

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



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Governance in post-crisis settings

An estimated 1.5 billion people, the majority of whom live in the world's least developed countries, are affected by conflict, violence or high levels of crime. Fragile states are often unable to include their populations in decision-making, enforce or protect their rights, distribute resources fairly and provide basic services, justice and security. This erodes the trust between the government and populations and weakens the social contract, an implicit agreement in which individuals relinquish some of their freedoms and consent to authority in exchange for services and security.

UNDP's approach

For those living in places affected by violent conflict, re-establishing a functioning government and basic services, as well as promoting inclusive political processes becomes critical for building confidence and trust in the State.

UNDP helps governments prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure that marginalized and excluded people, such as women, ex-combatants, those displaced by conflict, and young people have a voice in the recovery process.

UNDP's governance work in countries affected by crisis focuses on:

- **Supporting vital institutions.** UNDP works to ensure that governments restore their core functions and provide social services, safety and employment after a crisis. For the majority of the population, however, local governance is the most accessible form of contact with public authorities and is the starting point for obtaining recovery assistance. UNDP works closely with local authorities and civil society organizations to restore local governance functions.

- **Promoting inclusive political processes.** For a peaceful transition to democratic governance after a crisis, UNDP mentors and fosters political parties and community groups, helps reduce the potential for violence around elections and political transitions, and strengthens parliaments and national constitutions. This means ensuring that all sectors of society are equally and fairly represented in democratic processes in post-conflict environments.
- **Promoting peace-building and state-building.** Governance is essential to peacebuilding and state-building in fragile contexts. To this end, UNDP is a key implementer of the New Deal – a global strategy for country-led development planning, designed to help fragile countries build long-term peace and stability.



Women at a UNDP event in Sudan. Photo credit: UNDP Sudan

UNDP in action

Throughout 2012 and 2013, UNDP has supported the implementation of the **New Deal** in all **g7+** pilot countries, helping to develop national fragility assessments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, **Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Timor-Leste** and the development of a New Deal compact in **Somalia**.

In **Colombia**, in 2012, after several failed attempts in the past two decades, the government and FARC-EP guerrillas signed an agreement to negotiate an end to the country's 49-year conflict. UNDP support to these peace negotiations included helping civil society and the public to participate in forums and add their voices to the peace process. Through UNDP's help, victims' rights groups have also seen recent changes in a law that will result in more justice for victims and, in some cases, reparations for lost land or inflicted violence.

In **Libya**, UNDP supported women's participation in the first parliamentary elections in July 2012. UNDP trained women in campaign skills and contributed to a public awareness campaign to support women's political careers. As a result of this and other civic education measures, 1.3 million out of 2.8 million women registered to vote and 634 stood as candidates in the National Congress elections.

2012 was a landmark year in **Myanmar's** democratic transition after its April by-elections. UNDP, together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has been working in the country to assess how to help the National Assembly and sub-national parliaments, as well as support long-term peacebuilding.

After more than two decades of devastating conflict and a consistently fragile political environment, with UNDP assistance, **Somalia** established a working federal government in 2012. UNDP help resulted in the formation of a parliament, the passing of a new national Constitution, and the election of a speaker, deputies, and President for the Somali Republic. UNDP was central to ensuring that women, young people and minority organizations were included in the process of drafting the new Constitution. Today, 14 percent of the new parliament consists of women and, for the first time in the history of Somalia, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister are women.

In **Sri Lanka**, UNDP supported more than 75 community-based organizations, helping them engage with local authorities, better plan the delivery of basic services and monitor the quality of government assistance provided to people in conflict-affected areas.



A woman voter casts her vote at 2012 General National Congress Elections, Libya.
Photo credit: Samia Mahgoub / UNDP

The community-based forums have so far successfully advocated for half of all government departments to resume service delivery in conflict-affected districts, the rehabilitation of public buildings and schools, and the strengthening of government efforts to counter social problems. Sixty-six percent of these groups are now formally represented in government-led coordination meetings.

In late 2012 and early 2013, UNDP provided continuing support to **Tunisia's** Constituent Assembly which is debating a second draft of the Constitution. UNDP helped more than 3,000 citizens and representatives from civil society meet their elected representatives, debate, and provide inputs to the draft document.

The **Palestinian Authority** held local elections in late 2012, for the first time in more than five years. Before the elections, UNDP helped train young people, student political activists and women to stand for office. Twenty women ran in the local elections and three were elected.

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