



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**THE EU-UNDP PARTNERSHIP
IN THE ARAB STATES REGION**



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FOREWORD BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ARAB STATES

Making a Difference: the EU-UNDP Partnership in the Arab States Region showcases the results of an integral partnership between the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, which works across the Arab States region in 13 countries and the occupied Palestinian territories.

The report focuses on achievements from 2015 to 2020, highlighting successes on human development, good governance, rule of law, promotion of justice and democratic institutions. It illustrates our collective objective to build more resilient, prosperous, and inclusive societies, acknowledging the myriad of challenges faced by this unique region of the world – challenges that have intensified in the context of a global pandemic. It also touches on areas where greater collaboration is necessary, such as climate change and digital transformation.

At the heart of this report are stories of the people we serve. From Syria to Somalia, to Libya and Lebanon, *Making a Difference* is a source of inspiration, one that I hope instills a sense of pride in those who were instrumental in bringing this partnership to life. Despite the region's ongoing challenges, our partnership has had a tangible and lasting impact on communities, helping to transform the narrative of a region long burdened by hardships to one of hope, resilience, and solidarity.

The strength of our partnership has enabled us to be more agile in times of crisis – quick thinkers and quick responders – swiftly meeting the needs of communities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce the immediate socio-economic and humanitarian impacts.

COVID-19 fundamentally altered our operating context, unleashing a crisis that hit the integral

elements of human development hard: income, health, and education. In the face of complex and compounding crises, our shared goal of building back this region for a greener, more peaceful and inclusive future means a strong and continued partnership is needed now more than ever.

We are committed to continue making a difference. We have a wealth of experience leading innovative solutions to address the region's unique challenges. We embrace partnerships at all levels, working alongside international financial institutions and the private sector to scale up our initiatives. We acknowledge the enormous potential of collaboration in areas such as digital transformation and green recovery, with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Green Deal as cornerstones of our complementary approaches.

Together throughout this Decade of Action, we will continue to build resilience across the region, working towards the 2030 Agenda through increased support to local authorities, strengthened stabilization and democracy, safeguarding human rights, and championing an SDG Push.

Many people have made possible the results illustrated in this report. To our EU colleagues in Brussels and throughout the region – thank you for your unwavering commitment not only to our partnership – but to supporting the communities who need it most.

I look forward to building on these achievements together, creating lasting peace for a region that truly deserves it.

Khalida Bouzar

Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States,
United Nations Development Programme

FOREWORD BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (INTPA) AND ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS (NEAR)

The word that could describe our collaboration with UNDP and our partners in the Arab States is “determination”.

Firstly, it is the determination that multilateralism not only works but is also needed more than ever. In today's world marked by major geopolitical and economic power shifts, multilateralism means putting together our forces to find solutions to enduring or emerging challenges.

The EU has been and will continue to be the best ally of multilateralism and its institutions while projecting its strategic priorities. However, the more complex global environment calls us to be more united, coherent and focused. We need to consider deepening partnerships and alliances with our partners, countries and multilateral and regional organisations.

Cooperation should include a wide range of stakeholders, including UNDP and other entities, to achieve comprehensive results. Opportunities also exist to collaborate with international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector to explore financing that could scale up the impact of initiatives.

Therefore, it is with determination that we need to work together to better serve the most vulnerable in a changing region.

Above all, it is the determination of young women, like Jabrah from Yemen, who earns a livelihood through her dairy business supported by the EU-UNDP partnership. In Yemen, there is a growing demand for dairy products, yet, currently, the country's milk production only

meets one-third of domestic demand, resulting in a heavy reliance on very expensive imported milk. Therefore, supporting such small-scale businesses has great potential to improve the food and income security of rural households.

Over the past five years, a key theme has emerged: the link between fostering economic resilience and improving the well-being of vulnerable populations through support to rebuilding and sustaining livelihoods. From ensuring inclusive economies to promoting decent jobs, from advancing universal health coverage to supporting healthcare systems, from establishing more participatory decision-making processes to promoting equality and human rights, there are many opportunities to contribute to the leave-no-one-behind agenda.

All of this would not be possible without the tireless work of colleagues, especially the ones working on the ground. They and the many people we serve strengthen our determination that we can collectively move towards a fairer, safer, more inclusive, and more sustainable world. It is also their determination that we recognise and celebrate through this publication.

Koen Doens

Director General for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Union

Maciej Popowski

Acting Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), European Union

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly championed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global plan of action for “people, planet and prosperity.” With only a decade left to meet its commitments to eradicate poverty, build social cohesion and strengthen universal peace, the EU-UNDP partnership is needed now more than ever for this Decade of Action. The European Commission’s passing of the Green Deal reflects Europe’s commitment to sustainability as the cornerstone of their Union and presents its development vision for the Arab States, a part of the world prone to climate risks. In a geographic area beleaguered by conflict, and where citizens sometimes lack faith in authorities, it is only through a strong commitment to partnership and cooperation that the region can turn its human development challenges into inclusive, community-owned change.

The partnership spans 14 countries and encompasses 58 joint actions resulting in a total investment of €600 million since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

The EU-UNDP interventions over the past five years have been categorized in six main areas of work, bringing out key results and highlighting similarities, differences and synergies in the approaches.



Local governance and service delivery

The partnership supported 85 sub-national administrations across the region to fulfil their core missions more effectively. This resulted in better access to and quality of 300 schools, health and education facilities, and the generation of more than 1,000 community initiatives, also contributing to social stability and cohesion. In Syria for example, 4,138 short-term emergency employment opportunities led to the rehabilitation of 13 schools, three health facilities, and eight kilometres of electrical network.



People's resilience and recovery

EU-UNDP rolled out programmes to address the pressing needs of communities, reduce their vulnerability, and create the basis for transition to sustainable development. These programmes have had 1.6 million direct beneficiaries, supported the establishment of more than 3,000 businesses and created 35,000 short-term employment opportunities. In Yemen, for example, the Enhanced Rural Resilience programme has helped establish District Management Teams and 223 Village Cooperative Councils, which then developed recovery and community resilience plans. These plans have enabled local authorities to execute reconstruction projects benefiting 70,000 villagers.



Stabilization and peace support

Collaboration in this area demonstrates the responsiveness of EU-UNDP to work together when prospects for peace arise. This work aims to strengthen governments' legitimacy, broker peace, and boost crisis response capacities. The partnership supported four peace processes and contributed to local stability that led to the return of millions of displaced people to their hometowns. For example in Iraq, the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) contributed to the return of about 4.5 million Iraqis and benefited 8.2 million people through almost 4,000 projects. Also in Libya, the Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Programme helped about 1.7 million people through support to basic services delivery and assisted 24 municipalities in identifying priorities and restoring critical infrastructure.



Justice and rule of law

In crisis or post-conflict countries, collaboration in this area contributed to meeting people's basic security needs. In other countries, interventions supported inclusive justice institutions. In this regard, 60,000 people received legal support and 1,500 staff from justice institutions and bar associations received legal training. For example, nearly 20,000 Palestinians received legal advice, representation, and mediation from 2015 to 2017.



Elections and democratic governance

The partnership provided support to electoral processes in five countries, to constitutional processes in two countries and to parliamentary development and functioning of institutions. The EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance and the capacity to navigate complex political dynamics have been instrumental to advance this important agenda.



Climate action and renewable energy

There is a strong commitment by the EU and UNDP to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. The collaboration on renewable energy in Lebanon and Yemen prevented 4,463 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere every year and enabled the installation of 600 solar systems to support growth and recovery.

The COVID-19 response strategies of the EU and UNDP are aligned under many aspects, which gives a central role to the partnership in addressing the impact of the pandemic. UNDP and the EU leveraged their agility and flexibility to help countries swiftly. In some cases, such as Yemen and Libya, ongoing or upcoming interventions have been repurposed to support health centres, provide protective equipment or raise awareness. In other cases, such as in Algeria, dedicated actions have been developed to respectively support the procurement of medical equipment and enhance the socio-economic status of the most affected groups.

The EU and UNDP are natural partners, sharing common values and objectives for advancing peace and security, human rights, and development, aiming for big and lasting impacts, beyond projects. Their mutual precepts include:



Promoting peace and stability

by focusing on all stages of conflict through the integrated approach, beginning with pre-emptive measures that address vulnerabilities. This involves facilitating peace processes by bridging the gap between the end of violence and long-term recovery. The partnership recognizes that sustainable statehood requires a solid rule of law and basic services for its citizens.



Rapidly responding to crisis

through short-, medium- and long-term interventions that are easily adaptable to evolving contexts. The flexibility of EU funding instruments, combined with that of UNDP's in-country presence and operational capacities, has enabled partnering in response to crisis even in times of conflict.

Prioritizing resilience



as a key vehicle for prosperity, stability, sustainability, and democracy. This resilience-based approach underpins most of EU-UNDP interventions, targeting different paths to resilience and reflecting policies outlined in the EU Global Strategy. Communities are enabled to cope with shocks, recover from crises, restore livelihoods, revitalize local economies, and peacefully adapt to political, economic, and environmental shifts.



Putting people at the centre

by fighting poverty and inequality, with particular attention on women and other vulnerable groups, and additional efforts on fostering self-reliance among refugees and displaced populations. This people-centered approach also applies to institutions, ensuring that citizens are engaged in elections, national and local planning, as well as peace and state-building processes.



Working for durable and sustainable results

by focusing on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus at the institutional, governance and economic levels to ensure strong national ownership and longer-term sustainability. The partnership has worked also to promote environmental sustainability, particularly on renewable energy.

Significant achievements stem from a joint commitment to collaboration. The EU has recognized that UNDP serves as an effective convener, bringing together UN agencies, government representatives, national, international, and non-governmental organizations to work together to find solutions for some of the region's most pressing challenges.

While the EU-UNDP partnership in the Arab States has contributed to results across all 17 SDGs, it has most invested on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 1 (Elimination of Poverty). With the SDGs as their compass, Arab countries have an opportunity to advance in a sustainable and inclusive way that enables them to

anticipate and address shocks, such as those caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This region, despite geo-political complexities and challenges, has the potential to realize the promise of peace and security through sustainable development models.

Making a Difference: the EU-UNDP Partnership in the Arab States region is a publication with three main sections. First, it illustrates key results of the partnership from 2015-2020. Second, it presents how both organizations have joined forces to address the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, the publication identifies opportunities to expand the partnership into the next decade. An illustrated Annex shows the reach of the partnership across the SDGs.



14 countries

58 joint actions

€600 million total investment

PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

This section highlights prominent results of the EU-UNDP partnership from 2015-2020. In particular, the partnership has shone in supporting local governance and service delivery. It is in this area, along with initiatives to boost resilience and recovery from crises, that the partnership has invested the largest amount of resources, particularly in infrastructure rehabilitation, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and financing for wide-reaching “cash for work” schemes. Efforts towards stabilization and peace also feature significantly in the work of the partnership, followed by the promotion of justice, rule of law, elections, and democratic institutions. The partnership’s work on climate action and renewable energy, including disaster risk reduction, which is currently limited, has great potential for expansion.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

The EU and UNDP have worked together on a number of initiatives to build resilience in the region, laying the foundation for long-term economic development. The partnership has recognized that in fragile contexts local governance systems can come under pressure, which can undermine the legitimacy of institutions and weaken social cohesion, leading, in turn, to further instability and violence. In countries not affected by conflict or crisis, local governments form the centrepiece of citizens' participation in the management of their communities.

The EU-UNDP partnership helps local authorities more efficiently serve the needs of citizens. Service delivery and support to inclusive local economies are priority areas because they can aid in reducing inequalities, building the social contract (between citizens as well as local communities) and enhancing trust in institutions, even in countries where central government legitimacy is fragile.



In the past five years,
the partnership has assisted **85**
local administrations to function more
effectively, resulting in better access to
quality schools and health facilities.



► **11** interventions

SEEING IS BELIEVING

In countries where local service delivery systems and economies have been disrupted, people need to see that development progresses with and for them.

Reflecting this need, the Local Area Development Programme (LADP) in Iraq assisted nine governorates to devise strategic plans to manage development and is now focused on projects at the local level. Working with local authorities, the programme aims to generate short- and long-term employment, and to improve infrastructure using labour-intensive approaches. A good example comes from southern Iraq, where the Local Priority Development Projects selected in conjunction with local authorities focused on job creation (with emphasis on unemployed youth and women) through beautification of public spaces and youth areas in the heart of the governorates, as well as preservation of Iraqi cultural heritage, and promotion of an enabling environment and infrastructure for eco-tourism. These projects work closely with local authorities and have a strong potential for replication.

In Basra, the project is now working on rehabilitating a derelict area in the heart of the city through the construction of a recreational park, which will allow the establishment of local businesses. The construction will employ people (with at least 30 per cent women and 30 per cent youth) previously trained by the project in construction crafts. In Thi Qar, the project focuses on building a visitor's tour within the archaeological site of Ur, to protect this UNESCO World Heritage Site and involve local unemployed youth. In addition,

to support job creation, technical workshops of traditional activities will be set up in the region: handicrafts, mudhif [reed houses], traditional kayaks and fishing boats.

This work is complemented by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (MADAD), which, in Iraq, bolsters rehabilitation of housing and water and sanitation infrastructure. By targeting municipalities most affected by the influx of Syrian refugees, MADAD in Lebanon is helping to identify needs for enhanced service delivery in order to achieve local economic development plans.

In Libya, the Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Programme concentrates on host communities and municipalities affected by refugees and internally displaced



9 governorates

in Iraq supported by the Local Area Development Programme to manage development at the local level



24 municipalities

in Libya received support to restore critical infrastructure through the Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery Programme



223 Village Cooperative Councils

Established through the Enhanced Rural Resilience Programme in Yemen

The EU-UNDP Partnership supported 56 businesses to hire 661 people (for 6-8 months each) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq under the Headway programme. The recruits include 92 Syrian refugees, 472 host community members and 97 internally displaced people, of whom 221 are females. Hunar, 24, from Halabja, who now earns a monthly income of US\$1000, said:

“Being hired under this programme was a life-changing experience both for me and my family.”

UNDP is implementing the Job Creation scheme with funding from the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis, 'Madad Fund.'



Photo: Rwanga Foundation, 2020

people (IDP). To date, the project has benefited about 1.7 million people through its support to basic services delivery and has helped 24 municipalities identify priorities and restore critical infrastructure.

The local governance programme in Somalia strengthens service delivery through incentivizing good governance reforms in institutional capacity building, policy frameworks (decentralization, procurement, human resources, municipal finance, planning) and inclusive politics. Public services such as provision of education, water and health facilities have fostered economic development, through ensuring access for communities whose willingness to engage with the government has been enhanced by transparent systems of governance, resulting in increased tax revenues and government accountability.

Similarly, the Enhanced Rural Resilience programme in Yemen has helped establish District Management Teams and 223 Village Cooperative Councils, which have then

developed their own recovery and community resilience plans. These plans have enabled local authorities to execute reconstruction projects benefiting 70,000 villagers. Building on this success, the largest EU-funded UNDP programme in the Arab States region – Strengthening the Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY) – now supports local governments in 40 districts.

The decentralization programme in Jordan strengthened the capacities of local governments in data collection and strategic planning. The programme has also provided technical support to inform authorities guiding the decentralization process.

Additionally, local community-based organizations have been trained and financial support has been provided to implement mission-based initiatives in the fields of women's empowerment, education and health services with a view of enhancing local services and strengthening the relationship between the community and the government.

STRENGTHENING CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT

Creative citizen engagement brings people together for better communities.

Supporting local governments in efforts to engage civil society in policy-making and respond to citizens' needs has been a central feature of the Participatory Democracy and Local Development (CAPDEL) project in Algeria. This includes creating local committees and citizens' charters, which ensured community participation in selecting development priorities in seven municipalities. Similarly, municipalities in Libya now have more inclusive local decision-making and ways to address conflict-sensitive issues. In Iraq, 12 Provincial Steering Committees were set up to include local communities,

women, and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. The active participation of women in local councils, committees and municipalities has advanced gender equality at local level.

The partnership has also worked to put people at the forefront of local development. In Iraq, several cleaning campaigns, tree-planting drives, and student competitions for innovation in community services were organized. In Yemen, about 600 community initiatives focusing on service provision were launched.

“I am glad to have been equipped through the Community Reporters Training not only to capture the stories of suffering, but also those of hope in a better future,”

said Lina Mohammed Etewi, 23. Displaced from the Governorate of Anbar to Ninewah, then Erbil, Lina is one of 80 young people that the EU-UNDP Partnership trained to become Community Reporters and capture unique perspectives of the local communities.



7 municipalities

in Algeria supported by the Participatory Democracy and Local Development project to ensure community participation in selecting development priorities



12 Provincial Steering Committee

set up in Iraq to include local communities, women, and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes



Innovative community services

including cleaning campaigns, tree-planting drives and student competitions organized in Iran



600 community initiatives

focusing on service provision launched in Yemen

ENHANCING LOCAL STABILITY AND COHESION

The EU-UNDP partnership furthers trust between local authorities and citizens, aiming to foster social cohesion and stability.

In Yemen, 229 mediators helped build consensus around local conflicts involving displaced communities, returnees, and host families. The partnership supported Libyan municipalities to conduct 326 conflict-sensitive needs assessments and established Local Peace Partnerships to act as a link between municipal councils, authorities, and the community. In Syria, 75 NGOs have been trained on ways to enhance social cohesion, and 57 of them received grants for local initiatives, including youth-led activities.



Children enjoy the renovated public park in Sebha; a place where families and children can enjoy an open space in the city.

The renovation of this public park in Sebha is one of the initiatives undertaken in the city by “Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery” project, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Local Governance. The objective of the project is to help local authorities to restore security, essential services delivery.

“ Access to well-maintained public spaces help to improve people’s physical and mental health and promote peace and cultural engagement.”

- Mr. Mohamed Gomaa a member of the Municipal Council



Photo: UNDP Libya/ Fathia Elazomi, 2019

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

EU-UNDP projects have been drawing on the longstanding experience of European municipalities. For example, the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) has supported efforts in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Somalia. This technical assistance to repair physical infrastructure has been linked with capacity building for the maintenance of water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure. Looking ahead, Iraqi and European local authorities will work together to draw on their experiences across different areas, including cultural promotion, COVID-19 response, and local revenue generation. UNDP and the United Nations Programme for Human Settlement (UN-HABITAT) have partnered to support building resilience within host communities and urban populations in Syria and Iraq as they plan for recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

UNDP and the EU have been strong allies in advocating important development issues, and UNDP consistently collaborated with the EU in its initiatives in the region, such as the Brussels Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”, working on the planning committee, and with EU leadership to ensure continuing donor commitment to the region and to keep Syria high on the international community’s agenda.

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

Conflict and protracted crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, adversely affect livelihoods, reduce household income, fuel unemployment, disrupt markets, and drag more people into poverty. The EU and UNDP have rolled out large programmes designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of communities by meeting their urgent needs, while also supporting the transition towards recovery, self-reliance, and sustainable development.

This approach brings elements of development into volatile contexts where basic and pressing needs are immense. Targeting the most vulnerable groups, including refugees, IDP and host communities, lightens the burden on host countries and mitigates the pressures of internal and external displacement.



The partnership has touched the lives of

1.6 million direct beneficiaries,

supported the establishment of more than

3,000 businesses, and created

35,000 short-term employment

opportunities.



► **10** interventions

INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Economic recovery depends in part on small businesses that create jobs and provide local markets with essential services and products.

Supporting the establishment of small businesses that create sustainable job opportunities and provide local markets with essential services and products is key to economic recovery. Through the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) project nearly 150,000 farmers in 230 communities now have more reliable food security and higher incomes because of technical and capacity building assistance provided by the project. In Syria, 1,400 families in rural areas have received start-up assets, tools, and supplies that have allowed them to revive micro-businesses and boost their incomes.

Developing people's skills, strengthening value chains, providing start-up assets and establishing linkages with financial institutions are all part of a strategy that links economic

efficiency to social inclusion, in line with the UNDP [3x6 approach](#), which focuses on generating income, injecting capital into the local economy, and providing opportunities for diversified livelihoods.

Through the partnership, more than 2,000 microbusinesses were established in Yemen. Vocational training for 833 beneficiaries from IDPs and host community members in Syria led to the creation of 300 businesses, while in Libya training for thousands of young entrepreneurs generated more than 240 start-up ideas.

In Somalia, an IDP reintegration programme has supported business ideas from conception through to registration and operation in communities affected by displacement in Mogadishu. The programme

has helped provide links with financial sources and has offered a range of business services. In collaboration with Mogadishu University, 500 youths were trained on basic entrepreneurship, marketing, and financial aspects in business. Some 42 entrepreneurs benefited from drop-in services, and received training in entrepreneurship and employment, as well as coaching and mentorship.

Joint efforts to revitalize the economy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) has included support to tourism through the rehabilitation of two cultural sites in Nablus and Jericho that now serve as hotels and are expected to generate 200 sustainable jobs. In addition, a revamp of the Gaza Industrial Estate, severely damaged during 2014 hostilities, will facilitate future industrial enterprises.

Maqam Nabi Musa, a Palestinian historic site, was rehabilitated and now welcomes hundreds of tourists.



Local people, through a cash-for-work programme in Yemen, constructed a road connecting their village with the centre of the Musimir district in Abyan. This has enabled better access to essential basic services such as healthcare facilities and food stores. Over 2,400 Yemenis from across Abyan and Lahj have participated in cash-for-work projects, restoring community assets while earning an income that ensures they can purchase the daily essentials for themselves and their families.



150,000
farmers

in 230 communities in Yemen now have more reliable food security and higher incomes through the rural resilience project



2,000+
microbusinesses

established in Yemen and more than 240 start-up ideas from young entrepreneurs trained in Libya



300
businesses

created among the 833 beneficiaries from IDPs and host community members in Syria who received vocational training

“Everybody is entitled to success regardless of his age, education, and how much money he has. In fact, success comes to those who are determined and ambitious,” says Moath Salem (pictured), a 34-year-old father of three from Lahj governorate in southern Yemen.

When he was growing up, Moath’s family of nine faced financial hardship so he dropped out of school at 14 and moved to the city to find work to help support them.

“I’ve worked many jobs since I was a teenager,” says Moath. “I’ve been a salesperson in grocery stores, a waiter in restaurants, and a construction laborer. I realized from an early age that I must work hard in order to help myself and my family.”

“Despite the fact that I’ve been working for a long time, I’ve never had a stable job,” he says. “I’m always wondering what my next job will be. And whether I’d be able to make enough money to feed my children. Sometimes I don’t have even a penny; therefore, my children find nothing to eat but dry bread.”

After years of working in construction, Moath decided to start his own small business using his hands and a heavy hammer. He started to manually break stones and sell them to builders and contractors in his area. As time passed, his business grew, so he hired two other workers to help him.

Partners UNDP and CARE worked on the rehabilitation of key community assets and provided employment opportunities to the most vulnerable households in Lahj governorate.

Some 405 people – 277 men and 128 women – worked to pave a vital road in Aqabat Gawden area of Musaimeer district, Lahj.

Moath says: “I was happy to participate in the road’s construction. I have worked for 10 days and earned 33,000 YR (\$US60).” He also contributed to the success of the road project by selling stones to it.

“I got 333,000 YR (\$600) and bought a stone breaker machine, which helped me to increase stone production and save time,” he says.

“The business is growing and I have enough money to buy food and other essentials for my family. I feel proud to offer employment opportunities for six workers so they can also live a decent life with their families.”

Story credit: CARE



RESTORING SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS

The rehabilitation of infrastructure rebuilds damaged communities while also creating income opportunities, including through cash-for-work initiatives.

The Syria livelihoods programme has generated 4,138 short-term emergency employment opportunities and led to the rehabilitation of 13 schools, three health facilities, and eight kilometres of electrical network. In Libya, more than one million people are benefiting from improved access to health care, education, electricity, water, and sanitation because of rehabilitated infrastructure. In Yemen, about 30,000 people received cash incentives to revitalize infrastructure and community structures. This work included maintenance of 150 kilometres of roads, rehabilitation and building of 129 water points, 63 sanitation networks, and 52 health facilities.



Photo: Henry Dick/ Unsplash

TARGETING THE MOST VULNERABLE: A FOCUS ON WOMEN

The EU-UNDP partnership has worked to promote women's access to food and services, skills development, income generation, safety, protection from gender-based violence, and inclusion in local decision-making bodies. In Syria, 1,500 women received essential assets to start their own income-generating activities, and others benefited from vocational training. The only EU-funded project exclusively dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment has been launched in Djibouti. With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the project will work to improve women's literacy and vocational skills, as well as support start-ups led by women, business incubators and training centres. It will also provide technical assistance to national institutions for improved data and analysis to better inform gender-equality policies.

Women are usually the hardest hit by conflict and crisis. Often excluded from local decision-making bodies, they also have limited employment opportunities.

In Syria,

4,138 jobs

generated (short-term emergency employment), leading to the rehabilitation of:

13 schools

3 health facilities

8 km electrical networks

In Libya,

1,000,000+ people

benefited from improved access to health care, education, electricity, water, and sanitation because of rehabilitated infrastructure



In Yemen,

30,000 people

received cash incentives to revitalize infrastructure and community structures, including:

150 km roads

129 water points

63 sanitation networks

52 health facilities



Photo: UNDP Tunisia



About 180 babies are vaccinated each week at the Golden Clinic (pictured) in Sebha, Libya, the only clinic to provide vaccinations in the city.

The clinic, previously known as the AlGurda Polyclinic and the second largest health facility in Sebha, was badly damaged during the conflict in 2014. Heavy artillery destroyed parts of the clinic and severely reduced its capacity to provide health services. Until 2017, the clinic operated just one half day a week, but then began opening daily, even though it could receive patients on just one floor.

“We couldn’t do much for our patients, but to examine them and make a diagnostic. The clinic was full of debris and contaminated with wastewater,” explained Dr Mohammed Samir.

“We were asking our patients to go to expensive private clinics or travel to unsafe areas to get better healthcare in the General Hospital. Some of them couldn’t make it.”

With support from the European Union, UNDP’s ‘Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery’ project renovated the second floor dedicated to obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, and a blood laboratory, allowing about 96,000 patients every year to access to more services. Golden Clinic Manager, Mr. Emhemad Abu Adba, stated:

“Health services had been suspended in Sebha for many years, today we are able to provide healthcare to our citizens again.”

The project implemented other initiatives in the city as well. It supported Sebha’s Water and Sanitation Company with the design of the main sewage pipeline and has delivered three generators. Sebha central park was created as part of the same project.

The new public park, located at the heart of Sebha, is important because, after many years of conflict, people needed an open space where they could go to relax and forget, to meet others, enjoy nature, and play sport.

Photo: UNDP Libya/ Fathia Elazomi, 2019

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

There are three main levels of collaboration that have helped maximize the impact of resilience and recovery projects.

UN agencies: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been instrumental in supporting agricultural and livelihoods work in Yemen, making it also a key partner for Syria. Partnering with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) has been important in rehabilitating school and health infrastructure in Libya and Syria; the World Food Programme (WFP) helps ensure beneficiaries’ participation in “cash for work” and nutrition programmes. The International Labour Organization (ILO) provides skills development, training, and support with private-sector development.

Training Institutions: For businesses to survive, entrepreneurs may need training to develop relevant skills. Support for capacity building of the Arab Chamber of Commerce and of merchants in the OPT has been provided in cooperation with the Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD). In Libya, more than 3,000 people participated in programmes and events implemented in partnership with Tatweer Entrepreneurship Campus (TEC), which has also established dedicated business incubators, an impact fund, and TEC camps to support entrepreneurs and start-up ideas. These incubators provide start-ups with office space, access to business and technical training, coaching, and mentoring.¹

Private sector: All infrastructure rehabilitation is undertaken through private contractors. In some cases, contractors are European, such as in the OPT where urban planning designs were done in partnership with Italian universities. Collaboration with local micro-finance providers, business associations and private companies have been essential in Yemen, and a partnership with Toyota that aims to boost job opportunities for youth in Libya through vocational training programmes (on mechanical engineering, car maintenance and customer care) has been a highlight of its resilience programme.

¹ For reference, see TEC incubator [webpage](https://tec.ly/incubator/) (https://tec.ly/incubator/) and [a story on one of the start-ups supported through the TEC incubator](#).

IN FOCUS

PANDA APP: LEADING THE WAY ON ONLINE EDUCATION IN LIBYA

Aspiring to build an ecosystem for entrepreneurship in Libya, UNDP, with funding from the European Union and in partnership with Tatweer Research, set up the Tatweer Entrepreneurship Development Campus (TEC). Through TEC, entrepreneurs can join business incubators, learn from each other in joint workspaces, attend Business and Technology trainings, as well as have access to start-up funding across Libya. To date, 85 start-ups have received coaching, resources and mentorship through TEC, one of which was the Panda application.

In 2018, at a TEC activity, three young entrepreneurs, Aziza Al-Hassi, Tufaha Suhaim and Amine Kachroud met, shared their ideas and common interests in education, and eventually created their startup, School Connect, which later became Panda. This innovative

e-learning mobile app connects teachers with parents to follow up on children’s behavioral and academic performance.

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced countries, including Libya, to suspend in-person education, the Panda founders quickly adapted and expanded the app’s features to host electronic content enabling students to learn online. Panda has provided jobs for 17 people, including three women. The app’s founders are working to provide students with a greater number of online lessons to limit interruption in their educational progress. With successful results and impact so far, the founders now aim to become a standard for educational technology in Libya.



STABILIZATION AND PEACE SUPPORT

Nearly 29.9 million people have been displaced in the Arab region, largely due to conflict. Fostering peace and stability is a cornerstone of the EU-UNDP partnership.

While contributions to peace and stability are embedded in most areas of work, there are some interventions at the core of the peace agenda that demonstrate the capacity of the EU and UNDP to act together in fragile contexts. Politically sensitive and risk-prone by nature, these interventions have been made possible only through joint engagement and collaboration.

Approaches vary depending on each country context, and in particular whether a political agreement or legitimate institutions are in place. Some projects aim to stabilize territories and help develop trust between citizens and government. Other initiatives help broker peace deals or consolidate them at local levels. Some programmes assist countries to build capabilities to prevent crises, while others support their recovery as they address the remnants of conflict and crisis.

To date, the partnership has supported **four peace processes** and has contributed to local stability that has enabled the **return of millions** of displaced people to their hometowns.



▶ **11** interventions

RAPID RESPONSES FOR STABILIZATION

The EU-UNDP partnership has recognized its convergence in this area and has jointly defined stabilization as a time-bound, rapid, and politically driven intervention to generate confidence among the general population in a peace process or in a governing authority, or to provide a peace-dividend by focusing on the needs of communities.

The UNDP context-specific approach incorporates rehabilitating essential infrastructure and delivering basic services, strengthening physical security, and revitalizing the local economy through support for SMEs and engagement of local contractors.

In Iraq, the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) contributed to the return of about 4.5 million Iraqis and benefited 8.2 million people through almost 4,000 projects. In Libya, the stabilization facility has undertaken more than 450 investment projects in 12 cities, restoring power grids, water and sewage networks, education and healthcare infrastructure, and other municipal services.

Stabilization is an important area of collaboration between UNDP and the EU, both at programmatic and policy levels.

SEIZING PROSPECTS OF PEACE

In South and West Kordofan, Blue Nile and the Abyei Area of Sudan 22 peace agreements were facilitated, resulting in an 80 per cent decrease in reported clashes. In addition, backing for the Darfur Internal Dialogue helped engage more than 3,000 people in peace consultations.

In Libya, inclusive dialogues were organized to build confidence in the political mission, and direct support was provided to restore core government functions. A special unit was established in the Prime Ministry to foster the role of women in peace building and decision-making, with an advisory group set up for the Presidency Council.

In Yemen, the Peace Support Facility bolsters the aims of the Stockholm agreement and builds public trust in the peace process.

The EU-UNDP joint initiatives with peace processes and dialogues are in line with the EU's commitment to pursue conflict prevention and peacebuilding in partner countries.

Al Zuhour water treatment plant in East Mosul, Iraq, rehabilitated through the stabilization facility



Photo: UNDP Iraq/ Claire Thomas

The Funding Facility for Stabilization contributed to:

4.5 million

Iraqis' return and benefited

8.2 million

people through almost 4,000 projects in Iraq



Photo: UNDP Iraq/ Claire Thomas



Nabil Mohammed (centre) and his family stand for a photo outside their home in Anbar. The family's home was burned and looted during the battle to liberate the area from Islamic State control and has recently been rehabilitated with the support of UNDP's Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS).



22 peace agreements

were facilitated in Sudan, resulting in an

80%

decrease in reported clashes

STRENGTHENING MINE ACTION AND CRISIS RESPONSE

The EU-UNDP support for mine action addresses the humanitarian needs of those affected by mines, as well as the longer-term development impact posed by them.

After longstanding assistance, Lebanon is now considered a leader in training and expertise, hosting a Regional School for Humanitarian Demining.

Work with the League of Arab States has contributed to more effective early warning systems for impending regional crises, conflicts, and post-conflict situations. In Jordan, UNDP supported the establishment of a Syria Crisis Response Platform to focus on the impact of the massive inflow of refugees.

Unemployed women from Bergesh (Jordan) receive vocational skills training as part of UNDP Jordan implemented, European Union funded "Decentralisation and Local Development Support Programme".



Photo: UNDP Jordan/ Karam Musty, 2020



Community Reporters Training Completion

Funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis, 'Madad Fund' and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme under Headway programme

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNDP's collaboration with UN peacekeeping and political missions aligns with broader political goals of the EU-UNDP partnership. Programmes in Iraq and Libya have been implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL); the Peace Support Facility in Yemen has been established under the guidance of the UN Special Envoy and the UN Resident Coordinator; in Sudan, the political direction of the United Nations missions and UNDP's operational assistance have complemented each other in strengthening the peace dialogue.

UNDP's role as key convenor is illustrated by the wide engagement of donor countries in these programmes. For instance, the stabilization facility in Iraq has support from 28 donors, the one in Libya by 14, and the Peace Support Facility in Yemen by 10.

JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW

Strong rule of law in the region is fundamental for peace, security, and political stability, as well as being essential for economic development, protection of rights and freedoms.

In countries in conflict, the EU-UNDP partnership focuses on strengthening institutions so that they are better positioned to meet citizens' basic security needs.

In other countries, programmes concentrate on ensuring that inclusive justice institutions and capacities are in place to reinforce legislation, respect human rights obligations, provide access to justice, and assure accountability.

Supported by the EU-UNDP partnership,

60,000 people have received

legal support and **1,500** staff

from justice institutions and bar associations have received legal training.



▶ **9** interventions

MODERN AND INCLUSIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS

For people to believe in the benefits of compliance to a justice system, it is essential that they feel their voices are heard and their freedoms are protected.

In the case of the OPT, for instance, support was provided for a national plan and laws that meet human rights obligations through the establishment of a National Legal Aid Committee providing access to justice.

In Tunisia, the Truth and Dignity Commission was established with a mandate to investigate human rights violations. In Somalia, the EU has worked to improve the functioning of the formal and semi-formal justice institutions, creating outreach of services across 50 districts. Similar support is envisioned for the Ministry of Justice in Djibouti.

Bringing justice closer to communities has meant that nearly 20,000 Palestinians received legal advice, representation, and mediation from 2015 to 2017. In Somalia, access to

justice has been expanded for 61,030 people through legal aid services, dispute resolution centres, and mobile courts. In addition judicial trainings have been undertaken for the newly appointed judges in Somalia thereby establishing the formal judiciary. In Tunisia, 65,000 people filed complaints to the Truth and Dignity Commission in the first 15 months after its opening.

In the OPT, the national case management system was modernized to track all legal aid cases, and an online legislative database allows easy searches of national and international laws. Somalia now has a more efficient court administration through standardized case management and improved public information helpdesks.



Photo: Thiébaud Faix/ Unsplash



~20,000
people

in the OPT received legal advice, representation, and mediation from 2015 to 2017



61,030
people

in Somalia were supported to have access to justice

Ifrah, a member of Garowe's Community Police Unit and a recipient of a UNDP university scholarship, speaks to a victim of crime outside the UNDP-supported Community Police Unit at the central police station in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia.

Most cases Ifrah sees are incidents of domestic and gender-based violence - in particular victims from the nearby Yemini IDP Camp. The camp has a population of approximately 13,000 who mostly fled fighting around Mogadishu and Ifrah tries to visit the camp as frequently as possible. She liaises closely with the camp population to find out about incidents of crime as well as with camp representatives.

“Having the Community Police Unit is great for the population we serve. Before the Unit was constructed in 2014, victims of crime weren't aware of how they could seek help and get access to justice. But after the formation of the Unit, they knew who they could contact. Now there is an office they can approach and through our public awareness campaigns, the rate of people who are now coming to us and talking about their problems has risen. With UNDP support, I graduated from the university in April 2019 and my aim is to get more women involved in supporting female victims of crime”. - Ifrah



Photo: UNDP Somalia/ Mark Naftalin, 2019

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

The partnership has recognized the importance of ensuring effective security services as countries make the transition out of conflict.

In Yemen, a joint initiative with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will help re-establish the Yemen Coast Guard for port, maritime, and regional security. Such maritime security fits squarely into the EU's Horn of Africa Action Plan in response to radicalism, migration, and transnational crime. In addition, the Yemen Coast Guard Academy will be rehabilitated for training purposes and the control tower of the Aden port will be equipped for enhanced port security.

The stabilization programme in Iraq has rehabilitated dozens of police stations in areas liberated from ISIS. In Libya, the resilience programme introduced a "model" police station in Hai Andalus that will be replicated across Libya. In Somalia the programme has developed the new Policing Model which has established the legal framework for the two levels of police in a federalized policing system.

GENDER JUSTICE

The EU-UNDP partnership has fostered the participation of women in decision-making roles and in justice-related processes.

In the Arab States region, women struggle to have their rights recognized and protected as laws are unequally enforced and applied. The partnership has implemented many joint projects to address these challenges. In Tunisia, the Truth and Dignity Commission is now led by a woman, and there has been an increase from 5 per cent to 23 per cent of cases brought before the Commission by women. In the OPT, the number of women registered with the Bar Association rose by 85 per cent and women comprised more than 63 per cent of those seeking support through the legal aid project.

Special attention has been given to training lawyers and prosecutors to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases in the OPT, Djibouti, and Somalia. In Somalia, UNDP established a partnership with the Bahikoob Group Hospital in Hargeisa to open a medico-legal counselling centre in 2015. Two other centres were opened in Boroma and Burao in 2020, extending Bahikoob outreach to regions in Somaliland. The Bahikoob Hospital provides medical assistance to the survivors of SGBV (including for young men). The centres also house criminal investigation units which work from the hospital to record

the cases and investigate them with the prosecutors. Legal aid and legal counselling is also provided to the women. A referral pathway with local NGOs has also been developed in Hargeisa to provide all-round support to survivors of SGBV. Through the Joint Justice programme, the various parts of the criminal justice chain are linked up to the medical services, providing easy access for survivors. This service has provided psycho-social support to more than 5,000 survivors and 37,226 female clients have received legal support.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNDP's strong collaboration with ministries of Justice and Women and Human Rights has established or supported human rights units, as in the OPT and Somalia respectively. In Tunisia, the transitional justice project was implemented jointly by UNDP and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Technical expertise was provided by the Italian High Judicial Council, Swiss Peace, the World Organization Against Torture and Lawyers Without Borders.



In the OPT, there was an

85% increase

in the number of women registered with the Bar Association

>63%

of those seeking support through the legal aid project were women



In the OPT, Djibouti, and Somalia,

5,000+
survivors

of sexual and gender-based violence received psycho-social support

37,226
female clients

received legal support through the Joint Justice programme



Mohamoud Mohamed Abdirahman (pictured) is head of the Nugaal region's Community Policing Unit, and his work often sees him talking to residents, young and old, at the Yemini IDP Camp in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia.

Some 13,000 people live at the camp, most having fled fighting around Mogadishu, and many of the cases Mohamoud sees there involve domestic or gender-based violence.

Mohamoud is a graduate of a UNDP-funded four-year law programme at the Puntland State University, having been awarded a scholarship for gifted students. Many of the students on the course come from the police force, and Mohamoud takes what he has learnt there, and in other police trainings, with him on his

regular visits to the Garowe camp, where he liaises closely with the camp population.

UNDP is part of the UN Joint Justice Programme which supports the Government of Somalia to increase access to justice and strengthen Rule of Law capacity to build peace and stability across the country. As part of this work, UNDP provides ongoing training for police officers, has funded a substantial number of police buildings including Puntland's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Community Police Unit, has donated operational equipment such as vehicles and radios, and has helped the government write the Women's Charter which stipulates a target of 30 per cent of police officers should be women.

Another successful graduate of the law course is Safiya Jama Gayre (pictured), also a scholarship recipient. When she heard in 2012 that Puntland had no women lawyers working in any of its courts, the 60-year-old decided to do something about it.

“When I found out that there were no women lawyers in the courts, I decided to fill that gap,” Safiya explains.

“In our society, we still settle domestic violence issues with customary laws and traditions that don't treat men and women equally. Since women aren't decision makers ... violence against girls and women is not prosecuted.”

After graduating, Safiya found a job with Puntland's Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, where she heads the vulnerable people help desk. This mostly deals with issues related to violence, including rape, physical assault and forced marriage, as well as domestic cases including when husbands refuse to grant a divorce or provide child support.

Since the programme started, 176 students have graduated from the course, including 52 women. Over the same period, Puntland has been able to move from having one female lawyer to 46. Seven women have also been appointed as female regional prosecutors.



ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

The EU and UNDP recognize that democracy and good governance are the backbone of peace and stability. As such, these represent a priority in the Arab States region where the EU and UNDP have joined forces to nurture democratic and inclusive governance.

Work on strengthening electoral processes in five countries is part of a broader political reform programme that includes support to constitutional processes and parliamentary development in Somalia and Tunisia.



▶ 8 interventions

SUPPORTING CREDIBLE AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS

The partnership between the EU and UNDP on elections draws upon the added value of the two organizations.

There are strong complementary links between the election observation that the European Observation Missions offer and electoral support from UNDP, which includes technical assistance to governments and electoral management bodies (EMBs). Specifically, UNDP helps to design electoral policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and to organize free, fair, and transparent elections. Assistance in Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, Somalia, and Tunisia has improved the planning and operations of EMBs. In Libya and Somalia, assistance has also rehabilitated offices, constructed facilities, and provided critical equipment. Similarly, EU-UNDP assistance has contributed to the

development of milestone electoral legislation, such as in Somalia, which developed an electoral law for the first time in more than 50 years. UNDP helped to strengthen institutional and professional development of the Somali EMB, helping to create a credible, recognized entity able to administer indirect by-elections, advise Parliament and the Office of the Prime Minister on electoral issues, register political parties, and (with UNDP support) is capable of administering universal federal elections and the legal framework needed to ground that process. It ensured the inclusion of women within the legal, institutional, and procedural frameworks for direct elections, party registration, NIEC (National Independent

Electoral Commission) employment, and with others, on the gender quotas within political processes. Civic education and communications campaigns with civil society groups and support to EMBs have helped to encourage participation and foster inclusion in elections, especially for women, youth, and people with disabilities.

Tunisian citizens look for their names on the electoral lists as part of the first round of the Presidential elections on 15 September 2019, at a voting station set up at a local primary school.



Overview of the main electoral aggregation centre for counting votes, installed at the El Menzah VI Sport complex in Tunisia, as part of the Tunisian presidential elections.

Election tally rooms are always busy for behind-the-scenes staff and volunteers.

This was especially so in Tunisia when the dates for the dual-round 2019 presidential elections had to be brought forward after the death of the country's first democratically elected President Beji Caid Essebsi.

Tunisia's Electoral Management Body (EMB) and the UNDP Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project worked in partnership to support the elections by organizing training sessions for regional EMB branches, and for EMB legal affairs officers and ICT staff on candidate nomination, electoral campaign, polling and counting procedures and aggregation of results. The project also contributed to EMB manuals.

Despite the change of dates, two rounds of elections were conducted, and results were announced within the constitutional limit of 90 days.

The Tunisia Electoral Assistance Project aims to enhance and consolidate electoral capacities, through support to electoral institutions and processes. This has included work on legal reform, strategic planning, gender-sensitive and inclusive policies, and digital transformation of electoral processes to aid in the effectiveness and transparency of electoral processes.

The project's work is funded by the EU, Italy and Switzerland.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND STATE BUILDING

UNDP's longstanding presence in many countries, its understanding of the political dynamics, and its recognized neutrality have been instrumental in advancing the partnership's common interest in promoting democratic governance. For instance, UNDP supported the drafting, signing, and dissemination of Tunisia's new constitution, a vital step in strengthening the country's democratic institutions. An independent evaluation of the support provided for the country's constitutional process, noted: "As a neutral facilitator, UNDP organized activities that allowed MPs, political groups, and civil society to have dialogues and forge relationships leading to a political consensus in Tunisia."

Similarly, assistance to emerging federal states in Somalia has included fostering political dialogue and citizen participation to promote accountability. The creation of the country's first National Development Plan in 30 years offers a blueprint for economic growth and employment, improvement in education and health, and strengthens resilience in the face of cyclical drought.

Both the EU and UNDP are committed to enhancing democratic institutions and states as a cornerstone of their development policies.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance has extended its support to more than 50 countries through nearly 200 projects. As a Brussels-based coordination group, the Joint Task Force is made up of EU and UNDP experts, representatives from the European External Action Service, and the Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs.

The development of Tunisia's constitution benefited from meaningful exchanges with the Parliaments of Belgium, Canada and France. Several missions by MPs of the European Parliament provided insights for the Tunisian Constituent Assembly.



CLIMATE ACTION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

The UNDP Strategic Plan and the EU Green Deal outline paths for urgent climate action, reflecting the commitment of the partnership to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In the Arab States this convergence has led already to collaboration on supporting the implementation of National Determined Contributions (NDCs), protecting the environment, and strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction.

Collaborative initiatives between the EU and UNDP in Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia, and Yemen are demonstrating the advantages of alternative energy sources and reinforcing relevant legislation and planning. In parallel, engagement with the private sector is helping to promote a green economy and more sustainable ways for people to make a living.

UNDP and the EU in Somalia, through the Joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL), supported the transitioning of 36,380 households (95 per cent headed by women) to clean energy cooking, comprising of fuel-efficient cook stoves and liquified petroleum gas (LPG), while promoting female-led businesses on alternative energy. The programme also facilitated youth innovation camps for home-grown solutions on alternative energy sources to charcoal. Furthermore, the programme supported awareness-raising on the impact of unsustainable charcoal production and trade at national, regional, and international levels. All of these actions contributed to curtailing deforestation and rangeland degradation.



▶ 8 interventions

THE EU-UNDP ENERGY MODEL IN LEBANON

At the core of the UNDP and EU collaboration in Lebanon is the CEDRO project, which enhances innovation, entrepreneurship and research for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

By fostering SMEs and supporting start-ups, the project is instrumental in creating jobs in renewable energy. It has also established an Energy Hub to facilitate exchange between business incubators, entrepreneurs, programmes, academics, and financing institutions on technology and development of energy-efficient solutions for industry.

The project boasts significant results such as preventing about 3,000 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year. This has been achieved through installing renewable energy applications in commercial sectors, setting up a pilot “green-powered” village covering almost 100 houses, and implementing a bioenergy

system to produce 500 tons of briquettes a year from forestry residues. The project has significantly boosted the renewable energy market in Lebanon and introduced new kinds of technologies, while building know-how and improving access to energy.

Building on this success, another project provides sustainable energy solutions for the Lebanese Armed Forces stationed on the north-eastern border to increase their energy autonomy and enhance their readiness and ability to conduct security operations. CEDRO has also prepared a Sustainable Energy Strategy for the Lebanese Armed Forces, a first of its kind in the Arab region.



The EU-funded UNDP CEDRO project set up a solar PV plant to provide Kabrikha village in Lebanon with electricity. The plant will help villagers reduce their electricity costs as well as their consumption of diesel. Large-scale PV plants aid economic development because they lower production costs and increase competitiveness in the international market.

Examples of the CEDRO project results



3,000 tons
of CO₂ saved



~100 houses
covered in the pilot “green-powered” village



500 tons
of briquettes produced a year from forestry residues

STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The partnership has reinforced disaster risk management in relevant institutions, in Lebanon at the national level, in Algeria through local governance projects, and in Tunisia where the Ain Drahem and Tatouine municipalities adopted disaster management plans.

It has also assisted countries with improving their disaster risk assessments. In Tunisia, installing new geographic information management systems has sharpened planning and decision-making capabilities. Additionally, operations centres for crisis management in Tunisia and Lebanon have benefited from training and equipment

In line with the Sendai Framework, EU-UNDP efforts have enhanced the preventive and adaptive response capacity to climate-related hazards, natural and man-made disasters.

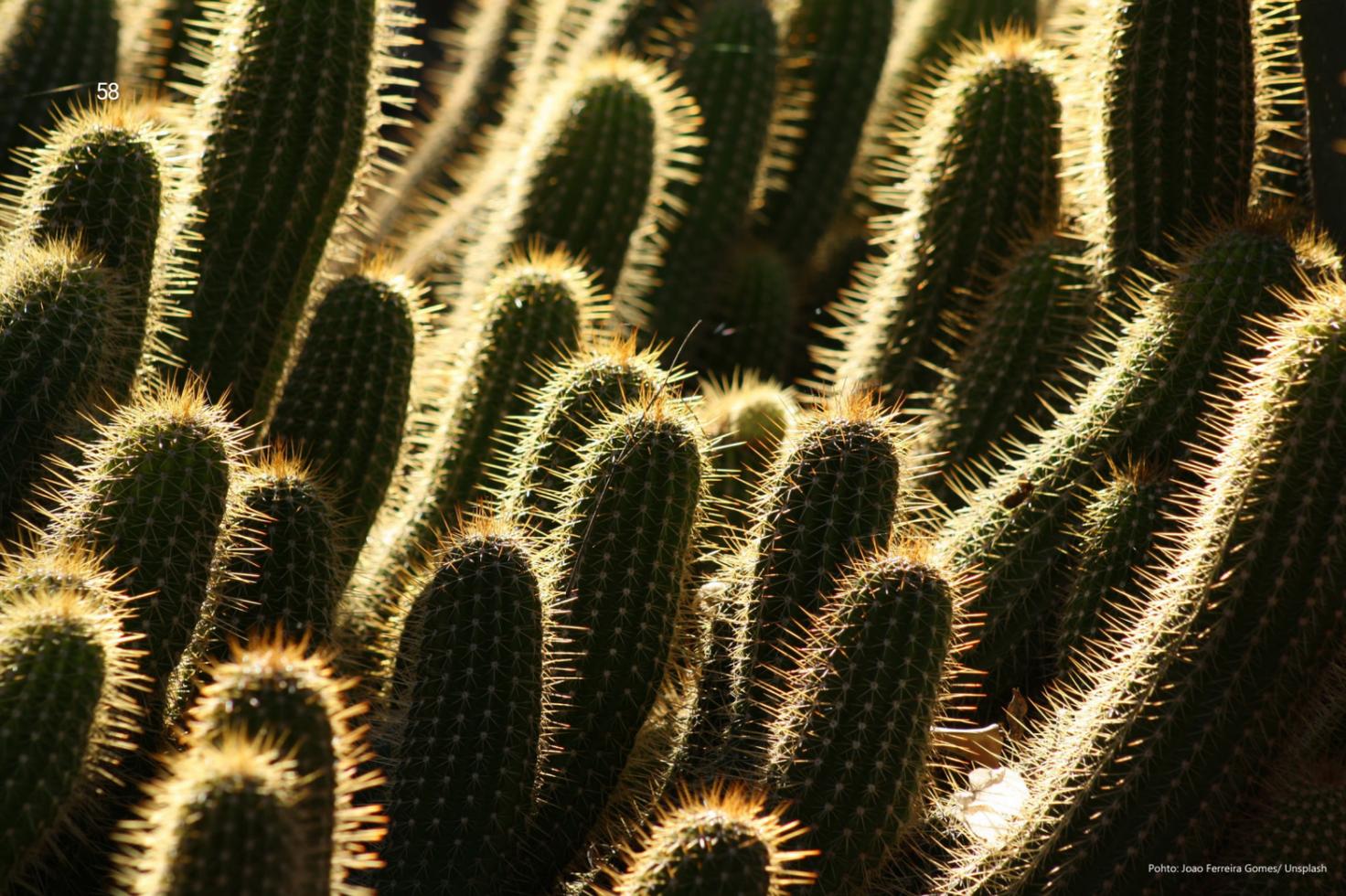


Photo: Joao Ferreira Gomes/ Unsplash

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The EU Green Deal helps countries forge sustainable paths, linking them with the knowledge and technical expertise of European institutions, companies, and organizations that are essential for highly specialized projects in the Arab States region. In Lebanon, expertise from the Netherlands will introduce voluntary Renewable Energy Certificates, and German know-how and experience will help maximize job-creation and energy efficiency in the building sector.

The private sector is a vital partner on the ground, as it can bring energy, water, and climate-related initiatives to scale, attaining long-lasting and far-reaching impacts. UNDP works on the development of the private sector through convening SMEs, entrepreneurs, investors, banks, and research and development groups to stimulate new opportunities, investment ideas and public-private partnerships.

IN FOCUS

MAKING ENERGY AFFORDABLE IN YEMEN THROUGH SOLAR POWER

UNDP Yemen and the European Union, along with the Sustainable Development Foundation and CARE International, developed a low-cost solar microgrid that offers alternative, clean, renewable energy for rural homes. The UNDP Yemen project won the acclaimed Ashden Award, which was the first time this international sustainable energy prize was awarded in a humanitarian setting.

The project has cut the cost of energy by 65 per cent for Yemenis. Instead of paying 42 cents an hour for diesel, they now have access to solar energy at only 2 cents an hour.

A new solar microgrid now powers small individual businesses that offer women and young people with opportunities to support their families. In turn, they have become solar energy activists and role models in their communities.

The education sector has benefited through an increase in students and fewer student dropouts. More than half of the health facilities in the targeted areas of the project have initiated evening hours and reported an 82 per cent increase in the number of treated patients. Solar power for water and sanitation systems has also expanded the served population, improved water collection efficiency, and reduced operation and maintenance costs.



Photo: UNDP Yemen

A JOINT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

COVID-19 has caused a complex crisis with a devastating impact on human life as well as placing unprecedented pressure on healthcare. Its long-ranging consequences will likely trigger structural changes on economies and governance systems.

In a region already affected by conflict, with significant numbers of vulnerable populations including displaced people, refugees, and migrants as well as host communities, a pandemic of this scale will deepen existing fragilities in vulnerable countries and introduce new ones to middle- and high-income countries. It is vital for countries to be supported so that they can invest in the long-term recovery process and turn it into an opportunity to build back better.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ARAB STATES

The region could lose US\$42 billion of gross domestic product, according to early estimates from ESCWA.

According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the Arab youth unemployment rate increased from 19.5 per cent to 23 per cent between 2012 and 2020. Unemployment among young Arab women is more than twice that of young men, reaching 42.1 per cent. About 85.1 per cent of working-age young people in the Arab region work in the informal sector, with limited or no access to social and health insurance or credit facilities. The post-pandemic job market will demand a new set of skills, which may not be compatible with those of many of the 1.5 million young people who enter the informal sector each year.

The pandemic swept across the world just as a dramatic decline in global oil prices exposed vulnerabilities for oil exporters and importers alike. Prices for basic commodities have spiked due to global supply chain disruptions – an acute risk in a region with a majority of food importers.

Finding affordable health care was already a challenge for households seeking health services in 12 middle-income and crisis countries in the region. The pandemic has worsened this situation. Social protection responses in 11 Arab countries, after a few months of the crisis, included paid sick leave, cash transfers, in-kind food vouchers, and unemployment benefits. Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia were among the countries that targeted support to the informal sector.

Most alarming is the plight of fragile countries where violence is raging, and the ability to prevent and respond to the pandemic is limited. Food security is at risk, especially for those dependent on humanitarian aid, including 20 million Yemenis, 6.5 million Syrians, 1.6 million Somalis, and 5.8 million Sudanese.

Economic dislocation could lead to social unrest. Even before the crisis, many citizens expressed dissatisfaction with governance and their limited job prospects. To protect people from the harshest economic impacts of the pandemic, several countries have maintained civil service payments, while others have introduced stimulus measures for SMEs. Morocco announced measures to expand cash transfers to the informal sector. Egypt unveiled a US\$6 billion plan to combat the virus and foster economic growth. While promising, these measures are not sustainable in the long term.

The region's 96.2 million enrolled students, from pre-primary to tertiary levels, are at risk of losing educational gains if remote learning is not available to them. The number of fixed broadband subscriptions remains low in Arab States. The pandemic has exacerbated the inequality of opportunities, due in part to uneven access to digital technologies.

The EU-UNDP Partnership raised awareness among millions in Iraq through the Let's Beat Corona campaign. Dozens of volunteers were mobilized to help the campaign reach local communities in 5390 neighborhoods, hospitals, and public places. They worked around the clock to disseminate 70,000 awareness items with 12.5 million beneficiaries reached. The campaign was funded by the EU under the programme Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development, and the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis, 'Madad Fund,' under Headway programme.

Photo: UNDP Iraq/ Abdullah Moayed Jawad, Bilal Abd Almahdi, Qussai Mustafa, 2020



TWO ALIGNED RESPONSES

The EU and UNDP have responded similarly to the health, social, and economic consequences of the pandemic, prioritizing the most vulnerable people, including migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons, as well as their host communities.

First, their interlinked support focuses on meeting immediate needs. This includes assistance to health systems by providing medical supplies, equipment, and payments to health workers.

Second, the EU and UNDP are strengthening the longer-term resilience of institutions and communities, to be better prepared for managing crises and reducing future risks.

Third, both organizations are assisting countries in their efforts to mitigate the social and economic impacts of Covid-19, recognizing the threat of further destabilization. This includes revitalizing SMEs and supporting women's economic empowerment.

The EU and UNDP are expanding the breath of the immediate response while also taking a forward-looking approach that extends beyond recovery.

The EU and UNDP recognize that only through global collective action, in coordination with the World Health Organization, can the world tackle the multi-dimensional nature of the crisis.

AGILE AND SWIFT JOINT ACTION IN THE REGION

Repurposing ongoing or planned initiatives

Yemen is one example where the ongoing installation of renewable energy systems has been adapted to bring solar power to health centres. Solar lantern grants to SMEs have meant that local companies now have sufficient energy to produce personal protective equipment (PPE), and nine Covid-19 isolation centres have received solar energy systems.

In Libya, the local resilience programme has supported young social entrepreneurs in developing the Panda app (see story page 28) which helps connect teachers, parents, and pupils so they are better positioned

for remote learning. The app, designed in collaboration with Tawteer Research and its Entrepreneurship Development Centre, has more than 10,000 users and 30 registered schools.

Through the Stabilization Facility, UNDP has rehabilitated a hospital in Tripoli that now serves as the health centre for testing and treating Covid-19 patients. Several municipalities around Tripoli are using sewage suction trucks from the project to prevent the spread of the virus by sanitizing public spaces.



Photo: YLDF

Women have geared up to fight Covid-19 from the front. UNDP Yemen has promoted the local personal protective equipment production through small enterprises to respond to the pandemic.



Photo: UNDP Iraq

Designing new Covid-19 response initiatives

In Algeria, the EU and UNDP are partnering to improve the national health response to the crisis. Specifically, with centralized access to the international market, UNDP will help the Central Pharmacy for Hospitals to ensure efficient purchase of high-quality medical equipment, as well as its delivery and installation in healthcare facilities across the country.

In Egypt, building on the work of UNDP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), the EU-UNDP partnership will address needs on several fronts. It will focus on marginalized groups through creating local job and micro-credit projects, reinforcing social security, and promoting financial inclusion for informal workers. It will also help in raising awareness about Covid-19 risks and supporting health-care institutions for the elderly.

The EU-UNDP partnership is advantageously positioned to address the Covid-19 crisis.

The joint response is realigning existing projects and creating new ones.

TOWARDS A DECADE OF ACTION

Only through a strong commitment to partnership and cooperation can the region move closer to the aspirations of the SDGs. As the 2030 Agenda remains the central shared framework for international cooperation, the EU-UNDP partnership is well-positioned to build on past experiences, as well as to take new directions to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future for the Arab States region. The partnership is well placed to work across important pillars of development, including governance, social protection, the green economy, and digital transformation and innovation. This section offers a snapshot of possibilities for collaboration over the next decade.



EXPLORING NEW DEVELOPMENT MODELS

Deepening the understanding of a changing region is vital for shaping relevant policies and programmes. UNDP and its Arab Human Development Report, EU institutions, and European research centres have analytical capacity to help assess future trends and explore potential new policy options. For example, UNDP Morocco has launched a new initiative with the World Bank and Policy Centre for the New South called “Parlons développement” (Developmentally Speaking) that aims to open new spaces for dialogues on development issues. Partnering with academia, research institutions, media, and tapping into UNDP research capabilities can provide useful insights for future planning.

Rebuilding Lives and Communities Affected by Conflict, showcased results of the EU-UNDP stabilization, resilience, and recovery work in Iraq, Libya, and Yemen; and *Exile Voices: Camp Reporters* helped raise awareness about the conflict in Syria. These creative endeavours are just a start.



Exile Voices: Camp Reporters (Brussels, 2016)



COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Communication is a powerful engine for change and a means to demonstrate to the public that the EU-UNDP partnership is delivering on its promises. The partnership strengthens advocacy for environmental sustainability, human rights, democratic reforms, and enables a foothold in the Gulf region where programmatic collaboration has been absent. Two powerful photo exhibitions in Brussels illustrated the impact of the collaboration: *Back from the Brink*:



BUILDING ON PARTNERSHIPS

The EU-UNDP partnership alone cannot bring transformation. UNDP is poised to leverage the collective expertise of its global partners and other UN agencies through neutral engagement. Opportunities exist to partner with international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector to explore financing that could scale up the impact of initiatives. Such collaboration can facilitate public-private partnerships, blended finance, and ways to reduce the risk of investments in sustainable development. Engagement with European banks, particularly the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), may present opportunities in areas such as economic development, digitalization, energy, and climate action.



INVESTING IN RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The EU-UNDP partnership has been fostering economic resilience for vulnerable populations through its support to rebuilding and sustaining livelihoods. In the current crisis, UNDP has been designated to lead the UN system’s socio-economic response to Covid-19 and is conducting impact assessments that will be critical for the region. UNDP has been exploring a partnership with the EU in the area of social protection.

The pandemic has revealed serious gaps in national capacities to manage crises, as well as prevent and respond to shocks. The partnership’s experience with disaster preparedness, risk management and crisis response will be critical for the region’s recovery.

The impact of the blast on Beirut’s different neighborhoods is tragic. UNDP is on the ground assessing the needs to ensure efficient management of the debris. It has partnered with 75 volunteer engineers from the FrontLine Engineers group to conduct demolition waste assessment; data was collected from the damaged zones in Beirut and UNDP partnered with the EU Delegation in Lebanon who provided experts to support designing the survey. An online assessment tool was also developed for this purpose and the volunteers were trained on its use to facilitate the data collection process. UNDP is working with NGOs and universities to determine demolition waste treatment solutions including sorting and recycling and to dispose of the debris in an environmentally sound manner.



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: TARGETING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Covid-19 has aggravated existing inequalities in Arab countries, particularly with informal workers, the unemployed, people with disabilities, minorities, refugees, and migrants. The UNDP Arab Human Development Report 2020 provides a useful starting point for examining the nature of inequality and exclusion in the region.

As the EU-UNDP partnership has focused on addressing the most pressing needs of displaced populations and host communities, the work ahead remains an enormous challenge. From ensuring inclusive economies to promoting decent jobs, from advancing universal health coverage to supporting health-care systems, from establishing more participatory decision-making processes to promoting equality and human rights, there are many opportunities to contribute to the leave-no-one-behind agenda.



BRINGING THE WOMEN'S AGENDA TO THE FORE

Women's potential for the development of the Arab States region is largely untapped, and women continue to be under-represented in most sectors.

The EU and UNDP have experience working with countries to integrate gender priorities into social, economic, and political contexts. The Gender Justice and the Law study,

developed by UNDP in collaboration with UNFPA, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), provides an insightful starting point to deepen engagement and stimulate discussion for a more "gendered" path for the region.



Panda App Co-Founders Aziza Alhasi and Tafaha Asheed listen to the explanations of Operation Tour's Instructor at Tatweer Entrepreneurship Campus (TEC), a EU-funded workspace, led by Tatweer Research and implemented by UNDP.

"I am very satisfied with the results of this camp. Being part of this programme allows me to improve my skills and provides me with more options to find a job or create my own company," said Aziza.

"It is not a secret that companies prefer to hire men than women in Libya, but with the right support, like the one provided through this programme, I am sure we will be able to compete in the job market at the same level as men," said Tafaha.

Photo: UNDP Libya, 2019



PROMOTING STABILITY

Promoting the region's stability and peace should remain a priority to avoid the downward spiral of conflict, further instability, and displacement. The UN Resolutions on Sustaining Peace stress that success will be determined by reducing fragilities and inequalities, better managing crisis response, stabilizing countries, reinforcing capacities of host communities along migration routes, and supporting political dialogue.

UNDP's presence in conflict and crisis countries – where sustainable development and durable solutions to displacement are not possible without peace – can be leveraged so that humanitarian relief, development programmes and peacebuilding are addressed together. In addition, the EU's Strategy and Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, along with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions provide the foundations for strengthening women's role in building a more peaceful and sustainable future.



ADVANCING DEMOCRATIC REFORMS AND BUILDING A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

Promoting democratic reforms to help rebuild trust between citizens and institutions will remain a priority for years to come. The current EU-UNDP collaboration on elections, state-building, justice, and rule of law provides the foundation for expanded governance work in areas such as anti-

corruption, accountability, and parliamentary development. The regional programme on anti-corruption and integrity that UNDP is implementing in 13 Arab countries provides a strong starting point.

Governments and civil society will need to work together to advance social cohesion and uphold human rights. Regional approaches to this sensitive agenda could provide opportunities for countries to share experiences among themselves and with European States.



STEPPING UP THE SUPPORT TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Guided by the Paris Agreement and the momentum of the EU Green Deal, there is scope for Arab countries to put environmental sustainability and climate action at the centre of recovery.

As part of its [Climate Promise](#) to support 100 countries with their national climate plans, UNDP is already helping countries such as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia to expand their climate actions, build partnerships, and mobilize investments.



GREEN SOLUTIONS FOR RECOVERY

The ability of communities to cope with and recover from any crisis depends on the resilience of local water, waste, and energy services. With support from the EU, UNDP is using solar solutions for community recovery in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, the OPT and Lebanon. Many of these approaches can be applied to the Covid-19 response as countries seek ways to improve energy, water and waste management capacities for hospitals, clinics, and in other critical components of recovery.

Photo: UNDP Sudan



CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SECURITY

Climate and environmental challenges will likely bring greater sources of instability in the future, placing pressure on food security and displacing populations as they seek the basics of food, water and energy.

The EU and UNDP are aligned to work at national and regional levels to enhance climate resilience and reduce related risks. An SDG Climate Facility for the Arab States region, supported by Sweden, has been

launched to examine the region's climate risks and support institutions working to mitigate them.



SUPPORTING JOB-RICH GROWTH AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Support to the private sector, including fostering job creation and keeping SMEs afloat, is essential for the region's economies. In this regard, the EU-UNDP partnership has demonstrated success with local-level and area-based interventions for development.

There is scope for more work in this arena. Local governance goes hand-in-hand with local economic development. With improved community engagement and more inclusive citizen participation in planning processes comes a greater likelihood of better social services delivery.



LEVERAGING THE POTENTIAL OF INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION

Nearly half the population in Arab countries does not use the internet. The persistent digital divide within and between countries means that the region urgently needs a new digital agenda. Enhanced digital skills and e-governance will be crucial for closing the technology gap and reducing inequalities.

The EU and UNDP have stepped up collaboration, prepared to jointly boost digital transformations and help drive a digital



Photo: UNDP Iraq

revolution in the region. UNDP has launched its Digital Strategy and established 60 Accelerator Labs worldwide, 10 of which are in the Arab States region. The recently released EU Digital Strategy has a complementary dedicated cooperation component.

UNDP and the EIB recently launched a report on investment requirements in digital infrastructure to provide a response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Africa, including in the Arab States of Northern Africa. The paper provides a valuable backdrop for the exploration of future possibilities. In addition, the Accelerator Labs in Libya, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco and Somalia have launched [initiatives](#) to assess the consequences of the pandemic and address its challenges. The UNDP Arab Development Portal facilitates access to a multi-source database that is home to thousands of indicators about the region from national and international sources. Today, this portal serves as a one-stop shop on the regional development impact of Covid-19 by identifying baselines from which to address the pandemic crisis.



FINDING NEW FINANCIAL MODELS

Finally, the magnitude of the world's challenges require a dramatically different approach to financing solutions. Traditional projects funded by official development assistance (ODA) are no longer adequate. New financing models are needed to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. Development impact bonds, green bonds, trust funds, impact investment and blended finance are but a few of the financing instruments that are available for governments as they confront some of their most intractable problems.

As a longstanding multilateral development partner, and with a track record of support for public financial management, aid coordination, and environmental finance, UNDP and the UN system as a whole are called upon to provide advice and technical guidance in the financing arena.

Increasingly, countries are turning to integrated national financing frameworks that spell out how their national strategies will be financed and carried out. These frameworks give structure to financing. They are under development in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia with UNDP support. Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Sudan are planning to develop their integrated financing frameworks in the future.



Photo: UNDP Egypt

ANNEX 1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE ARAB STATES REGION

In the past five years, investment of €600 million in projects and programmes of the EU-UNDP partnership have been geared toward progress across the 17 SDGs. SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 1 on the Elimination of Poverty are those in which the partnership is most invested. This emphasis reflects the needs of a region that is fraught by conflict, governance deficits, and civic mistrust in institutions. Other SDGs also have relevance in the region, each with their own interconnections. The illustrations below reflect the weight and breadth of each SDG as they link with each other across the region.



SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promoting peace, justice and strong institutions is essential in a region of conflicts, security gaps and lack of civic trust in institutions and governing bodies. Nearly 60 per cent of initiatives supported by the EU-UNDP partnership contributed to the targets and indicators of SDG 16. This includes support to peace processes, electoral assistance, bolstering justice and rule of law, strengthening effectiveness and accountability of local and national institutions, and bringing inclusiveness to decision-making processes.

SDG 1 NO POVERTY



A significant portion of the work in this area relates to building the resilience of the poor and most vulnerable, while also helping communities recover from shocks. It also involves improving people's access to services and sustainable livelihoods. In conflict countries, this means setting up large-scale local governance initiatives and revitalizing economic opportunities.

SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



High unemployment rates pose risks in the region. Efforts to create job opportunities are important for social stability and economic growth. They contribute to the aims of SDG 8. In addition, the EU-UNDP partnership provides on-the-job and vocational training and offers essential support and a financial lifeline for startups and micro, small and medium enterprises. Technical advice for local authorities helps to improve economic development plans and ways for generating additional local revenues.

SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The contribution to this goal reflects initiatives that build and rehabilitate critical infrastructure that has been damaged from conflict. Waste management and rubble removal also fit squarely into the targets of this SDG. At an institutional level, strengthening national and local capacities in disaster risk management reflect another significant contribution to this SDG.

SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES & SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Unchecked inequalities and exclusion present a challenge to containing insecurity, injustice, and violence. The EU-UNDP partnership fosters efforts to give voice to and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations, like those with disabilities, refugees, IDPs, people living in rural areas, or those most affected by conflict. Furthering the empowerment of women and promoting gender equality are also aims that cut across project and programmes in the region.

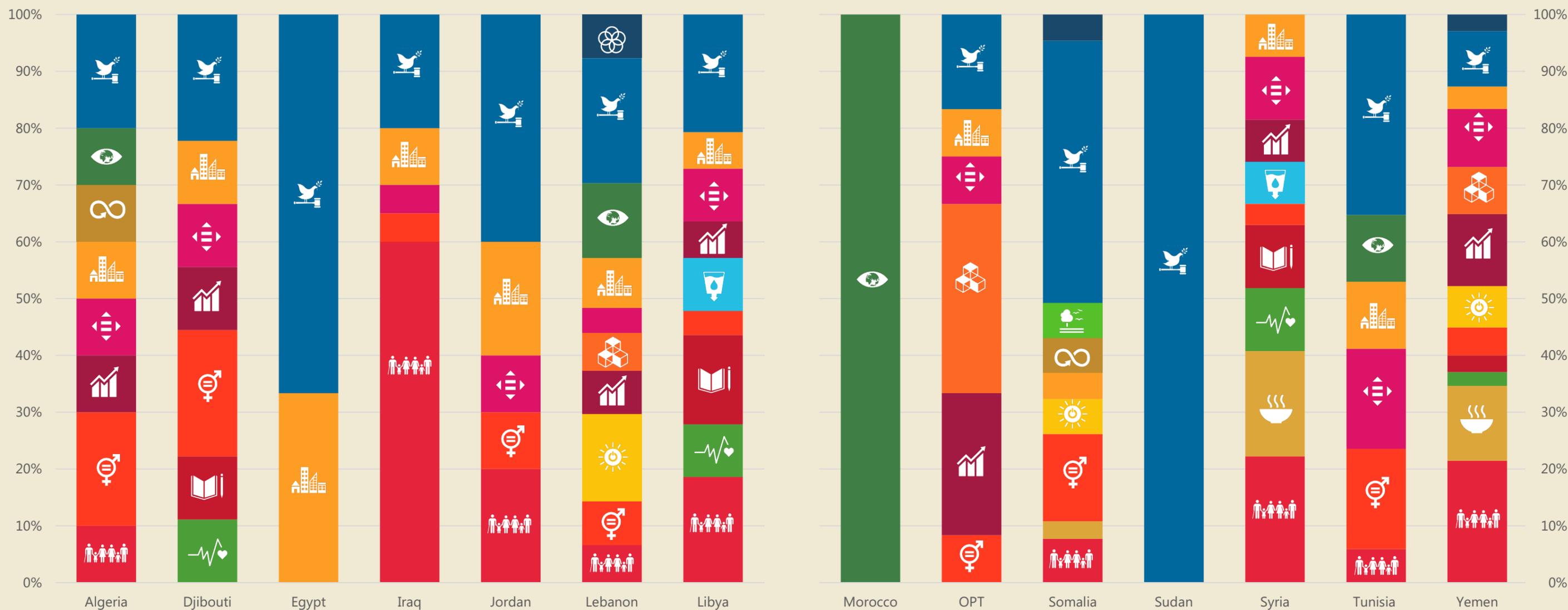
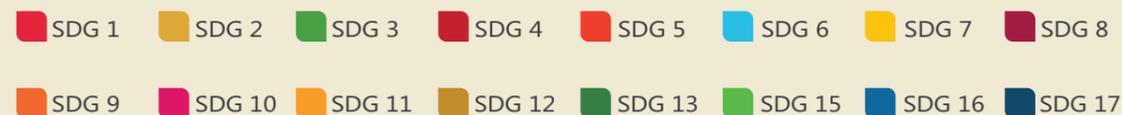
SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The Arab States region has the world's highest levels of solar radiation, yet its potential for renewable energy is under-used. An expansive project in Lebanon is demonstrating the cost-savings and efficiency of renewable energy. Similar contributions to SDG 7 are taking place in conflict settings where solar energy solutions and alternative energy sources are convenient and cost-effective.

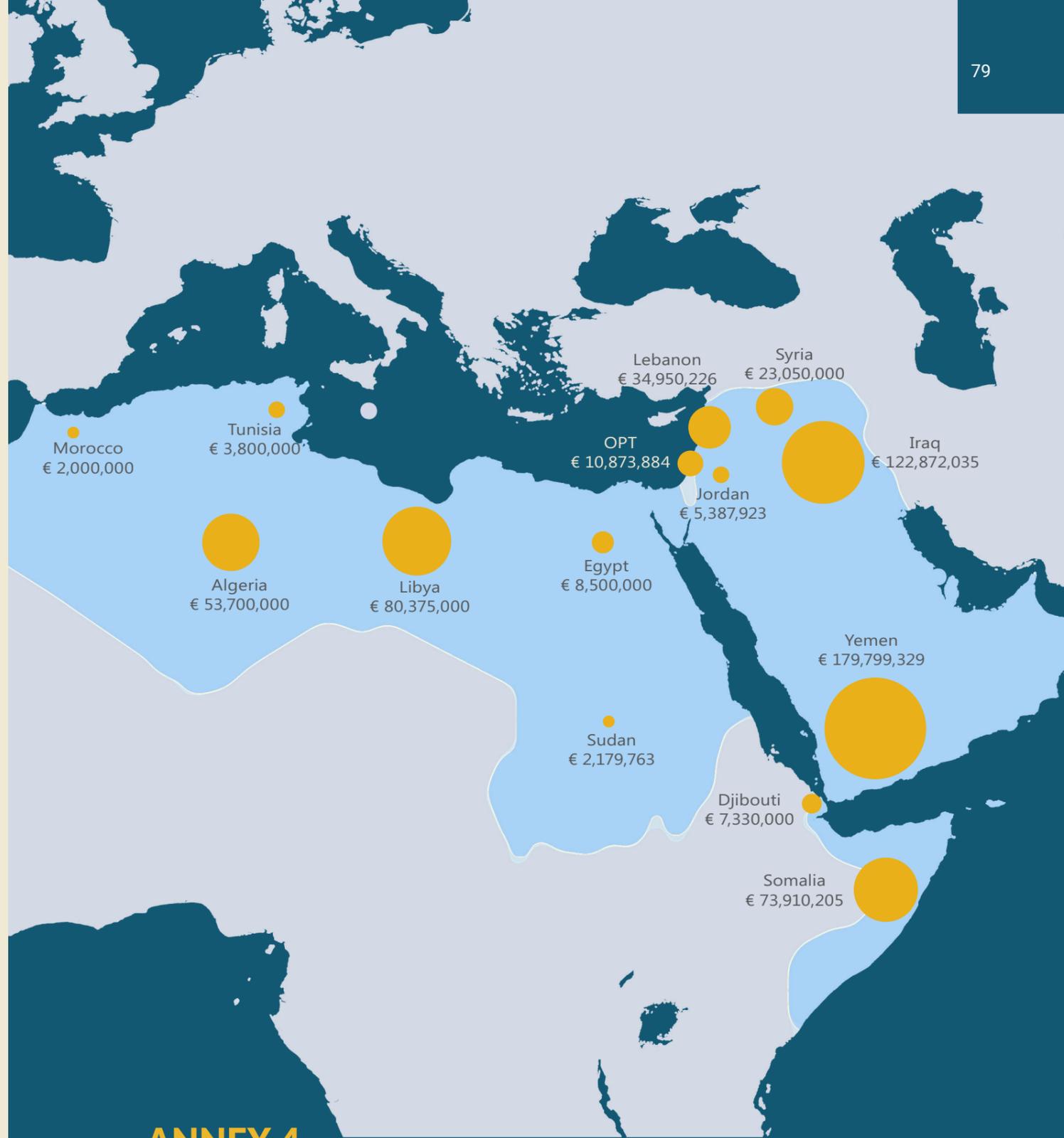
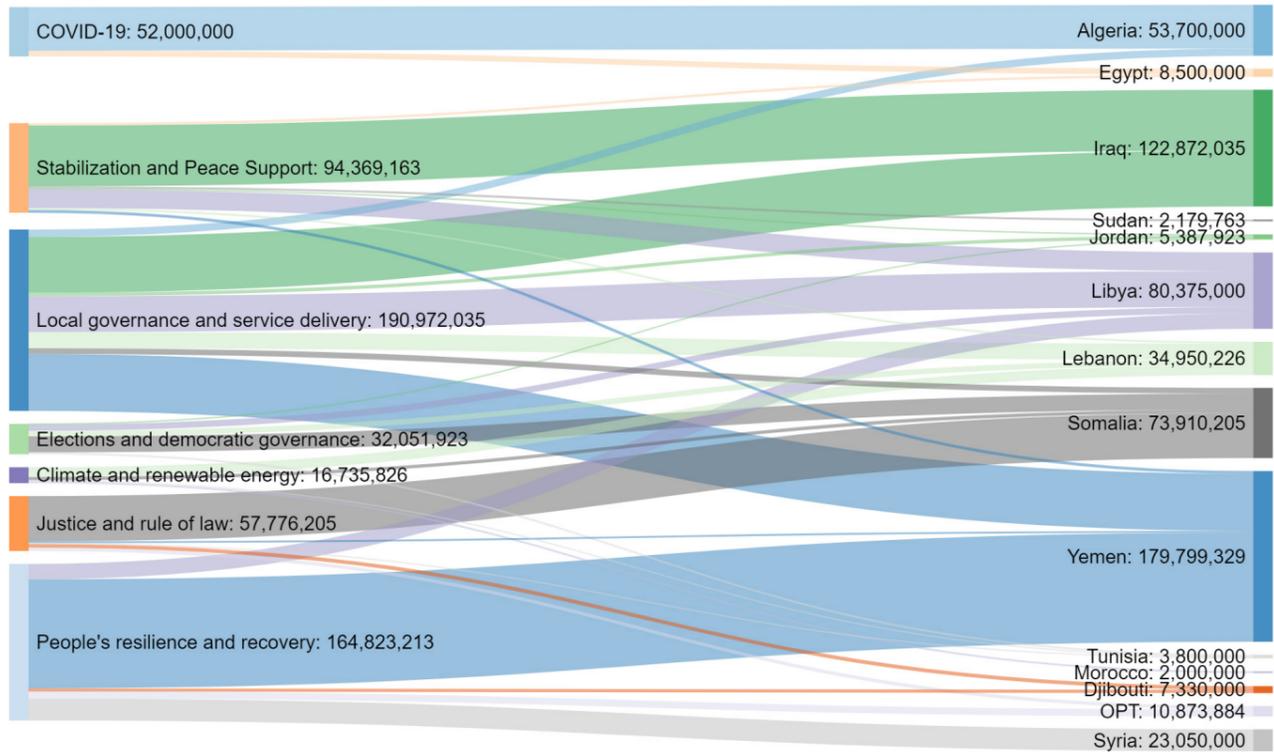
ANNEX 2 SDG CONTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY

The chart below shows how the EU-UNDP partnership targets SDGs in each country:



ANNEX 3 WORK AREAS BY COUNTRY

This chart represents the amount of resources allocated to the main areas of work and their distribution to countries. The totals are expressed in euro.



ANNEX 4 FINANCIAL VOLUME OF EU-UNDP ACTIONS BY COUNTRY



European Union
www.ec.europa.eu



United Nations Development Programme
www.arabstates.undp.org