

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



Joint UNDP-DPA Annual Report 2015

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FOREWORD

The capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflict and realize the ambition set out in its Charter to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" is under notable strain. Record numbers of refugees, protracted conflict and humanitarian crises from Svria to the Sahel, and the recurrence of conflict in other parts of the world, from the Caucasus to Central Africa, all point to the collective failure of the international community to prevent violent conflict in a proactive, inclusive and sustainable manner. The focus upon the UN's conflict prevention and peacebuilding architecture has only increased following the various Peace and Security Reviews undertaken in 2015 (High-Level Panel on Peace Operations. Peacebuilding Review and the Review of the Implementation of resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security). The Reviews placed renewed emphasis on the UN's peace and conflict prevention efforts more broadly, advocating for a system-wide approach to "sustaining peace". The Sustainable Development Goals offer a similar impetus, recognizing that peace and security are fundamental for sustainable development, and that sustainable development is critical for sustaining peace.

There is a growing need for the UN to enhance work across the pillars of peace and security, development, and human rights to advance conflict prevention. While more remains to be done, vehicles exist through which efforts can be strengthened. Since 2004, the partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) through our Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention has been instrumental in supporting the engagement of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) with national stakeholders to develop, accompany, and sustain nationally-led initiatives aimed at preventing and resolving conflict. In 2015, the demand for such support was higher than ever, with joint UNDP-DPA support provided to close to 50 countries, including through 40 Peace and Development Advisors - the highest number simultaneously deployed since the start of the Programme. In drawing on the expertise and resources of UNDP, DPA, the Peacebuilding Support Office as well as other UN entities, the partnership provides a platform for ensuring that UNCTs are able to operate in complex political environments and support national stakeholders in advancing prevention.

This report highlights the results that have been attained through joint, coordinated and early preventive action. From Bosnia and Herzegovina to Malawi, medium to long-term conflict prevention efforts have vielded concrete results. demonstrating that efforts to engage effectively with national stakeholders in addressing the root causes of conflict require sustained commitment. In Nigeria, the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme complemented preventive diplomacy efforts carried out by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel through supporting religious and traditional leaders in undertaking local-level critical early warning and conflict management activities that contributed to a peaceful election and democratic transition. In Sri Lanka, the PDA played a catalytic role in guiding the UN's engagement with the newly elected government to define immediate peacebuilding priorities and opportunities for reconciliation. Numerous other examples highlighted throughout the report demonstrate the significant potential of the UN's preventive engagements when common objectives are achieved through pooled, jointly managed resources. The partnership's capacities to adapt and flexibly respond to emerging needs at country level, while also enabling innovative approaches at regional level, serve as good practices for the broader UN system.

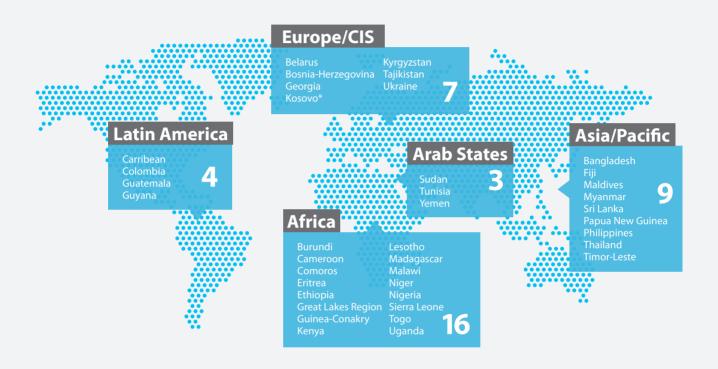
The Joint UNDP-DPA Programme continues to rely on generous voluntary contributions of Member States that prioritise investing in conflict prevention. However, there is an ongoing need to broaden the donor support base. Prevention has proved to be the most cost-effective way of sustaining peace. For that reason, UNDP and DPA remain committed to join our efforts to ensure a sustained and strategic investment in prevention. We are proud to herewith present the results achieved by our Joint Programme in 2015 and are keen to further expand the scope and impact of this partnership to contribute to the UN's work on conflict prevention.

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Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

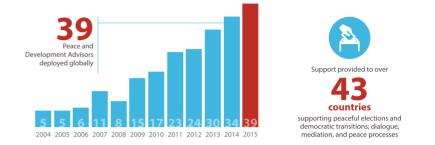
Miroslav Jenča

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs



* With reference to Security Council Resolution 1244

INTRODUCTION



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) have collaborated on the development and implementation of conflict prevention initiatives in the field through the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention (Joint UNDP-DPA Programme) since 2004. The programme provides catalytic seed funding and strategic guidance to joint conflict prevention initiatives undertaken together with, and in support of, UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

In 2015, the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme supported The data countries.

The 2015 reviews of UN Peace Operations and the Peacebuilding Architecture both highlight the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme as one of few examples of effective collaboration across the UN system on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and an effective vehicle through which the UN is able to engage with national stakeholders to prevent and resolve conflict.

The primary objective of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme is to build and consolidate national capacities and initiatives for conflict prevention in conflict-affected and fragile countries as well as those undergoing political instability or difficult transitions. Following on from this primary objective, there are a number of secondary objectives which guide the support provided by the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme, including:

 To enhance, strengthen, and support the application of national capacities, initiatives and mechanisms on issues related to dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution;

- To strengthen the capacity of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams to engage in, and understand, complex political situations, including through conflict-sensitive development programming;
- To enhance the effectiveness and impact of UNDP and DPA collaboration at country level on conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and related areas.

In 2015, the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme provided support to 43 countries through the UN Country Teams' conflict prevention programmes often led by UNDP, in many instances involving the deployment of Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs). PDAs provided technical and conflict analysis support to the UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams on politically sensitive issues. In many instances - including those highlighted in this report - this approach helped open entry points for conflict prevention initiatives and facilitating the integration of a conflict-sensitive perspective into development programming.

This year also provided the opportunity to formalize the growing collaboration with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) with the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme which is now embedded in the new programme document for 2015-2018. In recent years, PBSO through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has been cost-financing PDA positions, reaching up to one third of deployments in 2015. PBSO has been providing critical support informing the strategic direction of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme, much in line with the recommendations of the Peacebuilding Architecture review.

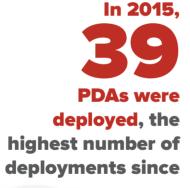
This report is structured around five output areas of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme, and provides a snapshot of the support provided through it in 2015.



OUTPUT 1

National and local capacities for conflict prevention developed and applied, and potentially violent tensions reduced, through multi-year support – including the deployment of PDAs – for UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams.

Peace and Development Advisors are the most visible and associated output of the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme, with the overall number of PDAs deployed globally reaching 39 in late 2015, the highest number of simultaneous deployments since the partnership was established in 2004. Most deployments remain country-focused. However, to maximise the use of resources, the Joint Programme is piloting new regional and sub-regional approaches with there a small number of PDAs deployed in 2015, each supporting more than one Country Team on cross-border and regional issues.



There is also a growing effort to build partnerships with entities such as those with the Folke Bernadotte Academy and United Nations Volunteers, to bolster the capacity of UN Country Teams. While the PDA role varies across country contexts, its primary functions is to undertake regular conflict and political analysis with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for strengthening the UN's support and contribution to national conflict prevention capacities.

Often, this involves engaging with governments as well as civil society partners to develop, sustain, and support national stakeholders' efforts to mediate, facil-

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