



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



## UNDP SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOAL 16**

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES, PROVIDE  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND  
INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS

United Nations Development Programme

# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



*This is a living document, which will be updated periodically.*  
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 For further information, please contact: [sdgsupport@undp.org](mailto:sdgsupport@undp.org)



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *A path towards global prosperity, human well-being and a healthy planet*

The world has achieved remarkable gains in human development over the past two decades. Extreme poverty has significantly reduced, access to primary education and health outcomes has improved, and substantial inroads have been made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals has contributed to this progress and enabled people across the world to improve their lives and future prospects. Yet, despite these significant gains, extreme poverty remains a key challenge, with more than 700 million people globally living on less than US\$ 1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day. Inequalities are either high or widening, especially within countries. Unemployment and vulnerable employment levels are high in many countries, particularly among youth. Unsustainable consumption and production are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits—undermining their ability to provide services vital to life, development, and their own regeneration. Shocks associated with macroeconomic instability, disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and socio-political unrest impact negatively on the lives of millions. In many cases, these shocks hold back, if not reverse, progress already achieved in meeting national and internally agreed development goals. Preserving the gains that have been made and addressing the current development challenges the world faces cannot be solved by tinkering at the margins.

There is an imperative today to foster sustainable development. A vision for what this encapsulates is laid out in the new sustainable development agenda that aims to end poverty by 2030 and promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment. As the UN's development arm, UNDP has a key role to play in supporting countries to make this vision a reality — putting societies on a sustainable development pathway, managing risk and enhancing resilience, and advancing prosperity and well-being.

Building on its core strengths — a large country network covering more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System, and proven ability in supporting efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion, and protect vital ecosystems — UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan 2014–2017, focused on making the next big breakthrough in development: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. While ambitious, this vision is within reach.

In line with this vision, UNDP has worked with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in developing a strategy for effective and coherent support in the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda under the acronym 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support). The Mainstreaming component of MAPS aims to generate awareness amongst all relevant actors and help governments land the agenda at national and local levels, and ultimately mainstream the agenda into their national plans, strategies and budgets. The Acceleration component focuses on helping governments accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, by providing tools that will help identify critical constraints to faster progress and focus on those development objectives relevant to the country context. The Policy Support component aims to provide coordinated and pooled policy support to countries working to meet their SDG targets. In this regard, UNDP offers an integrated package of policy support services that align with its programming priorities. These services, as outlined in this prospectus, cover a wide range of areas: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and productive employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, HIV and health, access to water and sanitation, climate change adaptation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, governance of oceans and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Well equipped with this integrated package of policy support services, UNDP stands ready to support country partners in effectively implementing the new development agenda and making long-term economic prosperity, human and environmental well-being a reality.



## PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS

### *Why does this matter?*

Whilst the world in general has become more prosperous and more peaceful in recent decades, inequalities are growing in many countries and there remain significant pockets of extreme poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. Lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs show that progress towards achieving the MDGs was often hampered by conflict, a lack of rule of law and weak institutions.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda took place against a complex and challenging global development context:

- New and protracted violent conflicts have remained a major development challenge, leading to over 60 million people being forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2014, the highest number since 1945.<sup>1</sup> The displacement of refugees and migrants poses particular challenges for institutions in delivering essential services, justice and transformative outcomes.
- Violence and violent deaths are not limited to conflict affected regions, and in fact about 90 percent of violent deaths in the world occur in non-conflict situations. In 2014, half a million persons were victims of intentional homicide.<sup>2</sup>
- Violent extremism is increasingly an issue of global, regional and national concern. There has been a rise in the number of powerful, non-state, armed groups possessing multiple agendas antithetical to peace and development and threatening the very existence of nation states.
- Varied forms of violence, a complex multi-dimensional set of drivers and an increasing number of non-state actors using new technologies and social media and with transnational connections, are changing the nature of violent conflicts.
- In many countries, whether autocracies, countries in transition or democracies, civic space is being constrained, and defenders of human rights and advocates for women's rights are being targeted both by state and non-state actors. In many countries, rule of law institutions appear too weak to fully ensure justice and public security, and there is rising disillusionment with the responsiveness and inclusiveness of other state institutions and processes.
- The largest generation of young people in history, totaling 1.8 billion people worldwide, is at risk of being marginalized and alienated if these youth are not given more opportunities to meaningfully participate in social, political and economic activities and decision-making.
- Inequality between women and men remains severe and highly visible in positions of power and decision-making. In most societies around the world, women hold only a minority of decision-making positions in public and private institutions. Advances over the past two decades are evident in all regions and in most countries, but progress has been slow.<sup>3</sup>
- Laws giving individuals a legal right to access information are now in place in over 100 countries globally. This right is a key part of the overall global trend towards more transparent and open government, including the protection of whistleblowers, open data and asset declarations. Most new adopters are in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.
- Institutions have become more accessible through devolution to local governments, but with higher expectations placed on them, including for service delivery and for defusing community tensions before these escalate into violence. Meanwhile, local budgets are an average of less than 5 percent in many developing countries. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa highlighted how the absence of strong institutions can allow an epidemic to proliferate rapidly.

Just as countries wrecked by conflict can slowly improve over time, stable and prosperous societies can just as rapidly unravel. As recent events have shown, fragility can affect any country or city, not just those traditionally considered fragile or conflict-affected. Locally confined tensions can easily become regionalized, complex and costly. The simple dichotomy between conflict and non-conflict countries is blurring, and challenges the

development community to rethink the traditional ‘humanitarian’, ‘peacebuilding’ and ‘development’ agendas, and to provide more integrated support.

Institutions formal and informal require specific attention, given their direct impact on the resilience of societies and communities. On the one hand, there are many more democratic countries in the world today — 123 out of 193 — compared to just 49 of the 158 states that existed in 1978.<sup>4</sup> On the other hand, national governments, even in functional democracies, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet the expectations of their societies. In many countries, north and south, the social contract — a dynamic and tacit agreement between states, people and communities on their mutual roles and responsibilities — is unravelling. Governments are also finding it difficult to deliver on their often unrealistic and politically opportunistic promises and to maintain people’s trust in state institutions. At the national and local levels, the presence of horizontal inequalities (economic, political, social and cultural) linked to a lack of identity and perceptions of injustice that can persist for generations, are important drivers of violence. The risk of violent contestation increases when some groups witness inequality across different dimensions (political exclusion; lack of access to assets, land, jobs and social services; and discrimination when it comes to culture, religion or language).<sup>5</sup> Hence, where social contracts are weak and exclusive, prolonged tensions may arise, resulting in further polarization and potential radicalization that can lead to violent conflict.

Resilient states and societies, on the other hand, are capable of respecting and promoting the rights of minorities, marginalized and under-represented groups, especially women and youth, indigenous peoples and ethnic groups. There is now ample evidence of a statistically significant association between national security and the security and safety of women. Similarly, the world is facing the largest generation of youth in its history with a collective and immense stake in shaping their future world. Therefore, any attempt to build resilient governance must empower young women and men as key agents of change in their societies and communities. Resilient states and societies also manage diversity and multicultural demographics by strengthening inclusion and tolerance, and through the peaceful management of conflict and differences in opinions, lifestyles and beliefs.

There is no single pathway to building resilience in the face of fragility, conflict and violence. Ultimately, different societies will adopt different trajectories in how they strengthen state-society relations. However, while acknowledging the diverging pathways towards more inclusive political and economic institutions, there must be respect for all international norms and principles, in particular the human rights framework. Today’s development challenges also call for a stronger integration of governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions.

As a set of values and principles that prioritize respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and promote the rule of law, accountability and transparency, democratic governance is a critical instrument for promoting social cohesion, preventing conflict and ensuring inclusive, safe and peaceful societies. Similarly, investments in conflict prevention, dialogue and mediation and in the consolidation of sustainable peace should no longer be restricted to conflict and crisis situations, but need to be institutionalized as part of the governance and development initiatives.

Building on the outcome from Rio, ‘The Future we want’,<sup>6</sup> the Outcome Document of the UN Summit on the 2030 Agenda, ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, now includes an emphasis on the importance achieving progress on peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and rule of law, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. The Declaration confirms that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace, or without building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, based on respect for human rights, the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions, and addressing factors such as corruption and poor governance which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice.<sup>7</sup>

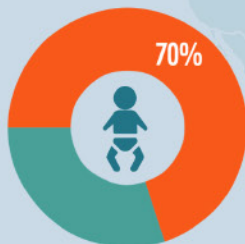




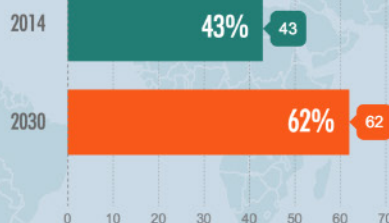
# Peaceful and Inclusive Societies - Key Facts



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The world's population living in conflict affected countries accounts for **70%** of infant deaths<sup>8</sup>



**43%** of poor people live in fragile states today<sup>9</sup>



In 2030 this is likely to be **62%**

**1.5 billion** of the world's population live in countries affected by fragility and repeated cycles of conflict<sup>10</sup>



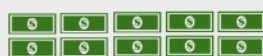
**USD 300 Billion**

The approximate cost of armed conflict in Africa, 1990-2005<sup>11</sup>

**USD 1**



**Saves**



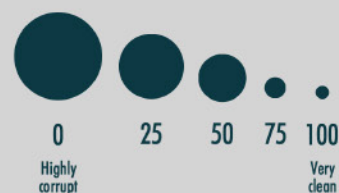
**USD 10**

\$1 in preventive action saves \$10 in recovery costs borne by the international community, the nation itself, and the neighboring countries<sup>12</sup>



The world's richest **85** people have as much combined wealth as the poorest **3.6 billion**<sup>13</sup>

Corruption Perceptions Index 2014



The average global 2014 Corruption Perception Index score was **43/100** and **69%** of countries scored below 50 out of 100 points<sup>14</sup>

2008 **8,450**

2014 **18,111**

2015 **32,658**

Deaths as a result of violent extremism  
80% increase from 2014 to 2015<sup>15</sup>



**USD 52.9 Billion**

Economic cost of violent extremism in 2014<sup>16</sup>



Number of Refugees and IDPs in 2015 was **55,486,000** out of which **70%** were from conflict affected countries<sup>17</sup>



When women participate in the creation of a peace agreement, the agreement is **35%** more likely to last beyond **15 years**<sup>18</sup>



Our world is home to **1.8 billion** young people between the ages of **10** and **24**<sup>19</sup>

## What do we offer?

Building on its core strengths — a large network in more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System and experience of supporting democratic governance initiatives and countries in transition — UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan (2014–2017) focused on helping countries simultaneously eradicate poverty and significantly reduce inequalities and exclusion. UNDP has also accumulated considerable experience as a facilitator working with Member States, UN agencies and civil society partners, including women and youth organizations, in particular in the formulation and adoption of Goal 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Goal 16 and the entire SDG agenda embrace the core elements of a social contract between state and society as they seek to ensure a match between people's expectations of what the state and other actors will deliver (the services contained in the goals, as well as safety, rule of law and a fair justice system, legal identity, access to information and opportunities for participation) and the institutional capacity available within the state and other actors to meet those expectations.

UNDP is uniquely placed to work on both sides of this critical equation: understanding people's expectations and matching them with institutional capacity while recognizing the specific socio-economic and political realities of each development context. UNDP does this by focusing on four interrelated areas of work:

- **Conflict prevention** support for the development and application of credible and inclusive national and local capacities for the peaceful settlement of disputes; the strengthening of social cohesion as a deterrent to exclusion and violence, including violent extremism; and the facilitation of consensual approaches to critical development challenges through multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- **Rule of law, justice, security and human rights** to ensure everyone has access to justice and remedies; to strengthen national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights and help Member States meet their human rights obligations and for people to realize their rights; and to build safe and secure communities;

- **Inclusive political processes** to improve citizen participation, voice and accountability through electoral processes, parliamentary and political development, constitutional processes, civic engagement, and women's political participation;
- **Responsive and accountable institutions** to deliver equitable public services and inclusive development at the central and local levels, with a particular focus on restoring core government functions in the aftermath of crisis and attention to local governance and local development.

**Gender, youth and anti-corruption** are priorities that cut across these four work streams. UNDP's work on **youth empowerment for development and peace** supports youth as transformative agents of change and as leaders, and promotes their political participation, economic empowerment and role in resilience-building and peacebuilding. UNDP provides advice and technical support on reforms and policies related to **women's economic empowerment, political participation and access to justice**, with a focus on the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. UNDP also supports women peacebuilders and women's networks through technical assistance, training and by supporting networking and coalition building.



It is important to emphasize that Goal 16 is not only a valuable aspiration in its own right, it is also an important 'enabling goal' for the entire sustainable development agenda. Achieving SDG 16 will require linking UNDP's work on all SDGs across economic, social and environmental spheres. To this end, UNDP's work on governance and peacebuilding is already closely aligned with that of other UNDP teams leading on climate change and resilience, sustainable development, health, HIV/AIDS and development and gender.

UNDP's integrated approach allows its various clusters to work with one another, with their partners within the UN system and with NGOs to address not only governance, peace, and justice and human rights issues in the other SDGs but also to lay the ground for the implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda.

In partnership with a wide range of actors, UNDP offers the following services to countries:

### **Conflict prevention**

- UNDP supports Member States—both governments and civil society—as well as wider civic, religious and political leaderships to develop and apply national “infrastructures for peace,” or credible and inclusive policies, institutions, and mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, early warning and response to emerging tensions, and the promotion of dialogue and the building of consensus around contested issues to help prevent or de-escalate conflict. Such initiatives include enhancing the coordination of local, national and regional peace groups, providing advice and support for the establishment of government departments and institutions responsible for national peacebuilding, dialogue and mediation, and assisting governments in designing policies and regulations that support the establishment of peace infrastructures. UNDP also advocates for the active participation of women and youth, as well as marginalized groups, in national and local peace infrastructure and initiatives.
- UNDP supports government and key actors in their efforts to prevent violence, manage conflicts constructively and develop effective responses during political transitions and periods of rapid change.

UNDP's efforts focus on empowering national and local mediators and facilitators, also known as 'insider mediators', to serve as credible intermediaries and confidence builders to improve relationships, reduce mistrust in institutions, and facilitate collaboration and coordination among polarized groups and sectors. Women have increasingly played key roles as insider mediators.

- UNDP has developed a comprehensive Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) tool to guide Country Offices and practitioners in conducting conflict analysis and applying the analysis towards the design of conflict sensitive programming, strategic positioning, and supporting early warning early response mechanisms
- The existing UNDP conflict-related risk assessment tool, is currently being expanded to form an integrated 'conflict-disaster' risk assessment framework, which will be applied on an ongoing basis to track, monitor and manage risks, pertaining to both conflict and natural disasters. Application of the integrated conflict-disaster risks assessment framework will allow for enhanced risk governance in programming thus strengthening the conflict-disaster interface and the overall impact of UNDP's support. Strengthening national capacities for the design and implementation of an integrated conflict-disaster risk assessment is a crucial component of the broader multi-dimensional approach promoted by UNDP and its partners.
- UNDP is addressing the global challenge of violent extremism through initiatives focusing on inclusive and participatory development, the governance of diversity and multicultural societies and the promotion of tolerance. As a follow-up to the Amman Youth Declaration and the new UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security, UNDP's approach to Preventing Violent Extremism will also promote the positive role of young peacebuilders and call for enhanced support to the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding processes, social cohesion and the prevention of conflict and violent extremism.



## Rule of law, justice, security and human rights

- UNDP supports governments in developing the capacity of justice, security and human rights institutions and enhancing service delivery and protection, especially of vulnerable groups, in order to nurture public trust and confidence. Aspects of rule of law work include assistance with security sector reform, policing, armed violence reduction and citizen security; systematic strengthening of the justice chain including legal reform, sectorwide planning and oversight, legal aid systems, women's access to justice and engagement with informal justice providers; addressing the legacy of mass human rights abuses and strengthening human rights protection systems.
- UNDP helps in developing a culture of respect for rule of law related to security providers by means such as creating civilian oversight mechanisms, improving the quality of police services and community outreach, curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and working with communities to develop their own measures to make their members feel safer.
- UNDP supports national efforts to tackle sexual and gender-based violence by, for example, increasing

women's political participation and leadership in sectors such as justice and security, and economic recovery; providing services for survivors; tackling impunity in cases of sexual and gender-based violence; and engaging people at the community level in awareness-raising and prevention activities.

- UNDP provides significant support to governments for different measures that offer redress to victims for past violations of international humanitarian law. UNDP offers victim-centred approaches to development of transitional justice processes including for the national prosecution of crimes falling under the Rome Statute,<sup>20</sup> delivery of reparation programmes using development methodology and resources, inclusive truth-seeking processes and long-term development measures for prevention and non-recurrence. The transitional justice processes are underpinned by facilitating the participation of victims in multi-stakeholder consultations at the national and local level.
- UNDP also provides substantive support to strengthening integrated UN efforts on rule of law at the national level through the arrangement of the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law in post-



conflict and other crisis situations. Led by UNDP and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, this arrangement allows the UN system to streamline and enhance justice assistance delivery through joint assessment, planning and implementation in complex national contexts. This arrangement also aligns peacebuilding and development trajectories, which strengthens the effectiveness of the UN system's justice assistance.

- UNDP supports engagement with the international human rights machinery such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the Human Rights Council. In many countries in which UNDP works, it assists governments in the collection of relevant information and the development of periodic reports to fulfill their obligation towards the UPR mechanism.
- UNDP supports over 100 national human rights institutions, ombudsman institutions, equality and gender bodies and other independent oversight institutions in developing their capacities and enhancing their role as the cornerstone of national human rights systems. A human-rights-based approach to development programming, which is an engagement principle for UNDP globally, builds the capacities of both duty-bearers and rights-holders. It enables a better understanding of the situation of excluded and marginalized groups and individuals within complex power dynamics.

### *Inclusive political processes*

- UNDP works to promote resilient state-society relations, by addressing both sides of the relationship in both crisis and non-crisis settings.
- UNDP supports constitutional reform processes and provides advice to national partners on substantive constitutional issues such as power-sharing, federalism and decentralization, human rights, gender equality and public accountability.
- UNDP provides global leadership, advocacy and capacity development in the field of electoral cycles, including strengthening the capacities of Electoral Management Bodies. UNDP's participation in the Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism on Electoral Assistance puts it at the forefront of an innovative agenda of policy development, including policy directives on electoral violence, out-of-country voting, and technology and electoral assistance.
- UNDP supports parliaments in the better discharge of their constitutional law-making, oversight and representation mandates, as well as in increasing the capacities of civil society actors to act as intermediaries in political advocacy. UNDP supports the advancement of women's equal participation and decision-making in political processes and institutions, with a special focus on supporting legal, policy and programmatic frameworks and approaches. Parliamentary strengthening work occurs in partnership with the Interparliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.





- UNDP focuses on strengthening the capacities of civil society actors and expanding and protecting spaces for people's participation in political and public life, with a special focus on groups experiencing significant marginalization, including persons with disabilities, LGBTI and indigenous peoples. UNDP places critical importance on the development of partnerships with civil society organizations throughout its work, at the country level as well as the global level. UNDP's Civil Society Advisory Committee, created in 2000, is the main formal mechanism for dialogue between global civil society leaders and UNDP senior management.
- As part of its efforts to promote the full and meaningful participation in political and public life of selected groups experiencing significant exclusion, UNDP hosts the Technical Secretariat of the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that of the UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership.
- UNDP supports public service reforms to supplement the focus on political processes and security and leads initiatives to support public service reform in transitions, promoting new and more inclusive social contracts in which the public service has a key role to play.
- Responsive and accountable institutions imply collaboration between governments and civil society actors. As a multilateral partner of the Open Government Partnership, UNDP helps build bridges between the state and citizens.
- UNDP together with other partners engaged in local governance and local development is in the process of developing a toolkit for localizing the SDGs.
- UNDP addresses the consequences of corruption and ensures that public resources go to the most vulnerable, by helping countries develop pro-poor policies, supporting participatory planning, monitoring and decision-making and mainstreaming anti-corruption measures throughout the planning and budgeting cycle.

### ***Responsive and accountable institutions***

- UNDP supports local governance and local development with 274 ongoing programmes (2014) in around 80 countries. UNDP helps countries develop an effective local governance and local development agenda and supports a range of efforts in a variety of contexts (rural, urban, stable and crisis-affected environments). It helps countries establish structures and systems for multilevel governance through policy, institutional and capacity development and the development of systems for the delivery of services. Also, it advocates a territorial approach and facilitates development cooperation among territories to enhance local capacity for development.
- UNDP is a global knowledge leader in the field of anti-corruption and works with governments around the world to tackle corruption and its consequences. Through the Global Anti-Corruption Initiative, UNDP focuses on strengthening systems, institutions and civic engagement to combat corruption and to better manage and deliver public resources. To address the consequences of corruption and to ensure that public resources go to the most vulnerable, UNDP helps countries develop pro-poor policies, support
- UNDP supports core government functions, particularly in post-conflict and fragile contexts, as a priority focus to meet long-term state-building, institutional capacity and national development objectives. This helps governments in fragile settings to gain control of the recovery process, deliver essential services and support peacebuilding processes.



participatory planning, monitoring and decision-making, and mainstream anti-corruption measures throughout the planning and budgeting cycle. UNDP supports the implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption targets of Goal 16 and will roll out programmes to improve transparency, accountability and integrity in infrastructure and service delivery.

### ***Youth empowerment for development and peace***

Worldwide, young people face myriad challenges in terms of access to equal opportunities to jobs and having a voice in decisions which affect their lives. In response to their call for meaningful civic, economic, social and political participation, including in recent consultations around the 2030 Agenda, UNDP offers forward-looking support for youth empowerment in development and national governance and peacebuilding in particular. UNDP supports advocacy, policy and programming aiming to ensure that youth are informed, engaged and empowered to contribute to sustainable human development and the resilience of their communities.

UNDP takes a four-pronged approach to youth empowerment:

- Support: Capacity development of young people and youth organizations, including youth caucuses in government, parliament or other representative bodies;
- Engage: Outreach, advocacy and mainstreaming of youth issues in all spheres of development planning;
- Influence: Thought leadership, inclusion in global policy debates and networks that include the voices of marginalized youth, and build on improved data collection to monitor the post-2015 development process;
- Sustain: Support for national policy, more effective strategies to protect young men and women from discrimination and marginalization, and support for their informed and active participation in all spheres of society.





### *Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda/ Goal 16*

- UNDP provides support in the mapping of needs for statistical capacities and data analysis on governance and peacebuilding issues within government and other stakeholders.
- UNDP supported the creation and launch of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics which will work under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission to develop methodologies and approaches to measuring progress on governance.

Goal 16 is not only a valuable and important aspiration in its own right, it is also an important 'enabling goal' for the entire sustainable development agenda. UNDP's work on governance and peacebuilding is already closely aligned with other UNDP teams leading on climate change and resilience, sustainable development, health, HIV/AIDS and development and gender. This leaves UNDP strategically placed to ensure good links between the targets included in Goal 16 and other parts of the 2030 Agenda, including, especially, Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 3 on health, Goal 5 on the empowerment of women, Goal 10 on equality, Goal 11 on urbanization, Goal 13 on climate change and Goal 17 on means of implementation.





## UNDP IN ACTION

As part of its work on governance in the UN Development System, UNDP has already begun assisting Member States prepare for the delivery of Goal 16 in a number of important ways: by facilitating implementation dialogues on strengthening capacity and building effective institutions and on localizing the SDGs; by piloting approaches to governance in the context of the SDGs with a selection of Member States from Africa, Asia and Europe; by hosting a Virtual Network of experts on indicators for peace, justice and institutions; by supporting the launch and creation of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics; and by supporting the development of the African Union's Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).social inclusion.

### Conflict prevention

- UNDP provides national and local actors with advice, training and support for the analysis of issues, trends and patterns that may lead to violence. Countries which have received support from UNDP in establishing national infrastructures for peace include **Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Tunisia and Uganda.**
- In 2013, UNDP supported two African consultations with representatives from national governments and civil society from countries across ECOWAS and SADC, together with the AU, which resulted in the adoption of regional declarations on the establishment of national infrastructures for peace.
- Since 2004, UNDP has worked closely with the UN Department of Political Affairs, and increasingly the Peacebuilding Support Office, through the **Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention.** The partnership facilitates the provision of joint support to UNCTs and national stakeholders in complex political situations, often involving the deployment of a Peace and Development Advisor to ensure sustained analytical capacity and accompaniment. As of January 2016, 39 PDAs are deployed globally, with the partnership providing support to a total of 45 countries on issues related to conflict analysis, support to national dialogue and peace processes, and other efforts geared towards developing, applying, and sustaining national capacities for conflict prevention.
- Formal and informal spaces for dialogue are also established and convened with UNDP support. These forums aim to establish inclusive and participatory



mechanisms to address conflict around contested issues and build consensus around constitutional or governance reforms. These capacities are integral parts of a nation's **Infrastructures for Peace**, the network of structures, resources, values and skills which contribute to a nation's internal ability to prevent conflicts and build peace. Over the past 10 years, UNDP has provided such support in nearly **50 countries**.

- In the aftermath of the 2011 political transition in **Tunisia**, UNDP was invited to assist with the national consultative process. By supporting 'insider mediators', key Tunisian stakeholders were assisted in the design of a locally specific and locally led model for social dialogue to underpin the transition process.
- UNDP supported the **Central African Republic, Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Honduras and Niger**, among others, to undertake various forms of in-depth conflict analysis. The findings have been integrated in strategic country-level planning processes, and conflict sensitivity has been integrated across all levels of programming.

### Rule of law, justice, security and human rights

- In addressing the negative impact of small arms and light weapons, UNDP in 2014 supported **Kenya** in arms marking in an area deeply affected by armed violence, cattle rustling and border conflicts. The arms marking exercise aimed to ensure legal weapons were easily distinguished from illicit weapons, and 4,062 state-owned arms were marked and catalogued.
- In Central America, UNDP, in partnership with national and local government officials, has supported community security programmes to reduce violence. In Honduras, these efforts have contributed to a notable reduction in homicides between 2012 and 2014.
- UNDP provides a platform for engagement between the COMMIT Youth Forum (Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, which includes **Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam**) and policy makers involved in COMMIT both nationally and regionally.

- Since 2008, UNDP has supported access to justice through the creation of a mobile court system in Somalia. As of 2013, these 13 mobile courts had adjudicated approximately 10 percent of all court cases annually.
- UNDP has supported over **90 National Human Rights Institutions** around the world since 2008. In Mongolia, UNDP supported a Capacity Assessment of The National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) which highlighted the need for increased attention to new and emerging human rights issues, such as economic and social rights in the context of the mining industry, rights of LGBT people and the NHRCM's responsibilities under the Mongolian Gender Equality Act. The capacity assessment report and recommendations served immediately as the basis for developing a new strategic plan for the NHRCM from 2012 to 2014 and, most significantly, the NHRCM successfully used the report and other relevant recommendations from international human rights bodies to obtain resources for the establishment of full-time NHRCM officers in all 21 *aimags* (provinces) of Mongolia.

### Inclusive political processes

- UNDP has provided constitutional support across the world, in countries with UN Missions such as **Liberia, Libya and Somalia**, as well as in non-mission settings such as **Bolivia, Fiji, Kenya, Nepal and Sierra Leone**.
- UNDP is providing electoral assistance to about 60 countries a year, including countries in sensitive political transition and post-conflict settings. It supports democratic systems to become more inclusive and accountable and able to meet expectations for participation, services and security. In 2014, UNDP programmes strengthened electoral processes around the world and helped register 18 million new voters.
- In 2014, UNDP supported an international audit of voter ballots after allegations of fraud during the latest elections in **Afghanistan**. Within 10 days, UNDP deployed over 125 auditors in Kabul and in cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, set up a system to assist the Independent Electoral Commission in recounting and verifying 23,000 ballot boxes.





- Through Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) trainings, UNDP helped the **League of Arab States** lay the foundations for an electoral roster.
- In **Iraq**, UNDP supported training for parliamentarians on preparing and overseeing the national budget, and assisted in establishing the first Budget Oversight Office.
- UNDP assistance was vital in the development of a plan to restore the government-controlled areas of the eastern region of **Ukraine**. UNDP coordinated UN support for a Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, in partnership with the Government of Ukraine, European Union and World Bank Group.
- Building on its extensive experience working with local governance systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings, UNDP developed a handbook to guide local governance interventions in post-conflict environments. The handbook emphasizes the need to secure a strong social contract at the local level.

### Responsive and accountable institutions

- UNDP rolled out an emergency public sector payments programme for Ebola-affected countries, ensuring timely payments to nearly 50,000 Ebola response workers in **Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone** to keep health services running despite enormous pressures.
- Mandated by the UN Secretary-General to lead the UN System on support to core government functions, UNDP has developed jointly with the World Bank the first ever diagnostic assessment tool on core government functions in the aftermath of conflict. The diagnostic tool was piloted in the **Central African Republic**.
- UNDP has developed a toolkit, 'Assessing the Respect for Rule of Law Principles in Public Administration'. It provides government agencies with an easily applicable method to assess their relations with the societies they serve. Countries involved in this initiative include the **Philippines, Sierra Leone and Ukraine**.
- With the launch of the 'Gender Equality in Public Administration' (GEPA) Global Report in 2014, UNDP cemented its ongoing engagement in the under-examined field of women's participation and leadership in public administration. Countries involved in this initiative include **Bangladesh, Colombia, Jordan, Romania and Somalia**.
- In **China**, a UNDP partnership with the Chinese Academy of Governance developed a corruption risk assessment programme for use by universities, where students were engaged in developing ideas to stop corruption. It became the basis for the integration of integrity and anti-corruption training into the national civil service training programme, reaching over 7 million civil servants nationwide.
- To promote transparency in **Costa Rica's** water sector, UNDP helped develop an online database that collects all management and financial information in a central national repository.



## Youth

- UNDP, in line with the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Youth and its first Global Youth Strategy, 'Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future 2014–2017', has harnessed its unique role and added value to prioritize youth empowerment and inclusive youth participation in the definition, implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs, particularly of Goal 16. UNDP has supported global, regional and country activities (advocacy, policy and programming, networking, youth mainstreaming, standalone activities on the empowerment of young women) which recognize and promote the role of youth in governance, economic life and resilience-building. Besides the role of youth in the SDGs, particular focus has been placed on the most marginalized, and the role of youth in preventing conflict and violent extremism.
- In **Brazil**, UNDP has promoted mentorship programmes for young women to connect with political leaders. In **Palestine**, UNDP has engaged young people in assessing the performance of public services as part of local youth councils. In **Colombia**, UNDP has supported the inclusion of young people in the peace process. In the Asia-Pacific, UNDP supported the 'Purple my School' campaign to promote safe spaces for LGBTI students. UNDP recently hosted a Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security in Jordan, which led to the Amman Youth Declaration and the adoption of the first Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (resolution 2250 passed in December 2015) recognizing for the first time the positive role young people play in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism.
- In **Bangladesh**, UNDP supported the establishment of a National Youth Parliament to empower active citizens and provide an opportunity for youth to engage in dialogue with parliament about the national youth policy.







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United Nations Development Programme  
One United Nations Plaza,  
New York, NY 10017  
[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)