



Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building
National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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Preventing conflict, sustaining peace

In 2017, the world continued to suffer from a high number of conflicts.¹ The number of people forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations is at a record high, with an estimated 20 new displacements every minute.² The United Nations-World Bank study ‘Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Prevention of Violent Conflict’ shows peace and development outcomes are intrinsically linked; some of the greatest risks of violence today stem from exclusion, marginalization and injustice, rooted in inequalities across groups.³ These risks are further compounded by factors such as exogenous economic shocks, climate change and increased competition for resources.

Recognizing the urgent need to address these complex challenges, 2017 saw an upsurge and renewed commitment by the international community to work across the system to support prevention efforts. UN Secretary-General António Guterres places utmost priority on conflict prevention and under his leadership the UN is working to consistently support Member States in their endeavor to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous nations, in line with their commitments to leave no one behind. This vision is reflected in the Secretary-General’s efforts to reform the UN system and outlined in the 2018 ‘Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report of the Secretary-General’.⁴

¹ The Institute for Economics and Peace, 2017, “Global Peace Index”.

² UNHCR, 19 June 2017, “Global Trends - Forced Displacement 2016”.

³ United Nations; World Bank, 2018, “Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict”. Washington, DC.

⁴ (A/72/707-S/2018/43), “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report of the Secretary-General”, 2018.

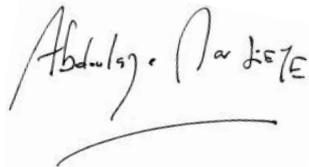
The Joint UN Development Programme (UNDP) - UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Programme for Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention is a widely recognized vehicle for advancing integrated action on conflict prevention. The Joint Programme is built on a premise that national actors take the lead in prevention efforts, and that success in prevention is a pre-condition for achieving sustainable development. A 2017 evaluation found that the Joint Programme is cutting edge in the field of conflict prevention and has successfully led ground-breaking interventions, such as support to establishment of national peace architectures and local mediators.

In 2017, support by the Joint Programme reached more than 60 countries. The deployment of 48 Peace and Development Advisors (PDA) to support Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams continues to be one of the most visible aspects of the Programme. Peace and Development Units have also been set up in nine countries. The Programme supported national partners in dialogue processes, the development of national infrastructures and mechanisms for peace, and other initiatives to build national capacities for conflict prevention. It responded to growing demand for support to joint conflict analysis, conflict sensitive programming, and strategic leadership on conflict prevention within UN Country Teams, as well as efforts to strengthen cross-pillar collaboration at the global and regional level.

Recognized as a key source of technical expertise, the PDAs showcased their ability to translate deep contextual understanding into concrete support for national partners in conflict prevention initiatives. PDAs enabled national actors, including women and youth, to engage in dialogue, mediation and political processes in countries such as El Salvador, Nigeria, the Philippines, Togo, and Ukraine. They supported local actors implementing policies and initiatives to prevent violent extremism in Bangladesh, Tajikistan, and Tunisia; and designed cross-border initiatives in the South Caucasus and the Great Lakes Region. PDAs also increasingly work with regional organizations such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

In 2017, the partnership between DPA, UNDP, the Peacebuilding Support Office, and Resident Coordinators and Country Teams continued to strengthen. Existing partnerships were strengthened with UN Member States and new partners contributing to the programme, who see it as a successful mechanism for promoting UN coherence to ensure a focus on prevention and sustaining peace. Co-financing from the Peacebuilding Fund, which supported 10 PDA positions, has been invaluable. The Programme has also been bolstered through the deployment of UN Volunteers and secondees from the Folke Bernadotte Academy. We are fully committed to further expanding our partnership in order to achieve greater whole-of-system coherence and broaden our impact on the ground.

We are now in the process of developing the next enhanced phase of the Joint Programme, building on the quality and the depth of our current activities. In this spirit of partnership, we will continue to draw on the momentum of prevention and sustaining peace to transform the lives of those we serve.



Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Assistant Secretary-General,



Miroslav Jenča
Assistant Secretary-General

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