reach remote areas and bridge informal and formal justice mechanisms through local mediation techniques. In 2016, mobile courts adjudicated 1,233 cases (251 criminal and 79 civil), 330 of which the Benadir Region Mobile Courts processed at the federal level. UNDP also supported radio programmes and awareness sessions to provide information on the availability and use of legal aid services to 667,890 people in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, and Puntland, as well as 4,180 (1,421 women and 2,759

men) in Somaliland.³² Additionally, women and girls in Puntland received education about legal rights, women and children's rights, refugee rights, SGBV, and gender equality, as well as the function and mandate of the formal justice system in relation to customary justice.

TIMOR-LESTE

In partnership with the Court of Appeal, UNDP has established mobile courts across Timor-Leste, scaling-up from one pilot in the Suai district in 2010 to full national reach in 2014, apart from Oecusse district. In 2016, the mobile courts served approximately 807 people, of which 33 percent were females. Mobile courts also disposed of three civil cases and 324 criminal cases, including 198 cases related to gender-based violence. Additionally, UNDP supported the launching of state-owned legal aid clinics in two pilot districts, Baucau and Suai, which will fully operate in 2017. The mobile courts initiative and legal aid clinics are critical to providing access to formal justice mechanisms to people in the outlying districts.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Societies with histories of violent conflict are particularly fragile and vulnerable to instability. Often, violence ceases but the root causes of the conflict are left unaddressed, citizen grievances are not heard, and impunity riddles communities trying to rebuild, deepening marginalization and discontent. UNDP recognizes that enhancing rule of law institutions' capacity through transitional justice processes helps provide truth, redress, and a voice to victims that establishes an authentic foundation for lasting peace and development.

UNDP focuses on implementing context-specific and participatory transitional justice processes in support of broader peacebuilding objectives, particularly those that foster peace and equity through inclusive and democratic governance. UNDP supports Member States to address legacies of violence through nationally -owned transitional justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and local processes, as well as by facilitating reparations for victims

and strengthening formal justice institutions to enable complementarity. UNDP works to ensure that transitional justice processes are not deployed in discriminatory ways and treat every instance objectively and equitably. Enabling nationally-owned mechanisms that are responsive to all victim and society groups requires a sophisticated understanding of context to ensure that the processes break down societal divisions rather than deepen them.

FEATURE

THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARINGS OF THE TUNISIA TRUTH AND DIGNITY COMMISSION



» The audience listens intently at the first public hearings of the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia.

© UNDP TUNISIA

In Tunisia, 2016 marked the end of the 18-month-long victim registration phase of human rights violations committed by the state under Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. The public hearings of the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) began, signaling the first-time Tunisians publicly confronted the abuses of past authoritarian powers. The abuses ranged from arbitrary arrests and torture to enforced disappearance, assassination, and social and professional persecutions.

The public hearings highlighted the need for transitional justice and the IVD, as redress for past abuses and guarantees for non-repetition have been neglected in favor of economic recovery and anti-terrorism measures. These hearings took place in Club Elyssa, which was once owned by the wife of ousted President Ben Ali, symbolizing the fall of the dictatorship and paying tribute to the victims.

The first four hearings³³ provided space for 25 victims (12 women and 13 men) to testify how the arbitrary system, employed by the former dictatorship, negatively impacted their lives and those of their family members. The victims included leftist and extreme left-wing activists (particularly active during the 1960s and 1970s), trade unionists and Islamists (from the 1980s), young victims (from the 2010 and 2011 demonstrations), and an army officer arrested and tortured as part of the 1991 military plot of Barraket Essahel. The variety of the victims illustrated the scale and breadth of human rights violations committed by the state from 1955 to 2011.

The media covered the public hearings widely, in part due to broadcasting agreements signed by the IVD with

6 television channels, including two foreign channels, four national radio stations, and two news agencies, which transmitted the hearings live and without interruption. These first hearings were followed by 61.9 percent of Tunisians.³⁴ In addition to traditional media, social networks provided livestreaming of the hearings with simultaneous interpretation in French and English. Data showed more than one million people followed the live streaming, making the first public hearings the most viewed event in 2016 in Tunisia. Thorough media coverage of the public hearings raised awareness of the human rights abuses committed from 1955 to 2011 and put pressure on the state to recognize the violations that took place.

The public hearings were the result of important preparatory work supported by UNDP, including the registration of nearly 62,300 applications including 14,601 female victims (23 percent) and 30 cases in marginalized areas. Additional preparatory work included: investigation and historical research on the phases of repression and various violations; development of a communications strategy and training of journalists to ensure neutral and accessible media coverage; development of the methodology to be applied during the hearings; and the establishment of functional mechanisms for the protection of victims. This preliminary work enabled the IVD to provide appropriate representation of victims, considering both gender-sensitivity and the different historical periods of the repression. These public hearings are only the beginning of a long process, which UNDP will continue to support.



2016 KEY RESULTS

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

In 2016, UNDP established two new witness support offices (16 in total) in Bosnia-Herzegovina to enhance access to psychological support and the protection of victims and witnesses. These offices are fully integrated into the government structure in the Cantonal Court of Zenica and the Prosecutor's Office of the District Trebinje and have increased the efficiency of proceedings, as well as the number of victims and witnesses who received adequate emotional, legal, physiological, and logistical support. Furthermore, the UNDP-supported Witness Support Network aided 890 victims and witnesses in 1,788 criminal cases in 2016.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In 2016, UNDP supported the Central African Republic (CAR) to organize their second criminal session, adjudicating a total of 41 criminal cases (76 individuals), which for the first time included four SGBV cases. Additionally, the Special Criminal Court, established by law in 2015 to prosecute grave crimes committed since 2005, made important progress to become operational. With UNDP and MINUSCA support, the Special Criminal Court produced a security plan for personnel of the court and a protection strategy for witnesses and victims, established a transparent and competitive process for the selection of national magistrates, and achieved the necessary steps to allow for the arrival of the seconded international magistrates. Furthermore, a human rights mapping exercise, which was led by OHCHR and supported by UNDP and MINUSCA, identified more than 500 cases of grave human rights violations that took place during the crisis and will be used by the Special Criminal Court to prosecute perpetrators.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In DRC, the military justice system made significant advances in investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating grave crimes, including international crimes. From June 2015 to June 2016, mistrust of military justice decreased from 75 percent to 67 percent.³⁵ In 2016, the military justice system, with UNDP support, prosecuted a total of 25 cases related to international crimes and investigated more than 260 ordinary cases related to murders and crimes of violence.³⁶ 13 of the 25 international crime cases prosecuted were adjudicated, which is a significant improvement in the follow through of judicial cases up to the rendering of the decision from previous years. Between 2011 and 2014, less than 10 similar cases had been adjudicated.

GUATEMALA


Within the context of the 20th anniversary of the Peace Accords in Guatemala, UNDP, with OHCHR, supported various victim's organizations to lead five regional grassroots consultations and evaluate the degree of the state's fulfillment of the agreements. The participants analyzed progress and obstacles related to the search for the disappeared, access to justice, the provision of reparations, and the implementation of recommendations from the Commission for Historical Clarification. The consultations identified several priorities, including a law creating a National Commission to Search for Disappeared Persons, an increased budget for the National Reparations Program, enhancing investigations and adjudication of crimes, and the commemoration of a National Victims Day.³⁷

SUDAN

UNDP and UN Women supported the establishment of the Darfur Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sudan to address reconciliation for vulnerable groups, namely women, children, and minorities. This support led to the establishment of four specific Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Centers, the enhancement of rural court capacity, and the engagement of local stakeholders in reconciliation, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in Darfur. Additionally, the Darfur Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, with UNDP support, sent 22 people to Rwanda to exchange best practices from the Rwandan context for reconciliation, truth-telling, dialogue, mediation processes, and the use of formal justice mechanisms.

SOUTH SUDAN

With UNDP support, The Ministry of Justice of South Sudan established a Technical Committee to conduct national consultations regarding the legal framework for the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing. UNDP further supported civil society organizations to form a Transitional Justice Working Group, creating a platform for civic engagement in transitional justice mechanisms. In 2016, the working group finalized and launched their five-year strategic plan. Additionally, UNDP provided grants to civil society organizations to conduct outreach activities, which successfully reached 887 people (545 females), increasing knowledge of transitional justice amongst the population.

A photograph of two women at a burial site. On the left, a woman with dark hair and a somber expression holds a white rose. On the right, an elderly woman with a white headscarf and a blue shawl looks down with a sorrowful expression. The background is blurred, showing greenery and other people.

» Cipriana [Right] at the burial of her husband and son, in the Laguna Seca village of Guatemala, who were killed during the internal armed conflict. UNDP's transitional justice project PAJUST supported the exhumation of their bodies, along with many others and provides legal and psychosocial assistance to the affected community.
© UNDP Guatemala

“UNDP has proven to be an important and reliable partner of the special procedures mandate. UNDP’s deep, cross-regional experience supporting transitional justice processes has allowed it to accumulate knowledge, expertise, and a relevant network amongst civil society. Transitional justice is one part of a complex constellation of policies that countries emerging from authoritarian rule or from conflict need to adopt. The linkages between security, development, and human rights are not merely conceptual, they need to receive policy-expression. The fact that transitional justice is part of the broader rule of law UNDP expertise is very important to translate policy into sector wide implementation.”

PABLO DE GREIFF

Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

JUSTICE, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

“Since 2013, UN Women has been working hand in hand with UNDP, DPKO, and other key partners in the Global Focal Point arrangement to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment through rule of law initiatives in many challenging contexts. In particular, UNDP has been an invaluable partner with an impressive track record, collaborating in joint UNDP-UN Women access to justice programmes, which have benefitted thousands of women and girls from Mali to Palestine. The commonality in both entities’ approach to integrating development with human rights and peace and security perspectives – as well as prioritizing the provision of justice and legal services for women – has undoubtedly contributed to more gender-responsive peace- and state- building processes.”

YANNICK GLEMAREC

Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme,
UN Women

Violence and conflict weaken systems of protection, security, and justice and often exacerbate gender inequality and discrimination. In these contexts, women and girls often experience a lack of access to justice and security and greater violations of their human rights.

Furthermore, contexts which are affected by violence and conflict often see escalation in rates of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) – by which women and girls are often disproportionately affected. These crimes have devastating, long-term effects on the lives of victims, their families, and the social fabric of communities.

UNDP works with national partners to increase their capacities to prevent and respond to SGBV. This includes efforts to foster a culture of awareness of the ills of SGBV, create and employ preventative

mechanisms, fight impunity for these crimes, mobilize men in advocacy efforts, and provide survivors with psychosocial and socioeconomic support. Beyond tailored approaches to address SGBV, UNDP supports national and local authorities to empower women and girls through gender-conscious justice and security service delivery. For example, UNDP works with state and non-state actors to increase women’s participation and leadership in justice and security institutions and to develop and apply inclusive legal frameworks.

FEATURE

ADDRESSING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA



» District level discussion on strengthening the SGBV referral pathway with key service providers, community groups, and district level officers in Sri Lanka.

© MWCA / PRIYANTHA WEERAKOON

UNDP Sri Lanka, with support from the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), has been working on policy development with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Women and Child Affairs on cross-sectoral approaches for addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Additionally, UNDP has been working at the community level with civil society organizations (CSOs) to deliver legal and psycho-social services to survivors of SGBV.

In 2016, UNDP supported the development of the National Plan of Action to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Sri Lanka, which was launched in November 2016. The National Plan of Action identifies key entry points to address SGBV issues across various sectors, including health, education, and justice. UNDP also supported the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to organize workshops that brought together different ministries and implementing partners to prioritize and operationalize the action plan. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has taken full leadership of the implementation process and will hold several sector-wide meetings in 2017.

In order to enhance justice sector capacity for addressing SGBV, UNDP supported specific training programmes on data collection techniques for SGBV, the development of SGBV-sensitive and gender-responsive policing, and programmes for magistrates on gender sensitivity, handling

SGBV cases, and awareness of provisions within the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. These capacity development initiatives have increased the attention and understanding of justice sector actors and have encouraged more gender-sensitive service delivery. UNDP Sri Lanka conducted follow-up consultations with the participants of these trainings, confirming that the information provided has helped participants approach SGBV victims with more understanding and sensitivity.

UNDP has also worked with state and civil society actors to establish networks and referral mechanisms in three project districts (Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, and Ratnapura) in partnership with local authorities. Strengthening these referral mechanisms contributes to more efficient service provision and case management, with the participation of important stakeholders such as the police, medical officers, midwives, and representatives from CSOs.

At the community level, UNDP has partnered with CSOs to provide legal assistance to 480 survivors of SGBV in Anuradhapura, Ratnapura, Batticaloa, and Colombo. The programme also supports psychological counseling for the victims. The provision of holistic services for SGBV victims is vital to ensuring that women have access to essential services that enable them to secure their independence and restore their confidence as they emerge from abusive relationships.

2016 KEY RESULTS

AFGHANISTAN

Domestic violence is one of the most serious challenges for women in Afghanistan, with more than 87 percent of women experiencing some form of violence in their lifetime.³⁸ In order to respond and prevent violence against women, UNDP supported the government to establish a pilot Elimination of Violence Against Women Court in March 2016 in Kabul. The court aims to ensure SGBV cases are properly documented and tried, and a victim-centered approach is followed, including psycho-social support. In 2016, the court handled over 174 cases, and a verdict was issued in 62 percent of the cases. Expansion of this pilot to 15 additional provinces is expected during 2017–2018 in the Afghanistan Justice and Judicial Reform Plan.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In 2016, UNDP supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve access to justice for the most vulnerable, notably in relation to SGBV cases. A total of 10,091 persons (58.6 percent women) received information and guidance from legal clinics in Eastern DRC, and 263 sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) victims were referred to courts. To facilitate the efficient transfer of SGBV cases to the courts, UNDP provided support to 6 Special Cells to Combat Sexual Violence in the Prosecution Offices of Bunia, Uvira, Kamituga, Kavumu, Goma, and Beni. These cells operate with the permanent presence of designated magistrates that deal specifically with sexual violence cases to conduct judicial inquiries and regular inspections of detention houses.

IRAQ

One of the major consequences of the crisis and presence of ISIL in Iraq has been widespread, conflict-related sexual violence. UNDP supports measures to increase access to justice for displaced populations in Iraq, with attention to the unique needs of women. In 2016, UNDP supported 6 Legal Aid Centers in Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaimaniya, and Baghdad that processed 12,036 IDP and refugee cases. Most cases dealt with issues related to SGBV and legal documentation. Out of those who sought help, 80 percent were women.

SIERRA LEONE

In 2016, UNDP provided technical expertise and funding to Sierra Leone's judiciary for the reactivation of Saturday Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts, providing justice services to victims of SGBV. Due to the sensitive nature of these cases, the sessions are held on Saturdays to ensure witness and victim protection. Additionally, UNDP supported civil society organizations to support SGBV victim redress and rehabilitation, as well as to conduct legal aid outreach sessions. The Sierra Leone Family Support Unit and civil society partners raised awareness about the ills of SGBV and female genital mutilation in 20 communities throughout Sierra Leone. Additionally, 2,281 residents attended community consultation sessions, and 144 survivors received access to police, medical, and legal services. The UN Standing Police Capacity and the International Association of Women Police also worked with UNDP to improve gender mainstreaming in national institutions by providing trainings to more than 300 personnel, including the police and the Office of National Security.

STATE OF PALESTINE

UNDP and UN Women contribute to strengthening institutional responses to gender-based violence and increasing access to justice for women and girls in the State of Palestine, through the joint programme known as Sawasya. In 2016, Sawasya supported the provision of legal aid, including legal consultation, mediation, and representation in court to approximately 28,000 people (15,400 women and 2,500 children) across the West Bank and Gaza. The government also formally adopted the Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy, making the State of Palestine the first in the Arab region with a police gender strategy. Sawasya also continued to enhance the capacity of the civil police's Family and Juvenile Protection Units and supported the pilot "One-Stop Centre" to provide multi-sectoral support to female victims of violence. The Palestinian Attorney General announced the formal establishment of a Specialized Prosecution Unit for Protection from Family Violence, in line with the draft Family Protection bill which is currently being finalized with support from Sawasya.

SUDAN

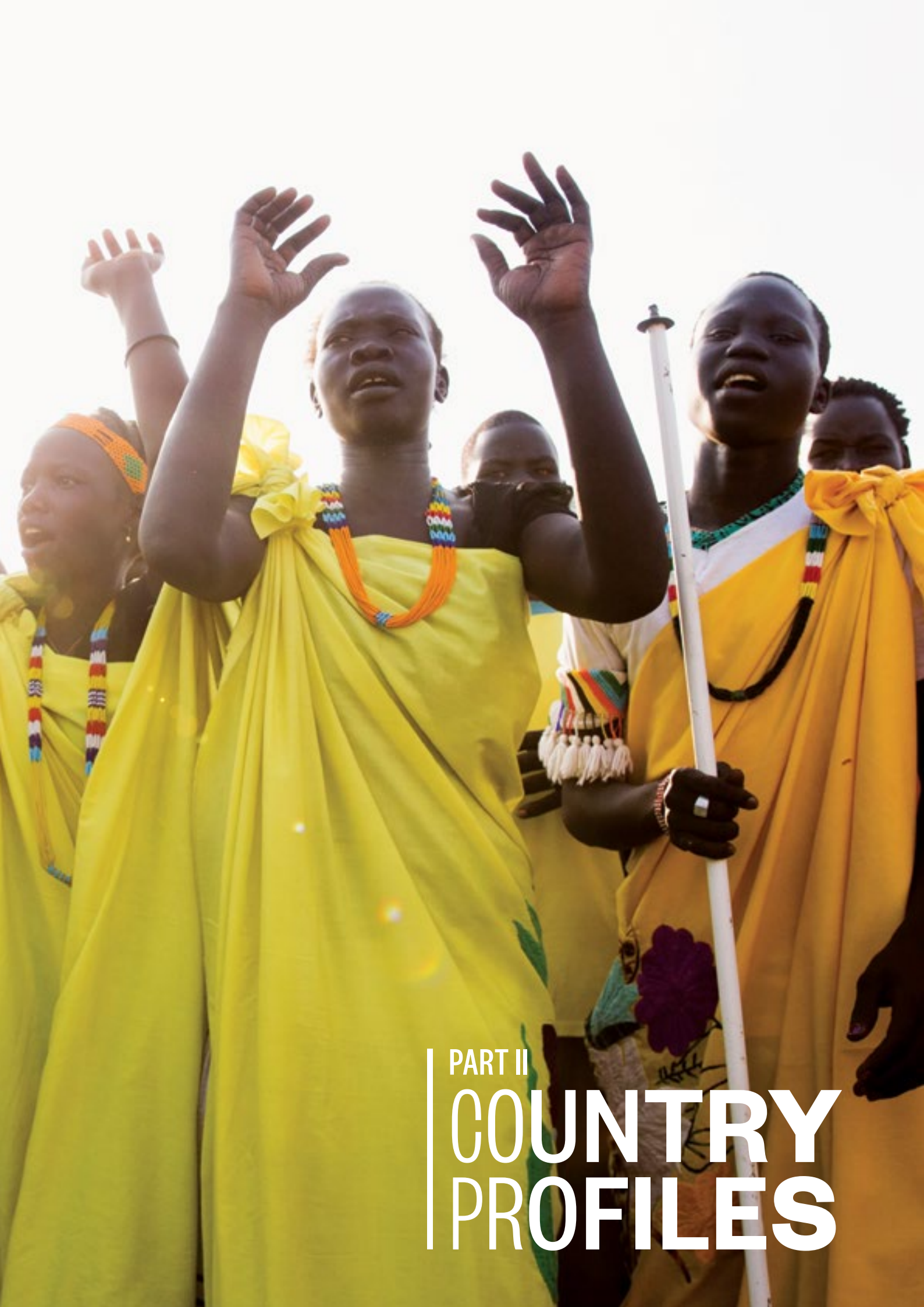
UNDP supported five key civil society organizations in Sudan to establish a women's network in Khartoum state to provide legal aid, psychosocial services, and economic empowerment for vulnerable women. Over the course of the year, the network formed three women's groups with a total membership of 40 women to utilize an integrated and inclusive approach to empower vulnerable women, including ex-prisoners, gender-based violence survivors, and single mothers. Through the network, legal aid services were rendered to 61 cases, and psycho-social and medical support benefited 35 victims of SGBV. The network also created a business support mechanism with the use of grants, internal loans, and savings accounts and supported 7 female-owned businesses. Additionally, the network launched a radio program to promote the voices of the women and their business products.

TIMOR-LESTE

UNDP focuses on advancing gender-responsive services and strengthening national police capacities in Timor-Leste. In 2016, UNDP supported a gender assessment of the national police pilot programmes and the roll-out of gender capacity building trainings, focusing on the thematic areas of gender-responsive needs assessments, gender equality at work, and sexual and gender-based violence. UNDP also supported the national police to organize a workshop on gender-responsive planning, with the participation of 60 national police commanders. The assessment and workshop outcomes will inform future planning exercises for the police to enhance justice and security services for women and girls.



» Women leaders gather at the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site in Malakal, Upper Nile State, South Sudan.
© UN Photo / JC Mollwaine

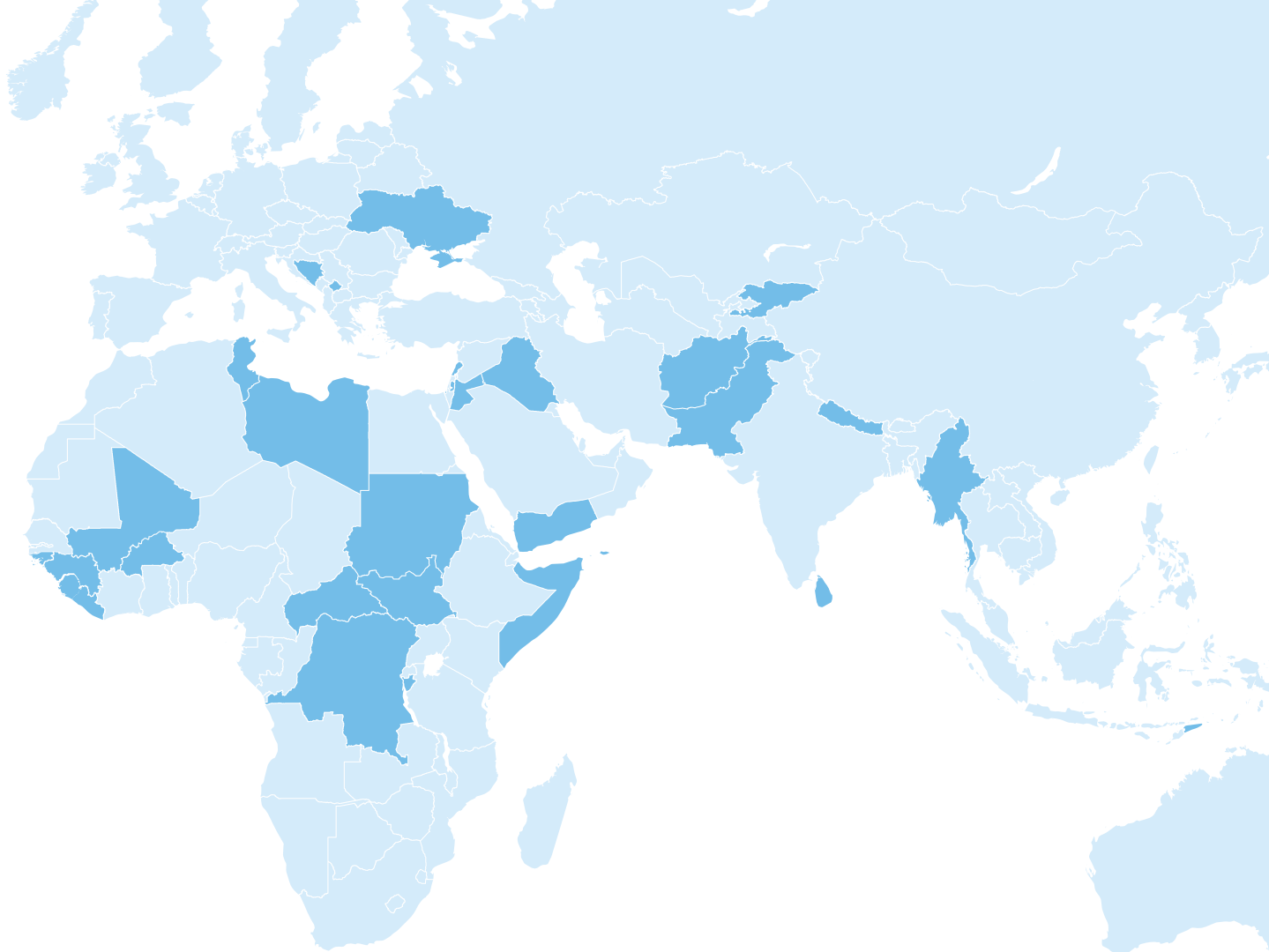


PART II
**COUNTRY
PROFILES**



UNDP provides support to nearly 170 countries, about 40 of which, affected by crisis and conflict, have received rule of law support through the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development.

This section presents detailed country-by-country assistance provided, programmes implemented, and results achieved in 2016 in the following 34 countries.



AFGHANISTAN

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

BURKINA FASO

BURUNDI

**CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

COLOMBIA

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

EL SALVADOR

GUATEMALA

GUINEA (CONAKRY)

GUINEA-BISSAU

HAITI

HONDURAS

IRAQ

JORDAN

**KOSOVO
(UN ADMINISTERED TERRITORY)³⁹**

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

LEBANON

LIBERIA

LIBYA

MALI

MYANMAR

NEPAL

PAKISTAN

SIERRA LEONE

SOMALIA

SOUTH SUDAN

SRI LANKA

STATE OF PALESTINE

SUDAN

TIMOR-LESTE

TUNISIA

UKRAINE

YEMEN



AFGHANISTAN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$486,526,708

BACKGROUND

The National Unity Government of Afghanistan marked its second anniversary amid internal and external challenges. The relations between the President and Chief Executive were strained, and parliament impeached several ministers. Political compacts remained fragile as the government and the Hizb-i-Islami signed a peace agreement without the Taliban.

The security situation continued to deteriorate in 2016, with intensifying armed clashes between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban in rural districts and several provincial capitals. Incidents of armed clashes rose by 22 percent from 2015, the highest increase since 2007. A high number of military and civilian casualties were recorded, including 11,418 civilian casualties in 2016.⁴⁰

According to UN OCHA, 2016 was the highest year on record for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan. Over 515,865 people from 31 of the 34 provinces were forced to flee their homes, with more than 240,000 displaced.⁴¹ Additionally, more than 600,000 people from Pakistan and another 427,000 undocumented refugees and deportees from Iran arrived in Afghanistan, challenging government capacity and resources.

The Afghan economy remains highly dependent on international aid and is greatly affected by the security and political situation. A low agricultural yield, rapid rise in unemployment (exacerbated by the influx of returnees from Pakistan), and widening inequality amid persistent poverty remain critical economic challenges.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Within this complex environment, UNDP continued to administer the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan to pay the salaries of approximately 149,000 Afghan National Police officers and over 5,924 Central Prisons Department personnel. The fund has allowed for the stabilization of salary processing and disbursement, enabling the Ministry of Interior Affairs to maintain a stable national police force. UNDP supported the Ministry of Interior Affairs to strengthen its capacity to independently manage payroll. The

department made significant progress on its targets and is preparing to take over trust fund payroll management functions by the end of 2017.

UNDP also completed two assessments on Human Rights Due Diligence and the Police Legal Framework, ensuring the national police conform to human rights and gender standards. The Police Legal Framework assessment generated 160 recommendations for law harmonization and legal reform.⁴² This complemented the approval of 191 civilian positions in the Ministry of Interior Affairs and a Civilianization Road Map, outlining human resources within the Ministry that targets administrative, operational, and specialty area positions. This reform process will enable police professionals to focus on their role in maintaining law and order with crucial civilian support.

In addition, UNDP supported 40 police officers to begin a master's preparatory programme at American University in Kabul. Efforts to increase the number of professional females in the police continued in 2016, with the training of 250 Afghan female cadets at the Police Vocational Training Centre in Turkey. In total, 930 female cadets have completed this training programme. UNDP is now developing a deployment strategy to ensure that female cadets are placed in strategic positions for the greatest impact. Protective measures for female officers in the police are also being discussed to address the specific difficulties they face and increase the likelihood that they will continue serving in the police.

Increasing public trust in the Afghan police is a core component of UNDP's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police Development project, thus offices for "Police-e-Mardumi" units were established in 12 provinces and community partnership councils in 2016.⁴³ Additionally, the 119 Emergency Call Centre in Kabul installed new equipment to enable 20 individual call takers to support police operations. The 119 Emergency Call Centre has become the main way for Kabul residents to access police and is a critical link for police-community relations.

UNDP continued to support the country's justice institutions through the Afghanistan Access to Justice project. The project ensured that SGBV cases referred to the pilot Elimination of Violence Against Women Court

were properly documented and that victims received support. The court handled over 174 cases in 2016. This work was complemented by awareness-raising campaigns for women's rights. 55.4 percent of women who have used the state courts have indicated that courts treat men and women equally.⁴⁴

UNDP's support also enabled the Legal Aid Grant Facility to provide services to 712 women, children, prisoners, and people in pre-trial detention for violence, murder, theft, adultery, and corruption-related cases. 191 people who benefitted from the services were from non-urban districts. The Legal Aid Grant Facility currently covers 8 provinces and is set to expand to at least four additional provinces in 2017. The facility also plans to add returnees as a new beneficiary group.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

UNDP's efforts to support rule of law reforms in Afghanistan have been adversely affected by insecurity, which has placed pressure on development resources. The government has not been able to adequately fund justice institutions; thus, their capacities remain inadequate to provide timely services.

Currently, the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan operates as a cost-sharing project supporting the Ministry of Interior Affairs and national police and is implemented in conjunction with UNDP's access to justice project. This funding structure limits UNDP's potential to comprehensively support the rule of law in Afghanistan, as funding is earmarked only for police and security forces and does not provide for other initiatives. In 2017, UNDP will work toward strengthening the efficacy of the trust fund by linking support to the police with efforts to increase access to justice. The Justice and Judicial Reform Plan defines the government's broader priorities for rule of law, which provides an entry point for increased coherence. UNDP expects to redesign an evidence-based programmatic approach with sector-wide programming. The new programme will be created to respond to rule of law, justice, security, and human rights gaps and

» Children in Nili Municipality, the capital of Daikundi Province in Afghanistan.



© UNDP AFGHANISTAN

opportunities while distributing programmatic funds strategically over multiple years.

UNDP will also continue supporting institutional development of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the police in 2017. This will be complemented by strengthening the Ministry of Justice's legislative drafting and human rights capacities, supporting legal aid and service awareness, and assisting in coordinated responses to SGBV.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Law and Order Trust Fund provided salary payments to approximately 149,000 Afghan National Police officers and 5,924 officers for the General Directorate for Prisons and Detention Centers in all 34 provinces.
- The trust fund established "Police-e-Mardumi" units in 12 provinces and community partnership councils to enhance the engagement of police with local communities on security issues.
- 250 Afghan female cadets were trained at the Police Vocational Training Centre in Turkey.
- The Ending Violence Against Women pilot court processed over 174 cases in 2016.
- The Legal Aid Grant Facility provided services to 712 women, children, prisoners, and people in pre-trial detention.



BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$628,408

BACKGROUND

20 years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continues to struggle with the war's devastating political, economic, and social consequences. Since the end of the war, dramatic changes were made in the justice sector to address the crimes committed during the conflict and to enhance the rule of law.

The European Union (EU) officially accepted BiH's membership application on September 21st, 2016, thus, formally beginning the accession process to determine the state's candidacy. The accession process involves a comprehensive questionnaire to assess the readiness level of BiH in, inter-alia, the rule of law area. However, the 2016 EU Progress Report highlighted concerns regarding BiH's judicial efficiency and independence, while recognizing the continuation of politically-motivated threats on the judiciary.⁴⁵

Within this context, UNDP has continued its partnership with the BiH authorities to reinforce the judiciary and enhance human rights, in line with international and EU standards, and to strengthen regional dialogue on reconciliation and peacebuilding

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's support to the rule of law and human rights in BiH acknowledges the need to continue reinforcing the judiciary, ensure equality, and improve the efficiency of judicial institutions, the latter of which still hinders reconciliation and the rule of law throughout the state. Considering the complex governance and political environment of BiH, UNDP has continued its efforts to address the lack of capacities of service providers to deliver services in a coordinated, comprehensive, and sensitized manner. UNDP's efforts focus on enhancing victim and witness support services, addressing case backlog, and expanding access to justice with free legal aid services for the marginalized and excluded. These interventions directly contribute to the implementation of key strategic objectives set out in the BiH Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2014-2018,⁴⁶ the National Strategy for Processing of War Crimes Cases,⁴⁷ and other relevant international initiatives.

In 2016, through a small grant programme for Access to Justice Legal Clinics and Outreach, UNDP, in partnership with three civil society organizations (CSOs) that are members of the Free Legal Aid (FLA) Network, significantly expanded its territorial coverage. The network increased access to free legal aid services in four cantons/districts. These CSOs provided free legal aid services through mobile teams to 69 children and 1,942 women, including 78 conflict-related sexual violence survivors. An additional 734 people received online FLA services through the CSOs' websites and telephone hotlines. UNDP also supported the establishment of a referral mechanism that enhances cooperation and coordination among free legal aid providers, centers for social work, witness support offices, and other relevant actors. This referral mechanism provided vital support services to vulnerable groups in four cantons/districts.

As part of the continuous support to the legislative process, UNDP, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of BiH and Cantonal Ministry of Justice of Canton 10, facilitated development and adoption of two laws for each respective governmental level: the Law on Free Legal Aid to provide FLA services before BiH judicial and administrative institutions and the Law on Free Legal Aid of Canton 10. With the two new laws, access to FLA for vulnerable groups will be ensured in 12 out of 14 jurisdictions which are fully covered by FLA legislation and governmental agencies. Thus far, 6 laws on FLA have been developed with UNDP's support.

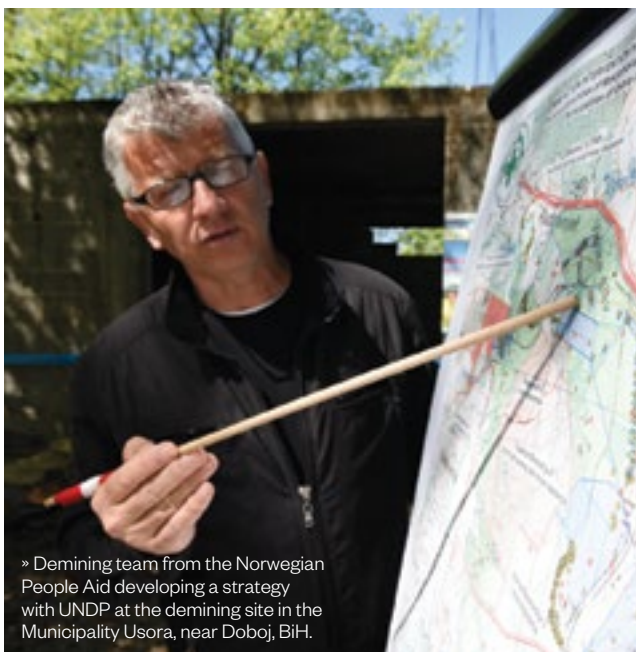
Furthermore, access to psychological support services and protection of victims and witnesses has been further strengthened by the establishment of two new witness support offices, in addition to the 14 established by UNDP since 2010. These offices are fully integrated into the government structure in the Cantonal Court of Zenica and the Prosecutor's Office of the District Trebinje and have increased the efficiency of proceedings, as well as the number of victims and witnesses who received adequate emotional, legal, physiological, and logistical support. The Witness Support Network provided support to 890 victims and witnesses in 1,788 criminal cases in 2016.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the progress achieved, BiH is still missing a harmonized and functional FLA system that would ensure efficient access to justice for people lacking financial means and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, the judicial system in BiH is facing a large backlog of cases and delays in proceedings, which is partly caused by indigent citizens who initiate proceedings while lacking professional support to effectively process cases before the courts and protect their statutory rights.

Direct communication and unified standards and practices remain critical to addressing the serious backlog of multi-jurisdictional cases with a cross-border dimension. However, a positive development has emerged in the processing of pending war crime cases. UNDP has supported progress made by sub-regional cooperation, while significant gaps remain in protecting victims and witnesses in lower courts. UNDP has supported the improvement of criminal proceeding's efficiency through the establishment of a regional mechanism for cooperation amongst the Chief Prosecutor's Offices from BiH, Serbia, and Croatia, as well as further expansion of the Witness Support Network.

Due to gaps in the legislative framework at different levels and the lack of relevant service provider capacities, the poor and vulnerable, especially the internally displaced, are unable to claim their rights in the process of reintegration or integration. Enhancing equal access to justice to the most vulnerable and providing non-judicial redress mechanisms remains a priority for UNDP.



» Demining team from the Norwegian People Aid developing a strategy with UNDP at the demining site in the Municipality Usora, near Dobo, BiH.

© UNDP BiH

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- 27,734 beneficiaries, including 12,932 women and 14,802 men, received FLA services through the FLA network, which represents a 20 percent increase from 2015.
- UNDP enabled better delivery of justice and referral of beneficiaries by significantly expanding territorial coverage and access to free legal aid services in four cantons/districts and 18 municipalities.
- Three CSOs, members of the FLA Network of BiH, received micro-capital grants from UNDP to extend FLA outreach to vulnerable individuals in remote areas lacking governmental and non-governmental FLA providers, including women and children across four cantons/districts and 18 municipalities in both entities.
- 69 children and 1,942 women, including 78 conflict-related sexual violence survivors, received FLA services through UNDP micro-capital grants and mobile teams deployed in remote areas, while 734 individuals received remote support online or via the hotline.
- The Ministry of Justice of BiH and the Cantonal Ministry of Justice of Canton 10 with UNDP's support, developed and adopted legislation on FLA for each respective level: The Law on Free Legal Aid to provide services only before the BiH judicial and administrative institutions and the Law on Free Legal Aid of Canton 10.
- 23 law students and young lawyers from both Universities of Law in Mostar volunteered in the FLA office of the Human Rights Center in Mostar, providing services to vulnerable individuals and building valuable practical knowledge and capacities.
- In close to 1,788 criminal cases, 890 victims and witnesses received support through the Witness Support Network. The Cantonal Court of Zenica and the Prosecutor's Office of the District Trebinje each established a self-sustaining witness support office.



BURKINA FASO

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$24,220

BACKGROUND

The 2014 social revolt in Burkina Faso led to the ousting of the Blaise Compaoré regime, which had been in power for 27 consecutive years. Since the establishment of the present government in the 2015 elections, Burkina Faso has made great strides toward the consolidation of the rule of law and justice, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights. The demand for justice from the population is very strong, as demonstrated through an active civil society and organized social movements. The absence of the rule of law and the prevalence of human rights violations during the former regime have been a major source of the population's grievances.

The state has illustrated its commitment to respond to the popular demand for change and democratic standards through many recent efforts, including: engaging in constitutional reform; organizing the General State of Justice Conference⁴⁸ and subsequent National Pact for Justice;⁴⁹ ensuring the independence of the judiciary and the national human rights institution; establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and beginning security sector reform.

The insecurity and rising violent extremism in the Sahel region poses a threat to Burkina Faso's stability and security. In January 2016 terrorists perpetrated an Attack against a hotel and restaurant in Ouagadougou only two weeks after President Kaboré was sworn in. In addition, armed groups continued their regular attacks on border posts, as well as continued violence perpetrated by the "koglweogo" (local vigilante groups) against alleged criminals.

Within this context, major challenges include restoring the social contract and regaining the confidence of the Burkinabé in the state. To this end, the state must ensure the security of the population and the territory of the country, while respecting the rule of law and human rights. The state must also effectively combat impunity, especially regarding high-level cases, as well as address the grievances of the entire population by providing access to justice for all.

Despite the challenges, Burkina Faso is at an opportune time to implement initiatives for sustaining peace and fostering development. The country boasts positive national capacities in the justice and security sector, illustrated by the country's personnel contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. Civil society is very involved in advocating for the consolidation of the rule of law, and the international community is strongly committed to accompanying the government's efforts to create positive change for the population.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The successful completion of the political transition in Burkina Faso, following elections in 2015, paved the way for democratic and justice sector reforms, as well as national reconciliation, to take place. Promoting a national reconciliation process to meet the public's demand, combined with transparent judicial processes, will help Burkina Faso to move forward and focus on development needs.

The recent UN resolutions on sustaining peace, passed by the Security Council (Resolution 2282) and the General Assembly (RES/70/262) in 2016, have framed the UN's approach to provide assistance to Burkina Faso. Recognizing that sustaining peace requires exploring the interlinkages between the three pillars of the United Nations (peace and security, development, and human rights), this strategy seeks to address the drivers of instability through enhanced collaboration. In November 2016, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Sustaining Peace deployed an expert mission to Burkina Faso. The working group recommended that the UN Country Team complement ongoing development interventions with targeted political interventions, and strengthen the rule of law by initiating support through the Global Focal Point (GFP).⁵⁰ These recommendations complement the nascent efforts by UNDP and the Peace Building Fund to support security sector reform, transitional justice and reconciliation, cross-border initiatives, and the ongoing support to the national human rights institution.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

In a historical and political context such as the present in Burkina Faso, technical solutions and sectoral projects alone are not sufficient to create transformational change. Comprehensive political and structural reforms are required across the rule of law sector, which necessitates the highest level of political involvement. Political engagement is essential to the sustaining peace agenda and will be a determining factor of success. Additional programmatic and technical approaches to implementing initiatives at the national and local level are needed to foster confidence in the state and re-establish the social contract. Lessons learned from these local approaches should further inform institutional and policy reforms in Burkina Faso, to ensure that the needs and rights of the population are considered first and foremost.

Looking forward, the UN will continue its support to consolidating democracy and sector-wide rule of law and security sector reform in Burkina Faso and will use its convening capacity to enhance coordination and

joint planning amongst the international community to move beyond individual approaches. UNDP will complement this with its people-centered and local level programming to support the transitional justice process and enhance service provision, focusing on legal aid and rights-based approaches to expand access to justice.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- In partnership with the government, the UN selected Burkina Faso as a pilot for the Sustaining Peace approach, which included an initial support mission by the Inter-Agency Working Group and targeted follow-up by the GFP.
- UNDP provided support to the establishment and initial setup of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including a technical guidance workshop.
- UNDP mobilized resources for seed funding to support security sector reform (including a high-level advisor to the President) and transitional justice.
- UNDP provided technical assistance to the newly independent National Human Rights Commission.



» Members of the Burkina Faso Honour Guard.



BURUNDI

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$1,020,900

BACKGROUND

Throughout 2016, the security situation in Burundi improved marginally, but the socio-political crisis that broke out in 2015 has shown no signs of easing. The political dialogue led by the East African Community has made little progress; thus, the UN has not accomplished as much as was initially intended, even with the presence of the Department of Political Affairs-led mission, which stands ready to support the regional efforts through national and local initiatives. The ongoing crisis has created institutional fragility and has hampered national leadership and ownership of UN-supported projects. The suspension of direct donor support has had a severe impact on rule of law institutions and the justice sector, as well as the social fabric and economy of Burundi. The UN has found it difficult to engage in resource mobilization, given donor preference for moving away from providing support to national institutions, including capacity building. The population continues to have low confidence in state institutions, including judicial structures that serve to strengthen the rule of law. In turn, there is generalized impunity and low social cohesion at the community level.

The final report of the United Nations Independent Investigation in Burundi documented alleged abuses during the period of 15 April 2015 – 30 June 2016, and described “abundant evidence of gross human rights violations,” possibly amounting to crimes against humanity.⁵¹ The experts found that “gross human rights violations have and are taking place, committed primarily by state agents and those linked to them.”⁵² At the same time, the Government of Burundi announced that the country would withdraw from the International Criminal Court. The independent investigation report emphasized that “without determined interventions by the Government of Burundi and a renewed robust engagement by the international community, including the United Nations and the African Union, the country’s downward spiral is unlikely to be reversed.”⁵³ On 11 October 2016, following the issuance of the report, the Government of Burundi suspended its

collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, generating yet another setback in the implementation of human rights monitoring programmes financed by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Since the outbreak of the crisis, UNDP has worked diligently to remain engaged with the justice sector to improve detention monitoring, reduce the backlog of cases, and allow for the release of detainees, while building capacities of the judiciary for long-term impact. The deployment of prosecutors at residential court sessions and mobile hearings, as well as the creation of new data collection tools for the inspection and supervision of judicial police officers, have significantly reduced the backlog of cases and allowed for the release of hundreds of detainees.

Prosecutors in the courts of residence adjudicated 926 cases, which had been pending since 2015. At the same time, 55 mobile court sessions in the provinces of Makamba, Kayanza, and Kirundo tried 1,160 out of 2,400 pending cases. Furthermore, a total of 556 people held in illegal detention were released in 2016. Prior to this, UNDP supported the development of five annual and 15 quarterly monitoring plans, establishing a process for regular monitoring of detention facilities. These plans enabled the heads of departments in the courts and prosecutor’s offices to carry out the investigations leading to the release of the detainees.

In 2016, UNDP also continued to support the Ministry of Justice’s coordination frameworks, at the national and provincial level, to foster improved communication structures, transparency, and accountability throughout the system. As part of the national framework, the ministry gathered representatives of criminal justice institutions to address specific challenges facing the system that directly affect the population. Specifically, these meetings made it possible for the ministry to address the issue of “false” judiciary police warrants. To combat this, judicial authorities agreed that any warrant issued must now include the registration number of the

judiciary police officer involved. In the absence of a verification number on a warrant, summoned suspects are not required to go to the police station.

Lastly, UNDP supported medium- and long-term capacity development initiatives for new magistrates. The Center for Professional Training of Justice, with UNDP support, trained more than 80 magistrates in 2016. Furthermore, the center worked to harmonize training across the judiciary and reinforce the role of the center as the main training organization for magistrates in Burundi.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Throughout 2016, UNDP faced various challenges in the delivery of its programmes in Burundi. The tightening of the justice system by the Executive, the departure of numerous activists, and the freezing of bank accounts belonging to civil society organizations resulted in the suspension of several activities that supported the police and security sector. The continued challenge of donor reluctance to provide direct budget support further exacerbated the issues.

Even though the current political environment is not conducive for improving many national institutions, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Ministry of Justice is willing to collaborate with UNDP programmes. However, judicial structures face increasing pressure from executive bodies and non-formal structures, such as the youth league of the ruling party that reportedly plays an important role for the government in overseeing the functioning of state law institutions.

The crisis required UNDP to reprioritize its rule of law interventions. As such, a conflict and development analysis was undertaken in early 2016, seeking to enhance support to dialogue and inclusive spaces and assist in protection activities at the community level. Looking forward, UNDP plans to develop a legal aid component to its rule of law programme to ease tensions among communities and provide protection to those in need of legal assistance.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- 556 people in illegal detention were released in 2016 as a result of inspections supported by UNDP.
- 55 mobile court sessions in the provinces of Makamba, Kayanza, and Kirundo enabled the adjudication of 1,160 cases (48.3 percent of the total backlogged cases).
- 926 cases, pending since 2015, were adjudicated as a result of the deployment of the Public Prosecutor's Office to the level of the courts of residence.
- The Center for Professional Training of Justice, with UNDP support, trained more than 80 magistrates.



» A female judge in Burundi, where UNDP supports measures to rebuild confidence in the justice system.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$5,010,419

BACKGROUND

During the first quarter of 2016, the Central African Republic (CAR) completed its political transition with the election of a President and parliament. Although a new constitution and government demonstrated important progress toward consolidating peace in CAR, the end of the “political transition” did not mark the end of the crisis. The country remains in a very fragile situation. As of 31 December 2016, half of the population, 2.2 million people, need humanitarian aid, while the country hosts more than 461,000 refugees and 420,681 internally displaced persons (IDPs), making up 20 percent of the population.⁵⁴

The population continues to turn to non-state actors such as armed groups, religious institutions, and humanitarian and peacekeeping organizations for their protection over state institutions. While the security situation in the capital has improved significantly, insecurity prevails in many rural areas. Over the years, the conflict that was once only between armed groups has transformed into a conflict between entire communities, particularly between pastoral- and agricultural-based communities. In the West, where ex-Séléka Muslim communities and fighters have fled, armed groups are increasingly becoming a criminal threat to communities.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UN Rule of Law assistance in CAR is provided through the Global Focal Point (GFP). UNDP, MINUSCA, and UN Women provide support to justice and security institutions through a joint rule of law programme managed by UNDP.⁵⁵ A wide range of GFP entities including UNDP, MINUSCA, UN Women, OHCHR, OLA, and UNV support the process of establishing the Special Criminal Court, under UNDP and MINUSCA leadership.

In 2016, the country made important progress in the fight against impunity, reforming the justice sector, and restoring basic justice services. A second criminal session was organized in 2016, adjudicating a total of 41 criminal cases (76 individuals), including four SGBV

cases. This was the first time in the history of CAR where a criminal session settled SGBV cases. The 2016 criminal session was made possible through 6 months of preparatory work supported by UNDP and was followed by a dialogue on lessons learned to continue improving the process for future sessions.

The Special Criminal Court, established by law in 2015 to prosecute grave crimes committed since 2005, has made important progress to become operational. With UNDP and MINUSCA support, the Special Criminal Court produced a security plan for personnel of the court and a protection strategy for witnesses and victims, established a transparent and competitive process for the selection of national magistrates, and achieved the necessary steps to allow for the arrival of the seconded international magistrates. Furthermore, a human rights mapping exercise, which was led by OHCHR and supported by UNDP and the GFP, identified more than 500 cases of grave human rights violations that took place during the crisis and will be used by the Special Criminal Court to prosecute perpetrators.

For the first time since the 2013 crisis, mobile courts were deployed to increase access to justice in the eastern (Bria), center (Bossembélé and Bossangoa), and western (Bouar) regions of CAR. The mobile courts held 23 sessions focused exclusively on civil matters - as criminal justice institutions are not yet operational outside of Bangui - and issued supplementary judgments for 7,714 birth certificates. Despite the issuance of supplementary judgments, the birth certificates could not be delivered to those entitled yet, because the government of CAR requires the population to pay for official documents.⁵⁶ Meanwhile, three legal aid clinics were opened in December 2016 in Bangui and Bria, and a law on legal aid was drafted through a consultative process. The development of legal aid is critical for justice institutions to put people at the center of efforts and shift to a service-delivery approach to justice.

During 2016, 3,447 police and gendarmerie personnel were officially registered in more than 10 prefectures. This enabled the police and gendarmerie to better plan deployment of security forces in

the regions, modernize the human resources management system, and improve civilian oversight of security forces in the future. For the first time since the outbreak of the 2013 crisis, police and gendarmerie inspections took place, which enabled the redeployment of 150 police and gendarmerie officers to their rural posts. The reestablishment of the police and gendarmerie inspection unit, including building renovation, equipment acquisition, and training for personnel, was crucial to this achievement.

CAR also took important steps to develop long-term capacities of rule of law institutions with support from the joint programme. The national police renovated their school and reopened its doors to new recruits. The national professional training school for judicial and prison staff also reopened and held its first national professional exams in 2016. A total of 20 new magistrates, 25 clerks, and 20 prison staff were recruited, increasing justice personnel by 15 percent.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Sustaining peace in CAR depends on the ability of institutions to deliver concrete services to the population. Tangible peace dividends that address the unique needs of the population will help to demonstrate a break from the past and foster confidence in the state. Efforts to strengthen social cohesion and prevent the recurrence of violence should be prioritized. Furthermore, creative solutions to monetary challenges, such as the provision of birth certificates, need to be identified to enable services that truly have an impact on people's lives.

In this period of transition, the government and international community must maintain conflict-sensitive approaches to development with a long-term vision for sustainable peace in CAR. The continuing challenges to peace and reconciliation, particularly with armed groups, are not conducive for a rapid shift to classical development. Looking forward, UNDP will work with GFP partners to further refine joint programme implementation in CAR, providing better

planning and pooling of human resources to ensure quality and coherent support to the rule of law.

KEY SUPPORT RESULTS

- The second criminal session was organized, adjudicating 41 cases (76 individuals), including four cases on SGBV. This was the first time a criminal session has ever settled SGBV cases.
- 23 mobile court sessions were deployed in rural areas for the first time since the 2013 crisis, notably in the east (Bria), center (Bossembélé and Bossangoa), and west (Bouar) regions.
- A police and gendarmerie census campaign organized in 10 prefectures officially registered 3,447 police and gendarme personnel.
- 150 police and gendarmerie officers returned to their posts in rural areas to reestablish security.
- A national selection committee, including representatives of academia, the Bar Association, and civil society, was established to select national magistrates for the Special Criminal Court.



» A voter casts his ballot in the December 2015 presidential elections in the Central African Republic.



COLOMBIA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$16,561,352

BACKGROUND

2016 was a tumultuous, but historic year in Colombia. In November, the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest guerrilla group, signed a victim-centered peace agreement.⁵⁷ The final agreement was signed 6 weeks after the original agreement was rejected by a very narrow margin in a national plebiscite. After four years of peace talks, both parties to the agreement managed to incorporate proposals from the opposition and other groups, and the final accord was submitted to Congress with much acclaim. President Santos won the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of his efforts to help end a 60-year-long conflict.⁵⁸

One of the most sensitive aspects of the Peace Agreement was the ground-breaking decision for a Special Jurisdiction for Peace. This aspect addresses important issues of transitional justice, including the establishment of a Truth Commission and a Missing Persons Unit, which paves the way for sustaining peace in the years to come. Other aspects of the agreement pertain to agrarian development, political participation of the FARC, an end to hostilities, solutions to illicit drugs, and justice and reparations for victims. While other peace processes feature disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, this agreement refers to a bilateral ceasefire, cessation of hostilities, and laying down of arms, and is now being monitored by the UN Mission to Colombia.⁵⁹

The agreement has had a drastic effect on violence in Colombia, improving security conditions and reducing violent deaths by 25 percent from before the peace talks.⁶⁰ In recent years, the government has been increasing efforts to improve access to justice and service delivery. For example, the Ministry of Justice and Law adopted Local Justice Systems as a public policy to facilitate and improve structural barriers for people and communities to access justice that have been previously marginalized for historic, geographic, or cultural reasons.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Colombia's peace process has been globally significant due to the unprecedented participation of victims. UNDP supported the organization of national and regional forums, which engaged civil society and brought together more than 10,000 people from 16 social sectors.⁶¹ The peace process was underscored by the decision to include the testimonies of 60 conflict victims at the negotiating table, including women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and victims of sexual violence affected by all warring parties.

On behalf of the UN system, and due to trust gained with Colombian partners, UNDP was asked to support the Executive Secretary for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and provide specific technical guidance and support to the transitional justice components of the Peace Agreement related to victim's rights to reparations and participation. Among others, the main tasks of this role include the provision of support to: i) application of agreements on "laying down of arms", amnesties, pardons, and special treatments; ii) design and implementation of the Special Jurisdiction for the Peace; iii) adoption of provisional measures in the preservation of public and private files; iv) verification of the reparations conducted by FARC members; and v) organization and reception of reports and victim's participation.

In partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Law and the General Prosecutor's Office, the Victims Unit provided 462 female victims of conflict-related sexual violence with reparations, some of which were adapted to consider the indigenous culture of the women. In the fight against enforced disappearance and the right to truth, the Victims Unit also provided reparations to 74 victims of the 2002 Massacre of Bojayá and their relatives as exhumations continued.

At the local level, UNDP supported the design and implementation of security and justice services in rural areas of 12 municipalities and one department in Meta and Caquetá, two of the most violent and conflict-affected regions. This has led to Integrated Citizen Security and Coexistence Plans in partnership with Colombian law enforcement agencies.

In addition, UNDP supported local justice systems in 13 municipalities in the context of the Rapid Response Strategy of the High Commissioner for Post-Conflict, Human Rights, and Security, which is coordinated with the Ministry of Justice. The Rapid Response Strategy supports conflict resolution mechanisms at the local level, violence and crime prevention in the crime prevention in the process of laying down of arms, and improved access to justice.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

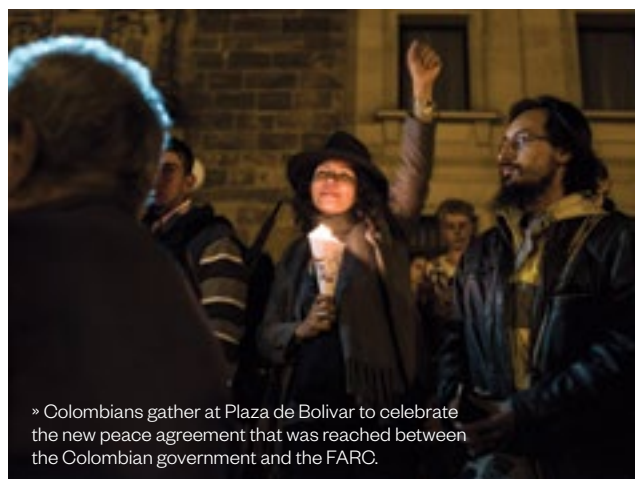
Despite the historic peace agreement achieved in Colombia, neither national partners nor the international community can become complacent. While the FARC have signed the agreement, and are participating in demobilization efforts, other smaller armed groups remain active. Peace talks have begun in Quito, Ecuador, between the government and the National Liberation Army and strengthening the state's presence in territories affected by violence and crime has become a priority. State presence in infrastructure, basic services, and access to justice must be established in the roughly one-fifth of Colombian territory with a heavy FARC presence.

Post-conflict transitions have demonstrated the limits of focusing efforts on stabilization alone. Resources must also be invested in efforts to sustain peace, strengthen democratic culture and institutions, and expand state services to the population to rebuild trust. Justice and security needs are particularly high in rural areas of Colombia and will need to target and adapt to specific issues (i.e. land, drugs, and sexual violence) and populations (i.e. women, victims, and indigenous people). Such local-level services will contribute greatly to the transitional justice process.

Looking forward, UNDP plans to increase support for people-centered programmes to reintegrate ex-combatants and increase state presence. Additionally, UNDP will focus on expanding access to justice programming and the transitional justice process, including through more Integrated Citizen Security and Coexistence Plans at the local level.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP provided the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace with strategic guidance on the peace agreement, recommendations for the participation of victims in the procedural stages of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, and guidance on the legal nature and scope of the Truth Commission.
- The UNDP-supported Victims Unit provided reparations to 462 female victims of sexual violence during the armed conflict.
- 74 victims of enforced disappearance and their relatives of the community Bojayá (Chocó) received reparations from the Victims Unit in the exhumation process of the 2002 Massacre of Bojayá.
- UNDP supported the design and implementation of security and justice services in rural areas of 12 municipalities and one department in Meta and Caquetá.
- UNDP supported local justice systems in 13 municipalities in the context of the Rapid Response Strategy of the High Commissioner for Post-conflict, Human Rights, and Security, which is coordinated with the Ministry of Justice.



» Colombians gather at Plaza de Bolívar to celebrate the new peace agreement that was reached between the Colombian government and the FARC.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$8,272,848

BACKGROUND

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains characterized by instability and a very weak human development index (176 out of 187 countries in 2016). The delays in the organization of the elections scheduled for 2016 and President Joseph Kabila's determination to stay in power beyond the end of his second term further polarized in the country. This situation is exacerbated by the continued shrinking of political space, increased restrictions on civil and political rights, and the high frequency of killings, harassment, and intimidation targeting human rights defenders, journalists, and members of the opposition parties.⁶² The stalled political situation has also contributed to a rise in the general population's dissatisfaction with the state, as seen through violent acts in urban centers, which have been dealt with by a heavy-handed security response from the government. Demonstrations in Kinshasa in September left several dozens of people dead.⁶³

Following 16 days of direct negotiations between political actors and civil society representatives, the Global and Inclusive Political Agreement was signed on 31 December 2016, under the auspices of the Conference of Catholic Bishops. The agreement reaffirms the commitment of all parties to respect and uphold the Constitution and stipulates that presidential and legislative elections, both national and provincial, will be held simultaneously, no later than December 2017.

Armed violence in Eastern DRC continued to place civilians at risk, resulting in further population displacements and intercommunal tensions in some areas. Peacebuilding data collected by UNDP and MONUSCO,⁶⁴ related to security, justice, and social cohesion, suggests that the situation in Eastern Congo is deteriorating, with an especially acute decline in North Kivu.⁶⁵

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The UN is providing rule of law assistance in DRC mainly through joint projects between UNDP, MONUSCO, OHCHR, UNFPA, and the Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict. UNDP efforts are focused in Eastern DRC: South Kivu, North Kivu, and Ituri.

In 2016, the country made important progress toward improving access to justice for the most vulnerable, notably in relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. A total of 10,091 persons (58.55 percent women) received legal information and guidance from legal clinics in Eastern DRC, and 263 SGBV victims were referred to courts. In total, 1,755 cases were brought to court by all means of referral, and 783 judicial decisions were pronounced.

UNDP and the United Nations Joint Office for Human Rights supported the prosecution and adjudication of cases, which led to the organization of 13 court hearings in North Kivu, Ituri, and South Kivu. UNDP also supported 6 Special Cells to Combat Sexual Violence in the Prosecution Offices of Bunia, Uvira, Kamituga, Kavumu, Goma, and Beni to facilitate the efficient transfer of SGBV cases to the courts. These cells operate with the permanent presence of designated magistrates that deal specifically with sexual violence cases and receive support from the joint programme to conduct judicial inquiries and regular inspections of detention houses.

Additionally, the military justice system made significant advances in investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating grave crimes, including international crimes. From June 2015 to June 2016, mistrust of military justice decreased from 75 percent to 67 percent.⁶⁶ In 2016, the military justice system prosecuted a total of 25 cases related to international crimes, and investigated more than 260 ordinary cases related to murders and crimes of violence, with UNDP support.⁶⁷ 13 of the 25 international crime cases prosecuted were adjudicated, which is a significant improvement from previous years. Between 2011 and 2014, less than 10 similar cases had been adjudicated.

UNDP provided technical support to judicial actors to enhance the efficiency and quality of services. A strategy of prioritization of cases was developed, allowing judicial actors to focus on the most serious crimes. Operational support was also provided by UNDP through allocations of office supplies and fuel during investigations and hearings. UNDP supported the production of three guides, and more than a dozen tools and frameworks to improve investigations and prosecutions, which was augmented by on-the-ground coaching and training of judicial actors. These tools enable methodical and professional investigations and prosecutions of complex crimes in accordance with international standards. One of the most complex applications of these tools was seen in the investigation of the rape of children by members of a politico-military group in South Kivu in 2015 and 2016. The tools also helped to guide the investigation into the recruitment strategies of child soldiers.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The children rape case in Kavumu, South Kivu demonstrates how justice can be an effective tool for stability and recovery in affected communities. While the trial for this case is expected to take place in 2017, the identification of the criminal network involved and the arrest of its members, including a provincial member of Parliament, stopped the systematic rape of children (18 months – 11 years old) in the region of Kavumu. This case also demonstrates that the provision of technical expertise by the Prosecution Support Cells enables magistrates to develop investigation techniques for complex cases that would have remained otherwise insolvable.

Another important lesson learned is that the referral of SGBV cases works best when legal clinics are integrated into care structures, such as health facilities (known as “One-Stop Centers”). The One-Stop Centers provide holistic care for victims, including through referral and follow-up of cases. In 2016, medical and psychosocial providers referred 41 percent of the victims

to the courts, compared to authorities and community leaders that only referred 22 percent of victims.

Looking forward, UNDP will build on these lessons learned and continue providing support to the military justice and civilian courts, contributing to the fight against impunity over both gross human rights violations and ordinary cases, including SGBV cases.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Legal clinics provided a total of 10,091 persons (58.55 percent females) with legal information and guidance in Eastern DRC.
- 1,755 SGBV cases were brought to court by all means of referral, and 783 judicial decisions were pronounced.
- The Military Justice system investigated, prosecuted, and adjudicated 25 cases related to international crimes and more than 260 other cases related to murders and crimes of violence in Eastern DRC.
- From June 2015 to June 2016, mistrust of military justice decreased from 75 percent to 67 percent.



» Women call for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



EL SALVADOR

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$830,103

BACKGROUND

El Salvador holds one of the highest rates of homicides in the world. The country experienced 103 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2015 and 81 homicides per 100,000 in 2016.⁶⁸ El Salvador also has the highest murder rate of children in the world, with 28 homicides per 100,000 children in 2016.⁶⁹ Furthermore, 82 percent of all injuries or death are caused by firearms, according to the Civilian National Police.

Since April 2016, the government has implemented a package of 'extraordinary measures' aimed at decreasing the rate of homicides.⁷⁰ The package provides a broader police and military presence, measures to control the overpopulated penitentiary system, and preventative programmes of urban recovery - particularly in hotspots. The media, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the national human rights institution have also brought attention to human rights abuses, including the use of force and extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies.⁷¹

The pervasiveness of sexual violence in El Salvador is also a critical challenge. The Prosecutor's Office reported 5,573 cases of sexual violence against women and girls in 2015. Girls between the ages of 12 and 17 accounted for 70 percent of the reported victims, directly impacting early pregnancies in a country where abortion is criminalized.⁷² There has also been an increase in the number of violent crimes against women and LGBTI populations. The national human rights institution, the UN system, and CSOs reported a 400 percent increase in hate crimes against the LGTBI community over the last 10 years.⁷³ This violence impacts children and their education, as the National Education Council reported approximately 15,000 children dropped out of the public education system due to violence in 2015.⁷⁴ Gangs are reportedly responsible for forced disappearances, forced recruitment of children as young as 8 years old, and the subjugation of young women and girls.⁷⁵ Abandoning their schools, leaving their homes, communities, and even the country, is often the only way children can avoid gang recruitment. Based on the results of a multi-

dimensional poverty measurement, 35.2 percent of households were classified as poor.⁷⁶

The endemic level of violence in the country has widely contributed to the loss of private property and assets, unemployment levels, limitations on the freedom of movement, lack of access to public health and justice services, loss of public spaces, and the deterioration of local economies. Overall, violence in El Salvador cost the country \$4 billion in 2014, representing 16 percent of the total gross domestic product.⁷⁷

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Within this context, UNDP supported the strengthening of security institutions with special emphasis on the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety and the implementation of the National Plan for Security, "El Salvador Seguro," at both national and local levels.

In 2016, the National Council on Citizen Security and Coexistence provided the platform for implementing a holistic security plan that considers prevention, control, rehabilitation, protection, and institutional strengthening. UNDP led the Technical Secretariat of the Council, jointly with the EU and the Organization of American States. The security plan is a result of the participatory and consensual process, which brought together the various actors of the National Council on Citizen Security, including all political parties, the private sector, academia, churches, and the international community. This resulted in the reduction of 20 points on the homicide rate.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security managed the regional and local level implementation of the National Plan for Security in a coordinated manner and in compliance with human rights standards. This included an inter-institutional mechanism led by the Ministry of the Interior at national and local levels, strengthened control of the National Civil Police to oversee the actions of operative services that paid special attention to the respect for human rights, and the installation of a police patrol system informed by intelligence in prioritized regions and municipalities.

To complement this national approach at the local level, UNDP focused on the implementation of the national plan in 26 prioritized municipalities. UNDP provided technical assistance to security institutions for the development of instruments, mechanisms, and technologies for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, and the organization of services and human resources.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

As demonstrated by the extremely high rates of violence, one of the recurring human rights violations in El Salvador is the attack on a person's right to life and their physical integrity. Although the country experienced a decrease in the rate of homicides from 2015 to 2016, the state must address several challenges to sustain this positive trend. These challenges consist of corruption, dysfunction of the judiciary and security forces contributing to high levels of impunity,⁷⁸ and SGBV, including domestic violence, discrimination, and sexual exploitation of women and children, particularly by gangs.⁷⁹ The high levels of criminality correlate with high levels of imprisonment, resulting in prison overcrowding that averaged 328 percent between 2012 and 2016 with significant issues of due process.⁸⁰

To support El Salvador in overcoming these challenges, UNDP will assist in the implementation of the National Plan for Security that aims to improve people's lives. The plan aims to reduce the incidence and impact of violence and crime, have coordinated and effective criminal investigations and a criminal justice system trusted by the people, stop the influence of criminal groups in prisons - ensuring sentences will be served in adequate spaces and conditions for rehabilitation and reinsertion in strict accordance with the law, and have a legal framework and institutional services to ensure comprehensive assistance and protection to victims.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP supported the development of the National Plan for Security and led the Technical Secretariat of the Council jointly with the EU and the Organization of American States.
- The Ministry of Justice and Public Safety promoted the territorial implementation of the National Plan for Security in compliance with human rights standards, strengthening police capacities and reducing crime in prioritized regions and municipalities.
- Security sector institutions implemented the National Plan for Security in 26 prioritized municipalities, developing instruments, mechanisms, and technologies for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, and the organization of services and human resources for various institutions on the ground.



» Participants at the 2016 Social Good Summit in El Salvador.



GUATEMALA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$5,398,595

BACKGROUND

Collaborative efforts put forth by the Public Ministry and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala led to the resignation of both the President and the Vice President on corruption charges in 2015. This historic achievement set high expectations for continued progress in the rule of law in Guatemala. Political outsider Jimmy Morales of the National Convergence Front party was elected in 2015, after a year of massive demonstrations and widespread calls for reforms.

Before President Morales took office in January 2016, the largest number of high-ranking, ex-military officials in Guatemala's history were taken into custody for crimes against humanity committed in the early 1980s. Fourteen ex-military officials were apprehended for the Military Zone 21⁸¹ and Molina Theissen⁸² cases. In February, two former military officers were convicted of crimes against humanity involving 15 Q'eqchi indigenous Mayan women who suffered rape and sexual and domestic slavery at a military barrack in the village of Sepur Zarco. The case set an important precedent for women survivors of sexual violence, both in Guatemala and internationally. The case is also breaking new ground in Guatemala by handling international crimes in a national court and provisioning reparations. The court ordered a range of individual and collective measures sought by the women and their communities, addressing some of the root causes of discrimination and violence against women. The outcomes of these cases sent a clear message to the incumbent government and the military that the principle of equality before the law would be respected by the Prosecutor's Office. This is an important indicator that rule of law in Guatemala is becoming stronger.

The Public Ministry and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala continued to investigate the extent of corruption throughout the government, and in June 2016, presented the "Cooptation of the State" case. This case revealed how the Partido Patriota party planned and executed an immense criminal network between 2011 and 2015, negatively impacting institutions and human

development initiatives. The Cooptation of the State case also highlighted existing challenges for dismantling corruption, including within the justice system and the persistence of elites to maintain the status quo.

2016 also marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accords, which brought an end to the 36-year civil conflict. The anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved and recommit to unsettled issues. A national dialogue on Constitutional reform was launched with respect to justice issues, including judicial independence, impeachment proceedings, and legal pluralism. However, the proposal presented to Congress in November 2016 faced resistance from Parliament and conservative sectors of society, bringing deep-seated issues of racial prejudice against Guatemala's majority indigenous population to the surface.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The political will and independence of Guatemala's Attorney General and Public Ministry, with sustained support from UNDP, allowed for progress on high-profile cases during 2016. Since 2010, UNDP's transitional justice programme has supported the capacity building of justice institutions, forensic investigations, and archiving. UNDP has also provided psychosocial support to victims of the conflict through civil society organizations (CSOs).

Within the context of the 20th anniversary of the Peace Accords, UNDP, with OHCHR, supported various victim's organizations to lead five regional grassroots consultations and evaluate the degree of the state's fulfillment of the agreements. The participants analyzed progress and obstacles related to the search for the disappeared, access to justice, the provision of reparations, and the implementation of recommendations from the Commission for Historical Clarification. The consultations identified several priorities, including a law creating a National Commission to Search for Disappeared Persons, an increased budget for the National Reparations Program, enhancing investigations and adjudication of crimes, and the commemoration of a National Victims Day.⁸³

UNDP also provided the Public Ministry with capacity building support, contributing to the implementation of its Strategic Plan (2015-2019) that focuses on criminal analysis, prosecution, and victim assistance. Additionally, together with UN Women and OHCHR, UNDP supported the implementation of a joint action plan on citizen security in the context of the regional citizen security strategy for the Northern Triangle of Central America.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the impressive results of transitional justice processes in Guatemala thus far, financial support is declining. Ensuring continuity of forensic investigations, archiving, civil society support, and adequate psychosocial assistance to victims remains a challenge when demand is rising but resources are increasingly limited.

An analysis of the Peace Accords reveals many commitments remain unmet, particularly the structural transformations needed to sustain peace. The state's compliance with specific measures on victims' rights remains deficient, with the most progress achieved by civil society with support from the international community. To overcome this, UNDP is working with the Secretariat for Peace (within the Presidency) to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation capacity on the outstanding commitments.⁸⁴

Strengthening the Public Ministry's capacity for the analysis and investigation of high-impact cases continues to be a priority, as does improving the role of civil society in social auditing. To concretely address this need, UNDP is working together with OHCHR, UNODC, UNFPA, and UN Women to develop and update tools for prosecutions, decentralization of assistance to victims, and analysis of trends and patterns of crime. With respect to citizen security, overcoming institutional resistance to information sharing remains a challenge. Thus, UNDP will promote inter-institutional agreements for data generation and evidence-based decision-making.

Furthermore, education on Guatemala's recent past is virtually non-existent in schools. This influences the public's opinion on the benefits of transitional justice and allows conservative sectors of society to manipulate support for their own means. To address this, UNDP, UNESCO, and a coalition of CSOs are supporting the Ministry of Education to promote a new pedagogical approach to civics, including historical memory, human rights, and a culture of peace to inspire students to take a critical perspective on their country's challenges and participate actively in finding solutions. This approach stresses the importance of recognizing the crimes of the past and ending impunity as a path to sustaining peace from an early age.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- With UNDP support, state prosecutors and CSOs made important progress in the Military Zone 21 and Molina Theissen cases and achieved a historic win for women with convictions in the Sepur Zarco sexual slavery case.
- UNDP's transitional justice programme supported the exhumation of 258 bodies of victims from the civil conflict, 136 of which were identified, enabling their return to families for proper burial.
- UNDP supported CSOs to provide family members of victims in rural areas most affected by the conflict with legal and psychosocial assistance to promote their recovery from trauma and empowerment as rights holders.
- UNDP supported grassroots consultations in five regions, enabling victim participation in an assessment report on the impact of the Peace Accords and providing recommendations to the state on justice, reparations, and historical memory.
- As a measure of non-repetition, the Ministry of Education launched the Strategy for Civic Education to promote adequate teaching about historical memory, human rights, and a culture of peace.
- UNDP, UN Women, and OHCHR supported the implementation of a joint action plan on citizen security.



GUINEA (CONAKRY)

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$1,880,419

BACKGROUND

2016 marked the end of the Ebola virus epidemic for Guinea (Conakry). The epidemic severely affected the capacity of the state to provide services to the population, continue its reform process, and generally function adequately. Following the presidential election, President Alpha Condé formed a new government in early January 2016. In the rule of law sector, the Ministry of Justice remained under the same leadership, but the Ministries of National Defense, Security, and Civil Protection shifted, slowing down the security sector reform (SSR) process initially.

The civil court system began holding sessions for the first time since 2014 but was unable to significantly diminish the backlog of cases, adding to the excessive number of pre-trial detainees. Efforts toward achieving justice for the victims of the September 2009 stadium massacre made substantial progress, with the indictment of 12 officers and the arrest of Toumba Diakité, the former head of the Presidential Guard. However, the dates for these politically charged trials were delayed until 2017. The Military Justice system increased operations in 2016, and as of March 2017, 14 cases were registered: 9 at the military tribunal of Conakry, two in Kindia, two in Kankan, and one in N'Zérékoré.

In accordance with the 2010 Constitution, the state made progress toward legal and regulatory frameworks for the rule of law, developing and revising 11 laws.⁸⁵ The National Assembly tabled additional laws for adoption, related to the civil code, anti-corruption, gender equality, and children's rights. The revised Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure incorporated provisions of the Rome Statute from the International Criminal Court, as well as new inclusions on torture, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, corruption, discrimination, and breaches to the right to reproductive health. The government also transformed the decree of Local Security and Crime Prevention Councils into an inter-ministerial order and adopted it, boosting the capacities of the police. Despite Article 18 of the Constitution on gender equality, discrimination

against women remains enshrined in both law and practice, and the high prevalence of violence against women persists.

After being out of operation for the last 15 years, the government reopened the National Police School, marking major progress in security sector reform. The Ministry of Interior made significant efforts to operationalize the school, developing professional curriculums and establishing the selection process for candidates.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, UNDP provided direct, high-level advice to the presidency and supported the coordination of working groups, bringing together national and international stakeholders. Two Strategic Orientation Commissions were organized and chaired by the President with the presence of sectoral ministries to take decisions on SSR strategies. Through these commissions, the President instructed the State Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Budget, and the head of the Programme Management Unit to finalize the Resource Mobilization Strategy, resulting in new pledges from bilateral partners. The Minister of Defense conceptualized the High Defense Council with an operational Secretariat, and the Minister of Interior ensured the opening of the National Police and Civil Protection School and reviewed the SSR steering committee.

UNDP also supported the Permanent Military Tribunal of Conakry and its sub-units: the Headquarters Magistrate, Military Prosecutor's Office, and Registry. The SSR project provided professional training for 25 military judges on the administration of military justice and human rights in the four military regions and their respective courts in Kindia, Labé, Kankan, and N'Zérékore. This support contributed to the indictment of 12 officers and the arrest of Toumba Diakité regarding the 2009 stadium massacre.

Additionally, UNDP deployed a senior justice sector expert to provide the Ministry of Justice with high-level advice and guidance on legal reforms. The expert also supported the implementation of the National Justice Policy to improve the efficacy of the criminal

justice chain, including through an in-depth gap analysis. This close engagement between UNDP and the Ministry of Justice led to greater coordination with the broader international community. The EU and UNDP organized monthly meetings involving a range of international actors to enhance collaboration and provide comprehensive support to Guinea.

Lastly, UNDP supported the coordination framework for Women, Peace, and Security, restructuring and revitalizing Guinea's National Steering Committee on Security Council Resolution 1325. UNDP also supported the steering committee to develop a gender strategy for defense and security forces to implement throughout Guinea (Conakry.)

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

While the Ministry of Justice has strengthened its capacity to implement justice sector reform in Guinea, the key challenge remaining is the mobilization of financial and human resources to enable the criminal justice chain to function at local and national levels and provide access to justice for the entire population. Justice sector reform is an important aspect of the National Post-Ebola Recovery and Resilience Trust Fund, but despite appeal to the international community from the Minister of Justice, Peace Building Commission, UN Resident Coordinator, and GFP partners, it has been difficult to mobilize resources.

An external evaluation of the UN Peacebuilding Fund portfolio and programmes implemented since 2008 recognized that SSR has been relatively successful in Guinea due to the high-level political commitment and international support. However, the lack of prioritization of the civil justice sector and fight against impunity has left overall peacebuilding flawed. This lesson learned will result in funding allocation from the Peacebuilding Fund for the justice sector in Guinea in 2017. Looking forward, UNDP seeks to develop concrete, local-level programming that will enhance service delivery and scale-up efforts to support the fight against impunity in Guinea.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Ministry of Interior oversaw the reopening of the National Police School, including the development of professional curriculums and the establishment of a selection process for candidates.
- UNDP supported the development of legal and regulatory frameworks for the rule of law, developing and revising 11 laws.
- The Military Justice system judged 7 cases in Conakry, Kindia, Kankan, and N'Zérékoré, building off the UNDP-supported training of 25 military judges on the administration of military justice and human rights.
- Two Strategic Orientation Commissions were organized and chaired by the President with the participation of Ministers to enable decision-making across the security sector.



GUINEA-BISSAU

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$1,939,359

BACKGROUND

As a low-income country, Guinea-Bissau ranks 178th out of 188 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index, contributing to chronic political and institutional instability. Internal strife and competition for power within the main political party, the African Party of Independence for Guinea and Cape Verde, exacerbated challenges in 2016. The President and parliament were unable to install a government accepted by all relevant actors; therefore, the government's annual programme, work plans, and budgets could not be approved, nor could the National Assembly adequately function. This brought the country to a de facto standstill.

The protracted political impasse continued in 2016, despite international efforts by the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and UNOWAS and mediation efforts led by the Presidents of Guinea-Bissau and Liberia and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Liberia and Sierra Leone. In addition, the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) held ministerial-level consultations in September 2016 to identify solutions, resulting in the approval of a road map for international support to end the political crisis – the so-called Conakry Agreement.⁸⁶ The Agreement provided for a national roundtable dialogue, the formation of an inclusive government to implement key reforms before legislative elections in 2018, establishment of an ECOWAS monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and reform of the defense and security sectors. It also called for the “progressive demobilization” of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau within 6 months of the formation of a national contingent to take over protecting state institutions. Although progress toward an effective and inclusive government occurred, the political situation remains volatile, and the road map has not yet been fully implemented.

Between 2015 and 2016, Guinea-Bissau's governance rating, as measured by the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, increased from 33.2 to 41.3 points out of 100. However, since 2011, governance deteriorated with an overall decline of 3.2 points.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP has supported Guinea-Bissau to respond to these challenges by placing rule of law and justice as priority areas for development, as reflected in the UNDAF (2016–2020) and the Country Programme Document (2016–2020). UNDP's Rule of Law and Justice project contributes to the modernization of the justice sector and provides technical assistance to justice institutions, supporting policy formulation for substantive legal reforms and strategic programmatic guidance.

Focused on the promotion of universal access to justice services and legal protection, UNDP strengthened the Ministry of Justice's capacity to deliver free legal aid services through the five Centers for Access to Justice. The centers remained fully operational throughout the year and provided legal aid to 8,765 people, including 1,891 women. In 2016, access to justice was expanded to the south of the country (Quínara Region) through the creation of a new center in the Buba sector.

UNDP is engaged in providing justice sector actors with the adequate level of capacity to ensure a more effective and expeditious justice service delivery in the field. The UNDP-supported National Judicial Training Center inaugurated the training of judges, prosecutors, and clerks abroad under the South-South Cooperation Framework. Through this exchange, 12 judges and prosecutors from Guinea-Bissau benefited from practical training in Brazil to share knowledge and experiences in the fight against transnational crimes, organized crime, and human and drug trafficking. The beneficiaries of this training program serve in courts located in remote areas of the country, thereby expanding administration of justice across the national territory.

The approach to expanding the presence of the state and the judiciary across the country has also resulted in the construction of a Community Court on Bubaque, the small island in the Bijagós Archipelago.



» To expand access to justice in Guinea-Bissau, 10 national volunteers from the Mansoa Volunteer Regional Committee were trained as part of a pilot initiative called "We know our rights."

© UNDP GUINEA-BISSAU

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The promotion of effective justice sector institutions and strengthening their capacity to deliver services to the population amid political instability remains a challenge for Guinea-Bissau. The lack of coordination among justice sector actors – including the courts, prosecution, law enforcement, and legal aid – is difficult to address when the government is unable to produce a recognized national programme and state budget. The current political instability has not allowed the government to assume the functioning costs of the legal aid centers and the Judicial Training Center within the state budget, despite the advocacy efforts by the international community and the Ministry of Justice.

However, UNDP continues to mobilize and convene other international partners – such as the EU, United States, Brazil, and others – to scale up support for the rule of law and justice and ensure that ongoing and planned initiatives are carried out as soon as the political stalemate is resolved and the Conakry Agreement is implemented.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Centers for Access to Justice provided 8,765 individuals (6,874 men and 1,891 women) legal aid in Bissau and the regions of Cacheu, Oio, and Bafata. A new center was also established in Buba to expand services to the south of the country.
- 12 judges and prosecutors from Guinea-Bissau benefited from practical training in Brazil to share knowledge and experience in the fight against transnational crimes, organized crime, and human and drug trafficking.
- Construction work supported by UNDP began for the Community Court in Bubaque's Island in the Bolama-Bijagós region to expand the presence of the formal justice system in the country.



HAITI

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$2,627,500

BACKGROUND

In 2016, an inconclusive electoral process dominated Haiti's political environment, resulting in the installation of an interim President and government with a largely absent Parliament. Thus, very little substantive progress on Haiti's weak governing institutions could occur. Without political will for rule of law, a culture of waiting emerged in the government for the political process to achieve its end game. In 2016, the Cour de Cassation, the highest court in Haiti, remained understaffed with key judicial appointments vacant. The productivity of the Superior Council of Judicial Power remained static due to the political vacuum that took hold. The interim Minister of Justice and Public Security made several promising statements but achieved limited progress on tackling impunity and the severely overcrowded prison system. Moreover, exorbitant levels of pre-trial detentions continued to plague the justice system.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

As part of the country's objective to transition from stabilization to development, UNDP, MINUSTAH, and other UN agencies established a joint rule of law programme focused on police, justice, and corrections in July 2016.⁸⁷ To support this endeavor, UNDP and DPKO - through the Global Focal Point - facilitated a joint consultation process with MINUSTAH and the UN Country Team, resulting in three key documents. The first was a strategic vision document, outlining priority areas for the mission and the country team to focus their efforts. The second was a joint programme document, describing how UNDP, MINUSTAH, and the country team will work together, and how best to continue progress in the rule of law as MINUSTAH begins to draw down. After the mission exits, it will be crucial for the UN Country Team to preserve, build upon, and sustain joint activities and future work. The third document was an organigram, created and suggested by the joint team to integrate organizational structure for future cooperation between GFP entities.

The project document for the Joint Interim Rule of Law Programme includes programmatic participation from UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women. MINUSTAH requested \$4.4 million in assessed contributions for programmatic activities, which was successfully defended before the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and ultimately awarded to the mission for the fiscal year, 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017. This ground-breaking arrangement was the first time assessed contributions from Member States were made available to UN agencies for programmatic activities. The transfer of funds for implementation, from the UN Secretariat to UNDP, was subject to a long consultative process between UNDP and the UN Department of Management, Office of Legal Affairs, and Controller.

On 8 November 2016, UNDP and MINUSTAH signed a Memorandum of Understanding, creating the framework for programmatic cooperation on the Implementation of Rule of Law Activities in support of the mission. UNDP serves as the fiduciary recipient of these funds and maintains responsibility for programming, procurement, and oversight of the funds.

Three priority objectives comprise the Joint Interim Rule of Law Programme as outlined in the strategic vision document. The first addresses improved safety and security throughout Haiti and focuses on UN Police support to the Haitian National Police for improvement of operational, institutional, and administrative capacities. The second objective targets a more effective, efficient, transparent, and inclusive justice system that respects human rights and gender equality. The third aspires to improve access to justice through service provision and legal awareness.

In 2016, implementation of the joint programme was just beginning in Haiti. However, progress was made through efforts to mobilize resources to renovate four commissariats (\$241,000) and equip five police stations (\$80,000). In addition, the Joint Programme trained 40 Haitian corrections officers in prison intelligence and security and 50 additional corrections officers in the proper management of prison records. Even in this early stage, the Joint Interim Rule of Law Programme has achieved a significant level of synergy and efficiency



» Emergency Preparedness Brigadiers in Haiti distribute supplies after Hurricane Mathew.

© UNDP HAITI / AUDREY BRASSEL

between UN entities and mission personnel through assessed contributions during the transition period. This new joint approach has enabled mission staff, including UN police, human rights, corrections, and justice officers to develop programming and planning expertise beyond the annual yearly budgeting process.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

While the Joint Rule of Law Programme incurred lengthy delays because the UN Secretariat funds did not arrive until late November, UNDP is determined to make up for lost time and make steady progress toward the achievement of the agreed upon objectives and outputs. The Senior Leadership Committee, a group composed of two Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the Police Commissioner, the Rule of Law Coordinator, and the UNDP Senior Country Director, meets monthly to closely monitor progress, address concerns, and propose solutions. Having close, meaningful interaction and buy-in from key leaders in both the mission and UNDP has enabled the joint programme to address roadblocks and move forward despite the challenges.

However, without the political will or buy-in from national legal and institutional actors, efforts for rule of law in Haiti remain in jeopardy. The incomplete electoral process and fractures in Haitian politics limit

meaningful engagements for the rule of law. Thus, applying and managing rule of law programming in this fluid context demands flexibility.

In 2017, with a new government in place, prospects for meaningful implementation of Haitian commitments and UN assistance for the rule of law appear to be positive. After two and a half years of political uncertainty, Haiti appears to be turning the corner, and UNDP stands ready to help navigate the country toward a path of transparency and respect for the rule of law.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The GFP launched a Joint Interim Rule of Law Programme, with the finalization of the Strategic Vision Document, Joint Project Document, and an organigram of actors.
- UNDP and MINUSTAH signed a Memorandum of Understanding, creating the framework for programmatic cooperation on the Implementation of Rule of Law Activities in support of the mission.
- The joint programme received assessed contributions for programmatic funding through the UN General Assembly.
- The joint programme trained 40 Haitian corrections officers in prison intelligence and security and 50 corrections officers in the proper management of prison records.



HONDURAS

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$2,818,070

BACKGROUND

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and the third most unequal country in the world,⁸⁸ with poverty affecting 63.8 percent of households.⁸⁹ Honduras also suffers from contracting macroeconomic shifts, weak institutional capacity, political turmoil, violence, and impunity. This is partly due to the strategic location of Honduras in the transnational drug trade. Violence and insecurity are serious problems facing Honduran society, with major repercussions on the effective enjoyment of human rights in the country. Since 2013, there has been a continuous decrease in the homicide rate since 2013, registering 59 homicides per 100,000 in 2016 – as found and confirmed by the National Violence Observatory of the University of Honduras. However, the homicide rate remains among the highest in the world.⁹⁰

The high levels of violence – particularly impacting human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, women, children, LGBTI, migrants, journalists, and justice sector actors – are the result of several factors, including the increased presence of organized crime and drug traffickers, the recruitment of children and adolescents into gangs, and an inadequate judicial response that fuels impunity. Insecurity is further exacerbated by inefficient policies to address inequality and social exclusion, affecting significant and historically discriminated segments of the population. As a prime example, Honduras registered 466 cases of femicide in 2016, the highest rate in the world. The Honduran government has increasingly turned to the military to enforce the rule of law, sparking concern from many human rights groups. The judicial system is widely afflicted by political interference, corruption, and a lack of capacity and transparency. According to the World Bank, crime and violence costs the country an estimated \$885 million per year.

In 2016, the Organization of American States (OAS) set up a Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras – inspired by the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala but with a less independent mandate. It aims at supporting Honduras with investigation supervision on cases related to corruption.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's rule of law assistance in Honduras targets both national and municipal levels. At the national level, UNDP supported the Ministry of Security and the National Autonomous University of Honduras' Violence Observatory to validate reliable information on crime and violence. This data is being used to design evidence-based, citizen security policies. Municipal-level actors, including the security sector, government, and civil society, formulated five Citizen Security Municipal Plans in early 2016, reaching an approximate 70 percent implementation rate and demonstrating significant commitment and ownership by local actors. The new citizen security plans include prevention measures and articulate local efforts. By the end of 2016, 6 more plans were formulated.⁹¹ As a result, the Secretariat of Security requested UNDP's support for designing an official Guideline for Local Security Plans in all municipalities to systematize the approach.

At the municipal level, UNDP supported the implementation of the Safer Municipalities Program in the most violent municipalities in the country. This included the establishment of local observatories of violence, citizen security municipal plans and councils, Mediation and Conciliation Units, women's offices, and programmes for youth and female victims of violence. In 2016, 1,612 people accessed alternative conflict resolution mechanisms through the five Mediation and Conciliation Units, significantly reducing formal judicial workloads and contributing to the prevention of violent conflicts. Additionally, 2,414 female victims of violence accessed information, legal support, and violence prevention training at municipal women's offices. Given the sensitivity of data in the five targeted municipalities, the National Violence Observatory supported UNDP's partners to produce 33 bulletins with violence indicators to inform citizen security plans and targeted interventions.

In partnership with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and OHCHR, UNDP supported the capacity assessment of the National Human Rights Commission. The capacity assessment resulted in concrete recommendations for improved implementation of the institution's mandate toward

the promotion and protection of human rights in Honduras, and UNDP has further supported the national human rights institution with its strategic planning. In response to the concerns of, and threats against, human rights defenders, the State Secretariat for Human Rights and Justice – in coordination with other line Ministries – developed a National Action Plan for Human Rights in 2016. The human rights plan promoted advocacy efforts for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators, and justice operators.⁹² Furthermore, the government launched the National Council for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Violence-driven displacement and migration are increasingly becoming a key challenge in the country, considering the lack of a comprehensive approach and response at national and local levels.⁹³ New approaches must consider efforts to prevent displacement in expulsion hot spots, protect displaced migrants – especially minors, and provide services for the reintegration of victims, returned migrants, and internally displaced peoples. A comprehensive approach to addressing violence-driven displacement and migration will require the development of improved tools and expertise within UNDP.

UNDP's promotion of civil society participation in the implementation and oversight of local security plans through municipal security councils has proved to be an effective tool in ensuring citizen ownership of both prevention and control strategies. Looking ahead, the strengthening of information-generating institutions, such as the police, public ministry, State Secretariat for Health, statistics institute, and the National Autonomous University of Honduras' Violence Observatory, to promote national mechanisms for the validation of violence indicators will be crucial for informing security policies. One of the major challenges the initiative will face in 2017 is ensuring appropriate replication at the local level through municipality-based violence observatories.

The opening of an OHCHR office in Honduras has offered a new perspective on the work done by the UN system in the field of human rights. UNDP will seek complementary areas of work with OHCHR in Honduras to ensure that comprehensive rule of law and human rights support is delivered and all efforts contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where “no one is left behind.”

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The National Observatory of Violence and its local-level partners produced 33 bulletins with municipal violence indicators in five targeted municipalities to inform citizen security plans and target interventions. It also published bulletins to inform national policies and reflect the consolidation of the National Validation Roundtables system.
- 1,612 people accessed alternative conflict resolution mechanisms through the five Mediation and Conciliation Units, significantly reducing formal judicial workloads and contributing to the prevention of violent conflicts.
- 2,414 female victims of violence accessed information, legal support, and violence prevention training at municipal women's offices.
- UNDP, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and OHCHR conducted a capacity assessment of the National Human Rights Institutions, providing recommendations for optimal implementation of its mandate toward the promotion and protection of human rights in Honduras.
- Local-level actors including government, security forces, and civil society jointly developed 11 Citizen Security Municipal Plans with significant commitment and ownership of municipalities and local actors.



IRAQ

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$4,117,166

BACKGROUND

The security environment in Iraq remained highly volatile in 2016 due to the threat of the so-called Islamic State and the Levant (ISIL) on the civilian population. The human toll of the conflict in 2016 amounted to a staggering 19,175 civilian casualties: 6,787 killed and 12,388 injured.⁹⁴ There was also heightened political instability, with public protests against the government's slow pace for initiating anti-corruption reforms.

While important progress was made rebuilding the liberated areas, ensuring accessible security and justice services to returnee populations remains both a pressing need and a challenge. Equal and affordable access to security and justice - as a prerequisite for the realization of the rule of law - as well as democratic governance, peace, stability, and development, will all require considerable effort and investment by the government and international partners.

The Government of Iraq remains heavily dependent on international assistance, as the country accommodates high-levels of displaced populations and continues the fight against ISIL. An integrated approach to delivering assistance, informed by the needs and priorities of affected communities, is required to allow for a meaningful transition toward greater stability. The best safeguard for Iraq's future stability will depend on the government's ability to guarantee its population sustainable peace, security, and development.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

During 2016, UNDP provided a wide range of policy and technical support to the Government of Iraq in the areas of rule of law, including security sector reform (SSR). At the request of the government, UNDP continued to offer technical support to elaborate a National Security Strategy and a Security Sector Reform Strategy, which were endorsed by the cabinet. In support of the National Security Strategy, the SSR Committee drafted the final iteration of the Security Sector Reform Strategy, with inputs from numerous

stakeholders. In order to help shape ongoing SSR initiatives, UNDP conducted a public perception survey assessing the local safety and security trends across Baghdad, Diyala, Salah-Al-Din, Anbar, and Erbil.⁹⁵

Iraq also made significant progress toward putting in place an enabling legislative framework for SSR. In August and September 2016, the Iraqi parliament endorsed the reform laws proposed by both the Ministry of Interior and the Counter-Terrorism Service, which provide a legal basis for institutional-level reform. Additionally, the government continued efforts to strengthen coordination within the security sector. The Office of the National Security Advisor and UNDP co-chaired the quarterly SSR Strategic Partner Framework. The coordination meetings focused on ensuring coherence and collective donor engagement within one central framework.

In support of civilian oversight of SSR, UNDP continued to engage with the Parliamentary Defence Committee and civil society organizations. In 2016, UNDP provided extensive training to these actors on legislative reforms, democratic governance, civilian oversight, and gender-responsiveness. UNDP also organized a Regional Parliamentary Conference in December 2016 in Cairo, Egypt to improve regional cooperation on democratic governance and oversight of SSR. The conference brought together Parliamentary Defence Committee members from the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, including Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia.

The country is also taking steps to address issues related to criminal justice. The Office of the National Security Advisor and the Ministry of Interior requested UNDP support to develop a road map on civilian policing and related criminal justice systems with an emphasis on liberated areas. Additionally, the Deputy National Security Advisor and the Chief Justice established a Criminal Justice Working Group, which began sessions in November and plans to meet quarterly. The group is expected to identify institutional-level reform priorities in support of the National Security Strategy and the Security Sector Reform Strategy.

UNDP also supported measures to increase access to justice for displaced populations in Iraq. In 2016, 6 Legal Aid Centers in Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaimaniya, and Baghdad handled 12,036 internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugee cases, particularly for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and for access to legal documentation. Out of those who sought help, 80 percent were women. UNDP also held five capacity building trainings for implementing partners in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Baghdad, regarding legal aid, human rights, case tracking reporting and documentation, and SGBV investigations. The trainings benefited 35 staff members from civil society organizations, 34 Independent Board of Human Rights staff, and 40 Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women investigation officers. An average of 35 percent of participants and beneficiaries of the trainings were female.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Due to the political and demand-led nature of SSR work, UNDP has needed to maintain a high degree of strategic and operational flexibility to respond to shifting priorities. Addressing social and cultural factors that prevent displaced women and girls from reporting SGBV cases is an on-going challenge. Additionally, UNDP is dealing with challenges stemming from increased camp populations, limited resources, increased demand for legal aid, and management of expectations.

Looking forward, UNDP aims to develop a comprehensive and sustainable approach to security and justice in Iraq, with an emphasis on implementation of the Security Sector Reform Strategy. Continued objectives for the programme include reestablishing community-oriented policing, criminal justice systems, and legal aid service delivery in liberated areas. To this end, the programme will adopt a two-pronged approach: to engage with the Iraqi government and national policy makers on the security architecture and justice reforms and to undertake

practical initiatives that demonstrate the government's reform intentions to the population, particularly in the liberated areas.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The government adopted the National Security Strategy and completed the final iteration of the Security Sector Reform Strategy.
- Parliament endorsed the reform laws proposed by the Ministry of Interior and Counter-Terrorism Service, contributing to institutional-level SSR.
- UNDP held 33 working sessions on legislative reform, democratic governance and civilian oversight, and gender and security sector reform. Over 110 people participated in the sessions, including members of various government offices, civil society organizations, and academia.
- The 6 Legal Aid Centers in Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaimaniya, and Baghdad handled 12,036 IDP and refugee cases, including issues such as SGBV and access to legal documentation. Civil society implementing partners held 355 awareness-raising sessions, reaching 12,356 people in camp.
- UNDP held five capacity building trainings for implementing partners, regarding legal aid, human rights, case tracking reporting and documentation, and SGBV investigations.



» Children play in the Hassan Shan IDP camp in northern Iraq.



JORDAN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$6,047,000

BACKGROUND

The Syrian crisis has so far resulted in 664,102⁹⁶ UN-registered refugees residing in Jordan; however, in 2015 the King of Jordan stated that there is one Syrian refugee for every five inhabitants in Jordan.⁹⁷ Most refugees have settled in urban host communities, now constituting the majority of the population in some northern districts. This has led to societal tension and frustration of Jordanians; hence violence and communal conflicts are on the rise. Cultural differences and competition over resources and job opportunities are major causes for such escalating tension. In February 2016, the King of Jordan declared that the psyche of the Jordanian people is at a boiling point,⁹⁸ which is an acknowledgment of the pressure put on the Government of Jordan to provide meaningful jobs to Syrian refugees and Jordanian citizens alike.

The population continues to suffer from a high unemployment rate, especially among youth and women. Unemployment not only strains the economy but also has also been identified as a driver for violence and a path for radicalization in some tense districts and neighborhoods. Jordan's proximity to the operations of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria and Iraq is a major security challenge, with a considerable number of ISIL fighters recruited from Jordan.⁹⁹ To prevent security threats emanating from the influx of refugees, Jordan has installed a screening process to perform checks of 16,000 Syrians stranded on the border with Syria. Despite this, security remains the biggest concern for the King of Jordan.¹⁰⁰

In 2015, UNDP began a planning process for introducing initiatives to maintain stability in host communities in Jordan as part of its Syrian Refugees Host Communities programme. Following extensive consultations with national partners, UNDP launched a community security and access to justice project in 2016. The project seeks to increase access to justice and security services in host communities, complementing UNDP's support to the Government of Jordan's response to the Syrian crisis. In 2016, the project progressed at both the policy and local levels, and implementation is expected to continue until the end

of 2018. Civil society organizations and key government institutions are the main implementation partners, ensuring that support reaches those most in need and operates at the grassroots level.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

During the first and second quarters of 2016, UNDP's community security and access to justice project focused on maintaining stability in host communities by addressing previously identified needs and preventing violent extremism. With the support of UNDP, the Ministry of Interior conducted a national survey to assess context-specific drivers and pathways of violent extremism in Jordan. The findings informed the development of a national strategy to prevent violent extremism led by the Ministry of Interior and allowed for the rollout of a sensitization campaign to raise awareness about the mobilization of extremist ideologies among communities.

At the local level, UNDP supported the Public Security Directorate with its efforts to create multi-sectoral community security action plans for 9 key districts. In addition, UNDP launched the Community Cohesion Grant Mechanism to enable civil society to establish platforms for inter-communal dialogues that will bring Syrian refugees and host communities together to manage perceptions and foster consensus on common challenges. The grant mechanism benefited 33 organizations in three governorates (Phase I) and 40 organizations in four governorates (Phase II), with the estimated potential of reaching a population of 2.7 million people. These inter-communal dialogue platforms aimed at increasing trust between communities – and in law enforcement – are established to continue the interaction. Additionally, UNDP's grant mechanism provided opportunities to 73 civil society organizations to deliver community security and community engagement services, which aim to enhance social cohesion in host communities and other areas where security tensions have been identified by the government.

In partnership with the Royal Committee for Judicial Reform, UNDP supported the layout and endorsement of a legal aid framework, composed of legal aid legislation, eligibility standards and criteria for legal aid recipients, legislation for a legal aid trust fund to ensure sustainability, a coordination mechanism for legal aid actors, and a comparative research project in the Arab States on legal aid models and legislations. At the local level, the project partnered with civil society organizations to increase access to justice through two pilot initiatives providing alternative dispute resolutions services: one pilot in Jarash (9,539 persons of concern) and one in Irbid (135,535 persons of concern).¹⁰¹ This support is expected to provide legal advice and referrals to refugees and host communities to help maintain stability by providing access to peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association, and civil society organizations, UNDP convened relevant stakeholders to engage in extensive advocacy discussions surrounding justice needs and options for institutionalizing access to justice.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Due to the complexity of the Syrian crisis and its cross-border consequences, the international community has prioritized fulfilling basic needs over providing support to community security and access to justice. Thus, overall resource mobilization for justice and security service delivery in Jordan has been challenging. With the Syrian conflict entering its 7th year, UNDP continues to advocate and engage with international partners to increase awareness of security challenges in host communities and recommendations for addressing them. Structural challenges delayed support for access to justice at the local level, as well as the creation of a comprehensive legal aid framework in 2016. However, UNDP worked closely with the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association to place legal assistance desks in host communities, providing service provision and continued advocacy.

Looking forward, UNDP seeks to identify holistic approaches to enhancing community security and access to justice in Jordan, including technical approaches and close coordination with line ministries in Jordan. Strong partnerships with civil society and informal actors will also support advocacy to promote human rights and safeguards, including through increased access to justice. Lastly, UNDP will continue advocacy to advance alignment of the Sharia courts with international standards, specifically regarding women's rights.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Ministry of Interior carried out nationwide quantitative and qualitative surveys to identify security needs, with a specific focus on host communities. The survey outcomes directly contributed to the Ministry of Interior's development of a national strategy to prevent violent extremism and crime.
- UNDP provided training for 73 community-based organizations (260 staff members) on projects for community security management.
- UNDP trained 32 staff members and civil society activists in two governorates in alternative dispute resolution through mediation.
- UNDP trained 63 Public Security Department staff members in community policing and evidence-based security policy reform.
- With the support of UNDP, community leaders and police held 18 community dialogue sessions with state and non-state actors.
- Three community outreach campaigns on justice and community security reached an estimated 750,000 people in fragile areas.
- UNDP established two Legal Advisory and Alternative Dispute Resolution Community Centers to provide legal assistance and dispute resolution services for refugees.

» Children at school in the Zaatari Refugee Camp, located near Mafraq, Jordan, which has grown to house nearly 80,000 Syrian refugees.



KOSOVO¹⁰²

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$305,150

BACKGROUND

The Stabilization and Association Agreement between the EU and Kosovo (UN Administered Territory) commenced on 1 April 2016. The Agreement is the first formal contractual relationship that ties the EU and Kosovo together, offering opportunities and incentives for Kosovo to strengthen good governance and rule of law mechanisms. Developing an independent and impartial justice system is an essential task for Kosovo's institutions and one of its most pressing challenges, as reflected in the 2016 EU Country Report.¹⁰³

The ongoing EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade enabled the parties to agree on the final steps for the implementation of the Justice Agreement in November 2016.¹⁰⁴ The parties have committed to fulfilling the obligations regarding the integration of Serb judges, prosecutors, and judicial staff into the Kosovo Judiciary during 2017.

Reforming the justice system in alignment with international norms and standards requires training for judges on the application of legal provisions in a unified and harmonized manner. This harmonization creates judicial coherence in the application of the laws, relevant international human rights treaties, and fundamental freedoms.¹⁰⁵

In June 2015, a package of four laws related to the judiciary¹⁰⁶ was approved and published in the Official Gazette. These laws primarily address the recommendations of the Visa Liberalization Roadmap and aim to work in harmony with one another, particularly regarding the appointment and dismissal of judges and prosecutors and maintaining of the independence of the judiciary. Several sub-legal acts were foreseen to be adopted (regarding the Law on Kosovo Judicial Council and the Law on Kosovo Prosecutorial Council) within a 6-month period from the publication of the laws; however, the Kosovo Judicial Council and its' Committee for Normative Issues lacked sufficient capacity and resources to independently draft the regulations.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's work in Kosovo is focused on three interrelated issues: i) policy and legal frameworks, addressing coordination between justice institutions and the harmonization of strategic planning for increased efficiency; ii) capacity development and institutional reforms, focused on accountability and providing tailor-made support for judges and prosecutors; and iii) increasing access to justice and service delivery for Kosovo's population, while reducing the courts' and prosecution offices' case backlog through the mediation system.

In 2016, UNDP continued to support Kosovo's Justice Coordination Mechanism, which has led to improved strategic planning, policy development, and coordination. UNDP also supported increased access to justice for women and minorities through the application and promotion of judicial alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, specifically mediation. In 2016 alone, UNDP helped 651 women resolve their disputes through mediation, of which 139 beneficiaries were from non-majority communities.¹⁰⁷

UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice to draft the new Law on Mediation, which was approved in the first reading by the Assembly of Kosovo in December 2016. The revised law provides a more efficient, effective, and financially sustainable¹⁰⁸ mediation system, whereby the citizens can resolve their disputes in a much faster and cost-efficient way; the law provides that dispute settlements of the citizens' self-referred cases are legally binding. In addition, the law obliges the parties in the dispute to try mediation first, before entering a formal judicial process. In 2016, the number of cases resolved through mediation increased to 812 cases compared to 747 cases in 2015. Once implemented, the reformed law will enable more cases to be resolved, further improving people's access to justice.

Previous support from UNDP in harmonizing judicial practices for basic court judges, through the development of guidelines (in Albanian, Serbian, and English), continued to bear fruit in 2016, contributing to a unified application of the rule of law and improved governance. For example, in 2014 the Court of Appeal

(second instance court) verified 113 criminal and civil cases from the basic courts (first instance court), but in 2016 the number of verified cases increased to 354, suggesting an improved trend of basic court efficiency. Frequent changes in legislation and the recruitment of a relatively large number of new judges in all basic courts in Kosovo has impacted the quality of court judgments and, consequentially, the harmonization of judicial decision-making processes. Capacity development will need to be scaled up to offset this challenge.

With respect to the Justice Agreement for the North between Pristina and Belgrade, UNDP and key national institutions prepared an orientation training programme for judges and prosecutors from the Kosovo-Serbian community to be held in 2017. UNDP also supported the reform of the Bar Exam through legal expertise, comparative analysis, and technical support. This support includes on-going capacity development, including on gender mainstreaming, for 200 candidates to sit for the Judicial Bar Exam.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

While Kosovo is at a relatively early stage in developing a well-functioning judicial system, significant progress has been achieved over the past year by adopting amendments to the Constitution and the secondary legislation necessary to implement the 2015 justice package laws to reform the justice system. Kosovo has appointed most members of key institutions (namely for the Judicial and Prosecutorial Council) and has continued to increase its clearance rate of cases; thus, partly meeting two of the 2015 European Commission's recommendations. However, the administration of justice remains slow and inefficient, including insufficient accountability measures for judicial officials. The judiciary also continues to be vulnerable to undue political influence, and rule of law institutions suffer from lack of resources.

Strengthening the rule of law in Kosovo remains a long-term process. Rule of law institutions in Kosovo would greatly benefit from a strong monitoring and evaluation system, providing greater oversight of field activities. While strategic plans have been developed by the Judicial and the Prosecutorial Council – and some processes have been put in place – training on results-oriented monitoring and evaluation is needed to institutionalize systems and create a culture to sustain them. An improved monitoring system for mediation would support data capturing and reporting to improve efficiency levels and outreach for mediation services.

Looking forward, UNDP will provide professional and technical support for the main justice institutions

(Ministry of Justice, the Kosovo Judicial Council, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, and the Justice Academy), to finalize their policy documents, administrative instructions, mid-term strategic documents, and working plans. UNDP will also facilitate inter-institutional dialogue to address issues of mutual concern and identify joint priorities. Lastly, UNDP will support the implementation and promotion of the reformed law on mediation to reduce court backlog and improve people's access to justice.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Ministry of Justice, in consultation with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils, completed a justice legislative reform package of four laws, providing the foundation for a more efficient, effective, and timely administration of justice.
- The Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils adopted 80 percent of the secondary legislation necessary to implement the justice package laws and approved the 2016–2018 Strategic and Action Plan.
- UNDP supported the Ministry of Justice to reform the Law on Mediation, enabling courts and prosecution offices to refer 962 cases to mediation (a 35 percent increase compared to 2015), which greatly reduced case backlog. A total of 812 cases (an 8.3 percent increase from 2015) were resolved through mediation.
- Basic courts improved their efficiency, handling 354 criminal and civil cases in 2016 (compared to 113 in 2014).
- To enhance judicial capacities, UNDP taught over 100 law students the advantages of mediation and supported a cadre of legal practitioners (13 judges and two prosecutors) with skills on the judicial application of the European Convention on Human Rights.



» The graduation ceremony of Kosovo's new candidates for judges and prosecutors in 2016.



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$1,777,000

BACKGROUND

After a challenging democratic transition, with the popular uprising and tragic inter-ethnic clashes in 2010, the Kyrgyz Republic has gained stability and is now a vibrant democracy. The successful parliamentary elections in 2015, as well as the presence of a dynamic civil society and a free press, highlight important shifts toward a consolidated parliamentary democracy and greater political vitality in the country.

However, the economy in 2016 was undermined by shrinking migrant worker remittances, slowing economies in Russia and China, and reduced exports of gold -making it impossible for the country to realize the net impact of joining the Eurasian Economic Union. Thus, real gross domestic product growth decreased from 3.5 percent to 2.2 percent in 2015. The cost of living rapidly increased and 30.6 percent of the population continued to live below the national poverty line.¹⁰⁹

Beyond the economic challenges, the country still faces ethnic tensions and divisions between the north and south. Moreover, there are security concerns connected to Islamic extremism and border disputes with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Fueled by endemic corruption, perceptions of state inefficiency, and unemployment, these factors all threaten the fragile political, economic, and social stability of the country.

These challenges made it difficult for the government to fully finance and deliver on its National Sustainable Development Strategy for 2013–2017 and rule of law commitments. There is low public and investor confidence in the judicial process because the implementation of laws is highly problematic, and the government has yet to deliver basic justice and law enforcement services to the population.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Within this context, UNDP continued to support measures to strengthen the rule of law as a key priority in 2016, through its consolidated programme on Enhancing Democratic Rule of Law and Preventing Conflict.

The National Assembly adopted 12 amended laws, strengthening its law-drafting capacities and achieving its legislative plan for 2016. UNDP support to the state led to the enactment of 6 codes and two laws crucial for judicial reform.¹¹⁰ These laws comply with the cost assessment approach and implementation plans developed with UNDP in 2015, which aim to ensure that laws are enforced.

UNDP continued to improve access to legal aid and justice services in rural areas through pilot projects in Osh and Chui provinces. The pilot projects provided free legal aid to 18,091 people and advised 16,807 people on land issues and disputes, inheritance, recovery of alimony, payment of taxes, and real estate. Free legal aid centers established under the Ministry of Justice provided services to 2,967 people, (62 percent female). Four pilot legal empowerment centers established at village municipalities made 713 legal consultations and provided legal assistance to 609 people (55 percent female). A local civil society organization established 14 legal aid centers to offer services that benefited 6,379 people and ensured representation for 5,863 people (72 percent female) in courts and other state structures.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice reached remote areas with the mobile legal aid initiative commonly known as the “Solidarity Bus.” The mobile initiative visited 173 village municipalities, where 3,486 free legal consultations were provided to 3,386 people (55 percent female). The state registration service also used a mobile initiative to reach 1,607 people (54 percent female) and helped 1,208 people from the rural communities obtain legal documents to secure their legal identity for their rights to education and other basic services.

UNDP started a new project in 2016 to strengthen the capacity of civil society, law enforcement, and justice institutions to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Through this project, Judge Training Centres and the Prosecutor's Office established working groups to develop SGBV training programs. UNDP also provided support to make new services available for conducting research

on court practices and crimes against women and girls. Over the course of 2017, the research will generate proposals on unified practices for solving SGBV cases and will be incorporated into the training programs.

Other key initiatives to strengthen the rule of law include the flagship cross-border cooperation with Tajikistan that seeks to improve security and economic status of border communities and the joint project between UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNODC (2017–2018) that promotes the participation of women and girls in the prevention of violent extremism. Aimed at contributing to a peaceful and inclusive society, these projects combine rule of law, access to justice, and security interventions with conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the achievements made in 2016, progress has been hampered by weak justice institutions, citizens' pessimism regarding the laws, and a lack of public confidence in the judiciary. Other challenges include inadequate public knowledge about the justice system, persisting SGBV, and general mistrust of the current security situation even though the country has stabilized. However, the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide momentum for renewed commitment to the rule of law through measures that can be used to advance justice and security, reduce inequalities, and foster inclusion for peace.

In 2017, UNDP support will be focused on improving the legal environment, strengthening institutions to better implement and enforce laws, and provide justice and security services to vulnerable groups. Focused attention will be given to capacity building for justice and civil society actors to provide coordinated responses to end SGBV. Support will also focus on addressing the high risks of radicalization in the country and contribute to other peacebuilding priorities.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP supported the development of 6 codes and two laws that are key for judicial reforms.
- UNDP pilot projects in Osh and Chui provinces provided free legal aid to 18,091 people and advised 16,807 people on land issues and disputes, inheritance, recovery of alimony, payment of taxes, and real estate.
- Free legal aid centers provided services to 2,967 people (62 percent female). Four pilot legal empowerment centers established at village municipalities held 713 legal consultations and provided legal assistance to 609 people (55 percent female).
- A local civil society organization established 14 legal aid centers to offer services that benefited 6,379 people and ensured representation for 5,863 people (72 percent female) in courts and other state structures.
- The Ministry of Justice's mobile legal aid initiative visited 173 village municipalities, where 3,486 free legal consultations were provided to 3,386 people (55 percent female).
- The mobile state registration service reached 1,607 people (54 percent female) and helped 1,208 people from rural communities obtain legal documents to secure their legal identity and help them access justice.



» Participant at the Equal Rights = Equal Opportunities conference in the Kyrgyz Republic.



LEBANON

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$737,585

BACKGROUND

As the neighboring Syrian crisis entered its 7th year in 2016, Lebanon continued to suffer from ensuing instability. An estimated one million registered Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon and now constitute a quarter of the country's population.¹¹¹ The highest percentage of refugees are located in regions that were the poorest and most underserved in Lebanon before the crisis, characterized by a lack of sufficient social services, weak infrastructure, and limited livelihood opportunities. Approximately two million vulnerable people, both Syrian refugees and those from Lebanese host communities, are concentrated within 251 municipalities (out of 1,108 in total) where social tensions and poverty are steadily worsening.¹¹²

Local tensions are linked to housing, job market, and local infrastructure challenges, as well as security measures targeting Syrian refugee settlements in host communities, including curfews and raids. Overall, negative perceptions of Syrian refugees have worsened in host communities due to the persistence of the crisis.¹¹³

In addition, vulnerable Lebanese are disproportionately affected by a criminal justice system that has not been reformed in years, with lengthy pretrial detention rates for even minor crimes that weaken their livelihoods. The weak justice system and repeated human rights violations have had a negative impact on both the local social fabric and national stability. Furthermore, the security situation in the country remains a source of concern as terrorist elements attempt to infiltrate the country.

However, a positive step was taken when the Parliament elected President Michel Aoun in 2016, ending a two-year political stalemate that left the country without a head of state. Parliament also established a national human rights institution, improving the human rights situation and ending the use of torture in the country.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, and as part of its support to conflict management, UNDP supported the enhancement of municipal service delivery and rule of law within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan. A joint UNDP-UNHCR project provided support to rule of law institutions in Lebanon.

In 2016, the joint project supported the Ministry of Interior and local authorities to finalize standard operating procedures (SOP) for the Municipal Police. This is the first time the Municipal Police of Lebanon have had procedures clarifying their role and responsibilities, which is an important step toward professionalizing the police. The police are a security force at the service of the mayor, but the implementation of the new SOPs will ensure that they respond to the security needs of the population. A large consultation and drafting process involving Heads of Governorates and Districts, mayors, municipal police chiefs, and civil society representatives from all regions of the country worked together to produce the standard operating procedures.

With support from the joint project, 503 municipalities (out of 1,108) conducted surveys to measure community tensions in 2016, providing national authorities with a better understanding of local-level security needs. The data were processed and analyzed at the national level, through a conflict analysis software, to serve as an early-warning tool and improve the security response in municipalities. This is the first-time municipalities in Lebanon have provided comprehensive and harmonized data on the security impact of the Syrian refugee crisis at the community level to the Ministry of Interior. The commitment of municipalities to increase safety and security measures for their communities underscores the opportunity for the international community to support addressing social cohesion concerns at the local level.

The anti-torture committee of the Internal Security Forces produced draft standard operating procedures to better implement their mandate as well. With UNDP support, the members of the committee became familiar with legal, medical, and psychological



» On the International Day of Peace, school students paint their impressions of peace through murals on a wall at the United Nations Interim Mission in Lebanon's headquarters in Naqoura.

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aspects of torture and trained on torture prevention. Strengthening the anti-torture committee is critical for ensuring professional security services that protect and promote the principles of human rights.

Finally, conditions at the prison of Roumieh were improved with the renovation of the bathrooms and sewerage network. The renovation work benefited 600 inmates and enabled the prison to use its new kitchen and create opportunities for social rehabilitation.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite the neighboring Syrian crisis, Lebanon has maintained a basic level of stability within the country. However, persistent political instability within the country has the potential to derail the stabilization and development progress – especially given Lebanon's history of interference by regional powers. In addition, heavily bureaucratic processes and decision-making within the government have contributed to significant delays in supporting the production of SOPs for the municipal police and reports of the security cells.

In the face of these challenges, action taken by the government over the past year has demonstrated a strong interest in the professionalization of the

municipal police and the introduction of a service delivery approach to security within the Internal Security Forces. UNDP will launch a three-year community security and access to justice project in 2017, focused on supporting community-oriented security approaches and access to legal aid at the local level that build on initial results achieved so far. The project will also address living conditions in prisons, with a focus on preventing torture and socially reintegrating prisoners.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Over 500 municipalities in Lebanon gathered relevant survey data on community tensions at the local level under the guidance of the security cells of the Ministry of Interior.¹¹⁴
- Conditions of detention for 600 inmates in the prison of Roumieh were improved with the renovation of the bathrooms and the sewerage network.
- Standard Operating Procedures for the Municipal Police were produced to increase efforts professionalizing the force.



LIBERIA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$6,130,431

BACKGROUND

Since 2003, Liberia has managed to prevent a relapse of conflict, affording its people a degree of stability and the prospect of a better life. The country reached an important milestone in its efforts to consolidate peace and improve development when the government successfully assumed its security responsibilities from UNMIL on 30 June 2016.¹¹⁵ The mission is set to withdraw by 30 April 2018.¹¹⁶ Liberia is now preparing for presidential and parliamentary elections to take place in 2017.

However, low global prices for Liberia's key export commodities and slow recovery from the Ebola outbreak continued to severely affect the fiscal situation in 2016. Gross domestic product dropped 0.5 percent below the projected rate of 3.9 percent, which was further impacted by terms of trade shocks and the reversal of private investment flows.¹¹⁷ Analysts expect that it will take significantly more time for Liberia to return to the pre-Ebola growth rates.¹¹⁸

The economic environment slowed the speed of post-war recovery efforts and reduced the delivery of peace dividends.¹¹⁹ The government was unable to provide enough resources to the justice and security institutions to sustainably increase the delivery of their services countrywide. This has been exacerbated by corruption, ambiguities in the laws, continued fragmentation across the justice–security continuum, and slow progress in national reconciliation. Liberians often prefer legal redress through informal dispute mechanisms because the formal justice system is unable to meet their needs.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, UNDP and UNMIL continued to support the Ministry of Justice and other national counterparts in their efforts to advance the national law reform agenda. As a result, both the Liberia National Police Act and the Liberia Immigration Service Act were passed into law by the legislature, which will guide overall security sector reforms moving forward. In addition, the legislature also enacted the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act,

establishing an arms collection programme and building storage structures in countries bordering Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire. The pilot initiative collected over 334 rounds of ammunition in two south-eastern counties.

The Justice and Security Joint Programme extended the presence and capacity of justice and security institutions through tailored infrastructural and logistical support, increasing the number of justice and security personnel. In 2016, UNDP built a new courthouse in Nimba county and – together with UNMIL – refurbished correctional facilities in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado, supporting the deployment of 105 police officers, 250 customs officials, and 140 corrections officers to the field. In addition, the judiciary recruited 60 Magisterial Court judges who were trained with UN support and deployed.

UNDP, in collaboration with UN Women, continued improving the accessibility of appropriate justice and security services for women and girls. With this support, the specialized SGBV Crimes Prosecution Unit secured 36 convictions and initiated 125 new indictments. The Prosecution Department rolled out its specialized prosecution unit across southeast Liberia, raising awareness for region-wide SGBV referral channels.

UNDP and UNMIL strengthened grassroots approaches to safety and security, assisting the Liberia National Police with the implementation of its new community policing policy and supporting the establishment of 14 county peace committees across the country. These peace committees play a pivotal role in preventing and de-escalating local conflicts by bringing citizens together with police officers to discuss provisions of their own security. In Lofa county, for instance, the local peace committee resolved a longstanding conflict between local Christian and Muslim communities, which risked escalating into conflict.

UNDP and UNMIL also supported Liberia's constitutional review process. In 2016, UNDP enabled over 1,350 people to participate in constituency dialogues in 9 districts across Liberia. 25 proposals on a range of topics were discussed, including religion, dual citizenship, and women's rights. The Lower House endorsed all 25 proposals from the

public consultations. Once the Senate approves these proposals, they will be considered in a referendum after the elections in 2017. The Constitutional Review Committee will also conduct a robust civic education strategy to ensure access to information for voters leading up to the referendum.

UNDP and OHCHR partnered with Liberia's Independent National Human Rights Commission to strengthen the transitional justice process commonly known as the Palava Hut. In 2016, the commission trained 249 members (47 percent female) to run the Palava Hut. 125 victims of the conflict participated in Palava Hut to address war-related grievances. Notably, 60 percent of the beneficiaries were female, which is a significant improvement as a previously male-dominated process. Additionally, 8 Palava Hut structures were reorganized to convene pilot talks guided by operating procedures developed in 2015.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite long-term support from the UN and international community, the institutions mandated to uphold the rule of law in Liberia still lack the capacity to effectively deliver justice and maintain law and order. The government does not have resources to sustainably increase the reach and presence of the institutions at the national level. In turn, the unmet legal needs of Liberians reduce their confidence in the justice system.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union 2063 Agenda, and the upcoming Peacebuilding Plan provide Liberia with a broader framework to reconsider development and peacebuilding assumptions and set clear goals and targets for strengthening the rule of law, protecting human rights, and ensuring security, safety, and equal access to justice for all.¹²⁰

The joint programme between UNDP and UNMIL (2016-2019) is an important means to support and achieve these aspirations. In line with Security Council Resolution 2333 (2016), UNMIL support to constitutional, rule of law, and security reform will be

phased out by April 2018, and the UN Country Team will assume support for human rights monitoring, rule of law promotion, national reconciliation, and security sector reform. To ensure a sustainable transition, UNDP and UNMIL – through the GFP – consolidated previous projects under one coherent framework that aims to implement long-term assistance.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Legislature enacted the new Liberia National Police Act, the Liberia Immigration Service Act, and the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act to strengthen security sector reform and stop the proliferation of small arms and light weapons along the border with Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire.
- UNDP constructed a new courthouse in Nimba county and refurbished correctional facilities in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado. This initiative supported the recruitment, training, and deployment of 60 additional Magisterial Court level judges and allowed for the deployment of 105 police officers, 250 customs' officials, and 140 corrections officers to the field.
- The Prosecution Department secured 36 convictions and instituted 125 new indictments through the SGBV Crimes Prosecution Unit. The specialized prosecution unit expanded services across southeast Liberia, providing support to 14 victims.
- The Independent National Commission on Human Rights trained 249 people (47 percent female) to manage and run 8 restructured Palava Hut transitional justice programmes. A total of 125 victims (60 percent female) participated in the Palava Hut programmes to address war-related grievances.
- 1,350 people in 9 districts across Liberia participated in constituency dialogues to discuss 25 proposals for constitutional review before a referendum takes place in 2017.
- The Liberia National Police implemented its new community policing policy, establishing 14 additional peace committees and successfully mediating hundreds of disputes and conflicts.



LIBYA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$3,227,566

BACKGROUND

Since the February 2011 revolution, Libya has witnessed significant conflict, insecurity, and economic challenges. The outbreak of conflict in Tripoli in July 2014 exacerbated the political crisis, leading to the division of the country between two parliaments, their governments, and allied militias. In December 2015, UNSMIL helped broker a political agreement to establish the Government of National Accord, and in March 2016, the Presidency Council arrived in Tripoli.¹²¹ However, the Government of National Accord has not been universally recognized, and there are now three competing governments claiming sovereignty. The governments have various degrees of control over different security entities and have issued differing policies and legislation to governing institutions and areas under their control.

According to UNSMIL reports, weak justice and security institutions have been unable to address either ordinary crime and lawlessness, such as kidnapping and robberies, or serious human rights violations, such as abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings. Detention centers, run by state and non-state actors, have little oversight, and detainees continue to face deplorable conditions, including overcrowding, ill-treatment, and limited access to due process or fair trials. The legal frameworks governing administrative structures and the basis upon which judgments are made are not entirely clear, due to the ongoing constitution-making process, parallel legislative bodies, and the two Ministries of Justice and Interior in the East and the West. Furthermore, justice sector actors continue to face intimidation and threats from armed groups to either detain people without sufficient evidence or to prevent judgments that would negatively affect them. The police, while present throughout the country, are weak and limited in implementing their law enforcement and security functions.

According to initial findings from the UNDP-supported rule of law assessment, the provision of security and justice services post-revolution affects

all Libyans but has compounded effects for certain members of the community. Access to services is largely based on the extent to which individuals and groups have connections with tribes and non-state armed groups. Minorities, migrants, and people “not originally from the area” experience a high risk of insecurity and little possibility of obtaining redress for injustices. Women also face more challenges accessing justice, potentially due to social and political barriers instituted by a resurgence in traditional cultural norms and the rise of Salafist elements in security and justice provision after the 2011 revolution.

In addition, poor public perception of the police encourages citizens to report crimes directly to militias, which reduces police oversight of crimes. Communities also turn to local government authorities and non-state actors to provide security and justice services. However, perception surveys indicate that Libyans would prefer state institutions to provide security and justice services rather than local authorities or non-state actors.¹²²

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

While the space to engage in Libya has been limited throughout 2016, UNDP worked with UNSMIL to launch a programme targeting dialogue and transitional justice, addressing the local-level conflict between the cities of Misrata and Tawergha. Building off UNSMIL-supported dialogues between the cities, an agreement and road map for implementation was reached, recognizing the right of return of Tawerghans to their town. The Transitional Justice programme aims to support the implementation of the agreement, which involves reparations for victims of human rights abuses, accountability for perpetrators, reconstruction of both Tawergha and damaged areas of Misrata, and the safe and voluntary return of Tawerghans to their homes. The adoption of the roadmap paves the way for resolving key issues between the two communities, leading toward the return of the Tawerghans.

To analyze the existing capacities and gaps of core government functions, UNDP facilitated two in-depth assessments: the Security Sector Assessment, focusing on the Ministry of Interior and the police, and the Rule of Law Assessment, regarding justice and law enforcement. The assessments will be completed in 2017 and will help to inform future programming for UNDP in Libya.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The challenges for project implementation in Libya are immense. Due to the security situation, UNDP Libya is currently functioning out of Tunisia, over 700 km from the Libyan capital of Tripoli. However, the challenge of not having UNDP presence in-country has been incrementally overcome by increasing partnerships with civil society organizations and through third-party arrangements. Yet, the extent to which UNDP can engage directly on the ground remains extremely limited.

The focus of UN support since 2014 has been to establish a political agreement and install a unity government. While this objective has been achieved to some extent, it has not necessarily translated into tangible improvements for the population. In some cases, fragmentation of the government is increasing as three entities vie for power.

Libya's conflict is particularly complex, with many political and security actors. Thus, UNDP seeks to build partnerships across the UN system to create a comprehensive and responsive arrangement for support. Looking forward, these partnerships will need to work in a coordinated manner to identify entry points for supporting the Government of National Accord politically, as well as deliver security and justice services at the sub-national level.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP and UNSMIL launched a joint programme on transitional justice.
- Misrata and Tawergha communities participated in dialogues to implement the agreed reconciliation and transitional justice roadmap through the transitional justice project.
- UNDP initiated two in-depth assessments on the security sector and the rule of law, which will be finalized in 2017.



MALI

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$19,154,885

BACKGROUND

The National Government of Mali took steps to accelerate the implementation of the Peace Agreement during 2016 with the deployment of interim authority representatives and members of the transitional councils to the northern regions. In 2016, the President appointed a High Representative mandated to oversee the implementation of the peace agreement. The country held municipal elections on 20 November 2016, and despite political and security challenges, the event created conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to the north. The Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission also increased the number of commissioners from 15 to 25 and deployed them to regional councils in Northern Mali. The government initiated legislative progress by identifying and registering 33 new legal texts.

However, the implementation of the peace agreement continues to face delays due to the volatile security situation, characterized by armed attacks and internal communal conflicts. The activity of terrorist groups remains a deadly threat, undermining progress toward peace. Protracted violence in Mali resulted in 36,690 IDPs by November 2016.¹²³ The UN Secretary General stressed that “the peace process has reached a critical juncture... if no sustained efforts are invested into the peace process and rule of law in Mali peace and stability in the country and the region may be further jeopardized.”¹²⁴

Since 2013, UNDP has assisted the national government and the Malian people to increase access to justice and develop rule of law institutions, particularly in the northern regions. UNDP joint initiatives to deliver rule of law assistance with Global Focal Point (GFP) partners contributes to the overall UN peacekeeping mandate in Mali (SC 2295/2016).

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, UNDP continued implementing the Emergency Program for the amelioration of the justice sector in Mali to provide support at the policy level.¹²⁵ This support enables the Ministry of Justice to: establish adequate justice governance and accountability measures; develop human rights and anti-corruption frameworks; and roll out a communication strategy to increase public awareness of the peace agreement and its implementation. The Ministry of Justice identified and adopted justice priorities and endorsed planning and resource mobilization frameworks. Subsequently, the government coordinated bilateral and multilateral support for rule of law assistance in the country and carried out budget planning and prioritization.

UNDP's joint programme with MINUSMA, “Extension of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North,” expedited assistance and service delivery by rehabilitating rule of law structures, building the capacity of justice personnel, and deploying government representatives to Northern cities. In 2016, the programme completed the rehabilitation of 11 courts that are now fully operational, disposing of 1,455 cases by the end of the year.¹²⁶ In addition, the programme completed 17 legal aid centers and connected them to local courts, which are expected to provide services to approximately 3,000 people residing in Northern regions. The joint programme also supported law enforcement through the rehabilitation of one station for the Gendarmerie in Bankass, two police stations in Mopti and Ansongo, and two central prisons in Timbuktu and Gao.

In September 2016, UNDP and GFP partners also launched the joint programme Strengthening Rule of Law for Peace Building in Northern Mali (2016 – 2020).¹²⁷ The programme seeks to increase access to justice and contribute to peacebuilding efforts in the north. Service delivery components include establishing legal aid in 26 courts in Segou, Mopti, Gao, and Timbuktu regions; providing services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in two regions (Bamako and Gao); and supporting security service delivery in 10 locations, including the implementation of a witness protection



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» A Senegalese MINUSMA peacekeeper waves at children outside the Mamadou Konaté Stadium during a sports event organized to promote peace among the youth.

programme in the north. The programme deliverables will complement institution-building initiatives and contribute to peacebuilding efforts. Bringing justice closer to the people and supporting communities' day-to-day security needs will contribute to sustaining state extension efforts.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The security situation remains the main challenge in Mali. The Government of Mali and the UN adopted several measures to maintain stability in 2016; however, intercommunal conflicts and active terrorist operations remain a critical security threat. While implementing its rule of law programmes, UNDP maintained rigorous risk management and mitigation measures through coordination with local governments and communities. UNDP rule of law initiatives adopted flexible implementation modalities to deliver context-specific assistance in Northern Mali, including forging synergies with peacebuilding interventions.

In 2017, UNDP will strengthen its coordination efforts with the interim authority representatives to expedite programme implementation, particularly in the Kidal region. UNDP will continue to leverage its engagement as part of the GFP to provide innovative solutions, addressing challenges and consolidating interagency collaboration.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Ministry of Justice received technical support to identify and adopt justice priorities and coordinated a resource mobilization framework for the next three years.
- The Ministry of Interior rehabilitated and equipped the newly established police academy, providing training for police personnel.
- UNDP supported the rehabilitation of justice and security infrastructure, including 7 courts, 13 justice residential units, 6 mayoral offices, three guard camps, four police stations, 8 prisons, and four regional prison administrations in Kidal, Timbuktu, Gao, and Mopti.
- 1,423 justice and law enforcement personnel received capacity building training, of which 184 were women.
- In collaboration with MINUSMA, 33 civil society associations received various trainings to increase their capacity in Timbuktu.
- With the support of UNDP, the National Commission on Human Rights revised its policy on promotion and protection of human rights, resulting in the upgrade of accreditation from status B to A.
- In partnership with civil society, campaigns for peace were carried out in Kidal, Timbuktu, and Gao.
- UNDP supported the national government to finalize the national rights-based strategy for preventing violent extremism.



MYANMAR

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$4,100,442

BACKGROUND

The new government in Myanmar was elected in 2016 and identified rule of law and judicial reform as priority areas, promising to end a culture of impunity and transform from 'rule by law' to 'rule of law.' The democratic transition led to increased public expectation for immediate changes, including respect for and fulfillment of human rights by the state, as well as a fairer and more responsive judiciary. Some of the continuing challenges facing rule of law in Myanmar include: established norms which do not align to international standards; corruption across all branches of government; and ineffective criminal and civil justice systems that neither uphold nor respect people's fundamental rights.

In addition, the incidents of communal violence and deteriorating human rights situation in Rakhine state (along with humanitarian and protection concerns) pose additional risks to the rule of law. Heightened tensions and open conflict in several states – notably Kachin and Northern Shan – have affected the ongoing peace negotiations. Conflict-related human rights violations continue to be reported, including attacks against civilians, extrajudicial killings, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, inhumane and degrading treatment, forced labor, looting, and property confiscation and destruction.

Concerns about human rights abuses and opportunities to strengthen the national human rights institution were highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in Myanmar (the national human rights institution in Myanmar was accorded 'B' status by the Subcommittee on Accreditation). The UN Special Rapporteur also highlighted the disenfranchisement of minority groups, the disqualification of many Muslim candidates from elections, and restrictions on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.¹²⁸

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In Myanmar, UNDP promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights by working with justice institutions and civil society to develop and implement frameworks for justice sector reform. UNDP aimed to ensure people understood their rights and could advocate for them effectively, that the laws and policies in place enable the realization of these rights, and that institutions are able to uphold the rule of law and respect for human rights.

In 2016, UNDP's Rule of Law and Access to Justice project assisted justice sector actors to develop and implement a comprehensive reform agenda that reflects the needs of all people, especially women and other vulnerable groups. The project supported justice sector reform efforts through various entry points: at the community level with the Rule of Law Centres, at the state and regional level through training of justice sector officials, and at the policy and leadership level through research, training, and technical assistance for policy development and institutional reform. Through multi-layered support, UNDP contributed to a fundamental shift in resistant attitudes of justice sector counterparts toward acknowledging, discussing, and engaging in justice reform activities.

UNDP's advocacy also contributed to the formation of the National Coordinating Body for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Affairs under the Union Attorney General's Office. In addition, UNDP supported the Attorney General and Office of the Supreme Court of the Union to develop strategic plans, resulting in current foundational frameworks for reform. In 2015 and 2016, UNDP carried out research on access to justice, including informal justice systems in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan States, to establish a shared understanding of challenges and ensure evidence-based policy reform.

The Rule of Law Centres have been successful in bringing together government officials, justice service providers, and civil society organizations to discuss local justice issues through community forums. The forums have improved awareness of rights, roles, and responsibilities, and provided a rare space for

community engagement between justice stakeholders. Six mobile trainings were held in Kachin and Shan states for community leaders, and 12 community forums were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Myitkynia. Graduates of the trainings held at the Rule of Law Centres reported that they have used the knowledge from their trainings to help resolve legal issues at the local level, including in the provision of pro bono legal services.

Finally, UNDP worked with civil society partners to support the strengthening of university-based legal education in Myanmar, as well as clinical legal education. UNDP is seeking to address the high levels of corruption in the justice system by supporting the development, or revision, of codes of conduct to govern the behavior of officials.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Through support provided to Myanmar in 2016, UNDP has learned the importance of adopting a holistic reform agenda that addresses an entire sector rather than fragmented parts, improving monitoring, evaluation, and communication of results, and developing a stronger theory of change to refine and enhance the effectiveness of the rule of law and justice programming. In addition, focusing programming on a few activities in select locations – then slowly expanding to other areas – may improve results, as well as allow time for beneficiaries to fully understand the project and institutionalize new approaches. Notably, the extent of impact also hinges on the willingness of local authorities to enact reform agendas, as they are often reluctant to make decisions without approval from Union authorities.

While UNDP has been successful in providing training opportunities to rule of law actors, it will be necessary to develop a strategy to institutionalize the trainings and ensure sustainability. Practical training must accompany theoretical training directly related to the day-to-day work of justice sector actors. Similarly, while the Rule of Law Centres have contributed to

promoting discussion over rule of law issues among different actors, managing expectations and promoting action will be necessary to avoid ‘discussion fatigue.’

Moving forward, UNDP aims to consolidate rule of law initiatives across the justice sector, including building on a study of informal justice systems to inform policy reform and service delivery. UNDP’s Rule of Law and Access to Justice project will also help implement the Supreme Court and Attorney General’s strategic plans at the local level. In 2017, UNDP will begin to identify the next phase of support in rule of law, access to justice, and justice sector reform as the current programme cycle comes to an end.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- 36 mid-level officials from the Supreme Court and the Union Attorney General’s Office completed courses on fair trial principles.
- 17 universities applied clinical legal education teaching modalities and principles, involving community teaching, externship programs, and mock trials.
- Justice institutions promoted participatory legislative development, including the implementation of legal aid law, review of the legislative handbook, consultations on institutional policies to govern the behavior of justice officials, participatory dialogue on a code of ethics for judges and judicial staff, and a code of ethics for law officers.
- Through the Rule of Law Centres, 6 mobile trainings for 130 community leaders were held in Kachin and Shan States. A total of 656 people attended 12 community forums in Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Myitkynia to raise legal awareness and discuss local justice issues.
- The Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and the Union Attorney General’s Office aligned all the incoming development assistance to strategic plans developed with support from UNDP.
- The National Coordinating Body for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Affairs was established under the Union Attorney General’s Office.



NEPAL

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$3,448,502

BACKGROUND

A new Nepali Constitution was adopted in 2015, creating a federal republic of 7 states with significant power decentralized to the provincial and local levels. Following protests by Terai-based Madhesi political parties, the constitution was amended in January 2016 to include a provision for proportional representation ensuring the participation of all marginalized communities, including ethnic representation in state and public employment. However, there is still resentment from the Madhesi-based political parties regarding the new constitution. The Madhesi parties advocated for changes in relation to state restructuring and the provisions of citizenship, among other items. Despite these unresolved disputes, the government announced that the local elections will take place on 14 May 2017.

Although the Nepali government accepted 148 out of the 195 recommendations put forth at the 2015 Universal Periodic Review session, strengthening the National Human Rights Commission and other national institutions remains a challenge. Furthermore, transitional justice and political accountability continue to be problematic and deter development at all levels of government. For example, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act does not comply with international standards or Supreme Court decisions. The provision of amnesty is problematic and has created barriers to justice, reparations, and services for victims of the conflict.

The Nepali Judiciary's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2014–2019) prioritizes accelerated and accessible justice mechanisms. However, access to justice – particularly for vulnerable groups – remains a challenge. The Ministry of Justice conducted a baseline study in 2016, which demonstrated that 50 percent of the respondents did not have confidence in the criminal justice system.¹²⁹ The study also found that 87.7 percent of citizens were not aware of free legal aid services available.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's rule of law and human rights project in Nepal focuses primarily on coordination and capacity building of justice actors, aiming to foster a culture of cooperation within the justice sector.

In 2016, UNDP supported Justice Sector Coordination Committees as a common forum to discuss justice-related issues and explore areas in need of support. For instance, concerns related to the efficiency of adjudication have improved through collaborative efforts. In 2016, the judgment disposal rate reached 56.4 percent for civil cases, 34.4 percent for fine recovery, and 23.8 percent for prison sentences.¹³⁰ UNDP has encouraged the committees to become more inclusive and to identify priorities jointly. Some of these priorities include case management, prison reform, and legal orientation for quasi-judicial institutions. Additionally, District Court Regulations, amended in 2016, introduced four new members to the Justice Sector Coordination Committees, including a Local Development Officer, a District Land Revenue Officer, a District Survey Officer, and a Judgment Execution Officer, which have provided key capacities and perspectives.

In addition, UNDP supported policy reforms to enhance judicial oversight. For example, the amended Judicial Council Act mandates the Chief Justice to monitor the performance of judges in order to improve the judicial integrity of the court system. UNDP also developed a position paper to contribute to Nepal's National Justice Sector Strategy. High-level officials endorsed the concept at a national conference with the Justice Sector Coordination Committees, providing the basis for future discussions to improve the justice sector in 2017.

UNDP also worked with the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs to develop an integrated legal aid policy that will lead to an amendment of the Legal Aid Act in 2017. UNDP supported various initiatives to facilitate awareness-raising of violence against women, most notably, a national campaign led by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and the Access to Justice

Commission which reached 559 people. This campaign also served to inform marginalized communities of the free legal services available.

Lastly, UNDP helped improve collaboration between the National Human Rights Commission, the National Dalit Commission, and the Women National Commission to advocate for the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations and devise a joint monitoring framework. As a result, the Prime Minister's Office and the national police established a high-level monitoring group to address cases of discrimination and gender-based violence. In 2016, the working group monitored 37 cases.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The constitutional debate and the upcoming local elections continue to monopolize the political agenda, overshadowing law reform efforts that are critical in fulfilling human rights obligations of the state. The National Justice Sector Strategy should aim to institutionalize coordination within the new federal structure and provide capacity building services at the provincial level. Additionally, the engagement of civil society and quasi-judicial bodies is essential to ensure sustainable impact.

Judicial integrity in Nepal continues to challenge the positive progress made by the Judicial Council Act. However, a judicial independence and integrity self-assessment is being undertaken by the Supreme Court to produce a plan of action to strengthen judicial integrity. Accountability and inclusiveness in the appointment of judges are also issues that requires better oversight mechanisms.

Looking forward, UNDP's rule of law and human rights programme in Nepal will aim to ensure the sustainability of key results through capacity development and institutional reforms. The project will also explore further entry points at the local level to improve development assistance and balance engagement between national and local levels.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Legal aid services benefited more than 8,164 persons (5,018 women and 3,146 men), a 51 percent increase from 2015. Over 19,729 people (10,381 women and 9,348 men) received legal awareness and information about legal aid services from socio-legal aid centers.
- The case disposal rate reached 68 percent in 23 working district courts. Over 46,530 court clients (17,354 women and 29,176 men) received access to court information.
- The judgment decision disposal rate reached 56 percent for civil cases, 34 percent for fine recovery, and 24 percent for prison sentences in 2016.
- The programme supported the review of 11 laws by national experts. Policy reforms improved procedures for a range of services, including treaty negotiation, continuous hearings, and legal aid.¹³¹



PAKISTAN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$9,068,071

BACKGROUND

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas have experienced protracted conflict for decades, with far-reaching humanitarian consequences and regional repercussions. While there appears to be an improvement in the rule of law, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa leading the country in the Combined Rule of Law Index, the security situation throughout the province remained volatile and unpredictable in 2016.¹³² Although terrorism-related incidents continued, there was a reduction in the frequency of such incidents. Despite this, the devastating attack at Bacha Khan University in January 2016, killing 19 people, is a reminder of the necessity of vigilant crisis-sensitivity and risk management efforts to strengthen the rule of law.¹³³

While police and media reports in the region showed a declining trend in crime, a gap existed in the number of offenses brought to justice through the criminal justice system.¹³⁴ This can be partly attributed to the poor quality of police investigations, relating to a lack of forensic evidence and witnesses, inadequate guidelines and standard operating procedures, and poor cooperation between police and the prosecution.¹³⁵

The UNDP Strengthening Rule of Law Project was initiated in 2011 to respond to the governance crisis in Malakand after a militant insurgency and subsequent military offensive. The project has since been adjusted to fit the current context where government service delivery has significantly improved, filling the governance vacuum that existed when the project was initiated.¹³⁶ In 2016, UNDP adjusted the structural and geographic scope of the programme, building on lessons from the mid-term review, and extended its presence to an additional three districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and Kohat. The key priorities identified in the three districts include addressing the weaknesses in the formal justice system, the lack of trust in justice institutions (excluding the courts), and the considerable reliance on informal dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial authorities have recognized the critical need for rule of law programming and have fully supported UNDP

programming, including sharing the cost of 25 percent of the project budget. This is significant in an era where most UNDP programming is funded entirely by donors. Additionally, the provincial authorities have demonstrated strong joint ownership of the project through their involvement in planning and implementing activities, decision-making, networking, and coordination.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The UNDP Strengthening Rule of Law Programme aims to improve justice and security service delivery at the local level, leveraging divisional and provincial systems to affect durable change. This includes working closely with the police to focus on prevention and community engagement, supporting legal aid services through the provincial Bar Council and paralegal programmes, and working with the judiciary.

With increasing stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the police have readjusted their role from traditional law enforcement to prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships. During 2016, UNDP trained a total of 1,303 police officials, judges and court staff, leaders, and prosecutors (of which 27 percent were female) on community policing. The institutional support provided through the project contributed to a reduction in the crime ratio by 8 percent.¹³⁷ In addition, enthusiasm and commitment from the police and the community for community policing initiatives continued, with 37 community policing forums supported in 2016. UNDP also established 18 model police stations in the province, refurbishing the stations and promoting gender-sensitive and community-oriented policing.

UNDP's support contributed to the institutionalization of legal aid desks, as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Bar Council formally adopted the legal aid desks and recognized the Legal Aid Committees as official committees of the Bar Council. This development was key for enabling poor and marginalized segments of the population to access free legal aid. In 2016, 7,009 community members (3,290 women) accessed free legal aid.

The project also facilitated wider dialogue and discussion on the role of community-based paralegals in Pakistan. Key stakeholders have called for the full recognition of paralegals in communities, governments, and the legal system. In 2016, UNDP supported the development of a new certificate programme at the University of Malakand and trained 170 paralegals (49 percent female) who will contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite this progress, implementation challenges exist with regards to alternate dispute resolution because of delays in enacting local governance laws. However, the project readjusted its activities to work with police to support existing legislation on implementing alternate dispute resolution under the police ordinances. This allowed communities to access formal alternative dispute mechanisms through the police, even if the local government mechanisms were not yet established. Ultimately, the project aims to encourage a gradual diversion from quasi-alternate dispute resolution through the police to true alternate dispute resolution mechanisms through the local government and community-driven platforms.

Over the years, UNDP has learned the importance of increasing policy-level support to law enforcement and justice institutions. This is crucial for institutionalizing the model police station concept, community policing, gender-sensitive justice services, and the empowerment of women. Furthermore, the project should explore more opportunities for cross-fertilization of expertise within the project, as well as across other UNDP programmes on governance and rule of law.

In 2017, UNDP will increase its efforts to build upon intra-project synergies, establishing close cooperation between actors involved in community policing, dispute resolution, paralegal services, and legal aid initiatives. The project expects to work more closely

with the district judiciaries, the Judicial Academy, the Prison Inspectorate, and the prosecution department. In addition to supporting model police stations, UNDP plans to further strengthen police accountability through internal processes and supporting external oversight mechanisms.

Finally, UNDP is preparing to support the Federally Administered Tribal Areas region which recently merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The consolidation of the two districts will require significant support related to the rule of law and security. UNDP plans to help establish an independent judiciary, work with informal justice providers to uphold human rights and Pakistan's constitution, and develop professional and accountable law enforcement.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The community environment at 18 model police stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province enhanced police services. This led to the establishment of 37 community policing forums, the posting of 91 female police officers, and the reporting of 476 cases to the gender desks of model police stations.
- A certificate course for paralegals at the University of Malakand trained 170 new paralegals (49 percent women). The paralegals conducted 90 legal awareness programmes benefiting 1,092 community members (21 percent women). During consultations, paralegals referred 286 individuals (48 percent women) to relevant public service providers and 36 community members (58 percent women) to legal aid desks. The paralegals resolved 145 cases through mediation.
- 7,009 community members (3,290 women) accessed free legal aid through awareness initiatives reaching 55,198 people (51 percent women). A total of 14 scholarships were provided to female law students, and 49 female lawyers were trained on legal aid provision. The project supported pro bono legal aid rules and helped institutionalize legal aid desks by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council.



SIERRA LEONE

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$2,057,872

BACKGROUND

On 17 March 2016, the World Health Organization declared Sierra Leone free from the Ebola virus. The Ebola epidemic, together with the global decline in iron ore prices, negatively impacted the gross domestic product, human development, and government budget of Sierra Leone. As a result, the government introduced austerity measures in November 2016, removing fuel subsidies that increased prices in electricity, water, and food prices by 100 percent and adversely impacting low-income households.

The political situation remains polarized and fragile in the run-up to the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections scheduled for 7 March 2018. However, the government has made significant progress toward rebuilding state institutions and implementing reforms.¹³⁸ Despite improvements, the overall Mo Ibrahim Index score on governance for Sierra Leone fell slightly from 51 in 2015 to 49.4 in 2016. The government-led 2016 Fragility Assessment indicated that the most endangered peace- and state-building goal is the one for enhancing the justice sector.

Sierra Leone's Strategic Plan (2013–2018) committed the government to improve respect for the rule of law and security by strengthening institutional capacity, transparency, and accountability. Even with this commitment, insufficient funding for the rule of law remains a critical challenge and has been exacerbated by the economic downturn. Capacity gaps are still prevalent in the justice and security sector, highlighting problems of corruption, service delivery, and adherence to the rule of law. Furthermore, despite focused efforts, the correctional facilities remain overcrowded and conditions of detention are poor. However, following the appointment of a new Attorney General, Minister of Justice, and Chief Justice in December 2015, judicial staff have been more willing to address key challenges impeding service delivery. In 2016, justice and security actors worked to improve legal frameworks and better coordinate the governance structure of the sector.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, UNDP increased the capacity of crucial security and justice institutions, helping to improve service delivery and restore public trust and confidence in national institutions. UNDP supported the oversight, accountability, and coordination functions of the Sierra Leone Police, Independent Police Complaints Board, and Office of National Security through the development of an asset management database and the provision of trainings on investigative and coordination skills to over 100 community leaders and security actors in border regions.

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary to initiate criminal procedure reforms that enhance respect for human rights and ensure due process guarantees throughout the justice system. The institutions developed a new criminal procedure code, Act 1965, which was passed by the Cabinet and sent to Parliament for consideration. Reforms to the criminal procedure code will help the judiciary improve the quality of decision making. Additionally, the judiciary approved the first-ever bail policy aligned with the new Criminal Code, providing for greater use of non-custodial sentences, discretion for granting bail, and reducing the remand population, which currently stands at 58 percent of the prison population.

UNDP also provided technical expertise and funding to the judiciary for the reactivation of Saturday Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Courts, providing justice services to victims of SGBV. Due to the sensitive nature of these cases, the sessions are held on Saturdays to ensure witness and victim protection. Additionally, UNDP supported civil society organizations to support SGBV victim redress and rehabilitation, as well as to conduct legal aid outreach sessions. The Sierra Leone Family Support Unit and civil society partners raised awareness about the ills of SGBV and female genital mutilation in 20 communities throughout Sierra Leone. Additionally, 2,281 residents attended community consultation sessions and 144 survivors received access to police, medical, and legal services. The UN Standing Police Capacity and the International Association of Women Police also

worked with UNDP to improve gender mainstreaming in national institutions by providing trainings to more than 300 personnel including the police and the Office of National Security.

A UNDP-supported community policing pilot initiative was established in Kambia District, a crucial border location for Sierra Leone and Guinea. The model was praised in an independent evaluation for building trust between police and the communities and is now being replicated in other districts jointly with the United Kingdom International Security Advisory Team.

UNDP also provided technical support to the Human Rights Commission to prepare and submit Sierra Leone's 2016 Universal Periodic Review report, maintaining its 'Grade A status' in the global National Human Rights Institutions ranking. Additionally, the Independent Police Complaints Board, Human Rights Commission, Ombudsman, and the Sierra Leone Police signed agreements pledging to work together to address police misconduct.

Lastly, to manage high remand populations and improve the dire conditions of detention, UNDP and the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs launched a 27-month project, From Prisons to Corrections, in October 2016 that provides support to Sierra Leone's Correctional Service to improve human rights standards within places of detention.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Despite progress achieved in the justice and security sectors, the government is still faced with coordination challenges and limited capacity of key institutions to deliver on their respective mandates. In addition, the lack of dedicated funding for the justice and security sectors, primarily due to the focus on Ebola recovery and a decrease in donor funds, remains a challenge. UNDP is taking steps toward developing innovative programming solutions and improving dialogue with the government to support fundraising needs. As the country moves toward elections in 2018, it is critical to continue support for justice, security, and human rights. During times of transition, preserving rule of law, oversight, and transparency mechanisms are essential prerequisites for maintaining peace and security.

In 2016, UNDP commissioned an independent evaluation of the access to justice, rule of law, and security sector reform projects in Sierra Leone. The evaluation recommended a heightened focus on strengthening data collection and analysis and bolstering coordination amongst stakeholders and donors. Additionally, the results of the evaluations defined the shared priorities of all actors to maintain

peace and stability. In response to the need for a more holistic approach, UNDP developed a new project to begin in 2017, bringing together justice and security efforts for a coordinated approach to service delivery and focusing on vulnerable and marginalized groups.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The judiciary approved the first-ever bail policy aligned with the new Criminal Code.
- The Sierra Leone Family Support Unit and civil society partners raised awareness of SGBV and female genital mutilation in 20 communities. A total of 2,281 residents attended consultations, and 144 survivors received access to services.
- A community policing programme was established in Kambia district, a crucial border location for Sierra Leone and Guinea.
- An asset management database was developed to increase coordination between the Sierra Leone Police, Independent Police Complaints Board, and the Office of National Security.
- UNDP supported trainings on investigative and coordination skills for over 100 community leaders and security actors in border regions.
- The Independent Police Complaints Board, Human Rights Commission, Ombudsman, and the Sierra Leone Police signed an agreement to work together to address police misconduct.
- The UN Standing Police Capacity and the International Association of Women Police provided gender-conscious trainings to more than 300 police and personnel from the Office of the National Security.



» Women and a baby in a village near the city of Makeni, in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone.



SOMALIA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$15,340,464

BACKGROUND

Somalia's long-awaited presidential elections took place on 8 February 2017 with a peaceful transition of power when President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo was elected for a four-year term. Prior to this, Somaliland experienced rifts between prominent political figures, but stability returned once the government declared the date of the election. However, the security situation in Somalia remains difficult, as Al-Shabaab still holds various geographical areas and can engage in effective asymmetrical warfare. AMISOM is providing security for much of the population, but remaining in control of liberated areas is challenging and crucial supply routes are vulnerable to attacks.¹³⁹ Socio-economic conditions worsened in 2016 due to a drought impacting half of Somalia's population – 6.2 million people – and wiping out 60 percent of livestock.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP, through the joint GFP, focused on addressing those most in need in 2016, establishing baselines and data collection to measure direct impact on individuals. The programme invested a great deal of effort to support legal aid services for 7,180 persons (4,982 women and 2,198 men). Of these, 149 cases dealt with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

In the absence of formal justice institutions, UNDP sponsored mobile courts with positive results, bridging informal and formal mechanisms in areas where judges have engaged in local mediation. In 2016, mobile courts adjudicated 1,233 cases (251 criminal and 79 civil), 330 of which the Benadir Region Mobile Courts processed at the federal level. In Puntland, mobile courts adjudicated 903 cases, 347 of which women filed, reaching 22 villages for hearing cases. In addition, the mobile courts expanded to the Hayland region. In Somaliland, mobile courts adjudicated 1,231 cases, completing 937 cases before the end of the year.

Radio programmes and awareness sessions provided information on availability and use of legal aid services to 667,890 people in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa,

and Puntland, while 4,180 (1,421 women and 2,759 men) received legal awareness in Somaliland.¹⁴⁰ In 2016, women and girls in Puntland received education about legal rights, women's and children's rights, refugee rights, SGBV, and gender equality, as well as the function and mandate of the formal justice system in relation to customary justice.

For the first time since the collapse of the central government in 1991, the Attorney General's Office, Supreme Court, Benadir Appeal Court, and Benadir Regional Court managed to track, record, compile, and generate reports on the number of cases handled in 2016, with the installation of a manual case management system.

A total of 357 (52 female and 305 male) judges, prosecutors, registrars, lawyers, staff at federal and state levels, graduate interns, and other justice sector officials participated in training programmes at various institutions in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, and Garowe. A total of 12 justice institutions at the federal level, and member states in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, and Adado, received assets from the programme to receive vehicles, furniture, computers, and security screening equipment meant to enhance operational and institutional capacity for justice service delivery to the people of Somalia.

In March 2016, a Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, resulting in a 15-point agreement on the New Policing Model. Conference participants adopted the New Policing Model containing federal and state-level police structures that will report to their respective ministries of internal security. The New Policing Model was formally endorsed at the National Leadership Forum on 24 June 2016. The UNPOL, AMISOM, and UNDP were the international partners for this discussion on the policing model.

In 2016, AMISOM and UNDP staff provided various trainings to enhance the capacity of the Somali police, including election security training for 469 police officers to ensure a safe and secure electoral environment, SGBV training for 25 police officers working at gender and child desks within police stations, and trainings for 22 rule of law actors on financial management, reporting, monitoring and

evaluation, and risk management. Furthermore, on 17 August 2016, the rule of law police component completed a milestone achievement with the successful delivery of 6,000 police uniforms to the Somaliland Police, thereby improving the visibility and identity of the police.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The severe shortage of qualified persons in the rule of law sector has negatively affected the implementation of the joint programme in Somalia. To combat this, the GFP has invested a lot of resources in education, but law graduates placed in justice institutions will take some time to show results.

While progress has been made through the GFP, an effective coordinated approach is needed to utilize a greater number of technical experts across the UN system, especially while undertaking complex legal strategies and legislations. Joint review meetings identified several quick solutions – such as coordination between UNODC, UNICEF, and UNDP – while establishing the case management systems in the different courts in Puntland and Banadir. The establishment of the Case Management committee in Somaliland is also expected to reduce the duplication of roles and responsibilities between the various criminal justice actors and the technical expertise that would be required from the UN agencies.

The GFP set multiple priorities for 2017, focusing on the finalization of the justice sector model and improving service delivery at the regional level. Judicial trainings will be prioritized to enable duty bearers to aid victims in both state and district levels. Additionally, the GFP will capitalize on the momentum from the New Policing Model adopted in 2016 and will authorize the creation of technical committees in each Federal Member State, working to establish state-based policing organizations. The committees will focus on initiating internal oversight and accountability mechanisms within the police and the Ministry of Interior and Security, as well as financial management, auditing, assets management, and police inspection.

The joint programme will contribute to improved policing services in 24 targeted police stations in Banadir and Federal Member States through: (1) a police station management training programme; (2) training on SGBV and human trafficking cases; and (3) introducing community policing in Banadir, Jubaland, South West, and Puntland. The Somaliland police project plans to support the development of the strategic plan and functional review to enable a better-planned approach to the development of the police.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The court system in Mogadishu district installed case management mechanisms, allowing for the first-ever tracking, recording, compiling, and generating of reports for cases in 2016.
- The High Judicial Council in Somaliland - with technical support from UNDP - established the case management committee in Somaliland for the criminal justice chain actors.
- The Ministry of Justice in Puntland coordinated and led justice sector reform, drafting, disseminating, and reviewing critical legislation such as the Female Genital Mutilation Act, Public Notary Act, Advocate Act, Legal Aid Policy, and Children Act. The financial support to the Ministry of Justice allowed for the undertaking of several rounds of stakeholder discussions.
- Mobile Courts were established in Mogadishu under the supervision of the Supreme Court of the Federal Government of Somalia at the Banadir Appeals court, operating in all 17 districts with special attention to districts where IDPs are concentrated.
- The National Leadership Forum agreed on the New Policing Model in Baidoa on 24 June 2016. This will facilitate the development of the police organization at the member state level using a federalized model.
- Somalia adopted a community policing methodology for the national police, while Somaliland began implementing community policing at four police stations.



SOUTH SUDAN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$6,295,532

BACKGROUND

South Sudan took positive steps toward sustaining peace, stability, and development by signing the Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in August 2015 and forming the Transitional Government of National Unity in April 2016. However, the renewed conflict in July 2016 undermined development gains and worsened the humanitarian situation. At least 300 people were killed during four days of intense gun battles in the capital of Juba, and 42,000 fled the city.¹⁴¹ OHCHR reported that the rule of law situation remains extremely fragile given the political and security situation in South Sudan. Additionally, OHCHR stated that “complete disregard” for civilian safety by warring parties has led to human rights violations, impacting women and girls most severely.¹⁴²

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's Access to Justice and Rule of Law Project aims to strengthen rule of law in South Sudan by increasing police capacity to maintain law and order, contribute to equitable access to justice and a functioning criminal justice system, support initiatives for increased security in communities, and promote human rights. The project contributes to the Interim Cooperation Framework of the UN Country Team for 2016–2017, with a focus on strengthening peace and governance. The project is implemented in close collaboration with other UN agencies, including UNMISS, UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF.¹⁴³

UNDP's access to justice support in South Sudan focuses on vulnerable groups and women. In 2016, civil society organizations (CSOs) ran Justice and Confidence Centers with UNDP grants, providing 769 people (289 females) with legal aid services and successfully reached 1,617 people (838 females) for legal awareness-raising and training on legal services. The increased access to justice has enabled targeted communities, especially vulnerable groups, to seek redress for human rights violations. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) justice mechanisms were

strengthened for prompt and coordinated responses from service providers through the training of 221 police (58 females) and 170 social workers (100 females) on SGBV investigation, sensitization, and coordination for a survivor-centric approach. Emergency Call Centers provided 1,037 citizens of Juba with emergency police response services, and 161 police personnel (24 females) acquired knowledge and skills for running the call centers. UNDP also supported the development of Special Protection Units within the South Sudan National Police Service. The units are ‘safe spaces’ where SGBV victims are provided services without fear of victimization or intimidation. In 2016, there were 15 functional Special Protection Units in 8 states across South Sudan.

To expedite access to justice, case backlog was reduced and interventions occurred to address prolonged and arbitrary detention at the state level. UNDP facilitated 20 rule of law forums that brought together representatives from local rule of law institutions, including the informal sector, which involved 495 participants (129 females). The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs completed the drafting of the 2015 Case Management Report, which provides information for tracking the management of cases and ensures justice is not delayed.

UNDP hired 14 trainers and two supervisors through the Ministry of Education to provide vocational training to 134 inmates (9 females) and 92 prison staff (22 females) at Juba Central Prison in carpentry, masonry, electrical skills, welding, mechanics, agriculture, hairdressing, and tailoring. UNDP also trained 133 police personnel (31 females) and 163 community leaders (41 females) in community policing. In 2016, 1,149 people (291 females) participated in 39 police-community relations committee meetings.

UNDP completed five ascertainment studies on traditional law and a study on the harmonization of customary laws with the national legal system. UNDP also promoted a human rights approach in the application of traditional law, training 133 customary leaders (33 females) on principles of law and human rights.

The Ministry of Justice, with UNDP support, established a Technical Committee to conduct national consultations regarding the legal framework for the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing. UNDP also supported CSOs to form a Transitional Justice Working Group, creating a platform for civic engagement in transitional justice mechanisms. In 2016, the working group finalized and launched their five-year strategic plan. Additionally, UNDP provided grants to CSOs conducting outreach activities, which successfully targeted 887 people (545 females) and increased knowledge of transitional justice.

The government participated in South Sudan's first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in July 2016. This was made possible with technical support provided by the GFP. UNDP and the UNMISS Human Rights Division provided training on state reporting and the UPR process to the South Sudan Inter-Ministerial Working Group. The South Sudan Human Rights Commission and Inter-Ministerial Working Group also facilitated public participation on the UPR process to inform state and civil society reports submitted in March 2016.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The expansion in the number of states from 10 to 28 during 2016 stretched limited government capacity and affected the consistency of training and capacity development activities. The impact of the July 2016 crisis worsened the security situation, leading to the withdrawal of UNDP staff at the sub-national level. The slow and inconsistent implementation of the peace agreement resulted in frequent changes in political appointments, affecting decision-making in crucial senior leadership positions within rule of law institutions, such as the formation, training, and operationalization of the Joint Integrated Police. Inadequate capacities of rule of law institutions and CSOs continue to adversely impact the quality of services rendered. In addition, inflation and economic instability have increased the cost of conducting business in the country, and the strained state budget has impacted the ability of the government to maintain fundamental programmes. In particular, the Emergency Call Centers were unable to respond to all calls due to the fuel crisis and budgetary constraints.

Key lessons informing future programming include the need to facilitate consultations and dialogue to support implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, the importance of partnerships with other UN institutions to fully harness all specialized skills available, and the value of UNDP collaboration with CSOs for increasing geographic reach. Looking

forward, UNDP will enhance its work with the South Sudan National Police Service in 2017 to bring about an integrated police force with an emphasis on community security, civilian oversight, human rights, and SGBV. In addition, UNDP aims to increase collaboration with other UN entities through the GFP to ensure the delivery of coordinated support.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- **Justice and Confidence Centers provided 769 people (289 females) with legal aid services, while 1,617 people (838 females) benefited from legal awareness-raising and training on legal services.**
- **UNDP supported training, counseling, and legal support related to SGBV survivor-centric referral responses for 221 police (58 females) and 170 social workers (100 females).**
- **The South Sudan National Police Service developed 15 Special Protection Units across 8 states, where SGBV victims were provided services without fear of victimization or intimidation.**
- **The Emergency Call Center in Juba responded to 1,037 cases, including 76 SGBV cases. However, the center could only respond to 52 percent of the calls, due to the security situation and the lack of fuel for their vehicles.**
- **UNDP trained 133 police personnel (31 females) and 163 community leaders (41 females) in the concept of police-community relations.**
- **The Ministry of Justice established a Technical Committee to conduct national consultations regarding the legal framework of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing.**
- **UNDP facilitated 20 rule of law forums led by the national police involving 495 participants (129 females), and 31 community policing outreach activities in schools for 3,107 community members (1,103 females).**



» School children arrive in procession for the International Women's Day event at the Nyakuron Cultural Centre in Juba, South Sudan.



SRI LANKA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$653,610

BACKGROUND

The 2015 political transition in Sri Lanka created a new window of opportunity for building peace. A joint pledge was made by the leaders of the country's two largest political parties to ensure "ethnic and religious reconciliation" and undertake further constitutional reforms to promote ethnic unity and uphold the rights of minorities. The Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/30/1) in October 2015, co-sponsored by Sri Lanka, adopted a comprehensive approach to dealing with the past and allowed the government to move forward with a nationally-owned, victim-centric transitional justice and reconciliation process. In addition, the new government also passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in October 2015, restoring the role of the Constitutional Council in reducing the powers of the executive and ensuring stronger and more independent oversight mechanisms.

Throughout 2016, Sri Lanka made great progress in the areas of peacebuilding, reconciliation, and transitional justice. Some key achievements in 2016 include: completing a nation-wide public consultation to inform the design of transitional justice mechanisms;¹⁴⁴ ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; development of legislation on the Office of Missing Persons; development of the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-Affected Displacement; submitting overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies; initiating the constitutional reform process; developing a National Human Rights Action Plan; and enacting the Right to Information Act.

Despite these achievements, the implementation of the justice and reconciliation agenda remains inefficient and has so far been unable to provide tangible outcomes for victims of past violations. There has been slow progress in addressing contentious issues underlying the reform process, including power-sharing, transitional justice, security sector reform, and constitution making. Increasingly, the economic and environmental challenges in Sri Lanka are considered priorities, rather than the political reform agenda. There are persistent pockets of severe

poverty and growing inequality, and populations are vulnerable to shocks from recurring natural hazards.¹⁴⁵ However, the political and economic agendas are decidedly intertwined, addressing one over the other can easily reverse the gains made in the last few years and undermine progress toward sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, the UN supported Sri Lanka to develop its Peacebuilding Priority Plan to support the implementation of the Human Rights Council Resolution. The Plan identifies peacebuilding priorities in four outcome areas that address issues of i) transitional justice, ii) reconciliation, iii) good governance, and iv) resettlement and durable solutions.

Additionally, in 2016, through the UN joint programme supporting the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, UNDP and UNHCR provided support to ensure the continued provision of services in the conflict-affected districts in the North and Northwest and to strengthen its institutional capacities, including its public engagement, outreach, and communications. In addition to working with the human rights commission, targeted technical support provided by UNDP to specific institutions has been successful in facilitating human rights-based policy development, including through the drafting of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-Affected Displacement, as well as increased reporting to the human rights treaty bodies.

UNDP's project for Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice, and Social Integration ended in 2016. The project aimed to institutionalize interventions of the first two phases of programming (2003-2013) with the overall objective of supporting a sector-wide approach to justice reform and increased social integration. In the final year, the project supported several first-time policy-level interventions in Sri Lanka, including developing national policies for legal aid and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNDP also prioritized the translation and consolidation of five core pieces of legislation to

enable greater access to legislation (Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure Act, Evidence Ordinance, Civil Procedure Code, and Judicature Act).

The project also undertook a case flow assessment of the judiciary and identified underlying challenges contributing to delays and backlog, including the absence of advanced investigation techniques, weak staff capacity, poor transfer of knowledge, weakness in courtroom management, and weak monitoring and tracking of cases.¹⁴⁶ UNDP supported the Attorney General's department to clear some of the case backlog and sought to support a more systematic and evidence-based approach based on the case flow assessment. UNDP also worked with the Ministry of Justice on establishing the National Victim and Witness Protection Authority.

The Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration, supported by UNDP, provided legal documentation to over 1,000 individuals in the estate sector and those affected by natural disasters through mobile legal documentation clinics. The Ministry also established two language labs to provide training on Sri Lanka's official languages, as a means of supporting the implementation of the Official Languages Policy.

A series of media awareness programmes on legal aid were conducted in partnership with the Legal Aid Commission on criminal and civil matters, including labor issues and domestic violence. UNDP also worked closely with civil society organizations in Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, and Colombo districts to provide legal advice and support to victims of SGBV.

Overall, the project aimed to strengthen institutions and policies that would contribute toward improved governance, access to justice, and rule of law in Sri Lanka with a focus on the rights of women and survivors of SGBV.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

When the project was initiated in 2013, the political context allowed little space for judicial reform. By 2015, the environment had changed significantly and required a shift in programmatic approach, including working with civil society and addressing issues on transitional justice and impunity. However, the changes in the broader political context also meant practical challenges in rolling out the programme and linking policy developments with ground-level implementation.

In 2017, UNDP will continue to support Sri Lanka in its efforts to strengthen the rule of law, protect human rights, achieve national reconciliation, and support transitional justice. As part of the broader efforts to increase access to justice for all and guarantee non-

recurrence of conflict and violations of human rights, UNDP will continue to prioritize: the implementation of the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan; victim and witness protection systems; independent oversight commissions; the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms; and a country-wide assessment and policy dialogue on access to justice.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The government developed its first National Legal Aid Policy and Strategic Action Plan in consultation with key stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs finalized Sri Lanka's first National Framework and Action Plan to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and in collaboration with 9 relevant line Ministries, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers for implementation.
- The Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration provided legal documentation to over 1,000 individuals in the estate sector and those affected by natural disasters through mobile legal documentation clinics.
- UNDP provided legal advice and support to over 480 victims of SGBV working in partnership through CSOs in Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, and Colombo districts, and to over 220 prisoners island-wide through the Legal Aid Commission.
- UNDP supported the operations of five mobile offices of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in conflict-affected districts in the North, increasing people's access to the commission.

» A UNDP-supported mobile clinic in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Kiran, Sri Lanka providing free legal documentation services.





STATE OF PALESTINE

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:¹⁴⁷
\$9,428,370

BACKGROUND

The prospects for both an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement and the rejuvenation of Palestinian domestic political processes languished considerably in 2016. As the Gaza blockade entered its 10th year, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate with some two million people unable to access essential services.¹⁴⁸ The largest escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas in Gaza since 2014 occurred in May 2016. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel continued to pursue a policy of settlement expansion.

Progress toward national reconciliation between rival Palestinian factions, Fateh and Hamas, has been virtually non-existent, and there is worrying evidence of increasing centralization of Palestinian executive authority and politicization of the judiciary. This stagnation in the political arena may jeopardize the considerable investments made in state-building and development.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

Despite the challenges of the political context, UNDP's and UN Women's joint programme, referred to as Sawasya,¹⁴⁹ continued to support important advances for rule of law in the State of Palestine. Throughout the year, Sawasya built on the opportunities provided by the State of Palestine's ratification of core international human rights treaties in 2015 and the well-established partnerships with Palestinian institutions,¹⁵⁰ universities, and civil society organizations to achieve results. Through its national partners, Sawasya provided extensive legal aid support to approximately 27,800 Palestinian citizens,¹⁵¹ mitigating the impact of human rights violations and weak rule of law institutions. Through technical assistance and advocacy with national institutions, and support to civil society, Sawasya influenced the justice reform agenda and fostered progress on legal harmonization. The programme also provided policy and legal advice, extensive training for justice and security staff, organizational reform guidance, development of

information technology systems, and extensive support to civil society.

At the national level, Sawasya facilitated the integration of rule of law and justice and security concerns within the Palestinian National Policy Agenda for the period 2017-2022. The national agenda also integrated important policy commitments to strengthen human rights.

The programme provided technical support to establish a unified electronic warrant system across the police, prosecution, and courts, which is expected to reduce delays for executing warrants significantly. Additionally, the programme supported the establishment of separate enforcement offices in the family courts, aimed at increasing the swift implementation of decisions. Furthermore, Sawasya supported mechanisms to increase the accountability and efficacy of the police, such as community policing projects in under-served communities in the West Bank and the creation of a mobile application to enable citizens to quickly report issues to the police. The programme also worked with the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission to pursue corruption cases and implement the UN Convention against Corruption. Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Interior, with Sawasya support, focused on strengthening accountability and increasing the gender-responsiveness of the Palestinian security services.

Sawasya also contributed to strengthening institutional responses to gender-based violence and increasing access to justice for women and girls. The programme continued to enhance the capacity of the civil police's Family and Juvenile Protection Units and supported the pilot "One-Stop Centre" to provide multi-sectoral support to female victims of violence. The Palestinian Attorney General announced the formal establishment of a Specialized Prosecution Unit for Protection from Family Violence in line with the draft Family Protection Bill, which is currently being finalized with support from Sawasya. Sawasya also worked with partners across the sector to implement the new juvenile protection law, which includes the provision of support to the National Juvenile Justice Committee, training of new judges, and upgrades to the electronic case management system.

» Meeting of young human rights activists supported by Sawasya in the West Bank.



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Sawasya's additional work on access to justice in 2016 included: strengthening the national policy framework for legal aid supporting the roll out of a pro bono legal aid scheme; investing in legal clinics and training for Palestinian universities, and providing comprehensive support to many civil society organizations. As a result, civil society organizations provided approximately 27,800 people with legal support across the West Bank and Gaza, using a range of strategies including legal advice and representation, strategic litigation, pursuit of class action cases, international advocacy, training and awareness-raising, and media engagement.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

While some progress has been made towards improving the effectiveness and responsiveness of rule of law institutions in the State of Palestine, the deteriorating political situation remains a critical challenge. Sawasya's engagement in Gaza continues to be affected by limited accessibility, while the worsening situation in Area C and East Jerusalem exacerbates legal challenges for Palestinians.

In this complex context, UNDP and UN Women are working with UNICEF to design the second phase of the Sawasya programme for 2017–2022. The new phase will integrate stronger political economy analysis, risk assessment, and scenario planning. This will include supporting civil society to advance joint, strategic work on civilian oversight, dialogue, advocacy, and monitoring of human rights. The programme will also expand investments in data collection and knowledge management capacity to inform strategies. The development of area-based strategies will be central to the new programme, as well as efforts to leverage political engagement across the UN system and other key international partners.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The efficiency of justice and law enforcement service delivery was improved by the installation of a unified electronic warrants system, which links case systems across the police, prosecution, and courts.
- The Family Courts established 10 new enforcement offices across the West Bank to increase the speed of decision enforcement.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs submitted the Juvenile Protection Bill, which was signed into law by the President to establish a specialized juvenile court and a corps of specialized judges and prosecutors.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs finalized the Family Protection Bill that addresses weaknesses in the legal framework to protect women from violence, which is expected to be adopted in early 2017.
- The government formally adopted the Palestinian Civil Police's Gender Strategy, making the State of Palestine the first in the Arab region with a police gender strategy.
- Approximately 27,800 people benefited from legal services across the West Bank and Gaza through Sawasya's civil society implementing partners.



SUDAN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$1,627,382

BACKGROUND

Sudan continues to face a significant humanitarian crisis with protracted displacement due to the conflict in Darfur and in bordering countries, which has created 2.3 million IDPs and 500,000 refugees in Sudan.¹⁵² In areas affected by armed conflict and violence, civilian populations have been exposed to severe threats to their physical security and integrity.¹⁵³ The combined effects of poverty and instability continue to have serious consequences on human development.¹⁵⁴

The slow pace of establishing robust democratic and representative governance institutions in areas recovering from conflict has negatively impacted the inclusiveness of political processes and development planning.¹⁵⁵ However, the Sudanese government initiated a national dialogue in 2015, providing a platform to improve the political, social, and human rights situation in the country.¹⁵⁶

Rule of law institutions face the challenging task of reconciling national laws with international and regional obligations, requiring clear policies and administrative support.¹⁵⁷ Limited civilian awareness of legal rights, access to justice, and lack of institutional capacities continues to challenge rights holders and duty bearers alike.¹⁵⁸ The Government of Sudan has made considerable efforts to establish specific procedures to provide justice services to victims, witnesses, and offenders.¹⁵⁹ Nevertheless, there is little presence of governmental authority in the form of formal courts, police stations, prosecution offices, prisons, and local administrations in many rural areas.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The joint rule of law programme in Darfur, initiated in 2015 in consultation with national counterparts and beneficiaries, aims to support justice and security sector reform. The Global Focal Point (GFP) facilitates the programme with the objective of minimizing overlap of activities while maximizing the impact of UN interventions to “deliver as one.” UNDP partners with UNAMID¹⁶⁰ in the day-to-day management of the

joint programme in Sudan. The programme’s objectives include: enhancing the capacity of justice institutions in Darfur (including the police, corrections, and the judiciary); empowering communities to claim their rights; and enhancing the capacity of the justice system and local conflict resolution mechanisms to address land issues.

In 2016, through the Promote Reconciliation and Coexistence for Sustainable Peace in Darfur Project, UNDP and UN Women supported the establishment of the Darfur Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address reconciliation for vulnerable groups, namely women, children, and minorities. This support led to the following results: the establishment of four specific Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Centers; the enhancement of rural court capacity; and the engagement of local stakeholders in reconciliation, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in Darfur. Additionally, the Darfur Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission sent 22 people to Rwanda with UNDP support to exchange best practices from the Rwandan context for reconciliation, truth-telling, dialogue, mediation processes, and the use of formal justice mechanisms.

UNDP’s Access to Justice Project established a Criminal Justice Forum in Darfur, bringing together relevant justice actors to discuss rule of law challenges. This led to the appointment of a Justice Sector Committee, with representatives from the police, corrections, the judiciary, native administrators, and lawyers. The committee produced a set of recommendations to improve access to justice by expanding legal services to remote areas in Darfur.

UNDP increased the accessibility of the Sudan Human Rights Commission through the development and installation of an automated complaints management system, enabling people to lodge human rights complaints online. The presence of the Sudan National Human Rights Commission was also expanded into Darfur.

UNDP also supported five key civil society organizations to establish a women’s network in Khartoum state to provide legal aid, psychosocial services, and economic empowerment for vulnerable

women. Over the course of the year, the network formed three women's groups, with a total membership of 40 women, to utilize a holistic and inclusive approach to empower vulnerable women, including ex-prisoners, gender-based violence survivors, and single mothers. Through the network, legal aid services were rendered to 61 cases, and psycho-social and medical support benefited 35 victims of SGBV. The network also created a business support mechanism, with the use of grants, internal loans, and savings accounts, and supported 7 female-owned businesses. Additionally, the network launched a radio program to promote the voices of the women and their business products.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Various challenges impacted the timely implementation of rule of law support in 2016. UNDP Sudan was unable to reach all targeted outcomes due to limited funds and access to project locations in Darfur because of ongoing security operations. However, projects in accessible areas were able to enhance evidence-based reporting. To support the timely implementation of project activities, UNDP will continue to consult with national partners early in the process on design and implementation planning. UNDP also aims to mitigate future security concerns by engaging with local civil society and community-based organizations who have a well-established presence in Darfur.

Through the Joint UN Rule of Law Programme, UNDP aims to promote robust rule of law measures, focused on durable solutions for Darfur. This entails taking a development approach to providing rule of law support, by working more effectively with national authorities to seek long-term solutions, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Sudan Human Rights Commission developed and installed an automated complaints management system to enable Sudanese people to submit Human Rights complaints online, and expanded its presence to additional conflict areas including Darfur.
- UNDP designed and printed publications in Arabic, including flyers and information fact sheets regarding complaints procedures for the population and detailing the role of the Commission Complaints Committee.
- UNDP organized a Criminal Justice Forum, bringing together 89 relevant actors (19 females and 70 males) to discuss challenges facing access to justice in Darfur.
- UNDP supported rule of law institutions to improve justice, security, and human rights in Sudan, through capacity development training for 335 prison officers.
- UNDP provided vocational training to 255 inmates on welding, carpentry, and electricity for income generation.
- In Darfur, human rights awareness-raising targeted 475 people (210 males and 265 females), and paralegal groups mediated 123 cases (57 males and 66 females).
- A women's network in Khartoum state established groups to support vulnerable women, providing legal aid services to 61 cases and psychosocial support to 35 SGBV victims. The network also supported 7 female-owned business projects on food processing, tailoring, and baking.

» A UNDP-supported consultation held in Sudan as part of a series to develop a counter-terrorism strategy for the region.





TIMOR-LESTE

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$1,590,672

BACKGROUND

Following a long struggle for independence, Timor-Leste experienced a political crisis in 2006, with the eruption of an internal armed conflict between elements of the armed forces that expanded into a coup d'état attempt. The crisis created a rift between the political leadership, national police, and armed forces that persists today. In addition to political instability, the crisis was characterized by numerous human rights violations. 37 people lost their lives, and many others were wounded in the clashes. The humanitarian consequences were also severe, internally displacing more than 150,000 people.¹⁶¹

In the aftermath of the crisis, rule of law institutions experienced governance and capacity deficiencies, affecting their ability to provide critical services. The implication of law enforcement officials' participation in the conflict decreased the public's confidence in formal justice and security institutions. Additionally, the limited access to justice and security services led most of the population to resort to traditional and informal justice mechanisms. Even though the national government continues to exert serious effort to develop rule of law institutions, capacity gaps and service delivery limitations remain.

Since 2010, UNDP has supported the national government to increase access to justice and strengthen governance and service delivery in Timor-Leste through two main projects: Consolidating the Democratic Rule of Law and Peace through a Strong Justice System (justice system project) and Support to the National Police of Timor-Leste (police support project).

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

UNDP's justice system project takes a context-specific programming approach, informed by in-country experiences accumulated over the previous 6 years. This approach permits programmatic flexibility to appropriately deliver assistance within the political context. In partnership with the Court of Appeal, the project has established mobile courts across

the country, scaling up from one pilot in the Suai district in 2010 to national implementation in 2014, with the exception of Oecusse district. The mobile courts initiative, providing access to formal justice mechanisms in outlying districts, continued in 2016, serving approximately 807 people, of which 33 percent were females. Also during 2016, mobile courts disposed of three civil cases and 324 criminal cases, including 198 cases related to gender-based violence. The project further prepared to expand legal assistance service by establishing legal aid clinics in Baucau and Suai judicial districts. The clinics are expected to be fully operational in 2017. Furthermore, newly filed criminal cases increased by 11 percent from 2015 to 2016, reflecting increased trust in the formal justice institutions.¹⁶² UNDP also supported the Office of the Prosecutor General to install an inspection system that has reduced the case backlog from 5,006 cases in 2013 to 3,007 in 2016. Finally, the project, through its partnership with the Legal and Judicial Training Centre, contributed to the capacity building of 197 legal professionals, of which 29 percent were females.

UNDP launched the second phase of the police support project (2016–2018) with the objective of strengthening national police capacities and service delivery. Activities included a gender assessment of the national police pilot programmes and the roll-out of gender capacity building trainings, focusing on the thematic areas of gender-responsive needs assessments, gender equality at work, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). At the policy level, UNDP supported the national police to organize a workshop on gender-responsive planning, with the participation of 60 national police commanders. The assessment and workshop outcomes will inform future police gender-responsive and transformative planning exercises.

Following an assessment of police capacities conducted in Baucau district, UNDP supported a two-week motorcycle training for 7 male and 13 female officers to enhance police response and community outreach capacities. With the support of UNDP, the national police headquarters installed information technology infrastructure, including an internal helpdesk and a 'Management Dashboard'

system designed to help improve data access and management. In addition, UNDP rolled out information technology and data management trainings to improve police computer skills. Participants of both capacity building initiatives reported that the trainings were useful and relevant to their day-to-day work. Finally, in support of managing election security, UNDP carried out a public sensitization campaign through community radio broadcasts to reach the residents of Baucau, the second largest city in Timor-Leste.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

Politically, limited coordination between the government and development partners has impacted national ownership of institution strengthening processes. In late 2014, UNDP-supported legal advisors were dismissed following parliamentary and executive resolutions. The impact of the resolutions compounded the challenges faced by the justice sector, which include language barriers, lack of legal harmonization, and the prevalence of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, which do not always conform to human rights standards.

To address these challenges, UNDP intensified its efforts to design context-specific interventions and increase national ownership through the transfer of knowledge to national experts. UNDP will continue to improve the delivery of justice services closer to communities through area-based and problem-solving pilot approaches.

In support of the Government of Timor-Leste's efforts to enhance the justice sector, UNDP will increase emphasis on strengthening the interface between formal and informal justice institutions and increase access to justice through legal aid clinics, the Public Defender's office, and the use of mobile courts. UNDP's support to the National Police of Timor-Leste will focus on increasing security during elections and improving institutional capacity in key areas for effective police administration, both at headquarters and in selected pilot districts.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- The Office of the Prosecutor General improved productivity through an inspection system, reducing case backlog from 5,006 cases in 2013 to 3,007 in 2016.
- UNDP seconded three senior international legal advisors from Brazil and Cape Verde to the Office of the Prosecutor General and Public Defender's Office, respectively, resulting in increased capacity.
- UNDP supported the launching of state-owned legal aid clinics in two pilot districts, Baucau and Suai, which will fully operate in 2017.
- Mobile courts served approximately 807 people (33 percent female) and disposed of three civil and 324 criminal cases, of which 198 cases were related to gender-based violence.
- UNDP provided capacity building trainings to 20 police officers in Baucau for the operation of motorcycles to support police response and community outreach capacities, 20 district police staff in Baucau (9 female and 11 male) to increase data management skills, and 30 police officers at headquarters on gender-responsiveness.
- UNDP supported the national police to improve strategic planning and management with a focus on gender responsiveness.
- Under the leadership of the Secretary of State for Institutional Strengthening, with support from UNDP, an interim Institutional Diagnostic Assessment was carried out by the national police, resulting in 12 key recommendations to aid police reform.



TUNISIA

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:
\$2,462,947

BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, Tunisia has achieved important milestones within its transition to a liberal democracy. The country adopted a new constitution, held the first free presidential and legislative elections, and received international recognition when the National Dialogue Quartet was awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize. The country has largely avoided the instability of the wider region, but significant portions of the population are increasingly disappointed with the inability of authorities to deliver on the promises of the revolution. The lack of job opportunities remains a major problem, particularly for youth and communities in the center of the country. In 2016, protests over socioeconomic conditions took place across the country. Although no major attacks took place during 2016, Tunisia continues to face the challenge of jihadist violence.

Important reforms are underway to address the gross human rights violations of the former dictatorship and guarantee the non-repetition of such abuses, which will help to boost the public's confidence in rule of law institutions. In 2016, seismic public hearings took place whereby victims testified publicly for the first time about the abuses they suffered under successive dictatorships. Additionally, the Parliament approved changes to the Code of Criminal Procedures, strengthening safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment. The government also appointed the 16 members of the National Body for the Prevention of Torture. However, the continuation of the state of emergency, the lack of progress in establishing the criminal chambers foreseen in the law on transitional justice, and the proposition of a controversial draft law that would offer immunity for some financial crimes, create potential obstacles to the transitional justice process and the consolidation of the rule of law.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD), an effort unique in the Arab world, reached the end of its registration phase in 2016 and moved forward to hold the first public hearings. Since 2015, the IVD registered nearly 62,300 applications from victims, including 14,601 women (23 percent) and 30 cases in marginalized areas. The massive number of requests received by the IVD in its last year (nearly 40,000), was the result of an extensive awareness campaign that was disseminated across the country. UNDP supported the IVD to establish informal transitional justice platforms to bring together local civil society representatives, victims, media, and local authorities to inform the victims of their rights and accompany them in accessing the various transitional justice mechanisms, including registering their files with the IVD. The awareness campaign and informal platforms helped to increase the registration rate of female victims by the IVD from five percent in the first 6 months to 23 percent at the end of the registration period in 2016. The media widely covered the first public hearings, reaching nearly 62 percent of Tunisians.¹⁶³ UNDP provided critical support to the organization of the public hearings.¹⁶⁴

Additionally, the Ministry of Interior made substantial progress in community policing, with concrete results demonstrating improved trust between internal security institutions and the population, as well as stronger social cohesion within the 6 community policing pilots supported by UNDP.

Critical steps were taken to improve police conduct, including: (i) the elaboration of a new code of conduct for internal security forces; (ii) the production of a new inspection policy and an action plan for its implementation; (iii) and the development of a new complaints mechanism framework for cases of police misconduct, including an online platform. For the first time in the modern history of the country, the Ministry of Interior conducted extensive cross-partner consultations, ranging between 12 to 24-months long, to produce these new mechanisms, frameworks, and tools. For example, large consultations took place

between representatives (from the 24 governorates and the capital) of the government, parliament, internal security forces, trade unions, and civil society to agree on the new code of conduct. The code was also submitted for public consultation through a national online portal.¹⁶⁵

Building on these efforts, a report proposing a new mandate and missions for the national police, in line with community policing requirements, was produced and submitted to the Minister of Interior for validation. The validation of this report would enable Tunisian authorities to discuss and produce a new law on police that officially makes community policing the new police model for the country.

Lastly, UNDP provided joint support with OHCHR to the newly established National Body for the Prevention of Torture. This support enabled the body to conduct its first visits to different detention facilities.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The Tunisian authorities face continued challenges in addressing the threat of violent extremism in a manner that does not undermine the rule of law nor fundamental rights and freedoms. Despite this complex environment, the progress made in the transitional justice process is encouraging. However, a high level of political will must be maintained for the process to succeed.

In the years to come, UNDP will support the Ministry of Interior to progressively scale up community policing in the country through a phased approach, starting with the generalization of this new model of policing in a governorate. In 2017, UNDP will also support the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and build the capacity of the National Body for the Prevention of Torture to ensure that Tunisia has permanent structures that promote and protect human rights.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS:

- Since 2015, the Truth and Dignity Commission (IVD) registered 62,300 applications of victims (close to 40,000 in 2016), including 14,601 females and 30 cases in marginalized areas.
- The IVD established 25 transitional justice platforms, with a total of 410 members, including 175 women. The platforms reached more than 80,000 people, including 25,000 women and 13,000 youth. This encouraged more than 16,000 victims, including 3,421 women, to register with the IVD.
- The IVD organized the first public hearings, which were viewed by nearly 62 percent of Tunisians.¹⁶⁶
- Community security committees in 6 pilot areas developed local security diagnostics and implemented local security plans, including 13 actions on school violence, drugs, etc. to prevent insecurity within communities.
- The Ministry of Interior established two Community Policing Simulation Centers to provide on-the-job training to personnel of the police and the National Guard on various dimensions of community policing.



UKRAINE

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$100,000

BACKGROUND

The continuation of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, as well as the economic impact from the conflict and multiple crises, continues to strain government resources. Particularly in areas outside government control, the rule of law has weakened and human rights violations have increased. Women, especially those who are internally displaced, are disproportionately affected by the crisis. They face additional challenges in accessing justice services to resolve grievances related to the conflict, discrimination, and harassment.

A deep disconnect between citizens and state institutions exists, driven by endemic corruption and a poorly developed awareness of human rights. However, recent decentralization reforms have created new local bodies, increasing community involvement. Police are now required to allow local civil society organizations (CSOs) to participate in oversight and disciplinary functions. However, many reforms have not been well communicated or understood by the public due to the constant politicization of issues and a lack of fact-based public communication. Implementation of reforms remains uneven, as demonstrated in the health sector, where reforms of Soviet-style structures are facing strong opposition by lobby groups with vested interests. Overall, economic hardship is a dominant cause of insecurity. Furthermore, gender and socio-economic status are stronger determinants of security and justice deficits than proximity to the contact line.

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

In 2016, UNDP integrated rule of law and human rights components into its reform and recovery programmes in Ukraine. UNDP produced two analytical reports¹⁶⁷ based on extensive focus group discussions and the surveying¹⁶⁸ of community justice and security needs to outline the needs of the local population and inform programming. The Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme in Ukraine places emphasis on stabilization and recovery efforts in conflict-affected oblasts. These efforts focus not only on law

enforcement institutions, but also on a broad range of state and non-state actors including CSOs, local authorities, and service providers.

UNDP supported Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to integrate community security approaches into their Regional Development Strategies and establish working groups at both oblast and local levels. In 2016, four local communities established community security working groups and 20 additional groups are in the pipeline for 2017. These groups include representatives of local government, village council members, law enforcement, CSOs, the media, and active community leaders. The groups serve as the mechanism for deciding which community security issues should be prioritized.

UNDP worked closely with the National Police of Ukraine to create a revised training program and curriculum for law enforcement that incorporates SGBV, community policing, human rights, and health and safety issues. Starting in March 2017, courses designed for district and juvenile prevention officers will help build community partnerships to address the low reporting by survivors of violence and human rights abuses. The police also developed a “Community Policing Concept” and an implementation plan with UNDP support. Using a train-the-trainers approach, members of regional police forces will bring the newly acquired skills to local police staff.

Additionally, the population’s access to the national human rights institution, the Ombudspersons Office, has substantially increased with UNDP support. The network of the Ombudsperson Office expanded to cover all 24 regions of Ukraine and includes 21 Regional Coordinators. The regional network received 1,238 citizens in their offices, provided over 4,000 consultations, monitored 716 court trials, and conducted 273 monitoring visits to places of detention.

UNDP assisted with the capacity building of “Justice for Peace in Donbas,” a coalition of 17 Ukrainian human rights organizations, which maintains a website with an interactive map of human rights violations and an online form to directly report abuses.¹⁶⁹ In 2016, the mechanism was utilized over 15,000 times. Furthermore, the coalition produced 11 thematic reports documenting human rights violations, which

were used by the coalition members for human rights advocacy throughout the year. In a separate initiative, UNDP taught 160 CSOs how to apply the human rights-based approach in their activities.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The widespread lack of trust in the police, prosecution, and courts hinders access to justice for the general population. Women are less likely to trust police and justice officials than men – as indicated in the Security and Justice survey conducted in the three oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zhytomyr. The human rights situation in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk has been marked by continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms and the absence of effective protection mechanisms.

The protracted economic crisis and armed conflict have deepened gender roles, disproportionately increasing gender discrimination and the risk of SGBV. These gaps have informed UNDP's efforts to sensitize police through gender-conscious trainings, yet legal loopholes still need to be addressed on the legislative level for significant progress to be made. At the same time, district police are considerably under-resourced, which impacts their ability to improve the quality of services, release staff for training, and respond to calls in distant locations. Poor infrastructure in rural areas only exacerbates these issues.

Despite progress, lack of financial resources, political instability, and a continuing state of crisis challenge the government's ability to provide physical and economic security and a stable environment for development. Within these constraints, UNDP's key priorities to support Ukraine in 2017 include efforts to expand police trainings on SGBV, assess legal aid provisions, ensure consistent working groups on community security, and support the government in ensuring follow-up to the actions piloted with UNDP support, such as consolidating the Ombudsman regional presence. UNDP will continue to provide rule of law and human rights assistance through a combination of high-level

policy and legislative support and direct impact work at the community level, especially in areas deprived of economic opportunities or affected by the conflict.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- UNDP produced two analytical reports based on extensive focus group discussions and the surveying of community justice and security needs.
- Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts integrated community security approaches into their Regional Development Strategies, and four local administrations established community security working groups.
- In three oblasts, the National Police of Ukraine revised a training program and curriculum for law enforcement that incorporates SGBV, community policing, human rights, and health and safety issues. The police also developed a "Community Policing Concept" and an implementation plan.
- The network of the Ombudsperson Office expanded to cover all 24 regions of Ukraine and include 21 Regional Coordinators. The regional network received 1,238 citizens in their offices, provided over 4,000 consultations, monitored 716 court trials, and conducted 273 monitoring visits to places of detention.
- 160 civil society organizations were trained to apply a human rights-based approach to programming.¹⁷⁰
- A coalition of 17 human rights-focused CSOs, maintaining an online platform to track human rights violations, received capacity development training. The online mechanism was utilized over 15,000 times to report abuses, and the coalition produced 11 thematic reports.
- Documented cases of human rights violations increased from 200 in 2015 to 6,500 by the end of 2016.



YEMEN

2016 TOTAL BUDGET:

\$175,000

BACKGROUND

Since March 2015, the ongoing conflict in Yemen has prompted a large-scale humanitarian crisis, with violations of International Humanitarian Law perpetrated by all parties. The death toll reached an estimated 10,000 people in January 2017. Furthermore, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported there are over two million Yemenis internally displaced, over one million conflict returnees, and 278,670 registered refugees in various locations. Currently, over 18.8 million Yemenis across the country are struggling to access food, medicine, and fuel. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan, more than 7 million people do not know when they will have their next meal and face acute shortages of clean water and sanitation. Moreover, nearly 3.3 million people – including 2.1 million children – are acutely malnourished.¹⁷¹

At the political level, the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 adopted in April 2015 demanded the Houthis to withdraw from all seized areas and to relinquish all seized arms.¹⁷² The resolution also established an arms embargo on the Houthis and the forces loyal to the former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Thus, the UN-led peace talks in Kuwait were geared toward achieving consensus on security arrangements, which included a plan for an initial militia withdrawal from Sana'a, Ta'ez, and Hodeida before continuing in other cities. The militia withdrawal would require the formation of a Government of National Unity to create and manage joint military and security committees for implementing security measures. Redeploying the police, at least in the biggest cities, will be an essential element to establish peace and reduce violence and will demonstrate to the population that the country is moving toward a more peaceful phase. Unfortunately, the Kuwait peace talks reached a deadlock before agreements were made. Meanwhile, the violent conflict continues, and the humanitarian situation further deteriorates.¹⁷³

ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

During the Kuwait peace talks in July 2016, the UN Secretary General Special Envoy's Office of Yemen requested UNDP to support a planning exercise to re-deploy police in the three cities (Sana'a, Ta'ez, and Hodeida) as a part of the proposed peace agreement. During the planning exercise, Aden was added to the list of cities with re-deployed police due to its importance and relevance to the political situation in the country.

In support of the Special Envoy's Office, UNDP relied on the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections (GFP) to put together a team in October 2016 for the requested planning exercise. The team was composed of UNDP Rule of Law Specialists, Police Advisors from the Brindisi Standing Police Capacity, and GFP Corrections Specialists. Thus far, the team responded to the request by undertaking a preliminary assessment of the security situation in the country, focusing on the status of the police. The team also assessed the capacities of the criminal justice chain and corrections areas, as justice sector capabilities and effectiveness have a direct influence on the security situation and the work of the police. Due to the limited access to the country and the stalled political situation, the GFP developed a police deployment plan in the form of a strategic guidance note, which provides options for police deployment under different political scenarios. Both documents, the assessment and the guidance note, focus on all four cities and are subject to in-country validation.

In November 2016 and March 2017, the GFP convened two consultation meetings with development partners such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, the EU, and others. The meetings served to exchange inputs on analysis, discuss courses of action, and identify gaps in the assessment. The second meeting focused further on the strategic guidance note and what can be done in the rule of law, in general, to contribute to the stabilization of the country. As follow-up, the GFP is in the process of designing a rule of law programme with the Special Envoy's Office, within the framework of the stabilization efforts that UNDP and others are already supporting.

» UNDP, together with UN WOMEN and OHCHR, supported Yemeni civil society organizations to independently document human rights violations and provide psychosocial support to victims of the ongoing conflict.



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CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND WAY FORWARD

The volatile security conditions in Yemen have greatly inhibited the ability of the UN system to deliver comprehensive rule of law support to Yemen. However, by combining cross-sector technical expertise with political engagement, the UN seeks to counter these challenges and support Yemenis in their quest for sustainable peace. The anticipated joint rule of law project will maintain collaboration as a key element for success. For example, the Special Envoy's Office will help to open political space for project implementation and benefit from GFP technical expertise in identifying security solutions. Meanwhile, humanitarian actors will work together with development and security advisors to ensure that the immediate needs of the population are met in a manner that contributes to long-term peace and development. The project will focus primarily on community needs and service delivery at the local level, such as facilitating dispute resolution for the most pressing issues, including water, land, and property, and will follow a city-by-city approach until it is able to operate nationally.

KEY SUPPORT AND RESULTS

- Rule of law support to Yemen is at a very early stage. The GFP has produced a preliminary assessment and strategic guidance note for police deployment, but they are both subject to in-country validation and further research.





PART III
**FINANCIAL
INFORMATION**



Through the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development, UNDP has provided funding to over 40 countries and regions, contributing to a portfolio that continues to deliver around \$220 million in assistance per year. In this section we hear from one of our main donors, the Netherlands, on the utility of our partnership. Financial snapshots of each country programme's 2016 rule of law budget are also provided. This includes both catalytic funding from the Global Programme and resources directly received in-country. In addition, the Global Programme's total mobilized resources since 2008 through 2016 (Phase I, Phase II, and the first year of Phase III) are presented. Lastly, 2016 contributions and expenditures are included separately.

SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME

A WORD FROM THE NETHERLANDS

JELTE VAN WIEREN

Director, Department of Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies with accountable and inclusive institutions that provide access to justice for all, must be understood as a precondition for sustainable development. The Goal will be very challenging to meet. Conflicts continue to rage in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Syria, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. The Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Mali remain largely unstable. Never before have the humanitarian needs been greater. These deplorable situations underscore the imperative of strengthened, collective efforts to support such states in working towards SDG16 and towards a sustaining peace agenda.

This UNDP Annual Report on the Global Programme documents numerous significant achievements of the UNDP projects on rule of law in crisis-affected and fragile states. For example, sustained support from UNDP led to the first public hearings of the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia, enabling 25 victims to testify in a forum viewed by over 60 percent of the population. Additionally, UNDP and UN Women's joint programme supported the development of the Palestinian Civil Police's Gender Strategy, which was formally adopted in 2016 making the State of Palestine the first in the Arab region to do so. The Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia reached a historic peace agreement in 2016. And as stipulated by the agreement, UNDP will serve as the Executive Secretary of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace on behalf of the UN system, to facilitate progress on transitional justice.

These are just a few examples of UNDP's approach, which increasingly accentuates human rights and the political dimension of the rule of law. The Government of the Netherlands has been a long-term supporter of the Programme and strongly believes that rule of law is indispensable for achieving all the SDGs. However, we cannot achieve SDG16 without partnerships. The Netherlands has therefore extended its partnership with the Global Programme for 2017–2020.

Alongside partnerships, a culture of cooperation is essential, both within and outside the UN. A mechanism like the Global Focal Point (GFP) demonstrates the added value of increased integration of rule of law efforts. We are therefore pleased that the GFP continues to expand its project scope: planning processes are underway in Syria, Burkina Faso and Yemen. We likewise welcome the World Bank and UNHCHR as new partners in the GFP arrangement.

The need for integrated mechanisms is implicit in the humanitarian-development nexus. As was emphasized during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, sustainable peace requires increased collaboration between the humanitarian and development sectors. One of the fundamental tools for conflict prevention is rule of law capacity building. UNDP, as a co-chair of the Task Team, will have a key role in effectively promoting such an integrated approach for rule of law development.

Effective partnerships and innovative approaches are especially evident in the Central African Republic, where the Special Criminal Court (SCC), actively supported by UNDP and partners, has been established to end the cycle of impunity. Today's challenges require innovation, and the SCC might be exactly this. Not only does it address mass atrocity crimes in collaboration with international experts, the SCC's work simultaneously facilitates capacity building within a national legal system that has been torn apart by conflict. In that regard, the Central African Republic held its second criminal session in 2016, where 76 individuals were held accountable, which historically included 4 SGBV cases.

We firmly believe that the rule of law programs of the UNDP Global Programme remain critical to the future and to the sustaining peace agenda. We look forward to further advancing these critical issues during our membership of the Security Council in 2018.



GLOBAL PROGRAMME FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COUNTRY
SNAPSHOTS

AFGHANISTAN		BURUNDI	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme	\$3,100,977	Promoting Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Peacebuilding in Burundi	\$1,020,900
Afghanistan Access to Justice	\$2,265,843	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	
Support to the High Peace Council	\$4,567,894	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan	\$866,092	Joint Project to Support the Fight Against Human Rights Violations and the Revival of Justice in CAR	\$4,699,575
Law and Order Trust Fund – Support to Payroll Management	\$454,518,240	Joint Project to Support the Special Criminal Court	\$15,888
Law and Order Trust Fund – Ministry of Interior Affairs and Police Development	\$21,207,660	Payment of Salaries to Police and Gendarmerie	\$294,956
TOTAL	\$486,526,708	TOTAL	\$5,010,419
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		COLOMBIA	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Supporting Access to Justice Through a Enhanced Judiciary and Human Rights Mechanism	\$628,408	Transitional Justice Fund	\$6,500,000
BURKINA FASO		Human Rights Projects	\$1,687,000
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	Strengthening Capacities to Improve Citizen Security and Access to Justice	\$300,000
Global Programme Support to Burkina-Faso	\$24,220	Local Partnerships for Peace and Development Programme	\$8,074,352
		TOTAL	\$16,561,352

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Joint Justice Project (PPAJ)	\$ 1,090,197
Prosecution Support Cells (CAP)	\$739,769
Project Sexual-based violence in conflict (TOE)	\$2,599,122
Fight Against Impunity for Sexual Violence	\$3,030,969
Data collection	\$70,846
IRF MAMBASA	\$142,293
IRF Kalehe Pilier I	\$104,083
Community Policing	\$104,870
Small Arms and Light Weapons	\$104,870
Reform of the Army	\$90,585
TOTAL	\$8,272,848

EL SALVADOR

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Violence Prevention and Integral Security for Children and Young People in SICA countries	\$200,000
Local Security in the Northern Triangle of Central America	\$630,103
TOTAL	\$830,103

GUATEMALA

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Support to Transitional Justice Programme (PAJUST)	\$4,235,669
Investment Plan (R2 Justice Component)	\$400,000
Infosegura	\$473,671
Security and Prevention of Violence Affecting Children, Adolescents and Youth (PREJUVE)	\$174,946
Citizen Security in the Northern Triangle of Central America	\$114,308
TOTAL	\$5,398,595

GUINEA (CONAKRY)

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Security Sector Reform	\$903,196
Support to Governance and the Rule of Law	\$500,000
Support to the National Assembly	\$321,755
Fight Against SGBV	\$155,468
TOTAL	\$1,880,419

GUINEA-BISSEAU

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Rule of Law and Justice	\$1,939,359



HAITI

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Support to Rule of Law Sector	\$280,000
Support to Auto-Digital Registry at the National Penitentiary	\$130,000
UN Joint Interim Rule of Law Programme	\$2,217,500
TOTAL	\$2,627,500

HONDURAS

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Strengthening Democratic Governance in Honduras: Promotion of Coexistence and Citizen Security	\$1,266,384
Comprehensive Security and Prevention of Violence affecting Children, Adolescents, and Youth in SICA countries Regional Project	\$83,658
Evidence-based Information Management for Citizen Security in Central America	\$801,252
Municipal Citizen Security in the Northern Triangle of Central America Regional Project	\$666,776
TOTAL	\$2,818,070

IRAQ

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Support to Security Sector Reform II	\$3,458,442
Increased Access to Justice	\$658,744
TOTAL	\$4,117,166

JORDAN

PROJECT NAME	2015 BUDGET
Enhancing Community Security and Access to Justice in Host Communities and other fragile areas in Jordan	\$6,047,000

KOSOVO

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Support to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Kosovo (UN Administered Territory)	\$305,150

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Enhancing Rule of Law for Improved Security and Stability	\$710,000
Widening Access to Justice in the Kyrgyz Republic	\$577,000
Improving the Rule of Law and Access to Justice for Sustainable Peace	\$310,000
Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the Kyrgyz Republic	\$180,000
TOTAL	\$1,777,000

LEBANON		MALI	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Community Security and Access to Justice	\$737,585	Emergency Programme for the Amelioration of the Justice Sector in Mali	\$9,398,275
		Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North of Mali	\$4,087,546
		Global Focal Point: Strengthening Rule of Law for Peace Building in Northern Mali	\$5,669,064
		TOTAL	\$19,154,885
LIBERIA		NEPAL	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Justice and Security Joint Programme (GFP)	\$4,567,860	Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal Programme	\$3,448,502
Border Security Project	\$1,347,186		
EU/ECOWAS Small Arms Project	\$215,385		
TOTAL	\$6,130,431		
LIBYA		MYANMAR	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Support to Transitional Justice at the Local and National Levels in Libya	\$3,227,566	Rule of Law and Access to Justice	\$4,100,442



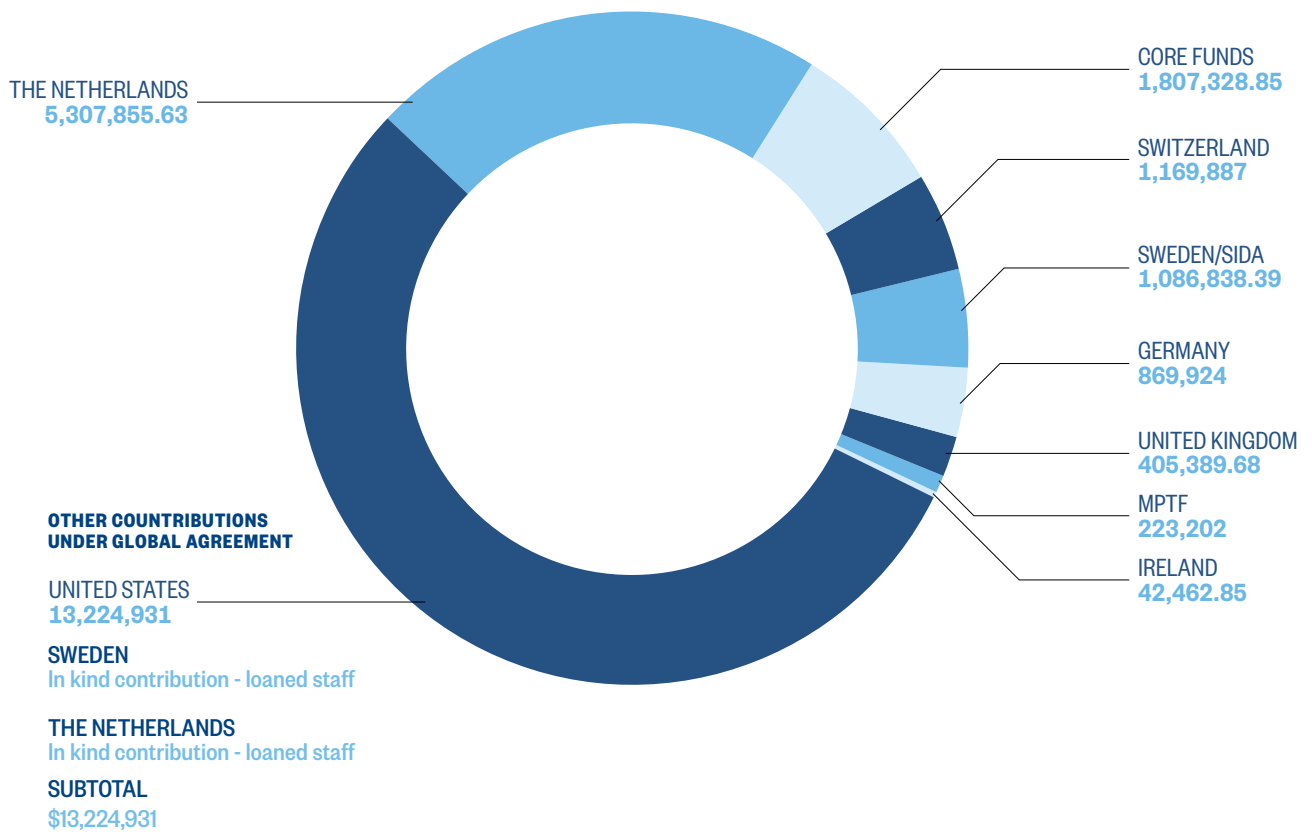
PAKISTAN		SOUTH SUDAN	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Strengthening Rule of Law in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province Project	\$9,068,071	Access to Justice and Rule of Law	\$6,295,532
SIERRA LEONE		SRI LANKA	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Strengthening the Rule of law and Access to Justice	\$653,500	Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice, and Social Integration Programme	\$573,610
Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone's Judiciary	\$539,726	Supporting the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Sri Lanka	\$80,000
Security Sector Reform (UNDP and Government of Japan)	\$706,646	TOTAL	\$653,610
Support to the Human Rights Commission	\$150,000		
From Prisons to Corrections	\$8,000		
TOTAL	\$2,057,872		
SOMALIA		STATE OF PALESTINE	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Joint Rule of Law Programme	\$15,340,464	Sawasya – Strengthening the Rule of Law: Justice and Security for the Palestinian People (UNDP/UN Women Joint Rule of Law Programme) ¹⁷³	\$ 9,428,370

SUDAN		TUNISIA	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Strengthening Capacity of Sudan National Human Rights Commission	\$551,258	Support to the Operationalization of the Transitional Justice Process in Tunisia	\$968,380
Access to Justice and Promoting Rule of Law in Darfur: Inception and Bridge Project	\$226,124	Support for Crisis Prevention, Preparedness, and Response	\$1,494,567
Promote Reconciliation and Coexistence for Sustainable Peace in Darfur Project.	\$850,000	TOTAL	\$2,462,947
TOTAL	\$1,627,382		
TIMOR-LESTE		UKRAINE	
PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET	PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
Consolidating the Democratic Rule of Law and Peace through a Strong Justice System in Timor-Leste	\$765,790	Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme	\$100,000
UNDP Support to National Police of Timor-Leste: Strengthening Governance and Service Delivery Project	\$824,882		
TOTAL	\$1,590,672	YEMEN	
		PROJECT NAME	2016 BUDGET
		Advanced Planning for Police Support	\$175,000

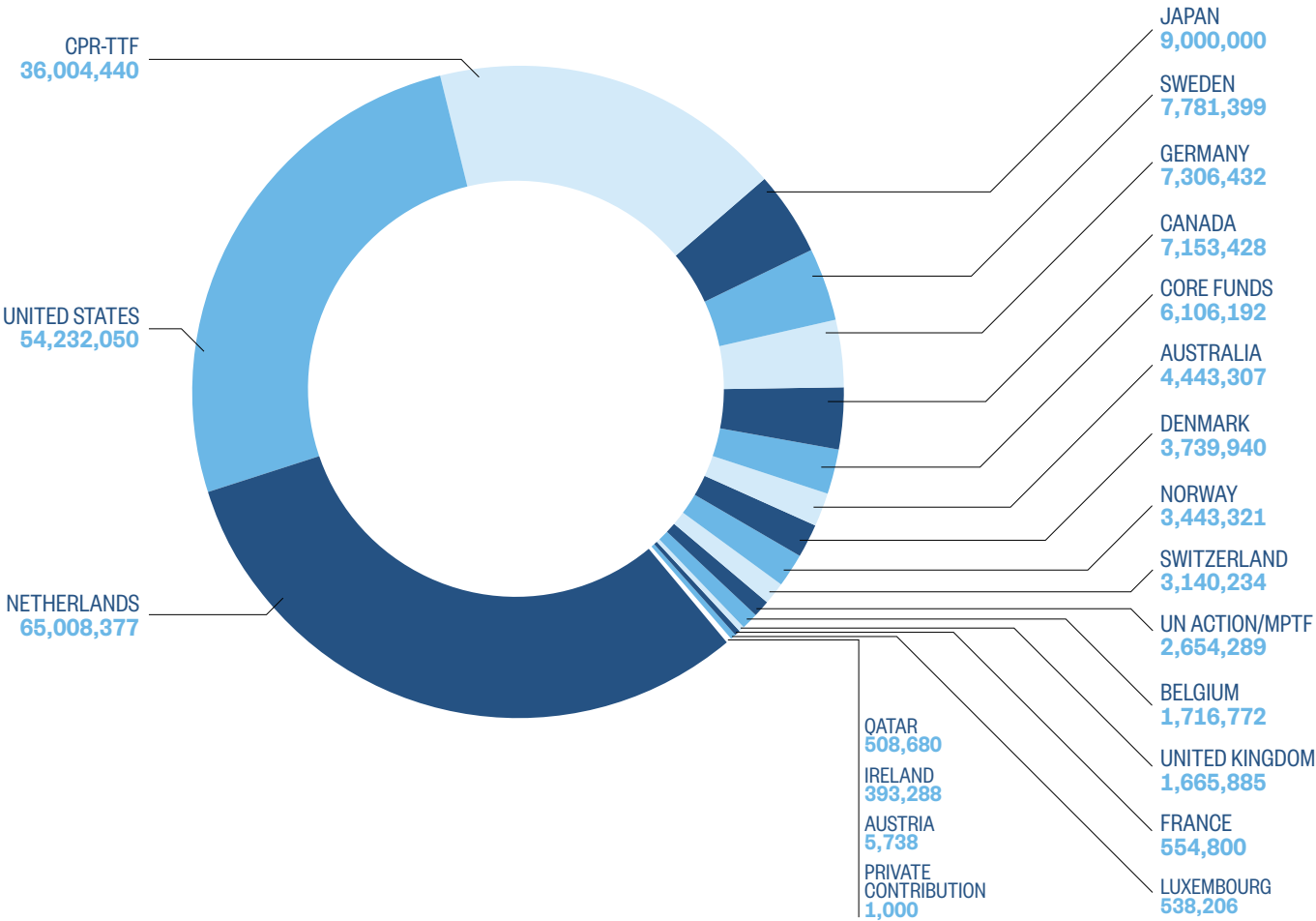


GLOBAL PROGRAMME FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RULE OF LAW 2016 \$24,137,819.40



TOTAL MOBILIZED RESOURCES 2008-2016
\$215,397,778





ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE DETAILS FOR THE RULE OF LAW 2016

COUNTRY	PROJECT	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND AUTHORIZED SPENDING LIMITS FOR 2016	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AGAINST GLOBAL PROGRAMME FUNDS IN 2016
AFGHANISTAN	Community Based Agriculture and Rural Development; National Rule of Law Programme	261,517	261,517
ARAB STATES*	Anticorruption and Integrity in Arab Countries	500,000	167,567
BANGLADESH	National Validation Workshop for Legal Aid	10,000	10,000
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA*	Supporting the Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Access to Justice through an Enhanced Judiciary and Human Rights Mechanism	162,000	125,099
BURKINA FASO	GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	15,328	15,328
BURUNDI	GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	13,417	13,417
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Support to Human Rights and Justice in CAR; GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support; Risk Assessment; Law Enforcement/ Security and Justice Support for Elections	1,971,444	1,647,582
COLOMBIA	Setting the Field to Strengthen Capacities to Contain and Reduce the Levels of Insecurity in Colombia	200,000	197,005
COTE D'IVOIRE	Transitional Justice	58,000	58,000
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	Joint Justice Programme to Support DRC Criminal Justice	109,648	78,950
EAST AFRICA*	Combating Corruption in Border Communities and Border Authorities/Agencies in East Africa Region	200,000	171,065
GUATEMALA	Rule of Law	8,000	8,000
GUINEA-BISSAU*	Rule of Law and Justice; Security Sector Reform Programming	1,069,354	600,011
HAITI	Rule of Law; GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	206,769	216,825
HONDURAS	Support to Security Sector Reform in Honduras; Multi-Year Support Strategy for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Honduras	200,000	144,565
IRAQ	Security Sector Reform	290,270	298,295
JORDAN	Enhancing community security and access to justice in host communities and other fragile areas	526,000	491,502
KOSOVO (UN ADMINISTERED TERRITORY)	Support to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Kosovo; Safer Communities Phase II -Part of the Firearms Explosive Risk Mitigation (FERM); GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	260,306	172,504
KYRGYZSTAN*	Enhancing the Democratic Rule of Law; SGBV	619,000	427,019
LAOS*	Support to Legal Sector Master Programme	45,000	26,489

COUNTRY	PROJECT	TOTAL ALLOCATIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND AUTHORIZED SPENDING LIMITS FOR 2016	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AGAINST GLOBAL PROGRAMME FUNDS IN 2016
LEBANON*	Project Initiation Plan Community Security and Access to Justice in Lebanon; Rule of Law	460,732	423,149
LIBERIA	Strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia; GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	727,187	727,187
MALDIVES	Integrated Governance	200,000	137,313
MALI*	Restoration of State Authority and Access to Justice in the North of Mali; Strengthening Rule of Law for Peace Building in Northern Mali; Rule of Law	1,121,880	484,905
MYANMAR	Strengthening Police Reform in Myanmar	254,000	254,000
MOLDOVA	Police Reform	1,092,960	967,926
PACIFIC/FIJI	Rule of Law	200,000	190,438
PAKISTAN*	Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development National Programme	2,611,318	1,822,516
SENEGAL*	Rule of Law	3,000	0
SIERRA LEONE	From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of Sierra Leone Correctional Services; Rule of Law	1,266,852	254,414
SOMALIA*	Small Arms Survey; GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support; Rule of Law	228,668	41481
SOUTH SUDAN*	GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support; Access to Justice and Rule of Law; Strengthening SGBV Referral Paths in South Sudan; Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	4,233,146	208,129
SRI LANKA*	Policing and Rule of Law; Transitional Justice	1,133,000	33,000
SUDAN	Promoting Rule of Law and Access to Justice; GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support	20,497	20,497
TIMOR LESTE*	Strengthening Fleet Management in the Timor-Leste National Police	360,000	185,246
TUNISIA	Rule of Law	82,635	82,635
UKRAINE	Rule of Law for Stabilization in Ukraine: Addressing the Causes and Consequences of the Conflict	100,000	104,272
VIETNAM*	Supporting Adversarial Principles of Criminal Justice	150,000	62,901
YEMEN	GFP Technical Assistance and Programme Support; Policing Assessment and Re-Deployment Plan Support; Rule of Law	97,479	97,479
RULE OF LAW POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT*	Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations	4,352,884	3,428,039

*Denotes that funds were received in November/December 2016 for multi-year expenditure.





IANNEX



ACRONYMS

AMISOM	African Mission in Somalia
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAR	Central African Republic
CSO	civil society organization
CPR - TTF	Conflict Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECOWAS	Economic Community of Western African States
EU	European Union
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FLA	free legal aid
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GFP	Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and other Crisis Situations
IDP	internally displaced person
INL	US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
ISACS	International Small Arms Control Standards
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
IVD	Truth and Dignity Commission (Tunisia)
LGBTI	lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MINUSCA	Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office

SALW	small arms and light weapons
SC	Security Council
SCC	Special Criminal Court (Central African Republic)
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SICA	Central American Integration System
SOP	standard operating procedure
SSR	security sector reform
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMID	United Nations Mission in Darfur
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNDPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UPR	Universal Periodic Review



ENDNOTES

- **1** Previously titled: UNDP's Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations (2008-2015)
- **2** Resolutions: UN Security Council Resolution 2282(2016) and General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/262
- **3** The High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations; The Advisory Group of Experts on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture; and the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security
- **4** Prevention will not only be seen from a conflict perspective, but also through a sustainability and resilience lens that considers the prevention of natural disasters, climate change, economic instability, organized crime, and other risks.
- **5** The Executive Committee (of Principals) and a subsidiary Deputies Committee for the Secretariat was established by the Secretary-General to take decisions on issues of strategic concern across all three pillars of the UN system. Secretary General Interoffice Memorandum: 3 January 2017
- **6** The integrated UN prevention platform was established by the Secretary-General to integrate a broad-based prevention vision into UN initiatives, by targeting current and future risks, including natural disasters, conflicts and political instability, mass displacement, climate change, pandemics, etc. Secretary General Interoffice Memorandum: 3 January 2017: Para. 7
- **7** The entire 2030 Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many goals in addition to SDG 16 are critical to sustaining peace and are directly related to justice, inclusivity, and conflict prevention, including SDG 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11, among others.
- **8** SDG 16 – Target 16a: national human rights institutions; 16.3: access to justice for all; 16.7: effective justice institutions; 16.1: violence prevention
- **9** Global Study on Legal Aid: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/access_to_justiceandruleoflaw/global-study-on-legal-aid.html
- **10** UNHCR Global Trends 2015: <http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf>
- **11** Report of the United Nations Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, One Humanity, Shared Responsibility, 9 February 2016.
- **12** Inter-agency appeal funding requirements have increased from US\$4.8 billion in 2006 to \$19.7 billion in 2016. World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2016, UN OCHA, December 2016.
- **13** After the World Humanitarian Summit: Better Humanitarian-Development Cooperation for Sustainable Results on the Ground.
- **14** NY Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/L.1
- **15** This result came to fruition in 2017, but much advocacy and preparatory work took place in 2016.
- **16** 16 November 2016: Peace and Security Goal 3 Meeting
- **17** EU Strategy: <http://www.seesac.org/f/tmp/files/failovi/508.pdf>
- **18** EU Council Decision 2013/730/CFSP: <http://www.seesac.org/f/tmp/files/failovi/590.pdf>
- **19** EU Support for Disarmament and Arms Control project: <http://www.seesac.org/EUSAC/>
- **20** All references to Kosovo in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
- **21** Stockpile security: <http://www.seesac.org/Stockpile-Security/>
- **22** Stockpile reduction: <http://www.seesac.org/Stockpile-Reduction/>
- **23** Regional cooperation: <http://www.seesac.org/Regional-Cooperation/>
- **24** Marking and Tracing of SALW: <http://www.seesac.org/Marking-and-Tracing-of-SALW/>
- **25** Two regional social media campaigns, "Celebrate with your heart, not your gun" and "Hear out the voices of victims," reached 6.4 million people.
- **26** Kosovo (UN Administered Territory)
- **27** EU Council Decision 2016/2356: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016D2356>
- **28** In the districts where the project is active. Central police office, administrative data, 2016
- **29** Superior Court of Accounts: <http://www.tsc.gob.hn/biblioteca/index.php/leyes/619-ley-de-proteccion-para-las-y-los-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-periodistas-comunicadores-sociales-y-operadores-de-justicia>
- **30** UN Administered Territory
- **31** Basic operation costs will be covered institutionally by the Kosovo Judicial Council.
- **32** The figure is based on the radio outreach and estimate provided by the radio channel; 50 percent of the population as an estimate in urban centers only.
- **33** 17-18 November and 16-17 December 2016
- **34** Sigma conseils poll (2016)
- **35** Peacebuilding data: http://www.peacebuildingdata.org/sites/m/pdf/DRC_Poll8_FinalEnglish.pdf
- **36** The defendants involved in the 25 grave crimes cases received legal aid with UNDP support through local bar associations.

- 37 After 20 years of the Peace Agreement: Requests for truth, justice, and reparation worthy of the victims of Internal Armed Conflict: <http://www.gt.undp.org/content/guatemala/es/home/presscenter/articles/2017/02/24/a-20-a-os-de-los-acuerdos-de-paz-demandas-de-verdad-justicia-y-reparaci-n-digna-de-las-v-ctimas-de-enfrentamiento-armado-interno-.html>
- 38 Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework
- 39 All references to Kosovo in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
- 40 The UNAMA Annual Report 2016: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: <https://unama.unmissions.org/protection-of-civilians-reports>
- 41 Relief Web, Over Half a Million Afghans Flee Conflict in 2016: A look at the IDP statistics; <http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/over-half-million-afghans-flee-conflict-2016-look-idp-statistics>
- 42 The assessment of the Police Legal Framework consists of three components: i) assessment against international policing standards; ii) a comparative perspective through selected foreign laws; and iii) national consultations with Afghan practitioners and sector experts. The assessment also reviewed the following documents: Constitution of Afghanistan, Police Law, Police Inherent Law, Code of Criminal Procedure, Ending Violence Against Women Law, Anti-Corruption Law, and Human Rights Commission Law
- 43 Community Partnership Councils have been established in Nangahar, Khost, Badakhshan, Takhar, Samangan, Fara, Kandahar, Daikundy, Faryab, Saripul, Punjshir, and Kapisa
- 44 The Asia Foundation, Survey of the Afghan People 2016: <http://asiafoundation.org/publication/afghanistan-2016-survey-afghan-people>
- 45 2016 EU Progress Report: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_bosnia_and_herzegovina.pdf
- 46 BiH Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2014-2018: http://www.mpr.gov.ba/organizacija_nadleznosti/planiranja_koordinacija/strateska_planiranja/strategija/13%204%20SRSP%20u%20BiH%20-%20EJ.pdf
- 47 National Strategy for Processing of War Crimes Cases: http://www.mpr.gov.ba/web_dokumenti/Drzavna%20strategije%20za%20rad%20na%20predmetima%20RZ.pdf
- 48 News Article: <http://www.jeuneafrique.com/228090/politique/burkina-faso-des-tats-g-n-raux-pour-r-habiller-la-confiance-entre-les-citoyens-et-la-justice/>
- 49 National Pact for the Renewal of Justice: http://lefaso.net/IMG/pdf/pacte_pour_le_renouveau_de_la_justice.pdf
- 50 A GFP mission was deployed to Burkina Faso in February 2017 for strategic mapping, analysis, and identification of priority areas for strengthening the rule of law, and human rights. After this analysis, concrete projects complementing ongoing interventions will be implemented by the GFP.
- 51 OHCHR Report Synopsis: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20534&LangID=E#sthash.haesg8iS.dpuf>
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- 55 MINUSCA: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
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- **100** MercyCorps, "From Jordan to Jihad": <https://data.unhcr.org/>
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- **102** All references to Kosovo in this document are without prejudice to positions on status and are in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
- **103** 2016 EU Report: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_kosovo.pdf
- **104** EU Press release available at: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyz-republic/16162/eu-facilitated-belgrade-pristina-dialogue-implementation-of-the-justice-agreement_en
- **105** In practice, Kosovo judges rarely apply international human rights treaties during their cases. This is particularly the case with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- **106** The package of four laws includes: Law on Courts, Law on Kosovo Judicial Council, Law on Chief Prosecutor, and Law on Kosovo Prosecutorial Council.
- **107** Mediation Commission statistics for 2016.
- **108** Basic operation costs will be covered institutionally by the Kosovo Judicial Council.
- **109** World Economic Outlook, October 2016
- **110** 6 codes: Criminal Code, Criminal Procedural Code, Code on Misdemeanors, Criminal Executive Code, Civil Procedural Code, Administrative-Procedural Code and two laws: Enforcement Proceedings and Status of Judges, State Guaranteed Legal Aid.
- **111** Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2015-2016). Figures are based on estimates, since Lebanon has not conducted a census since 1932; and Syrian refugees are not registered by UNHCR as of May 2015 (as per Government of Lebanon's instructions).
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- **115** United Nations Mission in Liberia
- **116** UN Security Council Resolution 2333 (2016)
- **117** Projects made by the International Monetary Fund
- **118** The Mid Term Review of the Agenda for Transformation, 2016
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- **122** Peter Cole with Fiona Mangan, "Tribe, Security, Justice, and Peace in Libya Today," USIP Peaceworks 118, August 2016; and Fiona Mangan and Christina Murtaugh with Ferdaouis Bagga, "Security and Justice in Post Revolution Libya: Where to turn?" USIP Peaceworks 100, Sept 2014.
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- **125** Emergency Program for the Improvement of the Justice Sector and Implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement Arising from the Algiers Process (2016 – 2020)
- **126** The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
- **127** MINUSMA, UN Women, OHCHR and UNODC
- **128** UN General Assembly: Situation of human rights in Myanmar: A/71/361
- **129** Baseline Study of Crime in Nepal, Ministry of Law and Justice, 2016.
- **130** Judgment Execution Department Annual Report, 2072-2073 BS.
- **131** The laws reviewed included the draft Penal Code, Civil Code, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Sentencing Bill, Right to Privacy Act, Right to Food Act, Dalit Commission, National Women Commission, and the Anti Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act.
- **132** News Article: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/102515-KP-on-top-in-rule-of-law-performance-Survey>
- **133** News Article: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35397768>
- **134** Policing with passion: Strategic initiatives and institutional reforms in KP Police. KP Police, February 2016
- **135** Ikram, et al., International Growth Centre, 2014
- **136** PILDAT, Rule of Law Index, 2016



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- **137** In the districts where the project is active, central police office, administrative data, 2016
- **138** In February 2016, the government published a review of the 1991 Constitution with an abridged draft report.
- **139** African Mission in Somalia
- **140** The figure is based on the radio outreach and estimate provided by the radio channel; 50 percent of the population as an estimate in urban centers only.
- **141** South Sudan Flash Update #6: <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-ocha-flash-update-6-fighting-juba-16-july-2016>
- **142** OHCHR Country Report: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SS/ReportJuba16Jan2017.pdf>
- **143** UNMISS: UN Mission in South Sudan
- **144** Consultations Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms report: <http://www.scrm.gov.lk/documents-reports>
- **145** The World Bank, Sri Lanka : Poverty and welfare : recent progress and remaining challenges, 2016.
- **146** Truth Research, Study on the Challenges to Case Flow Management within the Criminal Justice System, March 2016
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- **148** According to UN OCHA, by mid-2016 the unemployment rate among youth stood at 60 percent and among females at over 65 percent. 47 percent of households in Gaza suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity, and 70 percent of Gaza's population receives some form of international aid, the bulk of which is food assistance: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-strip-humanitarian-impact-blockade-november-2016>.
- **149** The joint UNDP - UN Women rule of law programme is branded Sawasya, which is the Arabic term for equity.
- **150** These institutions include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, High Judicial Council, Attorney General's Office, the Sharia Courts, the Palestine Maintenance Fund, the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and Palestinian Civilian Police, the Council of Ministers, and the Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics and Palestinian Bar Association (West Bank and Gaza Branches).
- **151** Legal aid assistance is provided through partnerships with civil society both in West Bank and in Gaza. In Gaza, UNDP supported the establishment of the Access to Justice Network in 2011, which is comprised primarily from civil society organizations that are not politically affiliated.
- **152** United Nations Sudan, Humanitarian Response Plan 2016.
- **153** Protection Strategy for the Humanitarian Country Team in Sudan 2016-2017
- **154** Sudan United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2021
- **155** Country Brief: Sudan, February 2017.
- **156** Report of the Independent Expert in Human Rights Situation in Sudan, August 2016 and February 2017
- **157** Report of the Independent Expert in Human Rights Situation in Sudan, August 2016 and February 2017
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- **160** UNAMID: UN Mission in Darfur
- **161** Timor-Leste: Hard lessons in peacekeeping: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/publications/yir/2006/timor-leste.htm>
- **162** In 2015 there were 2,912 criminal cases and 3,227 in 2016.
- **163** Sigma advises poll (2016)
- **164** Cf. Feature Story p.43
- **165** Online portal: <http://www.legislation.tn/>
- **166** For more information on the Transitional Justice platforms, see: https://www.dropbox.com/s/73jdp7dfsc97wpx/Projet%20JT_Plateformes%20r%C3%A9gionales%20de%20la%20JT_version%20finale.pdf?dl=0
- **167** "Security and Justice Assessment of Vulnerable and Stigmatized People" and "Security and Justice in Ukraine: Perspectives from Communities in Three Oblasts (Donetsk, Luhansk and Zhytomyr)"
- **168** The survey was carried out to over 3,900 respondents with a methodology that allows for an error rate of +/- three percent. Focus groups on community security issues were conducted in 51 locations of Donetsk Oblast, 48 villages of Zhytomyr Oblast, and 30 villages of Luhansk oblast. In Luhansk Oblast focus groups, more than 60 percent of the participants were women.
- **169** Ukraine Abuse Report Form: https://ifp.org.ua/report_violation/povidomyty-pro-zlochyn
- **170** News Article: <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/02/22/the-coalition-justice-for-peace-in-the-donbas-strategized-how-to-improve-access-to-justice-in-2017.html>
- **171** Humanitarian Response Plan 2017: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/yemen_2017_hrp_final.pdf
- **172** Security Council Demands End to Yemen Violence: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11859.doc.htm>
- **173** As of 1 April 2017.

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Cover Photo: Daily life in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, where UNDP supports projects to strengthen the rule of law. © UNDP Afghanistan/Igor Riabchuck

Back Cover Photo: The graduation ceremony for 250 female police officers from Afghanistan at the UNDP-supported Sivas Police Training Center in Turkey, which aims to increase female participation in the police force. The cadets spend four months together, developing deep personal relationships before being deployed to different parts of the country. © UNDP Afghanistan/Igor Riabchuck

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Since 2008, the UNDP Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development (previously known as Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations) has provided rule of law support to over 40 crisis-affected countries. The programme has been a driving force in improving the delivery of UNDP's assistance and in pioneering joint UN approaches to supporting the rule of law. The 2012 establishment of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice, and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations is a notable development in this regard.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the first year of implementation of Phase III of the Global Programme (2016–2020) – highlighting the political and human rights dimensions of the rule of law and how our support contributes to sustaining peace. Part I, Year in Review, reflects on international policy developments affecting rule of law assistance and provides key country-level results achieved through the Global Programme in 2016. Part II, Country Profiles, presents an analysis of our engagement in 34 countries affected by crisis, conflict, and fragility. Lastly, Part III, provides detailed financial information on the Global Programme.

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