

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Crisis Prevention & Recovery

Violent conflicts and natural disasters can wipe out decades of development gains. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) addresses the effects of these man-made and natural crises as part of its efforts to cut world poverty in half by 2015.

Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

UNDP programmes address the root causes of violent conflict by strengthening national conflict management capabilities; integrating conflict prevention into national development planning; and building consensus out of disputes through multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Ghana: UNDP supports local authorities and civil society in Northern Ghana to prevent violence and maintain stability, especially in connection with national elections. Confidence-building activities for the general population are combined with outreach to the major political parties. UNDP teaches constructive negotiation skills and trains mediators from government, political parties and civil society to strengthen democratic institutions. Based on this successful work, Ghanaian authorities, with UNDP support, launched a national 'architecture for peace' which outlines an early response to emerging conflicts.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

UNDP provides technical advice for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants. Additional support helps communities to receive returning ex-combatants, address the availability and misuse of weapons and reduce the incidence of armed violence.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Following a peaceful negotiation and the end of conflict, UNDP supported the Ituri Disarmament and Community Integration Programme. Through this programme, 37,000 ex-combatants were demobilized, and income-generating activities were initiated for 80,000 ex-combatants and community members. Projects included the production of items such as bricks and honey; the creation of an agricultural cooperative to operate a mill and raise farm animals; and public building projects which built a bridge and created a school. As part of UNDP's continuing efforts to increase gender equality, women made up more than 50 percent of the beneficiaries of the livelihoods programme.

Mine Action and Small Arms

UNDP is the lead UN agency for addressing the long-term socio-economic impact of landmines and explosives used in war. The presence of these explosives, in addition to killing hundreds of people per year, restricts access to public areas, limits availability of land for agriculture and prevents infrastructure repairs hindering distribution of public goods and services.

Cambodia: At least 60,000 people in Cambodia have been killed, disabled or injured by landmines over the past 25 years. These accidents usually occur during farming. UNDP is working to remove mines from more than 1,200 hectares of farm land, clearly mark dangerous areas and raise public awareness about safety precautions.

UNDP's work on small arms and light weapons control addresses armed violence in an effort to create a solid foundation for development following a conflict. UNDP provides assistance in more than 30 countries to reduce the number of weapons in circulation, and supports policy initiatives to ensure that small arms and light weapon control is part of the development agenda at international, regional and national levels.

El Salvador: UNDP launched a programme to address high rates of armed violence in San Salvador's municipality of San Martin. This programme established strong partnerships among the mayor's office, the national civil police, the city police and other municipal institutions. After one year, official data show a 41 percent decrease in the homicide rate and a 27 percent decrease in armed violence in San Martin.



Children in India learn how to reduce disaster risks

Justice and Security Sector Reform

After a conflict, UNDP helps countries strengthen their justice and security systems with training on police reform, human rights and rule of law. UNDP also supports the establishment of accountable and transparent human rights-based institutions at the national and local levels.

Sudan: UNDP launched a rule of law training programme in Sudan with more than 20,000 people – including members of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Popular Defence Forces, National Security non-state armed groups and local militias. In conjunction with the training, UNDP established seven Legal Aid Centres staffed by paralegals, a Legal Aid Network of Sudanese lawyers focused on community justice, and a series of rule of law seminars co-sponsored by

Sudan academic institutions. This programme gives specific attention to victims of gender-based violence. The Darfur rule of law programme has been recognized as a unique achievement within by donors and actors on the ground.

Risk Identification and Assessment

Understanding the risks related to natural disasters is the first step towards managing a crisis. UNDP has consolidated its work on risk identification and assessment as part of an international joint effort, the Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP). The programme's goal is to improve disaster risk and disaster loss evidence for high-risk countries, and grow global capacity to evaluate these risks.

Global: In three high-risk countries – Mozambique, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka - the GRIP supports local experts to develop the evidence needed for a comprehensive effort to reduce and transfer disaster risks. National governments lead this effort with backing by the international community. The projects will demonstrate that the right information can improve risk management decisions and development outcomes.

Risk Reduction

UNDP participates in the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, a global body which facilitates cooperation to reduce the effects of natural disasters. UNDP helps to integrate disaster risk reduction into development planning, build the capacity of national institutions to address disaster and systematically integrate risk reduction into disaster response.

Indonesia: The Government of Indonesia is committed to preventive measures that address disaster risk. Putting that commitment to work, the National Development Planning Agency, the National Coordination Body for Disaster Management and UNDP launched the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2006-2009. The Action Plan was developed through a participatory process and reflects inputs from a variety of stakeholders with experience handling previous disasters.

Disaster Recovery

At the global level, UNDP contributes to the efforts of the International Recovery Platform to develop tools, capacities and knowledge for post-disaster recovery operations. In this way, UNDP contributes to coordinated disaster response, and supports the goal to "build back better" during recovery in order to reduce future risk.

Global: UNDP deploys advisors with expertise in natural disasters to assist countries with a high risk for these disasters but a low capacity to manage them. These experts work to strengthen national institutions and ensure disaster risk reduction is included in the preparation of development plans.

Early Recovery

Early recovery is a multi-dimensional process which begins during the immediate humanitarian response to a disaster. Guided by development principles, early recovery encompasses livelihoods, shelter, governance, environment and social cohesion, including the reintegration of displaced populations. UNDP provides global leadership on early recovery at the request of the

UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In addition, UNDP delivers specific early recovery programmes through its offices around the world.

Mozambique: After floods and a cyclone hit Mozambique in March of 2007, UNDP worked closely with the government to establish an early recovery network seamlessly linking the government's recovery plan and humanitarian response. These efforts focus on reducing the vulnerability of the affected population; setting up resettlement centers; the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, health centers and educational facilities; and the resumption of agricultural activity. By reducing the population's dependency on humanitarian aid, this programme allows the people of Mozambique to build back their own lives.

Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Achieving gender equality is one of UNDP's core commitments throughout all of its work. After a crisis, women and girls comprise the majority of those most affected. UNDP focuses on achieving equality for women and girls in eight key areas: security, justice, leadership, peace building, disaster risk reduction, recovery, governance and capacity development.



Women in Darfur applying henna

Fiji: UNDP worked with the Government in Fiji to analyze and to evaluate issues of socio-economic development, security, democracy and peace. In this analysis, a special effort was made to recognize men's and women's unique contributions to peace and conflict. Three major lessons came out of this project: the importance of explicitly capturing gender-specific needs and interests in development analysis; the significance of barriers to transforming this information into effective public policies; and the limitations of affecting change in the private sphere on peace and conflict topics such as gender-based violence.

For further information contact:

Christina LoNigro
United Nations Development Programme
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
One United Nations Plaza, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: +1.212.906.5301
Fax: +1.212.906.5364
Or visit: www.undp.org

MAY 2007

