



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies:

# Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Work in Asia-Pacific



# FOREWORD

The Asia and Pacific region has seen tremendous development over the last 30 years. Across the region, however, conflict and violent extremism continue to threaten future development and security. Under the global development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments have committed to fight poverty and inequality, tackle climate change, and build peaceful societies. Integral to this global agenda is SDG-16, which relates to 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'. Guided by this goal, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Strategic Plan (2014-2017) called for the stronger integration of governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions at the global, regional, and country level. More recently, the Sustaining Peace Resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly offer a new framework to integrate these pillars, and broaden traditional conflict prevention initiatives to include proactive interventions to address the root causes of conflict, and strengthen peace where it already exists.

To take stock of the various aspects of work done at the country level, we are pleased to present Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies: Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Work in Asia and the Pacific. The report captures the work of Country Offices engaged in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, Preventing Violent Extremism, and the Rule of Law. This report represents a new and updated edition of the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Work in Asia-Pacific report produced in 2016. Similar to its predecessor, this report consolidates information on the work of the Peace and Development Advisers under the umbrella of the Joint Conflict-Prevention Programme with the UN Department of Political Affairs country-level initiatives conducted as part of regular UNDP programming, and the work carried out by the N-Peace programme.

This report serves as a vehicle to share good practices and lessons learned amongst practitioners working on the ground in the same region and beyond.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge colleagues who contributed to this publication. The report was initially conceptualized by Livio Sarandrea, and was compiled and written by Odhrán McMahon. I would like to thank UNDP country office colleagues across the region who worked closely with the report team to design the country profiles. My gratitude goes also to Devanshu Sood and Simon Woell for their inputs during the editing process.



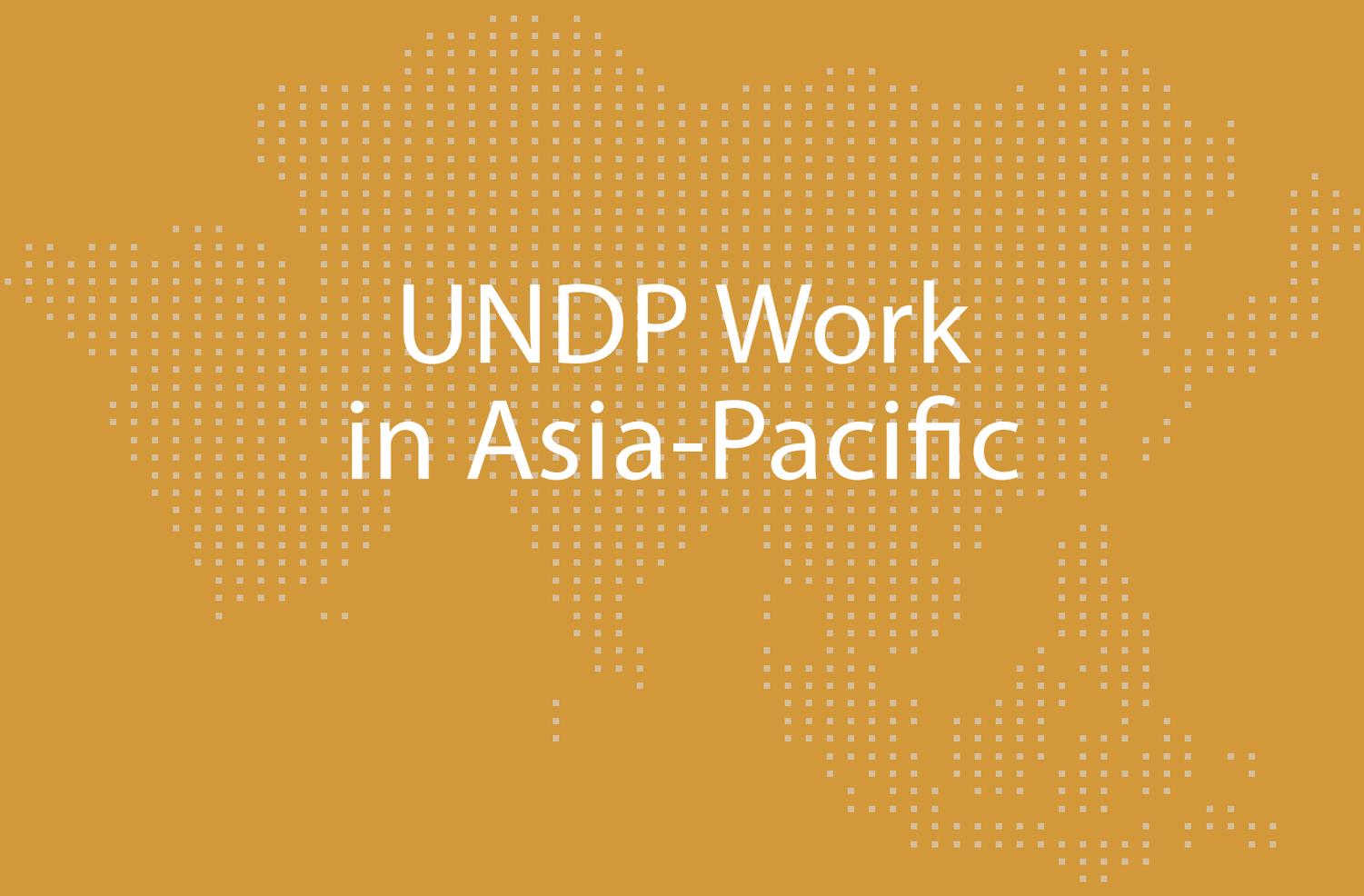
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# CONTENTS

Foreword	2
Contents	3
UNDP at Work in Asia-Pacific	4
Women, Peace and Security	5
Youth, Peace and Security	6
Preventing Violent Extremism in Asia	8
Snapshots of peace and security in the region	12
Country Profiles	13
1. Afghanistan	15
2. Bangladesh	17
3. Fiji	22
4. Indonesia	26
5. Myanmar	29
6. Nepal	34
7. Pakistan	39
8. Papua New Guinea	44
9. Solomon Islands	47
10. Sri Lanka	51
11. Thailand	55
12. The Maldives	59
13. The Philippines	63
14. Timor-Leste	69
UNDP Regional Contact	74



# UNDP Work in Asia-Pacific

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# WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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## N-Peace Network

N-Peace is a multi-country network of peace advocates in Asia seeking to advance Women, Peace & Security (WPS). It supports women's leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and promotes the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325<sup>1</sup>, and the broader women peace and security agenda. N-Peace rests on the assumption that if targeted women and men are supported with increased investments in capacity and skills, then they will be able to create institutional and social shifts to prioritize the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls and change the discourse on the role of women in peacebuilding.

Rolled out in 2010, N-Peace is active in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Its members represent civil society, government, non-government organizations, academia, United Nations agencies, religious groups and the media. N-Peace is managed by UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub through UNDP Offices in the above countries, in partnership with the Institute for Inclusive Security. In 2016, efforts were made to bring N-Peace closer to the private sector. As a result the programme benefits from direct and in-kind contributions from the private sector.

The N-Peace network plays four key roles:

- It convenes dialogues between civil society, government and other groups on policies related to Women, Peace and Security.
- It builds capacity among women peace advocates so they can advance WPS priorities, and broaden country networks for advocacy on this agenda.
- It connects peacebuilders who share

knowledge of policy and best practices on implementing UNSCR 1325.

- It advocates for women's engagement in peace and security, bringing to light stories of leadership and resilience.

In 2016, N-Peace released a flagship publication, *Hidden Pearls*, on women peace and security, highlighting the important role women play in ending hostilities and sustaining peace.

### [ASEAN-UN Cooperation on Women, Peace and Security – the Role of Women in the Prevention of Violent Extremism](#)

In December 2017, UNDP, UN Women, and UNDPA jointly convened the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue IV (AURED IV), together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malaysia, ASEAN Secretariat and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Malaysia ISIS). The meeting focused on the role of women in preventing violent extremism.

The meeting's outcome document will be submitted to ASEAN senior officials. This document will include recommendations and proposals that focus on concrete collaborative activities related to the role of women in conflict prevention and the prevention of violent extremism under the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action, as well as through future initiatives and programmes of the ASEAN SOMTC, the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), the ASEAN Committee for Women and Children (ACWC), and other relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

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# YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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## Background

More than half of the world's young people live in Asia and the Pacific. While the region has witnessed enormous progress in recent years, studies show that youth continue to face challenges due to the inequitable provision of services and employment, social and political exclusion, and persistent gaps in gender equality.

The adoption of the Youth, Peace & Security Resolution at the UN Security Council in 2015 encouraged a new space for UNDP to combine the principles of youth empowerment with development and peacebuilding. Since then, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub has been working with young people to promote civic space, peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism initiatives across Asia-Pacific.

## Activities

[Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace and Security](#): As part of a series of regional consultations for the UNSG's Progress Study on UN Security Council Resolution 2250<sup>2</sup>, in May 2017, UNDP BRH co-convoked a regional meeting of young activists and peacebuilding practitioners on Youth, Peace and Security and PVE. Over 50 youth representatives and 30 civil society actors were present at the dialogue. The youth representatives shared their insights on peace and security perspectives in Asia and the Pacific and received a one-day training on Insider Mediation facilitated by Clingendael. Partners in this event included UNFPA, UNV, Search for Common Ground and UN Women.

Some key challenges and opportunities discussed:

- Concerns were raised that the resolution on Youth, Peace and Security is not backed up by regional and national frameworks. While the resolution is perceived as a helpful advocacy tool, as a global policy document

it does not directly support youth peace work on the ground, which is predominantly at the local or national level.

- Participants prioritized partnerships, specifically with governments and UN Country Teams, as an opportunity to enhance the impact of their peacebuilding projects. The role of education was a popular topic amongst the participants. It was emphasized that innovative approaches need to be considered in order to use education as an effective strategy to overcome peace and security challenges

[Regional Meeting on the Role of Young Parliamentarians in Preventing Violent Extremism in Asia](#):

In 2017, UNDP BRH, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Sri Lanka came together in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to co-host a regional meeting of young parliamentarians on their role in advancing peaceful and inclusive societies and preventing violent extremism. A total of 39 young men and 9 young women parliamentarians from 11 Asian countries worked in partnership with 60 leaders of youth parliaments, civil society organizations, youth-led organizations and international agencies. Speakers and participants exchanged their expertise on how to impact policies related to PVE, proposed parliamentary actions to be taken by young parliamentarians, and avenues for greater communication and coordination between parliaments and young people. More information about the young parliamentarians' commitment to action and their recommendations can be found in the event's outcome document.

[#Case4Space: Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda](#): In December 2016, UNDP BRH co-organised a roundtable which gathered more than 200 young leaders from 15 countries across Asia and

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<sup>2</sup> UNSCR 2250 urged Member States to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution.

the Pacific. Jointly hosted by a number of leading UN agencies and civil society organisations, the event saw vibrant discussions on the trend of shrinking “civic space” both online and offline in the region, and poor rates of parliamentary representation for youth. Youth participants released a joint ‘Youth Statement & Call to Action’ at the end of the three-day forum, calling on governments to safeguard and promote free and safe spaces for civic engagement in the region. Approximately 60 youth-based and civil society organisations, and 4 UNDP country offices attended, playing a vital role throughout the event. For more information, please visit [www.case4space.org](http://www.case4space.org).

**2030 Youth Force Workshop:** In June 2016, 19 youth community leaders from over 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific were brought together by UNDP and UNV in Bangkok for a three-day workshop. The youth leaders received a capacity training on understanding various dynamics of social conflict and peacebuilding. The event culminated with the creation of a new youth-led network, ‘2030 Youth Force’, which aims to raise awareness and empower youth in the region to effectively engage with the SDGs.

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# PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN ASIA

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## What are the drivers of extremism in the region?

Extremism in Asia is closely associated with wider violent conflict. It has been worse in those places suffering from enduring insurgencies, criminal violence, or civil conflict, and has declined in countries that have worked to reduce conflict, widen political participation, and improve human rights. Although individuals have a variety of motives for resorting to violence – and the path to radicalization is sinuous and complex – we do know that extremism, in general, is associated with human rights abuses and political exclusion. For example, the long-running conflict in Afghanistan has created opportunities and environments conducive for extremist groups to recruit and operate openly.

In May 2017, extremist violence erupted in Marawi City, in the southern island of Mindanao in the Philippines, an area that has experienced years of communal conflict. Groups with a long history of insurgency and criminality claimed affiliation to ISIS, creating a dangerous new dynamic.

In southern Thailand and in various parts of Myanmar, some observers see the potential for a spreading influence of transnational jihadism. However, transnational extremists have gained very little influence over armed groups fighting national struggles, and only tenuous links have been made to larger transnational terrorist causes.

[Evidence suggests that conflict resolution reduces the risks of violent extremism.](#) Indonesia has seen a marked decline in terrorist violence in the past decade. Autonomy agreements in Aceh and Papua, as well as the resolution of communal violence, dampened support and the conditions for extremism, while more effective policing led to the incarceration of several hundred extremists, although this has not always reduced their influence.

[Closing political and religious space is another driver and allows extremists to target and recruit disaffected groups.](#) Political discourse and freedom of speech in the

Maldives is increasingly curtailed, and critics of the government are threatened by extremist attacks. Malaysia faces an increasing risk from international extremism due to its mix of limited political and religious space.

Thailand is placing further protections on Buddhism under its new constitution signed in April 2017 and does little to protect Muslims from Buddhist violence or hate speech.

[Poor governance, weak institutions, and an absence of rule of law](#) in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan adds to the failure of the social contract, pushing vulnerable groups toward extremists that may offer a sense of belonging and security that the state has failed to provide.

## What are the regional dynamics of violent extremism?

While causes of extremism are local, regional and global, extremist activities are not confined to national boundaries. Men, women, and children have all travelled to Iraq and Syria to join extremist organisations, with the Maldives having the highest per-capita exodus globally.

In 2016, ISIS declared the Philippines as a caliphate in Southeast Asia, encouraging would-be travellers to fight in the Philippines. There are reports of Indonesian, Malaysian, and Thai fighters being involved in the fighting during the Marawi Crisis in the Philippines.

ISIS appeared in Afghanistan in 2015 and has allegedly recruited disaffected Taliban fighters. Despite reports of ISIS clashes with the Taliban and attacks on humanitarian aid workers, the extent of ISIS' influence in Afghanistan remains unclear.

The students who committed the July 2016 bombing in Dhaka studied in Malaysia – a country that has been used for decades by extremists for networking, financing, and facilitating travel to conflicts in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. This could potentially explain the lack of high profile attacks that the country has experienced.

The spread of conservative and intolerant

interpretations of religion also carry external influences. Countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Maldives are of particular concern, where intolerant and exclusive religious discourse (to varying degrees) can be seen merging with mainstream political debates and social norms.

Many extremist groups operate with high degrees of freedom in a number of countries in the region. Moreover, vast and largely unpoliced border areas enable transnational operations.

## Gender and extremism

Women have long played a part in recruitment, support, and ideological reproduction of extremism. However, new technologies have enhanced the ability of women to access debates on ideology and action that were previously mostly closed to them. Their impact on recruitment, fundraising, and building resilience in embattled extremist groups has changed, due in part to inspiration from ISIS.

Women and children are believed to have made up nearly half of those who have joined ISIS from Southeast Asia. Women are recruited by ISIS in part to threaten the masculinity of men. This motivates men to display higher levels of typical masculine behaviour more suited to the battlefield and extremist narratives. There has been little consideration of gender in the development of PVE policies in Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

## UNDP Regional Activities on PVE

**Research:** In 2016, UNDP commissioned two research reports analysing the drivers of extremism in South and Southeast Asia. The Southeast Asia report was updated in September 2017. In October 2017, UNDP also commissioned a report assessing the role of counter-narratives in preventing violent extremism.

**PVE National Action Plan Development:** In November 2017, UNDP convened the **Regional Workshop on the Prevention of Violent Extremism: Innovative Approaches for National Strategies**. This workshop brought together government representatives and experts to exchange knowledge on the development and implementation of national plans of action to prevent violent extremism (PoA/PVE) and enhance

regional cooperation for a coordinated prevention and response agenda to build on regional and global experiences. Government, military, and civil society representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and The Philippines were involved in this workshop. The meeting was organised by UNDP, UNODC, UN Women, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, UN Volunteers, Hedayah, and the Global Centre of Cooperative Security.

**#ExtremeLives:** UNDP BRH developed a series of Facebook Live interviews that seeks to uncover the human face behind extremism in Asia. It provides a platform for stories of those affected by extremism to be told, including from former fighters, victims, the wives and mothers of jihadists and those working on the frontlines seeking to prevent violent extremism. Between September and November 2017, five livestreams were broadcast with a total reach of nearly 13 million Facebook users, and over 4 million views.

**Regional meeting on the Role of Young Parliamentarians in Preventing Violent Extremism:** UNDP, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Sri Lanka came together in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to co-host a regional meeting of young parliamentarians on their role in advancing peaceful and inclusive societies and preventing violent extremism. A total of 39 young men and 9 young women parliamentarians from 11 Asian countries worked in partnership with 60 leaders of youth parliaments, civil society organizations, youth-led organizations and international agencies. Speakers and participants exchanged their expertise on how to impact policies related to PVE, proposed parliamentary actions to be taken by young parliamentarians, and avenues for greater communication and coordination between parliaments and young people. More information about the young parliamentarians' commitment to action and their recommendations can be found in the event's outcome document.



SNAPSHOTS  
OF PEACE AND  
SECURITY IN  
THE REGION

# GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

The annual Global Peace Index (GPI), now in its 11th year, ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their relative levels of peacefulness. It is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a global think-tank headquartered in Sydney, Australia. The data for the index is collected and collated by the Economist Intelligence Unit. It presents a data-driven analysis on trends in peace and its economic value. It is, in essence, an index on violence that has been flipped over, using the negative peace definition as its foundational framework.

The GPI methodology uses 23 indicators structured across three main domains:

### Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict:

This domain investigates the extent to which countries are involved in internal and external conflicts, as well as their role and duration of involvement in those conflicts.

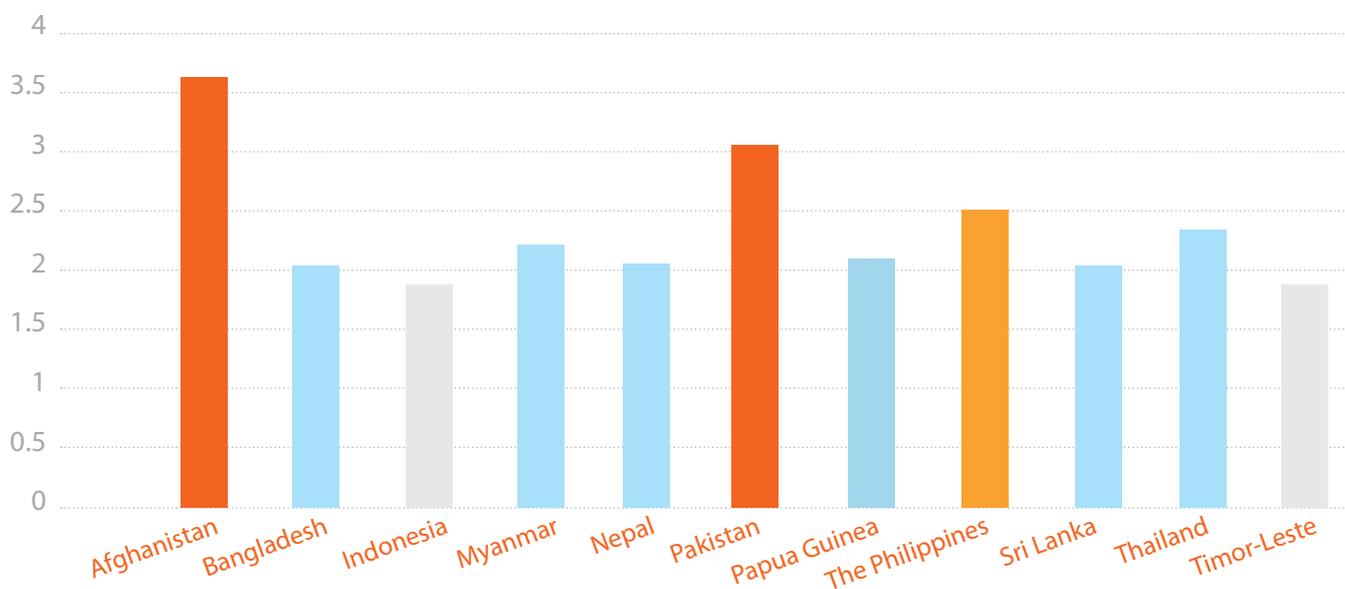
**Societal Safety and Security:** This domain evaluates the level of harmony or discord within a society, as captured by the level of interpersonal violence, trust, and political stability.

**Militarisation:** This domain measures the ability of a nation to project force both internally and externally, as well as providing a snapshot of the prominence of the military within the country, and the level of involvement with formal international peacekeeping processes.

GPI scores range from 0-4, with 0 indicating stability, and 4 indicating state failure/instability. In ranking countries, the most peaceful is ranked 1, with rankings declining with a progression towards instability and ultimately state failure at 163.

This report uses the GPI, due to its holistic and rigorous framework, to provide both a comparative snapshot of peace and security in the region through the chart as shown below, as well as an indicator of national stability and governance across the three indicator brackets of Militarisation, Society and Security, and Domestic and International Conflict. Hence, enabling one to gauge how nations in the region fare against one another, and enabling the deduction of where the focus should be and the concern lies both within and across nations.

Global Peace Index Score for Asia-Pacific





# COUNTRY PROFILES

# Afghanistan



## Overview

The fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 raised hopes amongst the people of Afghanistan a peaceful, democratic and stable future. The Presidential and Parliamentary elections of 2004 and 2005 were watershed events and ushered in critical governance reforms, notably within the security sector.

Despite the reforms, since 2008 there has been a re-escalation of conflict in Afghanistan, especially following the drawdown of international military forces in 2014. Fatalities from Taliban attacks increased by 200 percent from 2013 to 2014. Police and military personnel are the main targets, yet many attacks result in high levels of civilian casualties.

The conflict is deeply felt at community levels and the Taliban have control over large areas of the country. Communities in contested areas report feeling trapped between insurgents and the allied government and international forces, which can result in intimidation, death and displacement. The development costs of armed conflict are also steadily increasing. It is estimated that the costs of violence containment represented 52% of Afghanistan's GDP in 2016. According to the Global Peace Index, the Afghanistan militarisation rating rose by 28.25% between 2008 to 2015.



**3.567 GPI SCORE**

Country rank **162** out of **163**

### Combined Major Factors



## UNDP Country Office Programmes

### Transitional Plan for Support to the High Peace Council

#### Background

The Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP) was developed following recommendations from 1600 representative Afghan delegates to the Consultative Peace Jirga of June 2010 with the aim to reach a political settlement. The APRP was implemented by the High Peace Council of the Government of Afghanistan, with the purpose of extending an open hand to the Taliban and other insurgent groups, offering them a dignified and respectful way to renounce violence, and peacefully re-integrate into their communities. APRP was pursued through an integrated three-pronged approach-reintegration for peace and security, community security including demobilization and weapons management, and development for peace and sustainability.

Despite the continuous efforts under APRP from June 2010 to March 2016, a peace process with the Taliban has not materialized and the conflict continues and has intensified. The APRP, originally designed to focus on peacebuilding and the reintegration of former combatants, has not taken off as its original purpose was

dependent on a peace process that so far has proved elusive. Thus, APRP donors, the Government and UNDP agreed to close APRP as of 31 March 2016. It was also agreed between the donors, the Government and UNDP that a Transitional Plan for support to the High Peace Council be prepared to allow the Government to identify its priorities and develop a new peace strategy, including the identification of required support to the Government from the international community.

## Strategy

This project aims to ensure strong Government engagement in the transitional process and the sustainability of previous APRP investments. The project incorporates financial support to maintain essential staff of the High Peace Council to support ongoing peace talks and the development of the Government's new successor programme. This programme would take a more modest approach, focusing on strengthening the key structures of an institutional framework for peace and ensuring that a rapid build-up is possible to support a peace and reintegration process once a peace agreement is reached.

During the transitional period, the Government and UNDP held consultations that were informed by comparative studies, including lessons learned in Afghanistan's peace process and mapping of the peace infrastructure, lessons emerging from the relevant peace processes in the region, experiences from UNDP's engagement on supporting peace processes drawing upon its global practitioners' network, final evaluation of the APRP programme, and common trends and lessons learned from peace negotiations.

The Transitional Plan was specifically built around the following four outputs:

1. Conduct programmatic and structural assessment of APRP structures at the national and sub-national levels
2. Develop the new Government national peace and reconciliation strategy informed by technical assessments, including context analysis and mapping of peacebuilding architecture
3. Government consultations with key stakeholders, including donors, to reach consensus on future international support to the new government strategy to be funded by donors, including any future support to be provided by UNDP
4. Continuation of technical and financial support to maintain the existing structures, operations and some activities of the High Peace Council during the transition period to fill the gap until the commencement of a new peace programme

UNDP focused on increased coordination and common visioning with donors and the High Peace Council on the Transitional Plan outputs, including the development of the new peace strategy. Furthermore, UNDP supported the development of financing and governance arrangements, monitoring and evaluation framework, risks management framework, learning and knowledge management, implementation plan, budget, results and resources framework, fiduciary and accountability framework, and capacity building plan for the Government's new peace strategy.

## Key achievements

- ✓ A conflict analysis and stakeholder mapping was prepared, aiming to strengthen the understanding of the current conflict dynamics, inform the ongoing strategic thinking at the national level, and guide the Government's new peace strategy.
- ✓ Extensive discussions with the High Peace Council senior members on reaching a conclusion on the main areas of the new strategy, including reintegration, timeframe of the strategy, sub-national structure, gender considerations, and wider peace infrastructure .

- ✓ Extensive discussions with the High Peace Council senior members on reaching a conclusion on the main areas of the new strategy, including reintegration, timeframe of the strategy, sub-national structure, gender considerations, and wider peace infrastructure.
- ✓ Consultations with representatives from civil society, women's groups, youth, political parties, religious leaders, media and development and security ministries to promote inclusiveness in the development of the new strategy.
- ✓ Peace negotiation with an active armed opposition group - The Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbaddin Hekmatyar (HIG); after a series of 22 rounds of peace talks, the government and the HIG succeeded in finalizing the peace agreement.
- ✓ Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-combatants. The total figures of reintegration as of February 2017, is illustrated in the following table.

#### REINTEGRATION FIGURES AS OF FEBRUARY, 2017

No	Description	Grand total
1	No of combatants reintegrated	11,074
2	No of key commanders joined the peace process	1,051
3	No of weapons collected from reintegrees	9,380
4	No of transitional assistance packages provided to reintegrees	10,955

**Project duration**      April 2016 – February 2017

#### Women Peace & Security highlight

In June 2015, the Government of Afghanistan launched the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. The eight-year action plan (2015–2022) aims to strengthen, women's participation in decision-making, elections and peace processes in accordance with the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

#### N-Peace

- N-Peace is a UNDP flagship initiative founded in 2010 to commemorate a decade of UNSCR 1325 implementation via the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.
- N-Peace has been providing support to the Government of Afghanistan on women's leadership for conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and in promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- In 2012, two national dialogues on Women, Peace & Security (WPS) issues, including women's inclusion in Afghanistan's peace process, and providing space for interaction between Members of Parliament, CSO representatives, members of the High Peace Council and women representatives of the Provincial Peace Councils from some of the most conflict-ridden parts of the country were organised.
- In 2016, the N-Peace network was mobilized to ensure inclusion and participation of women in developing the new conflict analysis and the peace strategy for the High Peace Council.
- Since 2012, 13 Afghan Peace activists have been recipients of N-Peace Awards in different categories.

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Latest conflict analysis was carried out from June-November 2016.

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# Bangladesh



## Overview

Bangladesh has made significant progress in development and economic growth in recent decades, yet there remain significant challenges to peace in the country. The economic growth is uneven leaving many people behind as the gap between rich and poor grows. Additionally, the economy has a disproportionate reliance on the garment sector and remittances, both of which are under pressure. The signing of the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Accord in 1997 ended more than 20 years of armed violence between the indigenous population, Bangladesh security forces and Bengali settlers, tension remains high in the region.

Bangladesh has seen rising levels of political and extremist violence. A wave of violent extremism from 2013 to 2016 culminated in an Islamic State-inspired attack on a café in Dhaka's diplomatic enclave in mid-2016. While aggressive counter-terrorism operations throughout 2017 may have suppressed militant organisations, there are concerns that violent extremism has not been fully addressed. The Government has welcomed the United Nations in the development of prevention of violent extremism programming in the country.

At a national level, democratic governance is challenged as the political rivalry has led to violence, particularly during the 2014 elections and local government elections in 2016. A tense political environment surrounds the upcoming elections scheduled for January 2019.

There is a risk that the opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, will boycott the election. Major human rights abuses are sustained and systematic. While the government and opposition have demonstrated a willingness to resolve the problem, the continuing polarised political landscape appears to be generating conditions favourable to political violence and further violent extremist activity.

In August 2017 a major refugee crisis erupted on Bangladesh's southern border with Myanmar. In the wake of attacks by a new Rohingya insurgency some 688,000 new Rohingya refugees fled violence in Rakhine State. These are in addition to some 400,000 Rohingya already in Bangladesh. The challenges of Rohingya crisis, and the threat of violent extremism both represent entry points for rebuilding relationships with the government in Bangladesh.



2.035 GPI SCORE

Country rank 84 out of 163

### Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society & Security



Domestic & Int. Conflict

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### 1. The Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tract project

#### Background

After twenty-five years of political turmoil and armed conflict in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), many inhabitants were left in conditions of extreme poverty and faced tensions over issues of land tenure, access to resources, and weak law enforcement. The CHT Accord signed in December 1997 recognizes the CHT as a tribal-inhabitant region with provisions to introduce greater regional autonomy with the establishment of the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and three Hill District Councils (HDCs) with many devolved powers over local authorities.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) was designed to respond to the Peace Accord. The CHTDF programme has been implemented for 12 years by UNDP in partnership with the central and local government, CHT communities and NGOs to prevent new conflicts from emerging. UNDP has played a central coordinating and facilitating role amongst the donor community, and in interaction with the Government and CHT institutions.

#### Strategy

The overall strategy of the programme is to open new opportunities for development in the CHT through the promotion of community development and the effective support development institutions.

The work is divided into:

**A. Capacity Development and Governance**

Through CHTDF's support, the CHT Regional Council, HDCs, and the three traditional Circles have successfully developed long-term strategic visions and goals. They have also strengthened capacity through the technical, logistical and financial assistance.

**B. Policy Advocacy and Confidence Building**

In 2013-2014, government, UN agencies, and other stakeholders were brought together to support victims of communal violence through early recovery interventions and mediation.

**C. Gender Equity and Local Confidence Building**

Mainstreamed and targeted interventions have helped the programme address social inequality based on gender, ethnicity and age. The facility engages over 100 Trust-builders from diverse ethnic backgrounds to promote peaceful dialogues and prevent violence. Legal aid support for victims of gender based violence is another focus of UNDP's work.

**D. Community Empowerment, Economic Development, Agriculture & Food Security**

Communities have been empowered to manage their development affairs through Para (village) Development Committees (PDC) and Para Nari (women) Development Groups (PNDG). CHTDF is now supporting neighbouring Paras to come together to jointly plan and implement 236 economic development projects.

#### Key achievements

- ✓ 3,507 villages are now managing their own development affairs through Para Development Committees, in turn benefiting 115,107 households across the region.

- ✓ 1,548 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were established in CHT in which 34,276 marginalized farmers gain new and innovative farming techniques.
- ✓ 50,000 households have increased food security through the establishment of nearly 2,000 Rice banks
- ✓ Hill District Councils are successfully managing the delivery of essential health services.
- ✓ More than 20,000 children in the CHT have gained access to education through 315 schools managed by the Hill District Councils.
- ✓ 287 indigenous/tribal police personnel now work in the CHT districts and over 770 local police personnel have been trained on working with vulnerable groups.
- ✓ 600 Community Police Forums have been reactivated and 610 local police personnel trained on the CHT context. Over 800 conflicts have been mediated through these forums.
- ✓ 149 ethnically diverse individuals trained and mediated approximately 2,000 communal level conflicts in CHT.
- ✓ Over 300 young people have gained leadership skills and built relationships across ethnic groups.
- ✓ Income-generating opportunities have been created for 62,656 Para Development Committee members, including youth, through skills training.
- ✓ 1,935 community women groups have been organized, trained and supported to manage women empowerment initiatives.

## UNDP and DPA Joint Programme

The Peace and Development Advisor was deployed to Bangladesh in 2016 and identified violent extremism and the Rohingya crisis as entry points for expanding conflict prevention work. Since deployment, the PDA designed and continues to support the implementation of the UNDP Partnership for Tolerance in Bangladesh (PTIB) PVE project (see below). The PDA has also worked with the UNDP's Governance team in developing conflict sensitive programming, particularly on the Chittagong Hill Tracts project.

Examples of PDA work:

- In the wake of the Rohingya Crisis, the PDA has led and or coordinated conflict analysis processes both for UNDP and the UNCTs in Yangon and Dhaka, as well as for UNDP and UN Women (see below) in Bangladesh.
- Since May 2017, the PDA has chaired an Inter-agency UN PVE Working Group (UNDP, UNDP, UN Women, UNOCT and UNICEF). Designed to bring greater coherence to UN PVE programming in Bangladesh and to develop joint programming in line with the UNDAF 2017-2020.
- In June 2017, the PDA was asked by member states in Dhaka to convene and chair the informal International Community P/CVE Working Group in Bangladesh which consists of all missions, aid agencies and UN Agencies with P/CVE programming in Bangladesh.
- In December 2017, the PDA was asked by member states in Dhaka to convene and chair a joint elections group to develop a platform for joint observation/messaging and advocacy for heads of mission in Dhaka.
- During 2017, the PDA was joined by a Peace and Development Specialist following a contribution from the Republic of Korea to the Joint Programme.

## 2. Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) project

### Background

Bangladesh has experienced a sharp increase in violent extremist attacks in recent years, associated with the spread of Islamist militancy, combined with political and factional power struggles. Since that time UNDP, UN Women, UNODC and the UNOCT have all launched new prevention of violent extremism programming in Bangladesh.

UNDP's PTIB is a multi-year initiative started following the United Nations Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) that was endorsed by the Government of Bangladesh in April 2016. The UN Plan of Action emphasizes the need for each country to craft a strategy to prevent violence, assess the local drivers, priorities and partners, and to coordinate these plans at the regional and global levels.

### Strategy

This program aims to identify drivers of violence and cohesion in Bangladesh, then pilot social engagement actions to understand what works when shifting sentiment of young people in vulnerable communities both online and offline. The Program has three streams with the following goals:

1. **Research Facility:** To improve knowledge and insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh, and ensure that international and domestic partners are supplied with a reliable and consistent source of data on peace and violence in Bangladesh;
2. **Social Engagement:** To enhance inclusive and tolerant attitudes in Bangladesh through social engagement and positive online narratives, with an experimental offline focus on youth, women, migrant labourers and religious leaders;
3. **Government Engagement:** To assist the government to promote policies that support tolerance, inclusion, and are respectful of universal human rights.

### Key achievements

While the PTIB project is only in an initiation phase for the January – December 2017 period, the following results have already been achieved:

- ✓ Two peace hackathons, the "Digital Khichuri Challenge", were convened in Dhaka and Jessore in the second half of 2017. These received tens of thousands of likes on Facebook. Over 60 youth attended, and the winning teams are in the production stage. Facebook and the ICT Ministry are key partners.
- ✓ The Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) beta version was launched in April 2017, tracking thousands of violent incidents across the country and continues to release regular updates. Training on data management, hosted in collaboration with the Asia Foundation, was provided to 7 BPO team members to better catalogue and categorize different types of violent incidents.
- ✓ High government and civil society representatives attended the UNDP PVE national action plan workshop in Bangkok in late 2017 and there are strong indications that the Government of Bangladesh may explore the development of the national action plan in the coming 1-2 years, but most likely after the December 2018 election.
- ✓ UNDP Bangladesh commissioned 3 separate research reports produced by independent research firms, looking at extremist dynamics in the country. The report on online extremist narratives as completed by Canadian firm SecDev was a ground-breaking first step into understanding the online extremist narrative landscape.

- ✓ Strategic partnerships initiated with Dhaka University, the Bangladesh Police, National Defence College and largest daily newspaper, the Daily Start, on a PVE and violence research facility.
- ✓ During 2017, resource mobilisation efforts in support of the PTIB Initiation Phase were successful; with confirmed grants being made by The Netherlands and Denmark, with almost certain grants being in the pipeline for early 2018 from USAID, Japan and the UK, for a total of approximately 2.4 million USD.

**Project duration** 2017 – 2020

### Youth Peace & Security highlight

**Youth leadership development:** Under the Chittagong Hill Tract project, over 300 youth gained leadership skills and built relationships across ethnic groups.

**Innovation and peacebuilding:** The PTIB project held two peace hackathon challenge events for youth to design innovative peacebuilding ideas. In each event, three winning teams were provided grants by UNDP to prototype their ideas.

### Bangladesh- Myanmar DPA and Joint UNCT Border Assessment (August – November 2017)

The Peace and Development Advisors in Bangladesh and Myanmar collaborated to conduct a joint UNCT border assessment between August – November 2017. This assessment, or conflict analysis, was supported and led by the UN Department of Political Affairs, in partnership with relevant parts of the UNCT in both countries and regional HQ. The assessment was directed towards building a two-country view of the subnational conflict in Rakhine State, Myanmar bordering Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, the assessment worked closely with the Cox's Bazar Working Group (IOM, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA). The final report and its recommendations were offered to the Permanent Monitoring Group on Myanmar at HQ level and the country team in Dhaka. Given the facts on the ground in the border regions, the assessment came at an opportune moment to shape UN thinking about the complex political-security nature of the emergency.

### UNDP and UN Women Bangladesh Joint Social Risk Analysis for Cox's Bazar (November-December 2017)

The PDA led a UNDP-UN Women Joint Social Risk Analysis for Cox's Bazar in the wake of the Rohingya crisis. UNDP SURGE teams were deployed to Bangladesh and part of the exercise included this analysis. The subsequent report and recommendations form the basis of much of the UNDP and UN Women programming response to the Rohingya crisis. The analysis has also been shared with the UN team in Cox's Bazar and is informing system wide programming.

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# Fiji



## Overview

The Republic of Fiji has been characterised by political instability, witnessing four military coups since 1987. This instability arises primarily out of ethnic polarisation between indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians, fuelled by inequalities and structural divisions in legislation and policies. There remain grievances amongst indigenous Fijians (the demographic majority), who feel a loss of their identity, political control, and land rights. In turn, Indo-Fijians are concerned that renewed ethnic violence could lead to their eviction from lands they have farmed and leased for generations (while not being allowed to own land) and ethnic discrimination.



Prior to the country's first coup in 1987, Indo-Fijians held a slight demographic majority of 52%. Since then, their share of the population has decreased to below 40%, largely due to emigration. The drivers of conflict are fuelled by the country's "coup culture"; the strong role of the military in politics; and a lack of independent media and institutions. In addition, rural to urban migration, increasing squatter settlements and high unemployment, increasing poverty in rural areas, and very high rates of gender-based violence, impact all communities independent of ethnicity.

After the 2006 coup led by the leader of the military, Cmdre Bainimarama, a new constitution was enacted in 2013, enshrining a strong Bill of Rights but leaving intact decrees that give the Government considerable power to charge anyone with sedition. After eight years of military rule, Mr. Bainimarama was elected Prime Minister after the first democratic elections in September 2014 and Parliament was re-established. However, there are concerns amongst Fijians about land ownership, the secular state, a common citizenry, the role of the various ethnic groups, freedom of speech, labour rights, and the role of the military. A large youth population, caught between tradition which relegates them towards a more "silent" role and modern ideas on inclusive decision-making, is seeking inclusion into the socio-economic and political discourse.

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Fiji Initiative

#### Background

With funding from the EU, UNDP's three-year SCEFI project was initiated to enhance the active participation of Fijian citizens in the country's nation-building process. The project was based on the principle that, with active involvement in decision-making at all levels, Fiji's democracy and development would be more sustainable and its communities more resilient. Unfortunately, this social cohesion programme did not receive funding for follow up, and the EU has been providing considerable resources to civil society groups in Fiji directly.

## Strategy

This initiative sought to further citizen action from the bottom up, build trust and strengthen partnerships with national institutions and decision-makers. As such, the project focused on building capacity and citizen engagement in six thematic areas:

1. Voice & Choice:

Engagement with political parties and stakeholders (MPs, party leaders) on common issues across parties to build trust and confidence in political processes and maintain buy-in throughout the transition to democracy; strategic engagement with women MPs and civil society on a joint platform to raise visibility inside and outside Parliament on women related issues such as increased participation in political and economic decision making and a joint approach against GBV which is very high in Fiji (64 % of women who have ever been in a relationship report physical and/or sexual violence).

2. Transformative leaderships:

High-level leadership and youth empowerment initiatives in the remote island of Rotuma with Chiefs and Community leaders as well as youth resulted in the first ever joint UN-EU-Ministerial visit to the island to engage communities and youth (Minister of youth, employment and rural development/ outer islands). The engagement initiative led to the instalment of a Chief after a long dispute, youth leadership training and the formation of a women's group to more actively influence local, political and economic decisions.

3. Decision-making & coalition-building:

High-level engagement across the security sector, the Executive and Parliament as well as civil society to prepare the ground for access to justice support and oversight strengthening programme; support for the Government's review of the national security strategy.

4. Accountability & human rights:

Strengthening of dialogue and mediation capacity of Government and civil society on natural resources. Using the services of a natural resource conflict resolution expert from Peru, a series of workshops were held targeting enhanced dialogue and mediation capacity of the Ministry of Lands as well as the Itaukei Affairs Ministry, their provincial leaders and youth. Participants made important recommendations to policymakers that will improve the management of conflicts around natural resources including legal reforms, capacity building, strengthened relationships and stronger environmental impact assessments.

5. Equitable service delivery

In an innovative project approach, through the citizen's engagement project and facilitation of a process whereby a Ministry (Itaukei Affairs) together with CSOs, jointly developed the first ever civic education and leadership training curriculum for traditional rural community leaders, thus making it nationally owned and validated. The curriculum entails conflict management and reconciliation, good governance and leadership, natural resource management, climate change and disaster risk management, health and wellbeing, financial literacy and equitable service delivery.

6. Non discrimination & inclusiveness:

Embedded in the Itaukei Ministry and through strategic linkages with other Ministries such as the Ministries of Rural and of Maritime Affairs, as well as with the Fiji National University's formation programmes, have made the project initiatives sustainable. The programme was inclusive to indigenous and non-indigenous communities thus fostering national reconciliation and was disseminated through the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and other channels.

## Key achievements

- ✓ The programme helped strengthen the transition to democracy and rule of law in Fiji, at a critical juncture in Fiji's history. SCEFI has successfully encouraged the participation of Fiji's citizens in opening up new spaces for dialogue on issues that are relevant to them, and give voice to sections of society that have so far been excluded.
- ✓ The programme made an important contribution to engaging Fiji's citizens and CSOs in public debate. The programme made an important contribution to engaging Fiji's citizens and CSOs in public debate on national and local issues and in opening inclusive dialogue spaces between and amongst different constituencies. It documented the wealth of lessons learned and good practices. The 'SCEFI model' is relevant for replication on a wider scale in Fiji, and possibly for other countries in the Pacific.

### Youth Peace & Security highlight

- International Peace Day Conference: UNDP supported a Peace Conference assembling civil society, church groups, youth organisations and women groups, international and regional peace advocates for international peace day.
- Youth multicultural dialogue: A dialogue held between youth representatives of two main communities with key government ministries and the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. Following the meeting, a YouTube video on youth and multiculturalism in Fiji was produced.
- Grants for peacebuilding organisations: Over 40 small grants to youth and other CSOs engaged in a variety of issues ranging from GBV and women's empowerment to youth voices in the transition, service delivery, and peacebuilding and community dialogues.

## UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

A new PDA was deployed to the Fiji-Pacific office in May 2017, covering the Pacific sub-region as well as liaison with sub-regional organizations, and working closely with the RC, UNDP and the Country Team.

The following are some examples of the PDA's work in the Pacific:

- Support the UN's efforts to engage with national stakeholders to identify avenues for dialogue and trust-building.
- Work with national partners, in particular youth and women, to build national capacities to prevent conflict, and to engage on regional issues affecting peace, governance and sustainable development in the Pacific.
- Provide support to country-specific peacebuilding initiatives and initiatives to enhance political stability, including women's political participation.
- Support to conflict analysis and peacebuilding programming, including through the Peacebuilding project in the Solomon Islands and liaison with the Peacebuilding Support Office.
- Provide analysis and follow up on electoral needs assessments in the region, including to Nauru in mid-2017, together with DPA/EAD and UNDP.

[Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2014 \(Governance assessment\).](#)

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# Indonesia



## Overview

In recent decades, Indonesia has taken positive steps forward in development and conflict resolution. The country continues to face risks from radicalization and extremist attacks. Government interventions have succeeded in reducing violent extremist activity, which is now at an historic low, and can offer lessons in prevention across the region.



Following the 2002 Bali bombing, which led to over 200 fatalities, the Indonesian Government stepped up its efforts to prevent and counter extremism. The successful resolution of subnational conflict in Maluku, Poso, Aceh, and Papua have helped reduce conditions for violent extremism organisations to operate and recruit. Police reforms and the creation of the National Counter Terrorism Agency reflected the government's commitment to tackling the issue. Police operations have interrupted activities of violent extremist groups and led to arrests of many known militants. More efforts are needed to shift from hard counter- terrorism approaches towards preventing violent extremism strategies and addressing root causes.

In recent months, moderates in the country have been pointing towards growing radicalization and politicization of religion in public discourse and election campaigning. Increasing intolerance towards different religious views, ethnicities, and sexual minorities is creating an environment that allows for extremist narratives to spread unchallenged. Additionally, the return of Indonesian fighters and their families from Islamic State territories in Iraq and Syria could represent a threat in terms of their ability to carry out terrorist attacks.

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Enhancing the Role of Religious Education in Countering Violent Extremism in Indonesia- CONVEY project

#### Background

In April 2017, with financial support from Japan, UNDP launched a new project (CONVEY) that aims to develop the potential of religious education in schools in Indonesia, to promote peace and tolerance, and counter violent extremism amongst youth in partnership with the State Islamic University of Jakarta. This project also seeks to strengthen the involvement of teachers and students in countering the spread of extreme attitudes, violent behaviour, and radicalism. These objectives are being pursued through four components: research and survey, advocacy and policy engagement, public campaign, quality assurance and coordination.

## Strategy

The strategy is to identify and address the underlying factors that foster the growth of violent extremism in religious education. Based on empirical evidence, the project will then promote policies and support actions that contribute towards religious education that builds peace and tolerance.

During the one-year implementation cycle, it is expected that there will be an increased public participation of youth in the production of knowledge, enhanced public awareness, and a more robust decision-making process to encourage the strengthened roles of religious education.

In the medium and long-term, it is expected that there will be a change in attitudes and behaviour of youth, strengthened by a more inclusive, open, and tolerant model of religious education.

The project follows a human rights-based and gender sensitive approach. Working with policymakers, professors, and students, it advocates for the basic rights of all men and women and a discrimination-free Indonesian society.

## Key achievements

- ✓ Contributed to evidence-based knowledge of violent extremism in Indonesia through a national survey and research on the support to radicalism and violent extremism among students. The survey was conducted in 34 provinces in Indonesia, based on a sample of 1,552 high school students and 337 university students. In addition to using self-reporting instruments, the national survey collected the data by using the Implicit Association Test (IAT), the first ever to be used nation-wide in Indonesia on the topics of radicalism and violent extremism amongst youth. The survey and research identified the attitudes and behaviours of students in high schools and universities related to topics such as radical Islamic movements; Islamic literature used at schools and universities; and radicalism on social media and websites. A policy research specifically to study the student body and its relationship with radicalism and violent extremism was also conducted.
- ✓ The results of the survey and research were reported in more than 50 printed and online media and discussed in several cities by engaging with more than 1200 people.
- ✓ Five assessments, including on economic empowerment programs for youth in five cities, on existing social and economic empowerment programmes in extremist dominated border areas, on re-education of convicted terrorist detainees in correctional facilities, and on reintegration programs of former terrorist detainees were conducted. These assessments have resulted in policy briefs that will be advocated to the ministries and other government bodies in line.
- ✓ Rapid assessments were conducted on the potential of violent extremism in three geographic areas of Indonesia. These assessments involved 101 members of the district and local police, civil defence, heads of neighbourhood units and community units. Accompanied by trainings, the knowledge of at least 358 participants – mostly security actors and heads of neighbourhood units was reportedly increased to develop early warning systems on violent extremism.
- ✓ 5 advocacy campaign activities were rolled out through various online and real-world platforms. The online campaigns included the launching of CONVEY digital media platforms on social media pages, YouTube, television programmes, radio programmes, the launching of a digital social media competition, and an essay competition. These online campaigns reached more than 95,000 people.
- ✓ In real-world platforms, CONVEY has developed various innovative public campaigns, specifically targeted for the youth. This includes the development of a 'boardgame-based training' to promote empathy and collaboration amongst youth and raise awareness on the dangers of violent extremism.

- ✓ Two roundtable discussions on violent extremism were held to enhance coordination and knowledge-sharing amongst UN agencies and development partners, civil society organisations, and high-level government counterparts.

**Project duration**      2017-2018

### Peace & Security highlight: Women and Youth

#### N-Peace

- From 2010-2012, the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) agenda has been the focus of N-Peace activities in Indonesia, aiming to promote women's leadership for peace, develop women's capacities to advance the WPS agenda, and convene consultations towards creating a National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325.
- N-Peace played a critical role in soliciting CSO voices and inputs to the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.

#### Youth

- Youth attitudes survey on extremism: A nation-wide youth attitudes survey was carried out from a sample of 2000 high school and university students. Questions focused on topics related to radicalisation and violent extremism.
- Youth advocacy for preventing violent extremism: 'Boardgame for Peace' Trainings and the 'Islam Sejuk' (Invigorating Islam) Roadshow were held at a campus in Jakarta. Media campaigns engaged youth aged 18-25, studying in high school and universities, to take part in preventing radicalism/violent extremism in their own communities.

Latest conflict analysis: A conflict analysis was conducted in 2004 using the Peace and Development Analysis (PDA) tools. A simplified conflict analysis was carried out in 2011.

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# Myanmar



## Overview

Myanmar has experienced internal armed conflict since its independence in 1948, mainly affecting the ethnic border areas. The state has never fully established control over these areas which has resulted in ongoing protracted conflict, the nature and dynamics of which have shifted over time. The country is now amidst a complex peace process, aimed at brokering a settlement between the Myanmar Government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), signed in October 2016, led to the establishment of a Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) as well as the initiation of a Union-level Peace Dialogue. Since then, enthusiasm around the ceasefire has been dampened by the large number of non-signatories to the process, ongoing violence, and indications of further fragmentation amongst the non-signatories.

A separate crisis in Rakhine state erupted following attacks by a new insurgent group against border posts in northern Rakhine in October 2016, escalating tensions between the Rohingya and the Rakhine communities. Subsequent government-led "clearance" operations caused a serious deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation. The crisis escalated further in August 2017 with more attacks and a Rohingya refugee crisis on the Myanmar-Bangladesh Border. Since 25th August, it is estimated that some 688,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into Bangladesh. In November 2017, the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding laying out conditions for repatriation. It is not clear when such repatriation will begin.

Myanmar's civil wars and inter-communal violence have taken thousands of lives and injured many more, damaged private and public property, disrupted livelihoods and social services, and fragmented family and social relations. Different waves of violence have displaced an estimated 500,000 persons, including 400,000 refugees and IDPs in the South-Eastern areas, 100,000 in Kachin and northern Shan, and on account of the increasing violence and military crackdown, and the ongoing mass displacement of the Rohingyas. Legacies of conflict and military rule have resulted in pervasive mistrust between parties, and between institutions and citizens.



2.179 GPI SCORE

Country rank 104 out of 163

Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society & Security



Domestic & Int. Conflict

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### UNDP Country Programme

#### Background and strategy

UNDP's country programme for 2013-2017 aimed to support the government in its objectives to achieve the democratic transition of the country through contributions to democratic governance; local governance and development; environmental governance, and disaster risk reduction. Several areas of this work both directly and indirectly interfaced with peace support and peacebuilding.

The programme was designed to take into account the rapidly changing country context. As the institutional nature and pace of reforms and their implementation could not be predicted, the programme was meant to be flexible and responsive to risks and opportunities. In line with the principle of national ownership of development cooperation, the Government and other national stakeholders played a central role in guiding implementation and attainment of programme priorities. The programme sought to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development that was rights-based, gender-sensitive, inclusive and equitable by strengthening the institutional capacity of national and local governments and non-state actors.

#### Activities

UNDP has been supporting democratic reform and transition in Myanmar in the following ways:

1. Technical advisory services to key institutions of the executive, legislature and judiciary on access to justice, rule of law, parliament, public administration and local governance. The services are provided through the dedicated placement of full-time advisors.
2. Targeted capacity building of members of regional and state parliaments on their representative, legislative and oversight functions. Recent work has focused on sub-national parliaments and committees and their capacities for outreach and dialogue with communities, including in conflict-affected areas.
3. Support to public administration reforms, leading the development of a nationwide Framework for Administrative Reform and improving public sector capacity-development.
4. Strengthening subnational government and providing support to the Government's establishment of One Stop Shops (OSS) which aim to bring public services closer to the people and support to the General Administration's Department Training Institute to review its curriculum to include topics such as conflict resolution and mediation, gender and UN resolution 1325.
5. Strengthening dialogue capacities and platforms - Working with the General Administrative Department (GAD); Myanmar Police Force and Ministry of Border Affairs. This work aimed to strengthen confidence and capacities for dialogue through training and support.
6. Strengthening social cohesion capacities through outreach and training of local administrations, non-state actors and CSOs. This work serves as a peacebuilding platform by facilitating a 'community of practice' between various actors at the local levels.
7. Enhanced socio-economic data, especially poverty data - Integrated Household Living Conditions Assessment (IHLCA), supported by UNDP and the World Bank to collect vital information about poverty in the country.

## Key achievements

- ✓ UNDP has been implementing a 'JMC Support Platform Project', that provides support to Myanmar's Joint Monitoring Committee for the Ceasefire. In 2017, UNDP has mobilized additional funding of approximately USD 6 million from PBF, Norway and Joint Peace Fund. In 2016, UNDP provided technical assistance to build the JMC's operational capacities, concluded a technical needs assistance plan under DPA leadership and held several trainings.
- ✓ In 2016, UNDP launched a new initiative to mainstream conflict sensitivity approaches into local and community development. UNDP produced 2 research studies examining good practices in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity, and drafted an indicator guide and indicator menu for conflict sensitivity, with the participation of the UNDP-facilitated inter-ministerial study group. The reports and indicators were translated, launched and disseminated in November 2017.
- ✓ UNDP facilitated professional development programmes on social cohesion for mid-level officials from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and Department of Social Welfare, reaching up to 90 officials. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacities of public officials from these institutions to mainstream social cohesion principles and approaches into their policies, programmes and services, and to strengthen their individual and organizational skills around key social cohesion competencies. UNDP also facilitated a high-level seminar on social cohesion reaching senior leadership of both institutions. The objective of this seminar was to discuss the definition, approaches, relevance, and relevant global comparative practices and experiences, and in doing so, to provide senior decision-makers with an opportunity to reflect on the role of public institutions in promoting social cohesion in Myanmar. Based on pre- and post- tests, 70% of participants demonstrated an increased knowledge of key concepts and 87% reported improved working relations within the institutions.
- ✓ In 2017, a series of three studies and guidance were launched including Conflict Sensitivity Indicators for Local and Community Development Programming, Experiences from Local and Community Development Practices in Myanmar and Experiences from UNDP's Local and Community Development Practice. This guidance is intended for use by organizations approving, designing, implementing or monitoring local and community development projects or programmes in Myanmar.
- ✓ The series of reports on "Access to Justice and Informal Justice Systems in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States" were launched by UNDP in 2017. The reports are based on research conducted between October 2015 and July 2016 in 16 townships and two internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Kachin. They cast light on the formal and informal processes of justice in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States, and why and how people use them to resolve their disputes and grievances. The reports allow justice sector stakeholders to access hard-to-obtain data that can better inform future justice sector development planning.
- ✓ An evaluation of the existing four Rule of Law (ROL) Centers was completed in late 2017 and findings are being used to design the next phase of Centres including the Rakhine Rule of Law Centre. The ROL Centres focus on empowering women and vulnerable groups to claim and have their rights adjudicated and grievances remedied.

In response to the Rakhine crises, UNDP initiated several activities in 2017 as outlined below:

- ✓ In July 2017, the GoM's requested UN assistance to undertake an assessment to support a transition from humanitarian aid towards development assistance in Rakhine state, and identify ways to promote social cohesion amongst different communities. The UN/GoM, coordinated by UNDP as the lead agency, developed an assessment tool and methodology to conduct the joint assessment in three select townships of Rakhine, followed by an assessment in select IDP camps as a second phase. The final stage to conduct the assessment was put on hold following the August events in Rakhine State and are to be resumed in early 2018.

- ✓ In late 2017, UNDP developed a Project Initiation Plan (PIP) titled 'Rakhine Crisis Response Project' with USD 600,000 in allocations from CRU and BPPS Funding Window in response to the Rakhine crisis. The funds are supporting assessments, planning and coordination, and early recovery activities.
- ✓ Building on the PIP, the Country Office developed a joint programme (JP) with UN Women to provide developmental assistance to the whole of Rakhine State. The USD 10 million JP is to be funded by the Government of Japan in early 2018.

**Programme duration** 2013-2017

## UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

The Peace and Development Advisor was deployed in September 2015, just prior to the signing of the NCA and the historic November 2015 election and NLD-landslide victory. In November 2016, a Peace and Development Officer (PDO) was brought in to support the work of the PDA and RCO/UNCT. At the end of 2016, the long-standing mandate for the office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Myanmar was discontinued, leaving the Resident Coordinator and PDA as the principal UN system focal points for peace and reconciliation efforts.

The Joint Programme team plays a central role in positioning the UN to support national actors to advance peace and reconciliation efforts. This has included:

- Extensive work with the new Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) supporting the JMC and its Technical Secretariat Centre to build its capacity and jointly set up the JMC Support Platform project, managed by UNDP. The project has a particular focus on building trust in violence affected communities, targeting both women and youth groups.
- Provided Situational Analysis to the UN Country Team – The JP team through periodic (bi-monthly) update reports, as well as frequent workshops, panels and meetings, played a central role in providing analysis of the peace, political and reconciliation processes to both HQ and UNCT Heads of Agencies.
- Providing support to the Government to implement the recommendations made by the Kofi Annan led Rakhine Advisory Committee (RAC), released in August 2017.
- Continuous support to the negotiations between the Government of Myanmar and NCA non-signatory EAOs, and exploring avenues for the UN to assist the emerging Union Peace Dialogue process as well as sub-national peacebuilding efforts, providing support to women and youth groups in their efforts to become more actively engaged in the Union Peace Dialogue.
- In addition, the JP team functions as a focal point for the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and assisted with backstopping various Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) supported projects including support to the JMC and to two recently approved projects on youth and women's participation in the peace process through the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI).

### Women, Peace and Security highlight

#### N-Peace

UNDP Myanmar partners with NPEACE to identify and nominate women leaders and women's organizations in-country for their work in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building. Myanmar has been part of the N-PEACE network since 2014, and in 2014, 2015 and 2017, Myanmar's nominations won across several categories. In 2017, women's rights activist from Chin State and the founder of the Women's League of Chinland, Tuan Cer Sung Cheery Zahu (Cheery) is this year's N-Peace winner from Myanmar. UNDP has also supported the participation of Myanmar women in a number of capacity-development and training workshops organized under the N-PEACE umbrella.

Last conflict analysis was carried out in 2014.

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# Nepal



## Overview

Nepal embarked on a peace process in 2006, ending a 10-year civil war that took more than 15,000 lives. Although key milestones of the peace process have been achieved, deep divisions in Nepali society are still visible. Nepal continues to struggle with inequality, low levels of human development, and deeply entrenched forms of social exclusion.

A new federal Constitution was adopted in 2015 after years of political bickering and two Constituent Assembly elections. This led to the implementation of a new federal system, with local, provincial, and federal elections. The political rivalry has led to distrust between communities. It has been further complicated by a widespread lack of understanding and misperceptions amongst the population about the legal realities of federalism, fuelling a lack of trust amongst diverse groups. This could destabilize the political situation and lead to renewed political and social cleavages.

In light of the political transition in Nepal, implementation of the constitution and federal agenda will be crucial. It will also be important to address longer-term issues such as land management. Engaging the political actors, including youth and women, with the aim to bring the divided communities together and promote social cohesion will be a key entry point. Empowering citizens, particularly vulnerable groups, for their meaningful and equitable participation in the democratic process will be an opportunity to improve the accountability of the Government. At the same time, supporting the local, provincial and federal governments for integrated service-delivery will help improve social harmony.



**2.08 GPI SCORE**

Country rank **93** out of **163**

### Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society  
& Security



Domestic &  
Int. Conflict

## UNDP Country Office Programmes

### 1. Conflict Prevention Programme

#### Background

The Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) is designed to assist the Government of Nepal, political parties and civil society organizations to successfully navigate the challenging transitional period by promoting participatory dialogue on contentious issues, timely engagement regarding emerging political, resource or identity tensions, and raise greater awareness of localized conflict dynamics amongst development actors.

## Strategy

Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) contains three programmatic pillars:

1. Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue (CLD)
2. Conflict Sensitivity (CS)
3. Early Warning/Early Response (EWER)

It also has an additional project on land issues (Gender Promotion Initiative - Land), to promote women's participation and inclusion in land policy dialogue and planning. Through the UN Peacebuilding Fund for Nepal funding, CPP also implements a Gender Promotion Initiative in Central Tarai (GPI-Central Tarai) CPP promotes dialogue and collaboration amongst political parties, government officials, civil society members and key social groups on contentious transitional issues. The CS pillar assists actors in developing conflict-sensitive planning and implementation to prevent conflict escalation as well as supports systems to rapidly respond to localized tensions. The EWER system is a mechanism to work with local peace structures and Government agencies for an early warning and early response on conflict.

Besides its activities at the national level, the CPP worked in districts that are some of the conflict flashpoints namely Kailalai and Kanchanpur (Far West Region office in Dhangadhi), Banke and Bardiya (Mid-West office in Nepalgunj), Chitwan, Parsa and Bara (Central Region office in Bharatpur), Sunsari and Panchthar (Eastern Region office in Damak), and Baglung and Kaski (Western Region office in Pokhara).

CPP was also used as a vehicle to further implement the Nepal specific N-Peace programming on Women, Peace and Security. In 2015, a project on 'Developing Women's Leadership for Collective advocacy for Inclusive Peace and Security in Nepal' was initiated. Through this intervention, UNDP Nepal could enhance knowledge and skills of women leaders to mobilize people and resources for sustained collective advocacy for women's inclusion in peace and security processes.

## Key Achievements

- ✓ Following the May 2012 Constitutional crisis, the CPP supported constructive dialogue amongst top Nepali leaders and contributed to building consensus for the establishment of an interim government and subsequent holding of new elections for a Constituent Assembly
- ✓ Prior to the November 2013 Constituent Assembly elections, the CPP successfully engaged with Electoral Officials and Political Parties to promote a peaceful electoral environment, and de-escalation of tensions with boycotting groups
- ✓ In the Far West region, CCP created a dialogue forum amongst senior political leaders and aided in reducing inter-ethnic tensions between Tharu and Pahadi groups
- ✓ Trained more than 1,000 leaders including government officials, political party representatives and civil society actors on collaborative leadership and dialogue skills
- ✓ Supported Nepal Administrative Staff College and the Local Development Training Academy to incorporate conflict sensitivity in their curriculum for the benefit of training government officials. Nearly 600 civil servants have been trained in the Do No Harm approach. The Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation (MoPR) has formulated the Peace Sensitive Development Approach Paper to mainstream peace sensitivity in the programmes and policies of all ministries and commissions
- ✓ Resource materials on curriculum modules for training of mobilizers was developed. 25 emerging women leaders from the community level across five regions were trained and act as agents of change in relation to peacebuilding at the community level.

## 2. Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme (SCDP)

### Background

As Nepal undergoes drastic political transition, there has been little public attention paid to managing the socio-political dimensions of this transition, or in creating mechanisms to address the various political, resource and identity based tensions. Much of the discussion amongst political leaders has been at the central level, with little consultation with or exchange amongst local actors.

The SCDP is designed to support the GoN, local authorities, and other key stakeholders from the communities to strengthen social cohesion, promote democratic participation and good governance during the roll-out and implementation of the new federal system and Constitution.

### Strategy

SCDP's work is divided into two distinct pillars:

1. **Risk Identification** - consists of an **Early Warning** initiative with Near-term and Medium/Long-term components.
2. **Risk Mitigation** - encompasses three distinct initiatives that form a comprehensive approach towards addressing localized tensions and keeping the social fabric intact. The three risk mitigation initiatives are:
  - i. Quick impact support to inter-community cohesion through micro grants;
  - ii. Livelihood and income generation support;
  - iii. Local participation and accountability initiatives.

Both pillars are shaped by cross-cutting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Conflict Sensitivity approaches that ensure that processes are socially inclusive and equipped to navigate the socio-political complexities of local environments.

SCDP continues to take forward the remaining interventions under the project 'Women's Leadership for Collective Advocacy for Inclusive Peace and Security in Nepal' and piloted the micro-grant facility for community based organizations linking with the 25 emerging community women leaders trained in 2015.

The SCDP has four field offices that cover 10 districts, with a substantial presence in Terai districts. The field based teams are specialized in the monitoring and analysis of socio-political tensions and are supporting local actors to strengthen social cohesion.

### Key achievements

- ✓ SCDP strengthened mechanisms and institutions which brought divided communities together. It also supported government and civil society organizations to integrate components of social cohesion into local development plans and programmes.
- ✓ In 2016, it successfully piloted the micro-grant facility for community-based organizations and completed 12 quick impact projects (in 7 programme districts) that brought together marginalized groups. Building on this, in 2017, SCDP promoted social cohesion and community security in conflict 'hotspots' in 10 districts of Nepal through 27 Micro-Capital Grants (MCGs) given to various NGOs and CBOs. These MCG interventions targeted women, youth and marginalized communities; enhanced livelihood and income generation skills; increased access to services and accountability of public institutions; and strengthened effective risk identification and mitigation systems at the local level.
- ✓ Nearly 7,000 youths, women, marginalized groups, civil society members, government officials, political

leaders and journalists were involved in the promotion of social cohesion through 162 community level initiatives in 2016.

- ✓ In 2017, 40 social cohesion and community security promotion mechanisms were formed in 10 districts at the local levels, for risk identification and mitigation, which were directly involved in 82 initiatives engaging more than 3,000 people (48% women).
- ✓ 168 cultural and sports initiatives were conducted, engaging mostly youth (more than 1,000 volunteers), which reached out to 41,824 people to promote social cohesion.
- ✓ Central-level political leaders reached a 12-point common minimum understanding for formulation and implementation of inclusive and gender sensitive land policies.
- ✓ SCDP contributed towards creating a peaceful environment and the timely conduction of three tiers of elections in Nepal, in 2017, through a range of activities, including an electoral dialogue with political and youth leaders and election management bodies to identify and mitigate the risk of electoral violence. 1,704 political leaders, civil society actors, and government officials were directly engaged in the electoral violence prevention initiative where 36% were women.
- ✓ SCDP brought together divided communities through collective income generation activities. 794 people (71% women) were engaged through 39 groups for joint income generation activities such as fish/vegetable/poultry farming, skills based embroidery training, and sculpting training.
- ✓ Access to service delivery was increased through the formation of eight information centres and 22 RTI networks. These centres and networks engaged in 265 initiatives directly benefiting more than 32,500 people (43% women) who were able to access government services such as citizenship certificates, birth certificates, marriage certificates and voter IDs.
- ✓ Youth engagement and volunteerism was promoted through the formation of 14 youth volunteer groups which carried out more than 58 initiatives engaging more than 6,000 people (44% women). Flood- affected communities directly benefitted from youth response during the floods in Banke, Bardiya and Sunsari.

**Project duration** 2016 – 2018

### Peace and Security highlight: Women and Youth

#### Women, Peace and Security highlight

- Implementing the National Action Plan on WPS: Nepal was the first country in South Asia and the second in Asia to launch a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 & 1820 in February 2011. Since then, the focus of N-Peace's work has been on implementing this plan.
- Developing Women's Leadership for Collective Advocacy for Inclusive Peace and Security in Nepal: Women leaders were given skills training to mobilize people and resources for advocacy of women's inclusion in peace and security. More than 25 emerging women leaders from communities were trained.
- Small grants mechanism: UNDP continued to support the key grassroots peacebuilding initiatives through this grant mechanism. This has helped to promote the culture of working together in collaboration amongst different CBOs and NGOs to identify the common themes to address. This also includes small grants through N-Peace.
- Youth social cohesion initiatives: Nearly 4,000 youths and excluded groups involved in the promotion of social cohesion through 81 community level initiatives.

Latest conflict analysis was conducted in 2017 (this is SCDP specific). The broader context analysis was done in 2013.

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# Pakistan



## Overview

More than a decade of armed violence, underpinned by radicalization, militancy, and extremism, defines the emerging development context for Pakistan. Recent estimates state that between 2003 and 2017, more than 21,000 civilians lost their lives to terrorist violence. Thousands more have been injured and displaced. Since 2014, Pakistan has expanded the scope of military operations from the volatile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to target militant groups operating in the urban areas of the country. In this shifting scenario, Karachi, Balochistan, FATA, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have seen considerable violence and militancy, followed by kinetic and intelligence-based military operations in these regions.

While the immediate impacts of these developments are evident in the exponential loss of lives and human displacement, as well as damage to property and infrastructure, the more insidious effects are apparent in the breakdown of law and order and diminishing access to formal institutions of justice. Lack of access to justice has been identified as both a cause and effect of increasing violent extremism in Pakistan. These developments are taking place in the context of an unprecedented increase in the population of Pakistani youth. It is estimated that young people between the ages of 15 to 29 years form almost 31% of the country's population. A large segment of this demographic is uneducated or unskilled which makes them inadequately equipped for employment in the formal sector. From 2012 to 2013, the country's unemployment rate was recorded at 6.24% with youth unemployment at 10.5%.



**3.058** GPI SCORE

Country rank **152** out of **163**

### Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society & Security



Domestic & Int. Conflict

## UNDP Country Office Programmes

### 1. Youth Empowerment Programme

#### Background

The existing conflict scenario of Pakistan is marked by religious, sectarian, and ethnic strife. While militant attacks and kinetic engagement with the state remains the most visible form of violence, violent narratives and rhetoric are equally pervasive in terms of giving ground to extremist actors in the country. The Government of Pakistan acknowledges that a robust national narrative on extremism, sectarianism, terrorism and militancy is the corner stone of an ideological response to non-traditional threats. Building

on this and recognizing both material and ideological root causes of violent extremism in Pakistan, UNDP works with the government, civil society and private sector in foregrounding youth as leaders and change makers to promote inclusive development and prevent violent extremism.

## Strategy

UNDP aims to contribute to an enabling environment for sustaining peace in Pakistan by providing policy advice and technical assistance to the relevant government bodies in terms of understanding and addressing the drivers of violent extremism while at the same time offering alternative pathways for youth in “at risk” situations. This implies conceptualizing the ‘youth bulge’ not as a challenge or problem to be overcome but as a demographic dividend that can be instrumental in ensuring a positive and progressive future for Pakistan. In this context, the UNDP’s strategy is in line with the Government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025 document which calls for ‘a rapid scaling-up of investments in education, health and social development, generating jobs and prospects for the youth bulge, harnessing the rising power of a socially aware population, gender equality and women’s development, inclusion of vulnerable segments, interfaith harmony and religious diversity, promotion of art, culture and heritage, raising sporting standards, and moving towards a knowledge-based, ethical and values driven society’<sup>1</sup>:

### A. Youth Engagement for policy formulation and implementation

This component aims at promoting dialogue between power actors (the Government of Pakistan, media, academia, and CSOs) and youth to promote informed decision making on PVE related issues in Pakistan. Furthermore, the dialogues also create space for including critical inputs from vulnerable groups that are disproportionately affected by violence and conflict in Pakistan including women and youth. The Youth Empowerment Programme is also providing technical support to the Government of Pakistan in developing a comprehensive and preventive response to violent extremism in Pakistan that is in line with international best practices.

### B. Youth engagement in communities, educational institutions, and technical and vocational training institutes

UNDP is engaging vulnerable youth in some of the most deprived and conflict affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi. The project carries out interventions aimed at directing youth away from violence and conflict through sports events, debate competitions, cultural festivals, and street theatre performances that deliver messages of peace, tolerance and inclusiveness in areas prone to violent extremism. Acknowledging the multi-layered pathways that contribute to violent extremism in Pakistan, UNDP is strategically targeting students from universities/colleges, technical and vocational training institutes, and religious seminaries through tailor made interventions to promote values of peace, tolerance, and inclusiveness at the grassroots level.

### C. Economic Empowerment

UNDP helps youth in target areas to address the material factors behind violent extremism by finding pathways to economic inclusion and empowerment. This includes private sector led, demand-driven skill development of youth and job placement in local, national, and international markets. UNDP also supports young micro-entrepreneurs to develop basic business management skills and links them with business incubation services that provide them with mentoring, networking and financial resources.

1 Pakistan 2025: One Nation- One Vision (Executive Summary) published by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (source: <http://pc.gov.pk/uploads/vision2025/Vision-2025-Executive-Summary.pdf>).

## Key Achievements

- ✓ Organized four strategic dialogues between power actors (government, media, CSOs) and youth, including women, to promote open and informed debate on PVE in Pakistan.
- ✓ Produced high-quality research and data analysis to institutionalize informed decision-making on development and peacebuilding.
- ✓ Organized 1,038 men and 1,190 women in 30 Women's Community Organizations and 29 Men's Community Organizations which oversaw the identification and completion of 27 infrastructure support schemes in 14 villages of Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- ✓ Provided skills training to 9,981 youth which resulted in job placements for 6,852 youth.
- ✓ Organized sports competitions, cultural festivals, and street theatre performances which engaged more than 101,023 people as participants and spectators. These were aimed at promoting social cohesion in target areas.
- ✓ 8 Value Chains comprising more than 32 small and medium enterprises were provided with business management advice and guidance under the Suppliers Development Programme.

## 2. FATA Transition and Recovery Programme

### Background

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) remain one of the most insular and underdeveloped regions of Pakistan. The region's marginalisation from Pakistan's wider governance, economic, and administrative systems has seen the region lag behind. Since 2008, increased militancy has resulted in the displacement of 300,000 families from their homes and communities. The FATA Transition and Recovery Programme (FTRP) was launched in May 2015 to support the FATA Secretariat in the implementation of the Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy (2015-2016). The strategy has five pillars: Governance and Reforms, Rule of Law, Livelihoods and Economic Development, Access to Basic Services, and Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding.

### Strategy

The Programme contributes to the return and rehabilitation of the displaced people, fostering progressive stabilization and eventually supporting sustainable development in FATA. UNDP follows a rights-based, conflict- and gender-sensitive approach, with a focus on the active participation of women and youth.

UNDP provides technical support to the Government of Pakistan's efforts to mainstream the FATA region and ensure that fundamental human rights enshrined in the international law and the constitution of Pakistan are extended to the citizens of FATA. Communities remain at the core of the UNDP strategy and social cohesion and peacebuilding activities are integrated across the programme's outputs. Immediate recovery focus is on livelihoods and job creation, infrastructure rehabilitation and improved access to social services, particularly education through schools' rehabilitation and community engagement for increased school enrolment and involvement in monitoring education services.

### Key Achievements

- ✓ Established more than 600 community organizations in four FATA Agencies and trained their members to develop recovery plans, and help in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives

- ✓ Provided different capacity building and development training activities to 5,000 people (35% women) mainly in leadership, conflict resolution, livelihoods, and community management
- ✓ Engaged 8,000 men and women to build their capacities and equip them with skills to access national markets through apprenticeship programmes, business support grants, and job opportunities
- ✓ Provided targeted technical assistance to the federal institutions to operationalize a plan for FATA reforms as well as supported the drafting of the Local Government and Election rules bills
- ✓ 700 schools have been targeted for rehabilitation and parent-teacher committees have been established to ensure community involvement in the provision of quality education.

### 3. Strengthening Rule of Law Programme (SRLP)

#### Background

The justice system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is marred by the lack of forensic evidence and modern policing techniques; inadequate processes, guidelines and standard operating procedures and; poor cooperation between the police and prosecution. The SRLP was initially developed in response to the Post Crisis Needs Assessment (PCNA) to address the rule of law and governance vacuum in Malakand created by a militant insurgency. Since then, the programme has evolved over its 5-year cycle, extending its geographic reach, deepening program interventions and building on achieved results.

#### Strategy

The programme aims to strengthen the rule of law and increase quality justice service delivery at the local, district, and provincial levels. Using a sector wide approach, the programme works closely with the Judiciary, Police, Prosecution, Bar Associations, CBOs, women's groups and community stakeholders. The overarching outcome of the SRLP is achieved through its four key intervention areas:

#### A. Increasing Access to Free Legal Aid

UNDP supports the institutionalization of the legal aid desks by the KP Provincial Bar Council. This development is key to enable poor and marginalized segments of the population to access free legal aid.

#### B. Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

The programme established the first-ever paralegal course at a local university. Support to Dispute Resolution Councils is also being provided. A course on conflict resolution and peacebuilding was developed and added to the formal curriculum of the University of Peshawar.

#### C. Improving Access to Formal Justice

Under judicial output the programme is working on strengthening and capacity building of KP Judicial Academy, including judges and courts staff.

#### D. Promoting Community Oriented Policing

SRLP is supporting police by fostering trust and cooperation between the police and community through the establishment of Model Police Stations (MPS) with dedicated gender responsive desks, community policing forums and publicly agreed annual district policing plans.

## Key achievements

- ✓ Enhanced police services by creating community and women-friendly environment at newly established 18 Model Police Stations (MPS) in KP province. This has led to establishment of 37 community policing forums. 476 women-related cases were reported at gender desks of MPSs in 2016. 470 women police officers out of 641 received training under the programme
- ✓ Improved access to alternative justice and legal services by establishing a network of 200 paralegals (46.5% women) through a certificate course at the University of Malakand. The network delivered awareness sessions that benefited 1,092 community members, including 21 per cent women. During consultations, paralegals referred 286 individuals to concerned public service providers. The paralegal referred 36 community members to legal aid desks and provided mediation in 145 cases.
- ✓ Enabled 7,563 indigenous community members (48% women) to access free legal aid through raising legal awareness of 56,514 people.
- ✓ The programme provided 14 scholarships to female students, and training to 49 women lawyers promoting pro bono legal aid rules.

### Youth, Peace & Security

- Youth and peacebuilding project: UNDP Country Office is currently designing and piloting a project on youth and peace. A workshop on Youth, Peace & Security was held for International Youth Day in 2017.
- Skills training: under the Youth Programme, UNDP provided skills training to 7,300 youth which resulted in job placement of 4,300 youth in the garments industry.
- Social cohesion initiatives: UNDP organized sports competitions, cultural festivals, and street theatre performances which engaged more than 90,000 people as participants and spectators respectively. These helped in enhancing social cohesion in the target areas.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2015.

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# Papua New Guinea



## Overview

The Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) was signed in 2001, following nearly a decade of an armed conflict. Beginning as a subnational conflict between Bougainville and the national government, the conflict developed into a civil war between various factions within Bougainville itself. Social grievances, political infighting and disagreements about the use of revenues from the Panguna copper mine in Central Bougainville, and its environmental effects, were key triggers of the conflict.

The Peace Agreement provided a legal basis for the establishment of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). It also included provisions for weapons disposal, good governance arrangements, and a referendum on the political status of Bougainville. The referendum is expected to take place between 2015 and 2020. Some Bougainvilleans (e.g. Former Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) Commander Sam Kauona) feel that the BPA has inherent gaps and that not all the armed factions involved in the conflict signed the agreement.

Despite this, the peace process in Bougainville is widely recognized as a successful peacebuilding effort. There has not been a return to any significant violence since 2001. Yet the post-conflict environment remains fragile and poses a significant barrier to stability and development.

Structural inequalities, lack of investment in sustainable initiatives, the limited capacity of government systems to deliver basic social services, and elevated levels of violence meant that PNG did not achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The gender inequality faced by PNG denotes one of the country's core development challenges. Women are markedly under-represented in parliament and other leadership positions.



2.095 GPI SCORE

Country rank 97 out of 163

### Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society & Security



Domestic & Int. Conflict

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### PNG Peacebuilding Priority Plan

#### Background

The UN in Papua New Guinea works under the Delivering as One modality, and the UN Country Team had a four-year Strategic Plan for Bougainville for 2012-2016, which was extended to 2017. UNDP leads the UN programme in Autonomous Region of Bougainville, an approach based on a single Joint Annual

Work Plan for Bougainville, to ensure that its efforts remain focused on peacebuilding and reconciliation. The plan works towards Bougainvillean aspirations of longer-term socio-economic recovery, supporting reintegration, rehabilitation and trauma counselling for ex-combatants and others affected by the conflict.

In mid-2013, the UN Secretary-General declared PNG eligible for funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), to support priority activities with regards to peacebuilding in Bougainville. Subsequently, the UN and the ABG undertook an extensive and highly participatory peace and development analysis, on the basis of which a Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) was developed. The Peacebuilding Priority Plan was signed on 25th September 2014 with funding of USD 7.3 million. The PBF projects were programmed from 2015-2017 and have been granted a no-cost extension until April 2018. In addition, a costed PBF extension period is being submitted to continue from 2018-2022.

## Strategy

Papua New Guinea's PPP aims to progress three priority areas:

### A. **Strengthening partnership and political dialogue between GoPNG and ABG**

Relationship and trust between GoPNG and ABG are strengthened to contribute to the effective implementation of autonomy arrangements and of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA).

### B. **Support knowledge-building and understanding of the Bougainville Peace**

People of Bougainville are empowered to make informed choices at the Bougainville referendum and to have increased confidence in the BPA process, through access to more objective and accurate information and to fora for dialogue and debate on key peacebuilding issues, both within communities and with their political leaders.

### C. **Promoting security and social cohesion in Bougainville**

Community social cohesion and security in Bougainville is strengthened through opportunities to deal with conflict-related trauma effectively, and resolution of local disputes peacefully, as well as through better access to information to access appropriate post-conflict services/support.

## Equality for Progress: Bougainville Women in Leadership Programme

**Equality for Progress** contributes to the overall peacebuilding process in Bougainville by building and strengthening Bougainvillean capacities to promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflict, through enhancing women's participation in decision-making and leadership.

## Key achievements

- ✓ Supported the Joint Referendum Committee (JRC) and Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) meetings in May 2016 and December 2017. The December 2017 JSB also endorsed the UN Referendum Support Project Document and agreed to a payment of the long-disputed Restoration Development Grant as stipulated in the Bougainville Peace Agreement.
- ✓ The national Bipartisan committee visited the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in late 2016 and early 2017 for the first time in many years. This created the opportunity for joint dialogue with the Bougainville House of Representatives Referendum Committee.
- ✓ Capacity strengthening of the Bougainville House of Representatives, both in infrastructure and Parliamentarians career development, enhanced parliamentary decision-making on the BPA and the referendum, as well as strengthening Parliamentary outreach to constituencies.
- ✓ Establishment of the Office of Gender Equality within the Autonomous Bougainville Government as well as the 6th Parliamentary Committee on Gender Peace and Security in the Bougainville House of Representatives.

- ✓ Supporting the ABG's promulgation of the Local Level Government (LLG) Act which paved the way for 50% women's election and participation in local-level government decision-making thus strengthening governance at the grassroots level.
- ✓ Contributing significantly to the political processes that continue to keep the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA) on track, largely underscored by effective preparations for the Bougainville referendum. Key interventions culminated in the signing of the administrative agreements and arrangements in January 2017, by the national government and the ABG that will establish the Bougainville Referendum Commission (BRC) to conduct the Bougainville Referendum within the stipulated timeframe. The process has been given further impetus by the charter being cleared by the national Solicitor General of PNG that now paves the way for the Governor General to sign it off on, have it gazetted and funded. This has contributed to strengthening public confidence in the peace process.
- ✓ Supporting the Roreinang signing of a Declaration of Unification amongst former fighters in the Bougainville conflict and the ABG in Arawa, Bougainville on 17th May 2017, where all former belligerents committed to disposing of their weapons by December 2018.
- ✓ Signing of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNDP and the Autonomous Bougainville Government through its Parliament on 30th June 2017, which will support the Parliamentary 'Constituency Referendum Ready Process' (CRRP).
- ✓ The UNDP/UNW Equality for progress project built capacity of elected women representatives to the Bougainville House of Representatives (BHOR) through a number of trainings and country exchange visits.

## UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

The Peace and Development Advisor continues to support the above initiatives towards the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA), autonomy arrangements, referendum preparations and weapons disposal by the two governments, reaching joint decisions and actions. Below are some overarching areas of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan that the PDA is supporting:

**Peace Agreement implementation:** The PDA also supports the Weapons disposal drive of both governments ahead of the Bougainville referendum targeted for 15th June 2019. In 2017 there were three UN weapons disposal consultant deployments in support of the joint weapons disposal plan and strategy. Unification of former fighting factions considered crucial for peacebuilding continues to be given a high priority which resulted in a major unification ceremony in Arawa in May 2017 geared towards strengthening political engagement and dialogue. UNDP continues to support low cost mechanisms for memory healing through trauma counselling of youth and ex-combatants in North and South Bougainville.

**Referendum awareness:** The Bougainville Parliament is supported with capacity development for effective constituency outreach, especially in the BHOR 'Constituency Referendum Ready Process' which requires all 33 constituencies in the autonomous region to be referendum ready by December 2018.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in March 2014.

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# Solomon Islands



## Overview

Armed conflict in the Solomon Islands from 1998-2000 resulted in more than 20,000 deaths. While the Townsville Peace Agreement in 2000 and the arrival of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in 2003 led to a period of relative stability, the long-standing root causes of the conflict remain largely unaddressed.



Risks of political instability and potential PNG/Bougainville spill-over effects amplify concerns of underlying tensions within the country. National identity and social cohesion, including gender inclusivity, remains a serious challenge, compounded by vast distances between people in the provinces and the central government, limited infrastructure, connectivity and political participation. With RAMSI's complete withdrawal in mid-2017, gains achieved with support from the police-focused mission need to be cemented to realize greater cohesion and unity that are needed for the achievement of sustainable development for all, especially during this transition period. In late 2017, after a successful motion of no-confidence, the Solomon Islands parliament elected new Prime Minister Rick Hou, with previous Prime Minister Sogavare becoming his Deputy and the Minister of Finance. The next general elections will likely be held in early 2019.

The current transition period and the years to follow will test whether the significant investments in stabilization over more than a decade will serve as a solid foundation to consolidate peace and development over the longer term. Capitalizing on the improvements seen in law and order as well as the strong commitment of the present and previous governments to prioritize peace and stability, there is a window of opportunity to undertake concerted actions over a sustained period of years. There is a need for stronger ownership within the government and across society to drive the peacebuilding and reconciliation agenda, including conflict management and dispute resolution at the national and communal levels.

Following the period of "tensions", a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2008, with a series of recommendations produced in 2012. The TRC report was submitted to the Parliament, but its findings and recommendations were not discussed and have not been widely disseminated in the country. The Sogavare Government was committed to drafting a reparations framework, and much work has been done with UN support on moving this forward. A Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace (MNURP) was created by the 2000 Townsville peace agreement and a national peacebuilding policy was developed with UNDP's support and launched in 2015.

The government and other stakeholders in society remain eager to benefit from expert advice and support through dedicated peacebuilding programming sponsored by the UN Peacebuilding Fund to further build on gains achieved and accelerate progress. After the first UN peacebuilding programme was approved in 2016, at the previous PM's request, the Secretary-General in the fall of 2017 approved eligibility of Solomon Islands to access the larger PRF funding window of the Peacebuilding Fund. PBSO in December 2017 approved a second project (over 18 months, beginning in January 2018) with the objective to implement the outcomes and recommendations of recent national and provincial dialogues, as well as from the youth and women's summits.

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Supporting Peaceful and Inclusive Transition in Solomon Islands

#### Background

With the ongoing drawdown and planned departure of RAMSI in 2017, and the Solomon Islands Government's public commitment to the peace and reconciliation agenda in the country, in July 2016 the UN Peacebuilding Fund approved a US\$ 2.5 million funding allocation for 18 months to the country to support the peaceful transition and the Government's priorities at this critical juncture.

The empowerment of youth and women in the Solomon Islands is seen as a critical issue in peacebuilding and the development of the country. It has a large proportion of unemployed, marginalized youth who were heavily involved in the militias during the armed violence. Disengagement in community affairs and high levels of drop-outs in education result in a lack of opportunity and employment for youth, making empowerment a priority issue for sustainable peacebuilding in the country. Women in the Solomon Islands suffer from some of the highest rates of personal violence recorded globally. According to the 2009 Family Health and Safety Survey, two-thirds of the women in the Solomon Islands suffer from physical or sexual abuse. In spite of this situation, there is ample evidence that the women of Solomon Islands have played a critical role in advocating for the restoration of peace and stability, both during and after the tensions.

#### Strategy

The project is implemented through UNDP and UN Women and focuses on spear-heading and supporting dialogue initiatives at the community, provincial and national level, as well as on empowering women and youth to be agents of reconciliation and social cohesion. The project has two main outcomes:

- 1. Inclusive space established for dialogue and reconciliation, and national capacity strengthened for implementation of peace policy**

This outcome centred on enhancing national capacity to implement selected recommendations from the National Peace Policy (NPP) and the National Development Strategy (NDS). The project contributes UN expertise and neutrality to help progress the implementation of the policies effectively and in a timely manner in areas where the UN brings added value. The project supports efforts to unify and amplify women's voice and support by facilitating enhanced dialogue between women groups and the national leadership through Women's Forum.

- 2. Youth engaged in the peace process with society and leadership**

Outcome 2 is focused on ensuring that youth are engaged in peacebuilding with society and leadership at different levels. 'Marginalized' youth will be identified and engaged with the leadership to seek solutions to barriers they face and chart a way forward to become engaged for a positive influence on peace consolidation efforts. Engagement of young women will be prioritized. Significantly more is known about the situation of women and children in Solomon Islands than that of youth. Particular interest lies in surveying and mapping more marginalized youth with expansion into marginalized areas.

## Key achievements

Over the last year, the project has:

1. Enabled more than 500 tribal leaders, youth and women from Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces to participate in dialogue with Government on key national issues. These dialogues have led to consensus between central government, provincial governments and community representatives on addressing some of the key issues regarding development, social cohesion and centre-periphery inequality. Some early results from this consensus are:
  - ✓ In Malaita and Guadalcanal, leaders and community representatives formulated a resolution outlining policy actions on land reform, rural development in conflict communities and youth and women participation which were discussed immediately by the provincial leaders and will be monitored by a task force.
  - ✓ In Malaita, two communities from the Kwaio Malaita Province have agreed to reconcile with the Government and between the hostile communities over ethnic tension as well as with the people of the Weather Coast. On May 8, 2017 an internal reconciliation occurred as a result of the initial consultations/ dialogue made late last year.
  - ✓ In Guadalcanal, the dialogue also led to the local government initiative to launch a gender strategy with commitment to budget it at the provincial level.
  - ✓ In Western Province, the dialogue focused on border security (with Bougainville/PNG) and governance issues. The Western provincial government has started to work on increasing women's participation in the provincial council and addressing security issues with communities in the border areas with the establishment of border monitoring and dialogue forum for communities.
2. A National Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and Stability, hosted by the previous Prime Minister, was a culmination of dialogues held in the hot-spot provinces of Guadalcanal, Malaita, Western. Additionally, a Women's Summit, as well as a Youth Summit, was also convened. Critically timed just prior to RAMSI's departure, this dialogue responds to public interest in having discussions on critical issues that need addressing if sustainable peace and unity are to be achieved post RAMSI.
  - ✓ The meeting gathered participants from the preceding dialogues, including Premiers from the four critical provinces, key Ministers, Members of Parliament from both sides of the aisle, women and youth leaders, including from the provinces, private sector, religious groups and academia.
  - ✓ The event was a resounding success, broadcast live nationally, and reached even the remotest communities. All key national topics were covered in passionate interactive discussions, from reparations to law and order and security, constitutional and governance reform, land reform, natural resources management, to women and youth empowerment. Many cited this as the most open and lively exchange of ideas on how to sustain peace, the Solomon Islands ever conducted, with all contributing, from the PM and opposition, all the way to women from the hardly-accessible Weather Coast who lamented on the lack of services for a population still traumatized.
  - ✓ The event was entirely conducted and participated by Solomon Islanders, with the UN team, including a UN mediation advisor from the DPA standby team, in a supporting role. Development partners, including DFAT, participated as keenly interested observers. For the Solomon Islands, a country with endemic political instability, the dialogue was a rare occasion to build consensus and promote bi-partisan approaches.

- ✓ A final communique adopted through a participatory process with strong technical support from the UN team, commits all key national stakeholders to cooperate on issues such as a reparations framework, decentralization, land reform, women and youth political participation, and security. This is a useful tool to guide follow up actions on many of the outstanding issues emanating from the ethnic tensions as also identified in the TRC report of 2012.
- 3. The National dialogue led to continuing work on a national reparations strategy, which was to have led to reparations and rehabilitation legislation. However, due to the change in Government in late 2017, it is not yet clear when these issues will be progressed further.
- 4. Another important forum supported by the project was the National Women’s Summit, which brought women from across the country together to build consensus on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP), and engage in dialogue with national leaders. Launched in 2017, the NAP provides a roadmap to guide progress towards key national and international commitments, including efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- 5. Support to youth forums also resulted in the finalisation of the National Youth Policy launched in 2017 during the youth day celebrations by the Ministry for Women and Youth.
- 6. The project also carried out a training programme for 300 youth from “hot spot” areas in Malaita and Guadalcanal to help them become peace advocates and improve their long term economic prospects.

### Peace & Security highlight: Women and Youth

- National Women’s Summit: This summit brought women from across the country together to build consensus on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP), and engage in dialogue with national leaders. Launched in 2017, the NAP provides a roadmap to guide progress towards key national and international commitments, including efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Support to youth forums: Resulted in the finalisation of the National Youth Policy to be launched this year during the youth day celebrations by the Ministry for Women and Youth.
- National dialogue with Government: UNDP enabled more than 500 tribal leaders, youth and women from Guadalcanal, Malaita and the Western provinces to participate in dialogues with the Government on key national issues.

**Programme duration** 1 July 2016 – 31 December 2017

**Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2003.**

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# Sri Lanka



## Overview

After more than 25 years, the armed conflict in Sri Lanka ended in May 2009. With a population of about 20 million, Sri Lanka's major ethnic groups are the Sinhalese and Tamils. The violence killed tens of thousands and damaged the economy of one of South Asia's potentially most prosperous societies. There was widespread concern about the fate of civilians caught up in the conflict zone during the final stages of the conflict, the confinement of nearly 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to camps for months afterwards, and allegations of grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law by both warring sides.

The previous Government approach focused on economic growth while failing to address the core grievances of the minorities and the root causes of the conflict, which include structural issues revolving around power sharing, discrimination, access to land, and militarization. The Government's approach of "limited and selective engagement" with the international community added to the political complexity, leaving little space for the UN to engage on issues of reconciliation and accountability. International concern expressed through the three Human Rights Council Resolutions (2012 to 2014), resulted in the government introducing ad hoc mechanisms to deal with issues of accountability, such as Commissions of Inquiry which lacked independence and credibility and failed to satisfy victims or meet international standards. The biggest challenge that still remains is the process of reconciliation and this has to come from within Sri Lanka, its people and its government.

However, following the Presidential elections in January 2015, the President and Prime Minister expressed strong political commitment to secure long term peace and reconciliation premised on principles of good governance, while strengthening democratic institutions, ending impunity and inequality. Similarly, the Sri Lanka government reaffirmed its commitment to work with the international community and the United Nations by co-sponsoring the UN Human Rights Council Resolution (HRC Res 30/1) in 2015; followed by signing of the National Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) in August 2016.

In Sri Lanka, it is estimated that there are 90,000 female headed households, with approximately two-thirds in the conflict affected areas of the country, and approximately 12,800 military widows in the South. These women, including wives and mothers of the disappeared, often face severe economic hardships due to being forced into the role of primary income earner with limited skills and lack of access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. They are also often affected by psychosocial problems linked to the lack of closure on cases of disappearance resulting in their inability to move on. Former female combatants similarly face socio-economic challenges and challenges related to re-integration and stigmatization from their communities.



2.019 GPI SCORE

Country rank 80 out of 163

Combined Major Factors



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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Implementing the Peacebuilding Priority Plan

#### Background

The 2015 political transition in Sri Lanka provided an opportunity for the UN to strengthen its engagement, and emphasis has been on the need to quickly address core grievances of minorities to serve as a confidence building measure. The Secretary-General committed the Peacebuilding Fund support to Sri Lanka, while renewed UN engagement led by the UN Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team and in close consultation with the Department of Political Affairs, OHCHR, UNDP and PBSO prepared a Concept Note to guide and inform the process of developing quick-win projects. Subsequently, The PBF extended a total of USD 12.5 million that comprised of USD 5.5 million from the Immediate Response Facility (IRF) followed by USD 7 million from the Peace and Recovery Facility (PRF), towards the launch of the PPP. The PBF contribution amounts towards 15.5% of the total funds needed to fully implement the PPP in Sri Lanka.

#### Strategy

The Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) supports the Government of Sri Lanka to implement its reconciliation and accountability/transitional justice commitments to its people as part of its peacebuilding agenda. The 3-year comprehensive plan builds on the Government's ongoing political reforms and the Human Rights Council Resolution of September 2016. The United Nations has been tasked to play a key role in developing and coordinating the implementation of the plan that will also serve as a key tool for coordinating development partners' support to peacebuilding. Since the launch of the PPP in 2016, the operationalisation of the same has been focused on its four Pillars:

- 1. Transitional Justice**
- 2. Reconciliation**
- 3. Good Governance**
- 4. Resettlement and Durable Solutions**

#### Key Achievements

Enabled the government to test models for peacebuilding, including through inter-cultural events in 8 provinces to promote cross-cultural awareness amongst children and a pilot dialogue initiative in partnership with the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) civil society in 3 target districts, through which 24 frontline government officers were capacitated to take forward dialogues with local communities. UNDP carried out independent reviews of key activities carried out by ONUR, including the dialogue initiative with a view to documenting lessons learned. These reviews generated critical feedback and learning that will prove invaluable in the design and implementation of all future initiatives on dialogue for reconciliation, particularly those carried out in collaboration with the GoSL. Continuing dialogue initiatives are in turn vital to improving trust and interaction between communities as well as their relationship with the State. UNDP will necessarily build on entry points, platforms and results secured through these initiatives, towards defining the components of Sri Lanka's infrastructures for reconciliation, including dialogue and early warning models for conflict prevention, under the PBF-PRF Reconciliation Project.

- ✓ Supported the Ministry of Social Integration and Official Languages to develop a publication titled People of Sri Lanka to document, for the first time, the key facts relating to 19 ethnic communities in Sri Lanka with a view to creating a greater understanding of the country's diverse population.

- ✓ A pool of over 300 bilingual and trilingual resource persons, (a third of whom are women) with standardized credentials to provide essential translation/interpretation/typing services to the public, was created, culminating in the online resource centre, [www.bashawa.lk](http://www.bashawa.lk)).
- ✓ Supported the RCO and OHCHR with the placement of the Strategic Consultants Group in support of furthering the commitments made by the Government of Sri Lanka to strengthen accountability and reconciliation.
- ✓ UNDP entered into partnership with the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA), and the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation (MNIR) to promote M&E for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. Three national workshops were held for 35 government and CSO personnel. Sessions also included the exchange of experiences from South Africa.
- ✓ UNDP facilitated a WHO-led programme that commissioned a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, community social workers, drama therapists and psychosocial research personnel to develop 10 modules on strategically empowering communities to respond to community psychosocial needs. This innovative programme named 'Manohari' was piloted in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi with the participation of community leaders and community mental health professionals with support from the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS). An evaluation of the programme pointed to both significant community acceptance as well as scope for upscaling. The Mental Health Information Management System developed under the project, mapped existing mental health access points, including community outreach centres, into a digital platform using GIS. This will enable rational distribution of resources and services. Correlating the data against other decisive factors such as road access and population density also assisted in identifying ways to improve service delivery.
- ✓ Support provided to the Northern and Eastern Provinces enabled the relevant departments and offices to carry out a participatory planning process and strengthen the capacity of staff to consider the needs of the people most affected by the conflict. This, in turn, contributes to a process of effective and unbiased delivery of services, one of the key drivers of peace.

**Programme duration** 2016 – 2018

## UNDP and DPA Joint Programme

The Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) is supporting the UN to advance the dialogue on reconciliation and peacebuilding by ensuring a coherent and coordinated strategy cutting across agencies, funds and programmes, while facilitating links between the UN country team and UNHQs. With the growing complexity of the political transition and the potential of a political reversal, the PDA provides political advice to the Resident Coordinator, UN Country Team, DPA, OHCHR, UNDP and PBSO to progress sustainable peace. The PDA's analysis has been informed by evidence generated through the peacebuilding surveys, which has helped position the UN as a knowledge leader while informing policies and programmes of government, donors and the UN Country Team.

## Key Achievements

- ✓ Provided technical leadership for the review of the Sri Lankan Peacebuilding Priority Plan, including
  - i. managing the Peacebuilding Board and setting up an oversight structure to monitor the peacebuilding projects;
  - ii. Developing the monitoring framework for the PPP and ensuring baseline and year one milestones are recorded;
  - iii. Undertaking cutting edge evidence generation and programming such as the military survey on transitional justice, and survey to understand issues of violence and extremism.

- ✓ Mobilisation of donor funds for transitional justice and related areas under the Peacebuilding Priority Plan, in close collaboration with the UNCT and PBSO.
- ✓ Undertook the annual nationwide peacebuilding perceptions in 2017 to track conflict triggers and create an evidence-based approach to the work of the UN in support of peacebuilding, in particular in moving forward national efforts on reconciliation and transitional justice. The peacebuilding survey is an annual exercise, and the results of the 2017 survey provided much-needed insight into monitoring of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan and informing the government's communication strategy on reconciliation and transitional justice. The findings of the survey have been shared with the top political leadership, donors and key ministers to inform policies and programmes.
- ✓ Led and managed the dialogue with the EU to undertake provincial level conflict assessments for the North, East, South and North Central Province to inform the ICAP \$12m peacebuilding programme. Concurrently, engaged with the World Bank on the Fragility, Conflict and Violence assessment for Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Managed and negotiated sensitive political dialogues with the top hierarchy of the government, political stakeholders and civil society to create entry points for progressing reconciliation and peacebuilding. For example, the military survey to assess the perspectives of the armed forces on reconciliation and TJ.
- ✓ Provided technical assistance to lead on the DPA sustaining peace project to scale up the peacebuilding surveys to three countries in the region including Nepal, Solomon Islands and Myanmar.
- ✓ Supported the Government to maintain the Strategic Consultants Group (SCG) to provide high-level technical advice on transitional justice. The SCG is annexed to the Secretariat Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms and Ministry of Finance and Mass Media, and includes three long-term international consultants, supported by national support staff. To date, the SCG has provided guidance on the design of the four proposed transitional justice mechanisms including the Office on Missing Persons, Truth Commission, Reparations Programme and developing the communications strategy for transitional justice.
- ✓ Strengthened the capacity of the leading election monitoring NGO to undertake real-time mapping and analysis of election related violence and violations through the use of GIS technology for local government elections.

### Peace & Security highlight: Women and Youth

- Peacebuilding Perceptions Survey: PDA conducts an annual survey tracking the perceptions of women and youth towards violence and peace
- N-Peace network: The regional women's peacebuilding network was reinstated in Sri Lanka in 2016

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2017.

### Contact person(s)

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# Thailand



## Overview

The southernmost region of Thailand has been affected by conflict since 2004, with an estimated 6,500 deaths since then. Despite ongoing efforts by various actors to resolve it, violence and insecurity continues to be a part of everyday life for those living in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla. While men are predominant among the victims, women and children are also vulnerable: more than 3,000 women have become widows since 2004, finding themselves sole breadwinners despite fewer skills, lesser means, and more responsibility.

Despite its emergence as an upper middle-income country in 2011, development in Thailand has failed to address the drivers of conflict which pits an ethnic minority seeking autonomy against a highly-centralised Thai state. The continual episodes of violence are jeopardising safety, security, and development for people living in the area. Local residents, both Buddhist minority and Muslim majority, in addition to becoming direct victims of attacks, are indirectly beleaguered by the impact of violence, and have to contend with fears, personal and community insecurity, disrupted education, economic hardship, particularly for women and youth and those with disabilities, distrust and tension in communities, inaccessibility of government services and justice.

Successive Governments have made attempts at opening negotiations with the insurgents and mechanisms have been launched or enforced by the Royal Thai Government.

One of the most prominent of these is the establishment of the Southern Border Provinces Peace Dialogue in 2014. This dialogue is comprised of three levels (1) policy level, the Steering Committee for Peace Dialogue, chaired by the Prime Minister; (2) a peace dialogue delegation, headed by an individual appointed by the Prime Minister; and (3) at the local level, an interagency coordination working group, headed by the commander of the 4th Army Region. The dialogue is setup by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) in three phases: confidence building, an agreement, and a roadmap for its implementation.

In addition to the above-mentioned mechanism, the Office of the National Security Council recently launched the Southern Border Provinces Administration and Development Policy 2017-2019 as a framework for all relevant agencies to use in tackling problems in the deep south. The policy maintains His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's royal advice to "understand, reach out, and develop" as the central strategy to tackle unrest in the southern border provinces, together with the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy as a path to well-balanced and sustainable development.



**2.286 GPI SCORE**

Country rank **120** out of **163**

Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society & Security



Domestic & Int. Conflict

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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation (STEP) Project

#### Background

In 2010, in a bid to address the wide range of challenges facing the southern border provinces, UNDP launched its STEP project. Its overall aim was to contribute to social cohesion and prevent an escalation in the violence through a two-pronged approach that empowered community and civil society networks, while also strengthening the capacities of relevant government agencies. The project was formulated and developed through consultations with various actors in 2008.

#### Strategy

Between 2010 and 2012, STEP Phase I saw UNDP Thailand develop the capacities of a range of stakeholders – from government agencies through to community-based organizations, creating common spaces for peace dialogue and increasing access to dispute resolution mechanisms. It also began improving livelihoods of conflict-affected communities through the Local Business Initiative, launched with Prince of Songkla University.

The STEP II Project combines both conflict-prevention elements and peace-building activities in all deliverables, and provides the opportunity for a large number of stakeholders, both government and non-government, to come together with the aim of finding common solutions to achieve social cohesion in the southern border provinces.

1. Participation in peace processes are broadened through the strengthened capacity of local peace networks and through better access to information
  - Working with the existing peacebuilding networks and other stakeholders.
  - Working with women's cross-cultural support groups that support women's efforts to strengthen their potential role as peace-builders.
  - Creating a common space for regular meetings of the peace platforms and use experts to provide analytical inputs to the peace platform in order to implement the plan.
  - Creating an inclusive and supportive platform environment to enable women to represent and be represented.
  - Building the capacity of local peace networks.
  - Supporting activities that build transferable knowledge and skills of the peace network.
  - Increasing civic awareness among all ethnic groups and age groups through the media.
  - Supporting conflict-sensitive journalism through the citizen reporter initiative.
2. Vulnerable groups are empowered to access justice with the support of key institutions and networks
  - Studying the effectiveness of existing alternative dispute resolutions, legal mechanisms and the provision of legal assistance.
  - Considering options for implementing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
  - Developing the capacity of community and religious leaders (after assessing viability) to provide gender-sensitive alternative dispute resolution services.
  - Making available a full range of legal assistance to vulnerable groups of people through specifically designed gender-sensitive training modules.
  - Identifying experienced volunteers to produce guidance and develop approaches to share their experiences with the legal system in local dialects

3. Local communities become resilient, with a strong social cohesion, through livelihood improvement
  - Supporting conflict-affected people, including women, youth, and people with disabilities, for sustainable livelihood improvement through small grants programme.
  - Providing local community groups with technical training, vocational training, including other appropriate skills, based on an assessment of needs and market demands.

## Key Achievements

From 2016-2017, the key goals that have been achieved included:

1. Inclusive participation of all peace networks in the peace process
  - Development of local media for broadened communication on peace in the Deep South through various activities to promote three components of knowledge (i.e. peace process, Melayu language, and communication).
  - Promotion and dissemination of alternative media to enhance communication networks and encourage access to information by extending more accessible spaces for information sharing about the Deep South vis-à-vis discourse on the existing peace process.
  - Establishment of Academic Learning Centers on Community Peace in three provinces (Safety Net: Kampong Damai) which aims to open political, democratic, and safe space for people to participate in peacebuilding in potential communities in the three southernmost provinces—Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat.
  - Building the capacity of local leaders to exercise a firm command on positive peace components, i.e. justice, equality, and autonomy, with the expectation that local leaders will recognize the importance of participating in the peace-building process and feel empowered to do so.
  - Conducted trainings and workshops under the auspices of various organizations on the peace process for local communities and expanding peace networks.
  - Promotion of Insider Peacebuilders' Platform (IPP), which for years has been a platform for civil society to meet on a regular basis and discuss peace and conflict in the Deep South to develop a joint roadmap to settle the conflict. IPP also encourages all parties to establish a safety zone for the fragile peace through close collaboration with academic institutions and civil society organizations in the region.
2. Accessible legal services and protection for vulnerable groups
  - Descriptive research on alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) was conducted by the College of Islamic Studies (CIS), which aims to study dispute-resolution methods exercised in communities in the three southernmost provinces.
  - Empowering and providing legal assistance to former and current prisoners and their families through various activities, for instance (1) Family/House Visits: More than 50 families of conflict-affected persons, including families of former prisoners, families of current prisoners, families of suspects, families of persons who lost their lives in the conflict, and families of authorities affected by the conflict, to provide them with the knowledge of the justice system and legal service, (2) Capacity Building Activities: Prisoners charged with an offense under the National Security Act in five prisons in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, Songkhla, and Na Thawi district of Songkhla were provided with knowledge and skills regarding justice, human rights, the legal system, and other necessary information. More than 150 prisoners learned about the justice system and their rights to access justice and legal aid, (3) Inter-family Meetings: Common space was set as a platform for prisoners' families to learn and share experiences. Legal services were also provided to family members. There were 30 men and 56 women who joined the Inter-family Meetings, and (4) Workshops were organised for local people, NGOs, and relevant

local authorities to discuss and analyse the problematic issues of the justice process and to empower those affected by the National Security Act to access justice and know how and where to exercise their rights.

- 1,443 women and 2,022 men representing legal aid organisations, religious organisations and communities, in 250 sub-districts in 33 districts in three southern border provinces, were trained on legal awareness and access to justice to increase access to effective dispute resolution mechanisms.
3. Empowerment of local communities and vulnerable groups of people for social cohesion and sustainable livelihood development.
- A small grants programme has improved the livelihood of local communities including women and vulnerable groups in the three Southernmost provinces.
  - In 2017, thirteen community groups from Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, have been supported. The group members have received skills-trainings to run a project to improve their livelihood base on their needs and social capital within their communities.

**Project duration** STEP Phase II: 2015 – 2017

## UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

### Research Agenda Sessions

Over the past two years, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, with the support of a Peace and Development Advisor (PDA), conducted a number of dialogue sessions which were aimed to create a firm understanding of the Thai politics and the reform and reconciliation infrastructure among the international community.

The dialogue sessions engaged over 34 external experts, both Thai and international, of whom 60% were women. The series received positive feedback from the international community and highlighted the role the UN can play in supporting Thai efforts in transitioning to democracy in a way that respects fundamental freedoms and human rights.

### Deep South Contact Group

The Peace and Development Advisor also works with Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to organise a series of consultative sessions under an informal group of experts and activities on the issue of the Deep South. The objective of the informal group is to bring together external experts working on the Deep South to share their insights regarding the conflict, exchange ideas on how to positively transform the conflict, and explore possible entry points for various actors.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2015

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# The Maldives



## Overview

With a total population of 440,000, and estimated per capita GDP of USD 9,707.4 (2017), the Maldives remains one of the richest countries in South Asia. Composed of 26 atolls, which are made up of more than 1,000 coral islands, the country faces a serious challenge posed by climate change and rising sea levels, coupled with political and socio-economic challenges such as continued turbulence in domestic politics and the trend of authoritarian rule threatening the nascent democratic tradition of the country, the rise of violent extremism, and marginalization of women and youth in societal processes.

The turbulence that characterized the political landscape of Maldives in 2016 continued throughout 2017. With the results of the May 2017 local council elections as an early sign of a deepening divide in the country around two power poles, political tensions further intensified in the summer of 2017. The joint block opposing the incumbent government led by President Abdulla Yameen was an alliance formed on the basis of a union of two former presidents – Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), and Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), with smaller swing parties, like the Jumhooree (JP) and the Adhaalath (AP), currently supporting the opposition.

The unexpected consolidation of the opposition forces and the struggle for power that ensued between the two camps led to the intensification of politically-motivated persecution of dissent. The consequent narrowing of civic space and escalating crackdown on civil liberties and free media continued to affect all spheres of life in the Maldives.

Religious radicalisation and the rapid growth of conservatism continue to threaten political and social stability in the country. An estimated 50-200 Maldivians have reportedly travelled to Iraq and Syria to join the ranks of the Islamic State (IS). Young people are disproportionately affected by limited access to social and economic opportunities, as well as limited or inadequate employment options. These tensions, particularly the spread of conservatism and radicalisation, impinge on societal norms, in particular on women's participation in public and political life, with the proportion of women engaged in political decision-making remaining low, especially in elected offices, as compared to other countries in the region.



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## UNDP Country Office Programmes

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### Integrated Governance Programme (IGP)

#### Background

Given the complex political situation in the Maldives, conflict prevention work is often integrated into most development interventions. UNDP's flagship Integrated Governance Programme (IGP), phase II, developed by the country office together with national partners in 2016, seeks to directly respond to the need for a more resilient and peaceful society.

#### Strategy

The second phase of IGP focuses on two key areas, which are increasing citizens' voice and participation for stronger governance systems and enhancing access to justice and promotion of human rights. Although there are no separate conflict prevention activities, the components on dialogue, consensus building, and cohesion are well mainstreamed in activities within the programme.

Programme activities are designed to strengthen engagement between state and the citizens to ensure the voices of the underserved communities are considered and there is meaningful participation in political processes for a strengthened governance system. Our key focus was on working directly with the excluded and marginalised groups in the outer atolls, shifting from our earlier strategy on institutional capacity building in phase I of the governance programme. Key tools used include providing safe spaces for young people to engage in dialogue through various forms of art, leadership trainings, innovation challenges as well as community engagement programmes for the whole island. Additionally, given the low participation of girls and women in the public sphere, the programme also focuses on increasing their representation and working towards gender empowerment. Various leadership trainings for political parties, women's wings, as well as aspiring female leaders, have been one of the objectives of the programme.

Below are the details of the tools used under the governance programme to increase youth engagement and women's empowerment, as well as work towards an inclusive and participatory democratic process.

#### Key Achievements

- ✓ Youth have been engaged in several leadership programmes to expand knowledge and capacity on democratic principles and functions of parliament, issues such as gender equality, conflict resolution, human rights, extremism and intolerance; youth leadership programme and youth social innovation camps are key platforms to engage young people on developmental discourse.
- ✓ The first regional Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) was held in 2017. Targeting the northern atolls of Maldives, this regional programme provided an opportunity for promising young Maldivians to engage in civic education and leadership training. The main goal was to build capacities through awareness, education, environmental conservation. The programme fosters the passion and vision of youth to actively participate in social issues at the community level. YLP has the largest youth alumni in the Maldives.
- ✓ The Social Innovation Camp – Miyaheli focused on innovators from the four northern atolls of the country. Innovation camp provides a platform for young people to address social issues from their communities with the support of mentors during the camp. Winning ideas receive seed funding to prototype the idea and to develop their ideas into innovative products that address social issues in their respective communities.

- ✓ A new initiative was launched in 2017 to engage youth in dialogue using filmmaking. 'Film for Change' is a 2-week training programme aimed to empower young people to explore social issues through the medium of film. These short films were inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 5, SDG 10 and SDG 12. The films aim to provide a new platform for community discussion on key local issues and ways forward. It will be continued in 2018 with themes across elections ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for September 2018.
- ✓ Community Champions promoted community engagement as an overarching theme and aimed to empower local actors to become responsible citizens and agents of change. In this regard, the programme focused on creating a strong sense of community and building leadership skills among key members of a community. As a product of the programme an asset inventory focusing on the island is developed by the participants to be utilized for community development efforts. This was conducted in three islands from H.Dh Atoll in 2017.
- ✓ To increase women's voices, UNDP facilitated leadership training for all political party women's wings, where women leaders had the opportunity to share their challenges and experiences. Ahead of the local council elections of 2017, female leaders from the northern four atolls were given leadership training. Best practices from other countries are used to expand the discourse on gender equality in an Islamic society. Additionally, UNDP supported the Government in their efforts towards gender parity through the development of a Gender Equality Policy and the Gender Equality Action Plan in 2017.
- ✓ Sports for girls – 'Vaane camp' - Project 'Vaane' is a five-day leadership program that uses sports as a tool to empower women to engage in community development. 'Vaane' is also a transformative space for these girls to build skills and develop professionally. The first pilot was conducted in 2017 targeting girls between 17–19 years old.

**Project duration** IGP second phase: 2016-2020

## UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

The Joint Programme has been operational in the Maldives since 2009. Since then the country has had 4 Peace and Development Advisors, who covered various governance-related projects, providing support to promoting trust and confidence in political institutions, encouraging and facilitating national dialogue efforts, and supporting the empowerment of women and youth.

The current PDA arrived in August 2017 amidst a politically-turbulent period in the country which protracted until the end of the year and beyond. The PDA is working closely with the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York in the attempt to support a political dialogue between the ruling party and the joint opposition block in order to overcome the ongoing political stalemate. Support to UN agencies, primarily UNDP, has provided for conflict sensitivity programming, and promoting social cohesion through civic education campaigns aiming at the increased participation of women in public life, awareness raising for first time voters, and increased awareness to prevent the spread of violent extremism.

## Key achievements

Some key achievements of the PDA include:

- ✓ **National P/CVE consultations**, organized and facilitated by the PDA in collaboration with the National Counterterrorism Committee (NCTC) and the Islamic University of Maldives, was the first forum of its kind bringing together the moderate religious leaders, representatives of NCTC, academia, civil society, youth and women activists, in an open and constructive conversation on the best ways to approach and tackle the issue of rising radicalisation and extremism in the Maldives. The ideas and alternative

messages emanating from this conversation will form the basis for a public roundtable discussion on the issue, aiming at igniting a well-informed public discourse on this sensitive matter. The initiative of holding the informal consultations and a consequent public roundtable was very well received and supported by both main interlocutors – NCTC and IUM – as a timely and necessary effort, in line with the National P/CVE Strategy of Maldives.

- ✓ **Civic education campaign on Women’s role in public life and Awareness raising initiatives for first- time voters** were designed and funded through the catalytic funds project under the Joint Programme, to be implemented in collaboration with relevant national stakeholders in the course of 2018, aiming, inter alia, at improved capacity of these stakeholders to undertake similar initiatives independently in the future.
- ✓ **Analysis:** Regular political analysis and groundwork with political stakeholders led to DPA’s active engagement to advance a dialogue process, although due to internal political struggles and external geopolitical influence the process had its setbacks and is yet to result in the parties’ constructive engagement in talks.

Latest conflict analysis was carried out in 2016 and finalized in January 2017.

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# The Philippines



## Overview

The Philippines is home to some of the world's longest-running internal armed conflicts, with the communist insurgency and the contemporary Bangsamoro struggle for self-determination persisting for almost fifty years. Various studies, including the Philippine Human Development Report of 2005, point to social inequity and injustice as the roots of conflicts in the country, which stem from several factors such as historical and ideological grievances, loss of access to land and tenure rights, economic exclusion, poor governance and inadequate delivery of basic services, and the marginalization of minorities from the political and socio-economic mainstream.

Since the 1970s, there have been repeated efforts to bring peace and spur development in the areas affected by protracted armed conflict through the various peace processes between the Government of the Philippines and the different rebel groups, i.e. the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the communist New People's Army.

There is renewed optimism between the Government and the MILF that the implementation of the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro can be achieved in 2018 with the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law to establish an autonomous homeland for the Moro people. Concerted efforts are being made in the Senate in the House of Representatives to find a consensus, and the Moro leadership is more united than in 2015 when the last attempt to pass the law had failed.

Notwithstanding the cancellation of the peace talks between the Communist rebels and the Government of the Philippines in 2017, Norwegian facilitation up to this point has laid the ground for further discussions on key subjects like comprehensive social and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and for the ending of hostilities between the parties.



**2.555** GPI SCORE

Country rank **138** out of **163**

### Combined Major Factors



Militarisation



Society  
& Security



Domestic &  
Int. Conflict

## UNDP Country Office Programmes

### 1. Support to the Operationalization of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro / Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC)

The Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC) was launched in April 2013 by agreement with the MILF and the Government. The Government and the MILF have currently extended the role of the facility till end-2018.

FASTRAC is governed by a Consultative Committee comprised of representatives of the Government and the MILF, the UN and the World Bank. The Facility is implemented jointly by the UNDP and the World Bank, with funding support from UNDP, the World Bank and bilateral partners that include Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. To date, FASTRAC has provided approximately USD 7 million in technical assistance since its inception.

#### Indicative achievements:

- ✓ Since its creation in April 2013, the Facility has provided technical advice on key issues in the transition to the Bangsamoro such as governance, economic development, public administration, justice, combatant transition and security.
- ✓ FASTRAC has provided support for the drafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL); and outreach and communications on the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro and the BBL.
- ✓ Effective technical assistance has been provided for joint transitional bodies such as the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, the Joint Normalization Committee, as well as for independent bodies jointly created by the parties such as the Independent Commission on Policing and the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission.
- ✓ Five local governments in the Bangsamoro area have been successfully supported to address their respective community security challenges.

**Project duration** 2017-2019

### 2. Creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (Peacebuilding Fund)

Building on the achievements of the first PBF-funded project from 2014 to 2016, this new inter-UN agency initiative, launched in July 2017, seeks to address two critical challenges to the achievement of lasting peace in Mindanao: Achieving convergence on a shared vision for governance in the Bangsamoro autonomous entity among all segments of the Moro leadership; and engaging women, youth, and religious leaders in addressing factors driving violent extremism in Muslim Mindanao.

The project, being implemented in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Advisor to the Peace Process, UN Women, and UNICEF, will aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- a. Enabling environment for the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro established.
- b. Factors driving alienation, radicalization, and violent extremism identified, and capacities to address them developed and implemented.

In September 2017, the project supported the Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy to organize the first ever SE Asia-wide summit of governments and civil society on the issue of the prevention of violent extremism as a part of the wider celebration of ASEAN's 50th anniversary. In the first quarter of 2017, the project has assisted a group of legal, technical, and political experts and intermediaries to accompany and quietly support the hearing and negotiations in the Congress on the issue of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in an effort to create convergence around a BBL that is compliant with the CAB and meets the expectations of all concerned parties.

#### Indicative achievements from PBF project 2014-2016:

- ✓ A network of individuals and leaders from religious, civic, media and private sector called the “Friends of Peace” were organized under the Project to conduct public advocacy, and dialogues with stakeholders with many actors involved in the peace process, and continue to be active in 2018.
- ✓ 8 roundtable discussions on peace, autonomy and federalism were held and facilitated in the Philippine Congress to extend technical inputs for legislators and government decision makers, and similar engagements have continued since then as the Constitutional Committee has been appointed and launched between 2017 and 2018.
- ✓ Capacity-building for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—based on experiences of armed groups in El Salvador, South Africa, Aceh, and Colombia—in effecting its political transition to a civilian entity.

**Project duration** 2016 – 2017

### 3. SUPPORT PEACE – Bangsamoro

This project commenced in February 2016 and concluded in mid-2017. With funding support from the European Union amounting to € 1.2 million, this project has contributed to:

- (1) The provision of operational support to the Third Party Monitoring Team (a civilian entity) in the monitoring of the implementation of the CAB, thus contributing to transparency and confidence-building for the peace process;
- (2) Capacity building for local leaders, especially the various factions of the Moro National Liberation Fund, and other stakeholders relative to public administration and parliamentary processes; and
- (3) strengthening the role of youth and women in peacebuilding.

#### Indicative achievements:

- ✓ Smooth operations of the Third-Party Monitoring Team with a total of 5 monitoring sessions successfully conducted.
- ✓ Five initial roundtable discussions on a federal system, including a parliamentary form of governance in a federal set-up, for key actors in the Bangsamoro area.
- ✓ Development and application of capacities for community-level development planning for eleven local governments; these local governments are situated in MILF communities, and part of the purpose was to build better relations between them and the local MILF leadership, and to involve the latter more concretely in development planning.
- ✓ Training in mediation, negotiation, and “culture of peace” for sons and daughters of the leaders of the MILF and the MNLF; young combatants; leaders of indigenous groups; and young leaders of non-

native (or settler) residents of Central Mindanao. The objective was to build social cohesion in core Bangsamoro areas through greater dialogue and joint problem-solving among key actors.

- ✓ Capacity development for women leaders in implementing the National Action Plan for Women Peace and Security, including through leadership development and peer-to-peer learning.
- ✓ Launch of women’s “peace tables” to serve as platforms for dialogue among women with regard to their participation in the transition process, and once a new Bangsamoro government is in place.

**Project duration** February 2016 – August 2017

#### 4. Strengthening the National Peace Infrastructure (SNPI)

The SNPI project worked with the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in moving forward “closure agreements” between the government and armed groups. SNPI also supported the localization of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, which is the main planning instrument of the government in implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on ensuring women’s participation in peace processes and their protection from sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

##### Indicative achievements:

- ✓ Development of operational plans by relevant government agencies and departments for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security;
- ✓ Mainstreaming of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security into the development plans and programmes of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordillera Administrative Region, with 41 out of 47 of the targeted local government units fully oriented on the action plan, and six regional agencies having successfully integrated women, peace, and security programming into their annual plans and budgets;
- ✓ Successful transformation of the two Cordillera-based armed groups into socio-economic organizations, i.e. the Cordillera Forum for Peace and Development and Kapatiran, respectively;
- ✓ Successful integration of Cordillera Peoples’ Liberation Army combatants into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

**Project duration** 2017 – 2018

#### 5. Peace, Reconciliation, and Empowerment Initiatives in the Bangsamoro (PRIME Bangsamoro)

With funding support of AUD 3.5 million from the Australian Government through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this Project aims to contribute towards efforts to sustain the gains for peace and development in the Bangsamoro.

Particular focus is given to multi-stakeholder dialogue and increased participation in the peace process, especially in the context of the work of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, as well to achieving wider Moro convergence around the parameters of governance in Bangsamoro. The Project also supports capacity-building for sustaining the transformation of the MILF as well as that of the MNLF into civilian entities.

In the first initiative of its kind in the Philippines, the project has supported a significant “track two” effort in the form of an “insider mediators” group that has brought together senior advisors to key Moro leaders to facilitate intra-Moro convergence and to also work together to ensure the passage of the new law in Congress.

### Indicative achievements:

- ✓ Establishment and capacitation of a high-level “insider mediators” group. During the siege of Marawi in May-July 2017, members of the group applied their skills towards engaging the leaders of militant groups in Marawi to obtain the release of civilians under the auspices of the Crisis Management Committee of the province of Lanao del Sur as well as the joint GPH-MILF Humanitarian Corridor.
- ✓ Support for the work of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission, including hearings with stakeholders and constituents between April-June 2017, as well as technical assistance for the finalization of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law submitted by the Commission to the President in July 2017.

### UNDP/DPA Joint Programme

During 2016-2017, the Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, deployed with the support of the Joint Programme, facilitated the formation of, and capacity development for, the “Insider Mediators’ Group.” He also accompanied their efforts to develop political convergence among the Moro leadership on issues related to the Bangsamoro Basic Law, and to engage with the challenge of the prevention of violent extremism, including during and in the aftermath of the siege of Marawi from May-July 2017. From June to December 2017, he assisted the Governments of the provinces of Lanao del Sur as well as Marawi city, and the Office of the Presidential Advisor to the Peace Process, to integrate the prevention of violent extremism and peacebuilding into their recovery plans for Marawi. The Senior Advisor also continues to provide support to the peace process in the Bangsamoro.

The Advisor worked with UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF to develop a new proposal to the peacebuilding fund for support with a focus on a more inclusive process of peacebuilding in Mindanao, and especially on the participation of youth, women, and indigenous persons, and on the engagement of all sectors of Moro society in combating violent extremism. The proposal was approved and funds allocated by November 2017. Implementation is now proceeding apace.

### Key achievements

- ✓ Consensus among Moro leadership reached on the new legislation for Bangsamoro partly as a result of the efforts of the “insider mediators” group.
- ✓ UNDP-Philippines strategy and framework for engagement with the issue of prevention of violent extremism developed, and resources mobilized.
- ✓ Proposal developed with UN partners for funding from PBF for greater participation of youth and women in peacebuilding in Muslim Mindanao and in combatting violent extremism. Funding approved by PBF.

## Peace & Security highlight: The role of insider mediators and other track-two efforts

- Convergence around Bangsamoro Basic Law: Members of the “insider mediators” group, and especially those who were themselves members of the BTC, helped achieve convergence around a new BBL that was submitted to the President in August 2017.
- Relief and rescue during the Marawi siege: Insider mediators supported civilian and hostage rescue efforts by the GPH-MILF Joint Humanitarian Corridor and the Crisis Management Committee of the Province of Lanao del Sur during the course of the Marawi crisis. At least 250 trapped civilians were rescued.
- Inter-faith harmony: With the assistance of the Friends of Peace, led by Cardinal Quevedo of Cotabato, and UNDP support, a number of civic and faith-based organizations maintained inter-religious harmony despite the crowding of displaced Muslims into the neighboring Christian-dominated cities during the Marawi siege, and in spite of efforts by the Maute Group to inflame religious tensions.

Latest conflict analysis was conducted in August 2017 in Mindanao, and focused on the issue of violent extremism.

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# Timor-Leste



## Overview

In 2006, tensions between the national police and the armed forces of Timor-Leste resulted in open conflict between the two institutions, a breakdown of law and order and the displacement of more than 150,000 people. Political and security efforts to resolve conflict and bring stability continued and despite attacks on both the President and the Prime Minister in 2008, the country gradually recovered from the crisis.

Timor-Leste has made notable progress in its recovery from the crisis of 2006. The country has demonstrated a degree of stability and the absence of violence following the departure of the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the International Stabilization Force, which ended their mandates at the end of 2012. Progress has been guided by the successful implementation of the country's National Recovery Strategy and advanced by the country's Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030). Progress has also been reinforced by Timor-Leste's strong commitment, confidence and political will—embodied by the country's recent, outgoing role as Chair of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and g7+— to lead and take ownership of the country's peace and development. The UN and EU continue to play a key role in providing support to the government to further strengthen national capacities in these and other areas.

In 2012, Presidential and Parliamentary elections were held peacefully and fairly and the last UN peacekeeping mission since the 1999 referendum drew down at the end of 2012, taking Timor-Leste off the agenda of the UN Security Council. In 2016 the country has successfully organized local suco elections, followed by peaceful presidential elections in 2017. Building upon these achievements, there is now a solid opportunity for the country and development partners to take a long-term view to addressing structural issues and other causal factors to ensure that peace and development are sustained.



1.866 GPI SCORE

Country rank 53 out of 163

### Combined Major Factors



## UNDP Country Office Programmes

### 1. g7+ Support Programme

#### Background

The g7+ is a voluntary group of fragile countries that was established in 2010 to give a voice to conflict-affected states on the international stage. The group, currently comprised of 20 countries, advocates for changes to the way international partners engage in conflict-affected environments, and also acts as a

platform for sharing and learning between countries. The group is the first of its kind and has started to gain real traction internationally, including through frequent engagements with bilateral donors, the United Nations and the World Bank Group at the highest levels, and a growing programme of reform within g7+ countries.

The first major international agreement between the g7+ and international partners is the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, signed at the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness at Busan, South Korea in 2011. The 'New Deal' sets out wide ranging reforms to aid delivery in fragile contexts, including a new set of Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals. The g7+ international secretariat is based in Dili, Timor-Leste.

### Indicative achievements:

The Timor-Leste Country Office has contributed to the strengthening of the g7+ Secretariat by facilitating two full-time staff positions and providing advisory support. Additionally, the CO supports the implementation of the 'New Deal' in Timor-Leste at the national level. This has been within the following areas:

- ✓ **Research study on SDG readiness:** UNDP Timor-Leste completed a research study on SDG implementation entitled: 'Implementation Readiness Report: Drawing lessons learned from the MDGs for the SDGs in fragile states'. This research study was conducted at the request of the Prime Minister's Office and served as input into the High-Level Conference on SDGs in Fragile States in May 2017.
- ✓ **Technical advisory support to the Prime Minister's Office:** At the request of the PMO, UNDP Timor-Leste supported the Chief Technical Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ms. Fatima Elsheikh to provide advisory services related to the SDGs and New Deal implementation.
- ✓ **Support to the High-Level Conference on SDGs in Fragile States:** UNDP Timor-Leste was requested by the Government to support the development of a National Roadmap for Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030. The roadmap highlighted some of the possible accelerators or decelerators of development in Timor-Leste and other fragile states.

The Timor-Leste government along with the G7+ carried out the Fragility Assessment for Timor-Leste in 2015, which was published in June 2017.

## 2. Early Warning & Early Response

### Background

Under the EU-UN Programme on 'Insider Mediation', the overall aim of this programme (2015-2018) is to strengthen the country's existing conflict prevention and crisis management capacity by enhancing the civil-society led Early Warning & Early Response (EWER) mechanism. Currently, the community-based EWER mechanism monitors incidents and situation changes at the sub-district level and aims to strengthen networks that can respond to incidents at the local level.

Through the development of new customized tools, capacity development activities and ongoing technical support, the EWER system will be strengthened to include greater analysis on macro-level political, economic and social developments that can potentially drive conflict risk at the local and national level. The initiative also aims to strengthen EWER's preventive capacities. As such, the system will evolve into a robust basis for dialogue on public policy strategies and priorities and will include relevant national counterparts, including government authorities, to identify opportunities for preventive action.

## Strategy

UNDP is supporting the improvement of the EWER system in the following three ways:

1. A capacity development analysis that will serve as an inception report that identifies current gaps and strengths in the EWER system (conducted by the PDA working closely with the EU Delegation conjointly with Belun and the EWER network and consultations with national government counterparts).
2. In-house capacity development support to address weaknesses including:
  - a) staff support within Belun to facilitate full knowledge transfer within the EWER network and to and from national institutions
  - b) direct mentoring by the UN's Peace and Development Advisor and Junior Professional Officer to strengthen local capacity, ensure knowledge transfer from trainings (see below) and the inclusion of relevant international experiences in supporting capacity development in conflict and fragile contexts.
3. Three EWER system-wide trainings for national NGOs, think-tanks, universities, the expert community and relevant government counterparts (Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of the Interior) led by the UN in close consultation with the EU Delegation to enhance the current system as well as to strengthen linkages between the research and expert communities and national institutions more broadly. The trainings will be based on the needs identified in the capacity development analysis, but indicatively include:
  - a) Causal analysis with a focus on macro/micro level developments and their impact on conflict dynamics and vice versa;
  - b) Economic dimensions of conflict analysis; and
  - c) Scenario-building with a focus on using different social, demographic and economic factors.

## Key achievements (during the second implementation year)

- ✓ Design and roll-out of a new tablet-based data collection system and online open sources data portal to facilitate more rapid data dissemination on conflict incidents and trends. Since the launch of the new tablet-based system, 18 EWER situational reviews were produced and disseminated more rapidly (within 1-2 weeks after the end of the previous month). Website database: atres.belun.tl was launched in February 2017.
- ✓ NGO Belun's institutional capacity to manage the EWER system strengthened and entry-points for sustainability of the EWER system identified. A strategy plan for EWER to become sustainable in the next 5-years developed; stakeholder mapping and strategy conducted; capacity building training provided to Belun staff to strengthen their results management, improve analytical skills, and improve collaboration for in-depth analysis.
- ✓ Improved analytical framework of EWER system to include data collection on GBV and election related violence, improved methods for data verification and indicators to identify areas for preventive action.
- ✓ Collaboration strengthened with governmental and non-governmental conflict prevention stakeholders. Belun has been invited to present EWER data on various occasions to police force (PNTL) and the Office of the Prime Minister in the run-up to the 2017 elections.
- ✓ Capacity strengthened to monitor election related incidents. Belun's new data collection system has been improved to include indicators on election related incidents.
- ✓ Strengthened capacities for Early Response through advocacy and outreach on addressing conflict

dynamics and trends. Belun published monthly reports on violent incidents that include targeted policy recommendations to a variety of stakeholders.

**Project duration** 2015 – 2018

### 3. Timor-Leste Resilience and Social Cohesion Project

UNDP is supporting social cohesion and conflict prevention through its “Timor-Leste Resilience and Social Cohesion Project” in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS). The project’s main objective is to support the government of Timor-Leste to consolidate its capacities to institutionalize conflict prevention at the national and community levels. Since the 2006 crisis, UNDP has been supporting post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding efforts in Timor-Leste. Building on its successful experiences in facilitating the reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through mediation and community dialogue post-crisis, the MSS established in 2010 the Department of Peace Building and Social Cohesion (DPBSC) and requested UNDP support. This project builds on this strong partnership with MSS and will strengthen the institutional capacity of DPBSC staff to analyze the root causes of social conflict as well as design more conflict sensitive protection programs and policies. This project works with MSS and other Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) stakeholders to institutionalize conflict sensitive approaches to program planning and policy that strengthen social cohesion and ensure effective conflict prevention in Timor-Leste.

#### Key achievements

- ✓ In 2014, the project successfully deployed 8 focal points, 4 female and 4 male candidates that are in the 8 Municipalities to strengthen government coordination and implementation of peacebuilding and social protection programs for the Ministries that promote social cohesion.
- ✓ The project conducted four trainings on conflict resolution to local leaders such as village council members, and representatives of youth and women groups. These trainings were conducted in Manatuto, Oecussi, Covalima and Bobonaro districts. About 240 community leaders participated in these trainings and 109 participants (45%) were female.
- ✓ To measure the change and impact on the improvement of knowledge on mediation and dialogue, facilitation of community leaders, DPBSC trainers conducted a test before and after each training. The results of these tests show that more than 80% of community leaders had improved knowledge on mediation and dialogue facilitation after receiving the training.
- ✓ Small grants delivered to 4 NGOs used to empower and increase the level of economic income for the youth and women’s group in order to increase greater participation of women to maintain social cohesion at the community level. These 4 NGO’s received USD 8,000 for the implementation of their activities from September 2015 to February 2016.
- ✓ The project conducted 9 community security meetings and Municipality coordination meetings in Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Lautem, Manatuto, Manufahi and Viqueque. These meetings were attended by Municipality administrators, PNTL, the military, Suco council members, and civil society organizations, including youth and women’s organizations. There were 568 participants, of which 240 were female. Key issues discussed during these meetings related to political conflict, land disputes, youth unemployment and domestic violence.

- ✓ 10 Forum Theatre sessions were held in the Municipalities. These events were attended by 678 participants, of which 307 participants were female. These performances aimed to raise awareness about conflict prevention and peacebuilding, especially in the areas of land disputes, domestic violence prevention, and economic difficulties and to serve as an innovative context-based mediation and dispute resolution approach.

**Project duration** 2014 – 2017

### Peace & Security highlight: Women and Youth

- In May 2017, the National Action Plan for Gender Based Violence was approved. This opens avenues for deeper engagement with Women Peace and Security issues in the coming years.
- Technical advice and support to the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth was provided focusing on integrating a conflict prevention approach in the joint UN agencies' proposal on youth development.
- Youth and innovation: A project proposal for innovation, with a component on youth engagement in decision-making aims to empower Suco youth representatives through specialized training and the establishment of an online community of practice as well as to facilitate dialogue between youth and Suco council members to create space for youth to be involved in local decision-making processes.

## UNDP and DPA Joint Programme

Since October 2015 there has been no PDA position in Timor-Leste. Since that time the focal-point for the Early Warning & Early Response project was a UNDP Junior Professional Officer. The JPO left this post in March 2017. A consultant has been covering the substantial duties of the JPO and a UNDP administration staff has been responsible for finance and administrative tasks involved in managing this grant.

No conflict analysis has been conducted in Timor-Leste.

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