



# **FUNDING WINDOWS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Compendium of country examples and annexes



An aerial photograph of a village nestled in a lush, forested valley. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The village consists of several small buildings with various roof types, including corrugated metal and traditional thatched roofs. The surrounding landscape is densely wooded with a variety of trees. In the upper right, a tall utility tower is visible against the sky. The word "Annexes" is centered in the upper half of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Detailed results by window

### GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING, CRISIS AND RESILIENCE

#### **Afghanistan** COVID-19 response project

UNDP, together with the Ministry of Public Health, helped reduce COVID-19 infections and fatalities by addressing stigma, discrimination and disinformation, while boosting social cohesion and inclusion, thereby combating grass-roots causes of violent extremism. UNDP strengthened public health awareness of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, where 96 percent of 380 participants reported receiving updated information about the virus, 95 percent thinking it should be taken seriously and 85 percent also practising preventive measures like social distancing, wearing face masks and regular handwashing. Afghanistan's vaccination rate surged from 9.6 percent after UNDP awareness campaigns reached over 13 million people, including 5.8 million women, across nine provinces. A range of methods were used including radio broadcasts, social media, door-to-door campaigns, small-gathering awareness sessions, CSOs, religious leaders, brochures, posters and graffiti. All of this was possible thanks to 100 local volunteers who received training (including 62 women and 38 CSOs, as well as religious leaders) and shared information on how to avoid infection, available mental health services, preventing stigmatization and discrimination and protecting women from domestic violence.

#### **Albania** Earthquake response

Albania established a national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy—a top priority for the government—with UNDP support, by financing the disaster risk management capacity assessment process, on which the strategy depends. In 2021, to implement this strategy, the objectives, structure, functions and management system for the DRR National Platform were developed. Three Prime Minister Orders were issued to establish interministerial groups to prepare a National Risk Assessment and Emergency Plan and the DRR strategy.

Mirroring national developments, three key documents were also developed at the local level: a Local Risk Assessment, DRR strategy and Civil Emergency Plan for Lezha Municipality, one of the worst affected by the November 2019 earthquake, due to its high risks and vulnerabilities. The Lezha Civil Emergency Plan emphasizes the Sendai principles, highlighting women and girls as a vulnerable group. It proposes greater understanding of different gender roles, responsibilities and resource access, key for human rights compliance. Women also featured prominently in national and local consultations, with their participation rate reaching 40 to 50 percent. Lezha's DRR pilot also shows potential for replication, following consultations with the National Agency on Civil Protection to discuss sharing Lezha's experience and lessons with other municipalities.

#### **Armenia** Bringing justice closer to people

Armenia's judiciary launched psychological testing of its candidate judges where a total of 51 candidate judges were evaluated to assess their honesty, self-control, behavioural patterns and other qualities required by the Judicial Code. UNDP strengthened the integrity, independence and efficiency of Armenia's judiciary, by providing a toolkit to undertake behavioural and psychological testing of candidate judges. The toolkit brings together four international psychological and behavioural tests adapted to the Armenian context for candidate judges to the Court of Cassation, courts of appeal, courts of first instance and the Administrative Court.

Armenia saw a significant improvement on the Corruption Perceptions Index Report, ranking 58th out of 180 countries and territories, compared to 77th in 2019 as UNDP continues to advance in its efforts to develop the country's anti-corruption 'ecosystem'. UNDP improved anti-corruption education by training civil servants and integrity officers, adapting anti-corruption modules based on UNDP's global experience. UNDP helped institutionalize the Corruption Prevention Commission by delineating job descriptions and setting up a clear structure and division of functions. UNDP assessed Armenia's free legal aid system and how to create alternative dispute resolution systems, particularly mediation support for women. Gender equality with a focus on women judges featured in a public awareness communication strategy designed to create a new perception of the judiciary, as well as access to justice, particularly for women.



## Azerbaijan Early recovery support

Azerbaijan's National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) and UNDP have helped clear over 806,000 mines and other explosive weapons in conflict-affected areas to ensure the safe return of more than 160,500 displaced people. They also supported an enabling legal and policy environment for demining. The Mine Action Law was drafted and submitted to ANAMA for review, and 34 National Mine Action Standards were updated with new steps to align with the latest International Mine Action Standards to ensure that mine action operations, including those that release land for public use, are reliable and safe. UNDP also advised on good governance and how to strengthen institutional capacities to improve public sector services, as well as enhancing humanitarian demining in the country. Personal protective equipment and mine clearing equipment was made available to ANAMA. UNDP also played a pivotal part in connecting ANAMA with international donors, by facilitating four online presentations and discussions. Building on these results, a EUR 2.6 million contribution was approved by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations towards joint Livelihood and Mine Action efforts.

## Bahamas Resilient recovery

UNDP's Multi Country Office in Jamaica supported the Bahamas in recovering from Hurricane Dorian and COVID-19, and supported resilient reconstruction across the affected islands. UNDP led a socio-economic impact assessment to help enhance resilience, enable social and economic recovery, and lessen the effects of future disasters on micro, small and medium enterprises. A 'Building to Code' guide was developed and distributed to homeowners, contractors and government entities. Two mobile Technical Assistance Centres were established, targeting the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama, which conducted 309 home assessments and 20 virtual construction consultations, while model home drawings were drafted to support the Disaster Reconstruction Authority's efforts to standardize home reconstruction. UNDP also partnered with Blue Action Lab in Freeport, one of the most vulnerable local economies with high unemployment and rising poverty, to conduct a local economic assessment of areas hardest hit by both Hurricane Dorian and COVID-19 to inform future policies.

## Bhutan Multi-year governance framework

To modernize governance platforms for COVID-19 and beyond, UNDP supported the digitization of Bhutan's vaccination and civil registration systems. Within 7 months, 93 percent of Bhutan's eligible population was vaccinated. UNDP helped develop the Bhutan Vaccine System, which gave real-time information on vaccine availability, coverage and side effects, while also building the capacities of 2,100 health workers in its use. **"The system overall has surpassed our expectations and we only hope to keep on using it"**, said Garab Dorji, Chief ICT officer at the Ministry of Health.

Supporting public sector innovation, UNDP helped enhance the capacity of public institutions to ensure uninterrupted, equitable delivery of critical public services. Together with the Royal Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, the civil registration system was digitized and simplified by applying citizen-centric design principles, resulting in a 40 percent reduction in turnaround time.

In an effort to enhance access to justice for those facing geographic barriers or unable to present themselves to court during the pandemic, 308 individuals were able to access justice virtually through 830 online court hearings via the new e-litigation system that UNDP helped introduce. Meanwhile, 10 women received legal advice under Bhutan's first legal aid programme. With UNDP support, the pilot has encouraged the government's greater openness to adopt a national legal aid system.

UNDP also enhanced the socio-economic autonomy of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and home-based workers by providing skills training and equipment. As a result, four businesses were established which benefited 30 individuals, half of them women. After UNDP supported 2 CSOs in developing an emergency livelihood approach and created livelihood opportunities, 218 women now earn incomes as home-based workers. In a partnership with the private sector, four major companies were assessed on 10 gender and inclusion areas, which is enabling a more equal workplace.

## Burkina Faso Building national resilience capacity

After more than a decade of instability across the central Sahel due to conflict between armed groups and government forces, UNDP strengthened the conditions for peace by creating opportunities for young people; 909 young people (412 boys and 497 girls) aged 18 to 35 years old were trained to deliver labour-intensive work, rehabilitating eight socio-economic infrastructures in eight municipalities. This boosted the accessibility of rural roads, as well as public hygiene and better water flow through newly cleaned gutters. Working together to strengthen shared public facilities also encouraged social cohesion between internally displaced people and host communities. The young people then received grants to create income-generating activities: 300 micro-enterprises in 20 trades (including catering, electricity, building, wood carpentry, sewing, hairdressing and mechanics) were supported with training and equipment benefiting

300 young people, of which 53 percent were girls, holding professional qualification certifications in eight municipalities. Some micro-enterprises have since recruited one to two employees or apprentices, further reducing unemployment in their areas, while others have invested their profits in scaling up their activity or meeting communities' needs. With the skills and resources to create positive change, these young people have become less idle and less likely to enlist in extremist groups. As an indication of the interventions' benefits, 1 million dollars was mobilized from the Government of Japan to scale up the work.

## **Burkina Faso** Electoral support

Amidst deterioration in human rights and security in Burkina Faso and ahead of the 2022 local elections, UNDP helped design a cohesive operating framework for preventing and mitigating electoral conflicts, convincing stakeholders to prevent and mitigate electoral conflicts by adhering to a single coordinated system serving all 13 regions of the country. UNDP also helped to produce a consultation framework for the coordinated use of an early warning system to prevent conflict during the electoral period with commitment from institutional actors, such as the electoral commission and non-governmental actors. After UNDP trained 1,218 young people on youth political participation, 100 young leaders committed to raise awareness about elections in their areas and encourage young voters to register. UNDP also strengthened the capacities of 5,360 people in their electoral engagement, encompassing 30 Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI) commissioners, 170 supervisors and staff, 3,500 kit operators, and 1,660 CENI branch members.

## **Burkina Faso** Participation citoyenne et cohésion sociale (PaCoS)

UNDP worked with UNHCR and the Regional Directorate of Human Rights and Civic Promotion to meaningfully engage women and youth in peaceful democratic governance processes. A group of 420 women and youth are better aware of their rights and duties. A pool of 25 young, trained activists and leaders have sensitized 600 local authorities, women and youth on their rights and duties as citizens and established an informal network for exchange. As a result of facilitated dialogues between citizens and authorities by these youth, recommendations were submitted to local authorities on increasing accountability and strengthening consultation. The Dafra Youth Meeting Space was launched after an evaluation and significant investment by UNDP, establishing it as an autonomous legal entity enabling CSOs and community leaders to promote participatory management, conflict prevention, dialogue and debate. Fifteen debates took place on youth incivility, the political representation of women and youth, and the inclusion of people with disabilities and internally displaced people in local affairs. Administrative, political and traditional authorities took part, as well as district council members, women, youth, people with disabilities and internally displaced people.

## **Burkina Faso** Rule of law, security and social cohesion

In Burkina Faso, UNDP strengthened community-level social cohesion in the commune of Koumbia in the Hauts-Bassins region. Following the training of 505 members, of which 7 percent were women, of the national observatory on preventing and managing community conflicts, UNDP installed 45 observatory branches in the Hauts-Bassins, Sud-Ouest and Cascades regions and trained staff at the regional, provincial, departmental and village levels to better resolve land, cultural, religious and chiefdom conflicts. The decentralization of the national observatory and the more effective action of these branches helped mediate peace in Koumbia, where a land dispute between two conflicting groups would have evolved into a conflict.

A perception survey of participants revealed that 92 percent of Burkinabé believe that national reconciliation should be an inclusive and participatory process, rather than one that involves only political and customary actors. Another 90 percent of respondents believe that reconciliation necessarily involves truth, justice, forgiveness and reparation, rather than being reduced to the effective reparation of wrongs through material and financial compensation. This comes after the national reconciliation process was made more inclusive, with the addition of 1,400 people to the ongoing dialogue, half of whom were women and 200 of whom were internally displaced people (of whom 50 percent were women). UNDP Burkina Faso also assisted with the drafting of a national anti-corruption strategy, an action plan and a monitoring and evaluation system. A total of 2,400 people across 32 municipalities in the Hauts-Bassins, Cascades, Plateau Central and Centre-Ouest regions benefited from an awareness-raising campaign to fight corruption.

## **Cameroon** Plan for reconstruction and development

Within Cameroon's Presidential Plan for Reconstruction and Development, UNDP contributed to strengthen community networks that support an inclusive, diverse society. An entry point for building infrastructure for peace is the rehabilitation of community-based infrastructure. Five women and youth empowerment centres were equipped, enhancing their participation in recovery efforts and as actors for peace and security. A group of 30 crisis-affected, poultry-farming women entrepreneurs gained technical and managerial skills in production techniques, such as brooding, hygiene, sanitation, financial management and marketing based on cost-benefit analyses. Following workshops, the women

received poultry production and marking equipment, including 9,000 birds and feed. Women have been integrated into the poultry value chain of the region and they formed a group to leverage their purchasing power and marketing agents. By commercializing their products, the women entrepreneurs generated their own incomes and improved nutrition for their families, elevating their status within their households and communities. At the same time, a network of 50 insider mediators and community influencers was established to play the role of facilitators in communities to handle hate speech, field incidence prevention and management. Nine media houses received equipment and training in Cameroon Pidgin English to promote social cohesion and peace.

## **Chad** Promoting accountable, inclusive and peaceful transition under the regional governance facility for Managing Inclusive Transitions (MiT) in Africa

For the first time in Chad's history, citizens have a credible chance of shaping and influencing the outcome of a truly nationally driven dialogue. Through UNDP support, the National Dialogue process has been expanded to draw from the voices and opinion of more than 7,500 Chadians: youth, women, media, people with disabilities, security forces, political parties, trade unions and CSOs. The first phase of the dialogue process covered all 23 provinces, and included 12 consultations with Chadian diaspora and political exiles; discussions between 33 political/armed groups and the special committee to facilitate their participation in the national dialogue; 5 town hall meetings with the private sector, religious organizations, media and people with disabilities; and engagement with 500 young people and 450 women to determine their priorities and better prepare them to participate in the dialogue. These pre-dialogues helped shape and inform the methodology and agenda of the National Dialogue.

The transition institutions (Ministry of Dialogue and National Reconciliation, Transitional National Council, Office of the Prime Minister) are operational as a result of improved skills, systems and structures. Senior officials from the ministry overseeing the national reconciliation learned about the process of conducting reconciliation, after Burkina Faso's Ministry of Reconciliation shared its experiences and positive practices in dialogue, reconciliation and general transition. UNDP also worked with 100 journalists on avoiding hate speech, 60 civil society actors on designing and engaging the national dialogue, and 150 National Transitional Council staff on legislative processes and accountability, while 60 women from civil society drafted strategies and priority actions for the effective participation of Chadian women in the transition, including in drafting the constitution.

The Funding Windows' seed investment enabled the country office to mobilize resources from a dozen donors and international institutions, including Canada, the United Kingdom and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, in a Basket Fund that offered neutrality, especially for CSOs. A further \$2 million was mobilized from the Peacebuilding Fund.

## **Chad** Transitional support project for the rule of law

Chad's judicial system faces considerable challenges, including a lack of knowledge among citizens of their rights and a lack of confidence in the justice system. UNDP helped to strengthen the rule of law, human rights and dispute resolution in Chad by improving the effectiveness of criminal justice institutions, enhancing authorities' conflict management practices and expanding legal aid. Pre-trial detention rates (SDG 16.3.2) decreased from 37 percent in 2020 to 27 percent in 2021, and 38 cases that had been pending for more than a year were closed. The number of people with access to formal justice rose significantly, reaching 536 men and 48 women, up from 65 and 28 respectively in 2020. Free legal aid was provided to 491 detainees and vulnerable people, including 89 women, before the Courts of Appeal in N'Djamena and Sarh. In support of the justice system's reform, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Justice to provide equipment and digitization expertise to enhance the flow of information and processing of cases, and monitor the reform's implementation.

More people can administer justice, including 441 judicial actors, among which 65 are women, in the 4 Courts of Appeal for civil, commercial and social proceedings. To support peaceful elections, 110 members, including 13 women, of the Supreme Court at the central and provincial levels are now able to make decisions regarding criminal offences in electoral disputes. UNDP provided 1,000 copies of the new Code of Civil, Commercial and Social Procedure to the National School of Judicial Training and judicial actors. Training on the new texts reached 536 men and 80 women, a large increase from just 160 men and 15 women in 2020. The capacities of 90 administrators, including 22 women, and managers of 43 prisons were strengthened based on international standards and national laws, while the capacities of 50 local and provincial authorities were improved to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts.

The ministry responsible for women's affairs is also better able to follow up and collect data on gender-based violence cases, after UNDP supported the work of 19 women and girls who survived rape and assisted them in court. To prevent and fight GBV, UNDP built the capacities of and sensitized women to their rights: 40 women mediators and 80 managers, as well as health staff in refugee camps are able to identify GBV; 200 students and faculty members, of which 20 percent are women, at the University of Moundou are sensitized; 50 members of women's associations have stronger knowledge

of women's rights and ways to combat GBV and terrorism; and 42 women can mediate and use conflict prevention techniques. The same ministry was able to conduct a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which led to the establishment of a 44-member committee, a third of whom are women, to review the family code in Chad. A toll-free number for reporting GBV cases was set up, and has handled 27 cases with 24 women since 25 November 2021.

## **Colombia** Using the rule of law to advance SDG 16

To prevent and address gender-based violence in Colombia, UNDP supported the distribution of GBV toolkits in 11 municipalities and built the capacities of 278 civil servants, including 203 women and 75 men, across 35 offices and institutions from the police, municipal ombudsman's offices, mayor's offices, Family Services Offices, the Ministry of Education and Health, and judges. Of the municipalities, 86 percent of them benefited from technical assistance to enhance services for GBV victims, with plans to improve their response to GBV cases. Officials and leaders who received GBV capacity training said their knowledge had grown and that the guidelines were helping them to improve GBV victims' services. Following findings from the Ministry of Justice that pointed to a lack of minimum protocols for attending to and protecting domestic violence victims, UNDP strengthened the capacities of 19 Family Services Offices and 95 percent of the 158 Family Services Offices civil servants trained, 80 women and 78 men, reported being better equipped to attend to and monitor victims of gender-based violence.

UNDP also engaged with 12 Colombian municipalities in designing and disseminating mass messages to counter negative stereotypes, reaching some 12,500 people through local media via loudspeakers, radio, social networks and banners. Community leaders in 8 municipalities and 158 social leaders, including 135 women and 23 men, were also targeted with training on GBV prevention and attention, as well as means for accessing justice. UNDP was able to attract new resources to expand this work by using Funding Windows resources as matching funds for a bigger project implementing models of local and rural justice. Funding was also obtained from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustaining Peace in Colombia (\$1,232,191) and the Ministry of Justice (\$655,799), allowing the project to be run in 20 more cities.

## **Costa Rica** Forging a common pathway to 2030

With the approval of the 2021 national plan to fight poverty and social exclusion, Costa Rica has a clear roadmap for its public policies to achieve the 2030 Agenda, in particular recognizing challenges for women and their families. This national plan was produced in consultation with different institutional stakeholders across the social protection system, relying heavily on national poverty reports and data.

With UNDP's help, the nation's democratic governance has been strengthened with the establishment of the Economic and Social Consultative Council, an intersectoral, cross-sectoral mechanism of dialogue for democratic and peaceful exchanges on policy solutions to national challenges. The platform has made it possible for a range of stakeholders to express their diverging views and move away from social violence. Three sessions have been observed by UNDP so far, discussing measures to support the economic recovery, job creation and fighting poverty, attended by 54 representatives from the private sector, unions, civil society, universities and minority groups. To promote inclusive, informed political debate and democratic dialogue, especially among youth ahead of the 2022 general elections, guidelines and resources were produced: 5 studies, 1 survey, 10 audio-visual materials and 3 audio messages were produced as part of a larger campaign to raise awareness—and the stakes of—delivering the SDGs.

A national survey found that 6 out of every 10 people report having experienced discrimination at least once, with age and sex as the main reasons; LGBTIQ people reported facing higher levels of discrimination, including physical violence; it was also found that the more economically vulnerable groups (indigenous peoples, minorities, people with disabilities) still confront greater challenges accessing livelihood opportunities. To eliminate these gaps, UNDP engaged stakeholders in drafting policy recommendations to address the economic vulnerabilities and social exclusion of women and indigenous people, minorities, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ people, with strong intersectional gender and environmental sustainability perspectives.

## **Djibouti** Anti-corruption and civic engagement

UNDP strengthened capacities to prevent and combat corruption in Djibouti's public sector, and increased civic engagement, especially from women and youth, for improved governance and public accountability. Local and regional elected officials in the five regions (Arta, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah and Obock) publicly reported on their achievements and challenges over the course of their five-year mandate. Meanwhile, 1,000 citizens participated in the mandate report meetings, including 300 women and 200 youth, where they expressed their opinions, ideas and frustrations regarding local governance. When voicing their priorities for the years ahead, participants said that they would welcome annual mandate reports. UNDP helped revitalize the five regional development committees which developed five regional plans based on local needs assessment with strong civic engagement. Some stated that it was the first time they were involved and found it a positive step for greater local transparency.

At the national level, a joint anti-corruption strategy was agreed on by the four anti-corruption bodies and eight verification guides were developed with engagement from the Ministry of Women. The General Inspectorate of Finance—the first entity involved in transparent public accounting—with UNDP support, now has a detailed, costed work plan for 2021–2023. An internal legal, strategic and organizational framework was created, verification guides and reference documents were updated, and staff were trained to improve investigation and evaluation missions. To digitize and improve access to information to further widen transparency, three digital national media platforms were created jointly with the Ministry of Communication. UNDP also provided mentoring to 250 people—including local elected officials, 50 youth and 100 women, along with technical staff from the 5 regional councils—in participatory management and local planning. Further, 76 CSOs, along with 70 young people and 36 women leaders across 5 regions, were trained to take part in community projects and civic engagement.

## **Ecuador** Assistance to the National Electoral Council

In a break from the previous election, 2021 election results were accepted without official challenges, signalling their credibility, with both presidential candidates acknowledging the result the night of the election. UNDP worked to strengthen electoral legitimacy by enhancing electoral results management, improving communication and transparency, and tackling gender-based political violence. UNDP supported electoral organizations by providing technical support ranging from advising the national electoral council on the results transmission system architecture, simulating exercises to test IT systems and arranging an assessment mission of regional electoral bodies.

Electoral transparency and information for voters was enhanced with UNDP's support to the first mandatory presidential election debates, along with various campaigns against disinformation, raising the legitimacy of elected leaders to protect political stability and social peace. To further support a safe, peaceful democratic process, the Electoral Disputes Tribunal received and resolved the first complaints on gender-related violence. This followed reforms passed in January 2020 protecting women candidates against gender-based violence. In partnership with UN Women, UNDP Ecuador conducted training promoting gender equity and combating gender-based political violence, including hosting an online course for 25 out of 52 elected assemblywomen.

Funding Windows resources also catalysed greater investment in electoral cooperation in the country, with the European Union, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Swiss Embassy all contributing to the project, helping overcome the limited international donor presence on democratic governance in Ecuador.

## **El Salvador** Effective and transparent election services

Despite challenges faced by the electoral process, UNDP worked to safeguard democracy by advancing the capacities of electoral bodies and civic educators. Voter turnout climbed to 50.25 percent in 2021, up from 45.7 percent in 2018. Registration of eligible young voters was 14.4 percent, rising from only 4.9 percent in 2019, linked to UNDP's role of electoral and civic education and social media campaigns targeting youth, which reached half a million people. This is a result of UNDP's efforts to strengthen the capacities of the Supreme Electoral Court to deliver a successful legislative election in 2021 and plan for the 2024 elections. With UNDP support, the Court provided electoral and civic education training to at least 192 trainers, among which 60 were women. The Court's Gender Unit also developed a campaign to fight political violence against women on social media, reaching 424,378 viewers.

Post-election, UNDP implemented a proposal for administrative reform to better include vulnerable groups and developed a roadmap for electoral improvements that cover gender priorities to be addressed by the Court and its stakeholders. Project resources were vital to these results, laying the foundations for a more effective, representative and secure general election in 2024.

## **Ethiopia** Livelihood recovery and peace-building support for communities affected by COVID-19, desert locusts, flood and conflict in the Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' regions

Women in Ethiopia are disproportionately affected by interethnic conflicts, COVID-19, desert locusts and floods, with fewer opportunities and restricted access to productive resources, due to entrenched gender inequality. However, with UNDP support, 965 women grew their small businesses resulting in increased assets and incomes, despite the crisis. For example, a group of women in Gedeb Woreda that produces sheep boosted their stock from 15 sheep to 21, while members of another group of unemployed women in Yirgachefe opened a local cafeteria, with each earning a wage of ETB 2,160 monthly. Meanwhile, 580 youth, including 60 percent women, gained vocational skills and benefited from new market stalls, where they could display their goods and connect with urban consumers. Newly created youth business groups numbering 109 are financially viable and healthy, particularly in sheep production, where within four months they grew their stock from four sheep to seven on average, through reproduction. Women also make up one third of



the 4,127 crisis-hit farmers who received livelihood support, enabling them to feed their families, send their children to school and buy medicine without relying on others. Diversifying their livelihoods enables them to better cope with food and income insecurity and raises their resilience to future shocks.

Another component of the project in Guji-Gedeo, Guji-Amaro and Guji-Burji supported women's participation in peacebuilding, where they are typically excluded. As a consequence, families and multi-ethnic communities have been reconciled; properties have been returned to their rightful owners; various community-based organizations have resumed normal services; and peaceful community interaction has returned. During the project, 310 individuals, of whom 161 were women, who experienced trauma due to conflict received psychosocial support and 972 individuals, of whom 350 were women, gained awareness of gender-based violence and tools to prevent it, especially during conflict situations.

## **Fiji** Response to Cyclone Yasa

After Tropical Cyclone Yasa hit in December 2020, UNDP, together with Habitat Humanity, the National University, the National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Housing and Community Development, trained 90 people in timber and masonry construction and plumbing, who then contributed to building five houses. These new constructions were transferred to five women-headed households with disabilities, two of which were single parents and three elderly widowers.

## **Georgia** COBERM4/DIALOGUE

Conflict-affected women in Georgia have gained greater education, opportunities, incomes, advocacy skills and elderly care through Funding Windows interventions. After 22 women in the contested border region received entrepreneurship assistance, 70 percent of their businesses began generating income, in sectors such as beekeeping, grocery store operation, textiles and mechanized agriculture. Those who are operational reported a 65 percent income rise, while 59 percent reported improved working conditions. Boosting the region's socio-economic recovery from COVID-19, 56 women benefited from entrepreneurship skills training. UNDP also supported women's education and employment by enrolling 25 young women in STEM courses, with 10 women graduates joining paid internships, 2 of whom were offered full-time jobs. Five women who were engaged in the UNDP-run care worker's short course also gained permanent employment at an elderly care centre, which opened with support from the project. It now cares for 10 residents, including 4 conflict-affected senior citizens, who previously lacked basic care or had experienced domestic violence.

As a result of UNDP's training on women's empowerment, 100 conflict-affected women gained knowledge and skills to protect their rights and advocate for their needs; 30 conflict-affected young internally displaced people, 80 percent of them women, gained human rights knowledge, including domestic violence prevention and response. Women leaders improved their community by convincing the local government to install garbage disposal cans in their village, build a stadium and improve a children's playground. Launched by UNDP and the Prime Minister's Advisor on Human Rights and Gender Equality, 24 radio shows also informed 5,000 weekly listeners, including internally displaced people, about human rights and tolerance.

## **Guatemala** Response to the Tropical Storm Eta

UNDP supported Guatemala's recovery from Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Iota in 2020, which affected 1.7 million people in the country due to flooding, catastrophic landslides and mudflows. UNDP ensured continuity of humanitarian assistance to thousands of people in remote communities by establishing an airlift with the supply of 10,000 gallons of aircraft fuel. A campaign on emergency response and post-disaster recovery was deployed, reaching 200,000 people, while 26 municipal coordinators for the reduction of risk to disasters were trained. Five local governments and 14 national institutions used the National Recovery Framework to prepare recovery plans and consequent recovery actions after evaluating human impact. UNDP supported the network of coordinators for disaster reduction and the UN-wide Recovery Cluster, improved cooperation and information exchanges, and optimized resources. After conducting 2,932 site assessments of habitability, housing damages and needs, UNDP helped rehabilitate housing for 39 families.

## **Haiti** Integrated business opportunity development services

After being affected by an earthquake, tropical storms and flooding in 2021, UNDP Haiti worked with 100 young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, including 50 women, enabling them to gain in-demand skills and enhanced employability. A six-day training increased their skills and knowledge, including of labour law, workplace conflict management, network development and sexual harassment at work. Under UNDP's mentorship, 5 women (or 10 percent of the women beneficiaries) were hired or selected for internships, after 30 local companies participated in a UNDP-organized job fair. UNDP also supported a free job search platform, where young people with little or no qualifications are guided throughout their job search or entrepreneurship incubation, and employers can post job offers and consult the CV database.

The creators of 80 start-ups, of which 56 percent are led by women, gained new skills in entrepreneurial leadership and starting a business, after coaching and professional exchanges at the Youth Entrepreneurship Forum held with the Ministry of Commerce. Women lead 7 of the 10 businesses that each received \$3,000 to start or strengthen their business, while a private sector entity incubates their ideas after winning the Business Plan Competition. The start-ups cover creative and sustainable goods from crocheted products and chocolate to organic hair care and biodegradable food packaging. The women entrepreneurs also gained technical expertise in areas such as accounting and finance by way of additional training from the chamber of commerce, advancing women's leadership and their role in the economy. In partnership with 6 women's associations, 300 young women entrepreneurs at the head of vulnerable households are also receiving funds to boost their income-generating activities.

## **Iraq** Anti-corruption for trust in Iraq

To tackle corruption in Iraq and respond to rising public demands for reform, UNDP worked with local institutions to raise their awareness and enforcement of anti-corruption measures, to maximize resources for fighting poverty. The Federal Commission of Integrity submitted the draft law on access to information to the Council of Ministers' Secretariat following UNDP's review of federal laws on information access for compliance with international standards and practices. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UNDP evaluated the access to information law, provided recommendations to improve it and enhanced public procurement integrity by assessing legislation for its alignment with global standards. Various states and organizations were trained to apply a draft conflict of interest law, arranged by UNDP after reviewing the law. The Prime Minister's Advisory Committee also welcomed UNDP's analysis on the conflict of interest law. The project further supported the Government in preparing the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy (2021–2024), which was launched in August 2021, as well as translating the strategy into English. UNDP contributed to the Kurdistan Region Anti-Corruption Strategy, approved by the Council of Ministers in October 2021.

The ability of Iraqi NGOs to implement anti-corruption activities was enhanced via capacity development sessions. As a result of UNDP-led workshops, 80 officials, of which 25 were women, including from the Ministry of Planning Public Contracts Department, and 20 public health practitioners, including 8 women, gained a greater understanding of corruption risk management. This helped to boost the integrity of the health and public sectors.

## **Iraq** Community-based reconciliation and reintegration in Iraq

UNDP has adopted an integrated approach to enhance community reconciliation and reintegration in Iraq that includes mediation and reconciliation processes for community acceptance, and a full-scale socio-economic reintegration support package in communities of return, including shelter rehabilitation and psychosocial and livelihood programming, with an emphasis on local government and community ownership. The project targets community members and returnees who were displaced due to stigmatization linked to a family member being affiliated with ISIL in a subdistrict in Ninewa, which was deeply affected by ISIL occupation. Within the livelihoods support package, members of the community indicated their entrepreneurship skills were strengthened after participating in UNDP's vocational training, which reached 60 people, 19 of whom were women. The trainings covered sewing, electrical work, and barbershop and hair salon services to boost socio-economic integration. They also improved women's leadership, management and business skills. Saeed, a daily-wage worker who joined the vocational trainings, stated that he learned more effective communication skills and how to harness social media for promoting services and goods.

UNDP helped rehabilitate 87 houses for vulnerable host and returning families in need of shelter and security, which facilitated reconciliation and reintegration within the community. The housing projects also created short-term livelihood opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers in those neighbourhoods, among which at least 20 percent were women. Mental health and psychosocial support were provided by training 20 social workers, 6 of them women, to provide these services to 209 community members, 49 of them women, suffering from trauma due to the recent destruction and damage in their community. Those who participated in UNDP's training reported a greater sense of responsibility to spread awareness of mental health in their communities. One participant noted that she found the training crucial to her work with the community, adding she will focus her efforts on supporting women and children from here on.

## **Iraq** Social cohesion programme

UNDP facilitated positive relationships and understanding between and among various groups, communities and minority groups, working with 87 religious leaders to counter hate speech and promote tolerance and coexistence. To promote dialogue and peace among communities, 24 religious leaders, three of whom were women, were selected as founding members of the Coexistence Network, with additional training provided in leadership, communication and public speaking to further promote tolerance. The trained religious leaders then created subnetworks in each governorate

to widen social cohesion efforts at the micro level. Participants responded enthusiastically, including Raheeq Nashat Al-Jalil, from the minority Baha'i religion, who stated: **"The project activities have a positive role in reducing barriers to interfaith conversations and the convergence of different religious ideas. I started sharing all the information I got through training with my colleagues in the ministry and the Baha'i Cultural Centre"**.

Building on the previous investment, UNDP continues to strengthen the capacity and presence of community-based mechanisms. To date, 21 Local Peace Committees, 4 Community Dialogue Committees, 5 Women Peace Groups and 5 Youth Peace Groups are active in driving peacebuilding and social cohesion. These have been instrumental in facilitating the return of families to their home communities, which in 2021 involved 786 families, and in developing 50 community initiatives to promote community resilience, coexistence, the countering of violent extremism and other social cohesion issues. To scale up these successes over the next four years, UNDP has mobilized \$3 million from the Government of Denmark.

## **Jamaica** Amplifying youth voice and action

Crime and violence remain critical development challenges for Jamaica—Jamaica has the highest rate of homicide globally—with far-reaching costs. UNDP strengthened the capacities of 10 youth-led civil society organizations to address this. The organizations deployed youth-focused, community-level interventions combating insecurity and crime, after benefiting from a virtual capacity-building incubator and grant system that directly supported youth action and advocacy for security. Over two months, the incubator trained 30 young people aged 18 to 30, leading to an 85 percent increase in their knowledge of the SDGs, project management, intervention designs, strategic partnerships, results reporting and vulnerable groups.

As a result of the incubator, 10 citizen security microprojects were successfully carried out in crime hotspots across Jamaica, tackling direct and indirect causes of instability, while supporting the SDGs. Access to justice for persons with disabilities also improved: 35 officers at two police stations are now able to serve the deaf community, after receiving training in Jamaican Sign Language, along with new ICT equipment to support virtual interpreters' translations, the first project of its kind in Jamaica.

As a result of the project's training and certification interventions, 25 young people—10 men and 15 women—gained employment. The microprojects enabled entrepreneurship, digital literacy and alternative, green livelihoods for at-risk youth. Additionally, the incubator boosted the advocacy skills of youth and created platforms for them to engage in high-level dialogues on their security priorities. On World Peace Day, young grantees convened and led a Youth Summit on Crime and Violence, attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, government representatives, UN agency heads, the private sector and civil society groups. They called for greater recognition of youth leadership and active youth engagement to address Jamaica's crime and violence levels.

## **Jordan** Harnessing gender justice into microfinance for an inclusive financial sector

The monthly wage of women in Jordan is often insufficient to cover living costs, leading some to take on loans to survive. Those who cannot repay are at risk of being sentenced to prison: 62 percent of Jordanian women (out of 139 surveyed by the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development) are categorized as 'Gharimat', meaning indebted and either detained or wanted by authorities; 92 percent of Syrian refugee women (out of 300 surveyed) fall into this category.

UNDP expanded access to a gender-responsive judicial process and gender-inclusive financial system for women in Amman and Irbid. After completing a study of 5,672 women indebted with loans below \$1,400, UNDP identified the scale of the problem along with preventive strategies to avoid imprisonment. An assessment of the barriers to the financial inclusion of women and vulnerable groups allowed UNDP to propose policy options to unlock inclusive economic development and boost women's socio-economic resilience. Two legal and financial counselling hubs in Amman and rural Irbid were set up, offering information and legal advice. At least 40 women reached out to the hubs seeking counselling for loans they had taken out, of whom 11 were referred to legal service providers. Meanwhile, 11 community organizers were trained to provide guidance and support to 164 women on microfinance, indebtedness, and the legal implications of such loans.

In partnership with UN Women, UNFPA and ESCWA, UNDP launched [Gender Justice & Equality before the Law: Analysis of Progress and Challenges in the Arab States Region](#), focusing on law and law enforcement practices that matter most to women and girls, protection from violence, rights within the family and property rights. The report points to good practices across the region and tracks progress in law and justice for women in Jordan, with policy recommendations to accelerate equality and justice.

## Lao People's Democratic Republic **Urban risk management and resilience**

Due to the tropical climate and unique topographic characteristics, the Lao People's Democratic Republic is exposed to a range of hazards that often result in devastating catastrophes. More than 80 percent of its population lives in rural areas and vulnerable conditions, where two thirds of them rely on agriculture. Lao PDR's National Disaster Management Organization's annual emergency response training was relaunched, enhancing management capabilities and understanding of emergency procedures of 38 officials from various parts of the country. A simulation exercise demonstrated that key national disaster decision makers are more aware of the importance of systematic disaster response coordination and ensuring vulnerable groups, such as women and people with disabilities, receive an equal share of relief and recovery assistance through disaster planning. Combined with the infrastructural development of an emergency operations centre, the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are more likely to receive rapid and equitable support during and immediately after the next major disaster.

To harness the vital role of technology in disaster responses, UNDP helped upgrade the online Lao disaster information platform (LaoDi) to include better risk analysis, facilitation of disaster-sensitive development planning, improved reporting to the Sendai framework monitoring system and the collection of gender-disaggregated information by issue and needs. Decision makers reported learning how to apply LaoDi information as part of the development planning and response, allowing more rapid and equitable support for the people of Laos during and after disasters.

## Lebanon **Supporting inclusive and integrated recovery in Karantina**

After the catastrophic Beirut blast in August 2020 that killed more than 200 people and left an estimated 300,000 homeless, UNDP rehabilitated and equipped 64 shops and small and medium enterprises in Karantina, of which 7 were owned by women. During the rehabilitation of the shops, the contractors hired workers from the Karantina area which created temporary jobs for 102 workers; cash assistance activities were provided to 83 shops, benefiting 231 owners and employees, of which 16 percent are women, and indirectly benefiting 1,155 people. The local economy was reactivated by facilitating an inclusive and participatory green recovery through economic, legal, energy and psychological support in Karantina, one of the most vulnerable communities affected.

To ensure access to justice and services for vulnerable people, 400 legal cases were filed and 80 people received free legal support, after UNDP enabled legal aid services in Karantina, in collaboration with the Beirut Bar Association. Over 1,500 live conversations took place between survivors and lawyers on hoqouqi.com, overcoming the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns. A report was also published, highlighting key human rights challenges and recommendations to address them, building on support provided to the National Human Rights Commission. Beneficiaries, such as blast survivor Khalil Ibrahim Houssam, one of 160 women who received tailored trauma healing sessions through UNDP, expressed positive feedback. UNDP also safeguarded energy services during the nationwide power cuts, installing 214 solar water heaters and 80 electrical water heaters in vulnerable households, along with 14 solar street lighting poles, 6 large solar water heater systems and a solar photovoltaic system for the Beirut Fire Fighting Brigade.

## Maldives **Integrated governance**

The Maldives modernized its judiciary with more than 28,325 court hearings held online in 2021, a result of UNDP's digitization assistance and ICT equipment. Access to judicial services was improved for remote island communities, as well as those unable to attend in person during COVID-19 restrictions. It also expanded access to justice for women under protection orders, particularly victims of domestic or gender-based violence, from the safety of their homes by removing barriers in travel, finance and service time.

Following UNDP-facilitated training, 79 judges, of whom 16 were women, enhanced their capacities to handle cases of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. Evaluations suggest most participants found the training useful and plan to apply their new knowledge in practice, while discussions between judges and trainers suggest they became more proactive in inquiring about these issues afterwards. Women, along with people with disabilities and migrant workers, were the focus of a public awareness campaign led by the Attorney General's Office, UNDP and Justice Sector partners to inform vulnerable groups of their constitutional rights and the services offered by justice institutions; initial consultations indicated they did gain greater knowledge and awareness after being exposed to the campaign.

UNDP further enhanced access to justice by upgrading the integrated case management system of the Judiciary, integrating five distinct modules: online form applications for courts, case entry, case development, judge assignment and issuance of verdicts. UNDP helped to create virtual administration services and Maldives' first marriage registry data portal, digitizing all marriage and divorce records nationwide to date. The new system allows courts to text clients to inform them of their hearings. The project's success led other donors to approach UNDP to engage in its judicial digitization efforts: the British High Commission provided \$215,000 to Magistrate Courts on outer islands to boost their ability to use the new digital platforms, while the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia contributed \$77,920 to support judicial case management.



## **Mali** Access to clean energy

In conflict-affected Mali, decentralized health centres have a greater capacity to treat patients (especially for maternal care) and to sustainably operate their facilities, through cost-effective solar energy and telehealth solutions supported by UNDP. A population of around 100,000 people, 51 percent of whom are women, are expected to benefit from the 15 health centres powered with solar energy and from new online access. Health services including consultations, maternal health, laboratories, pharmacies, admissions offices and community health workers are being upgraded with ICT for improved access. The expansion of renewable energy for health services enhances access to quality health care, especially for women and children, as the health centres focus on Prenatal Consultations (CPN), Postnatal Consultations (CPON) and vaccinations.

## **Mali** Joint youth and resilience

In Mali, the remaining funds from 2020 were directed towards strengthening the resilience of internally displaced people in the Mopti region, especially to improve their livelihoods. To support the livelihoods of vulnerable people following Mali's 2020 military coup, UNDP enabled 400 internally displaced people, including 240 women, in the Mopti region to earn incomes by taking part in various trades, such as animal husbandry, hairdressing and petty trade. By running their own income-generating activities, internally displaced people have regained their dignity and begun reintegrating into the community, strengthening social cohesion. In the Koumaga village, the community now has easy access to water, saving time for farming or other income-generating activities.

## **Mali** Restoration of state authority and access to justice

To build an environment of peace and accountability amidst ongoing armed conflict between government and rebel forces, UNDP helped strengthen public institutions by establishing a functional police station and a court of first instance in the Djenné region. As a result, 2 additional judges and 25 police officers were deployed to the area, while 64 security personnel and 115 judicial personnel gained skills to deliver their work. Meanwhile, 12 regional and 26 communal security advisory committees were created to help rebuild the local populations' confidence in its security actors, through forums for residents to raise their security needs. With UNDP support, the Ministry of National Reconciliation finalized its national strategy for social cohesion and national reconciliation and 335 land commissions were revitalized to help prevent and manage land disputes between herders and farmers. Recognizing that women's access to land and assets is crucial to their financial independence, UNDP facilitated the inclusion of 340 women and 427 young people in land commissions.

## **Mali** Women economic actors, committed to peace and social cohesion

UNDP supported women's socio-economic empowerment in Mali, enabling them to provide for their families, as well as elevating their status to facilitate their involvement in reconciliation and social cohesion efforts. Market gardening areas were established in two villages in the Bandiagara region, directly generating daily incomes for 320 women and benefiting another 1,000 women indirectly. Through their gardening and access to the market, the women gained economic independence and standing in their villages, including with men who are more inclined to listen to them when discussing community reconciliation and social cohesion. A total of 1,392 jobs were created: 1,102 for women, 90 for men and 200 for youth; 450 women fishmongers in 6 cooperatives gained skills in innovative fish-processing techniques, managing income-generating activities and organizing cooperatives, while also benefiting from production equipment, including water towers and 52 isothermal boxes to preserve fresh fish. These interventions maximized the women's gardening area, increased yields and therefore their income, while enhancing their resilience to depleting fish stocks.

## **Mali** Youth and peace

Skills for preventing and managing conflict were enhanced at the local level with 313 state and non-state actors trained in peacefully managing conflict, including 220 young people. Another 380 people, of which 210 were youth gained stronger conflict prevention capacities through six workshops on the importance of citizen participation and the role of young people in preventing conflict.

In the localities of Ansongo, Menaka and Anderamboukane, Koro, Bankass and Tominian, socio-economic interventions with high employment and income-generating potential were explored, with 300 young people from 60 associations trained in entrepreneurship (215 boys and 85 girls), while 60 young people (47 boys and 13 girls) were supported with production materials for agriculture, breeding, trade and agro-food processing. This followed a study in which 1,300 people were consulted (780 young people, 60 men and 460 women), to better understand their needs for peace and development. To better reflect their needs in local decision-making, 1,125 young people (800 young boys, 80 men and 245 women) were mobilized to develop an action plan for each of the six localities.

To raise awareness of youth's positive contribution to conflict prevention, there were reports on some 3,000 youth who were involved in public events, radio broadcasts and debates, covering their roles in building peace, with a focus on their contributions to local governance. In addition, 1,508 young runners (including 195 girls) took part in the 'Grand Trail de la Jeunesse pour la Paix' initiative, promoting social dialogue and youth involvement in the reconciliation process. A total of seven workshops on cross-border cooperation built the capacity of 350 people (180 youth, 100 men and 70 women), including village leaders, local youth council members, government bodies, mayors and women's associations. Traditional groups such as chiefs, griots and religious leaders gained a greater understanding of the role of youth in preventing cross-border conflict after participating in six advocacy workshops involving 412 people (230 youth, 80 men and 102 women).

## **Mauritania** Access to justice

In Mauritania, obtaining justice often comes at costs beyond the reach of those who are most vulnerable. UNDP strengthened the country's judicial system by digitizing the criminal justice chain, empowering human rights defenders with essential organizational and technical capacities, and facilitating legal aid for women, persons with disabilities and slavery legacy victims. Specialized courts were established and are now operating, with the Court for the Fight against Slavery and the Fight against Corruption reinforced and 160 magistrates and clerks trained to manage criminal proceedings. A total of 1 million citizens have been informed through radio messages about their human rights and legal obligations, as well as access to justice, popularizing international human rights conventions. The biometric criminal records across 15 courts were consolidated, enabling citizens to access justice services more easily, while a new law on civil society was adopted and 30 women and vulnerable people benefited from legal assistance. Simplified manuals on criminal procedure for detainees were developed and distributed.

The approach adopted by the project is based on close consultation with the Ministry of Justice and other judicial actors. Other national institutions are involved such as the Supreme Court, the National Bar Association, the National Order of Judicial Experts, the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture, the Mauritanian Association for Human Rights, and national and international CSOs working in the justice sector.

## **Mauritania** Promoting environmentally friendly jobs and other livelihoods

To enable sustainable livelihoods in Mauritania, 2,360 beneficiaries, including more than 1,700 women and 300 youth, were able to join 42 women's cooperatives and 2 youth associations established through this project that was supported by UNDP, World Food Programme, the ILO, UNHCR and FAO. The groups were given equipment, including 20 grain mills to process cereals from agriculture and 20 solar freezers, for local dairy and meat products. Participating women earned on average \$100 per year and, using a group savings system, were able to pool resources to meet their needs and support their children, including education and health care. In addition, 34 community buildings were built or rehabilitated to shelter the mills and the solar freezer. Due to this access to local processing facilities, the lives of 20,000 indirect beneficiaries, of whom 70 percent were women, were improved, including a reduction in household work. In addition to the green jobs created for young people to maintain the solar freezers, 100 permanent jobs were created, including 80 for women. Following a training for 40 staff members of the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment in Assaba and Guidimakha, participants reported having better employment strategies, raising the prospects of long-term job creation in the country.

## **Mauritius** Improving resilience after the Wakashio oil spill

Following the 2020 ecological devastation brought by the Wakashio oil spill in Mauritius, UNDP partnered with four NGOs to create alternative livelihoods for affected communities to limit the economic damage, as well as boost food self-sufficiency. Among these efforts, the first organic agro-ecological centre was established, strengthening the resilience of low-income communities. The community's resilience was enhanced with the introduction of sustainable aquaponic farming, providing greater food security and a different means of earning income. International sustainability certification was obtained for fish and seafood sold by a local fishing cooperative, positioning it for a higher revenue stream. To develop eco-friendly livelihoods, 18 beneficiaries, 2 of whom were women, gained practical skills and experience to support the conservation of threatened marine megafauna. As a result, the beneficiaries, three quarters of whom were previously unemployed, are now able to conduct marine research, collect and process data, and guide eco-tours, including scuba diving and snorkelling. Finally, restoration of mangroves through monitoring and education is benefiting 138 community members, including 52 children and teenagers. The success of these interventions has raised \$550,000 via crowdfunding, supporting the costs of replacing damaged and worn-out equipment, which is vital to cleaning and protecting the lagoon. UNDP also reviewed the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, enhancing the capacity of Mauritius to respond to oil spills. Recommendations were made to enhance the Coastal Sensitivity Atlas and related institutional and legal frameworks to be able to respond to oil spills.

## **Morocco** Youth-led social innovation for sustainable development

With youth unemployment topping 30 percent in 2021, UNDP worked with young Moroccans to improve their innovation and leadership skills, widening their opportunities and involvement in solving 21st century challenges. Through online consultations, Moroccan youth provided 50 solutions to address COVID-19 challenges and 14 recommendations for a youth social innovation ecosystem, while 25 youth-led groups among the 50 mapped solutions (46 percent led by women) strengthened their leadership, project offers and community outreach skills, after completing high-level masterclasses with intense peer-to-peer feedback: 96 percent of participants expressed strong satisfaction with the training, while 92 percent believed they would apply their new knowledge to their work.

In support of Morocco's 'new development model' that seeks to ensure youth inclusion and fulfilment, Moroccan youth from 20 youth organizations enhanced their social innovation knowledge and tools and joined a programme to empower Moroccan youth in civic and political participation, including in delivering the SDGs. These organizations shifted their way of working from tackling social challenges separately to working together to address them. This resulted in a joint work plan of four pilot activities, after workshops facilitated by UNDP Morocco and Morocco's Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Communication.

## **Mozambique** Stabilization, recovery and transformation

After armed conflict between non-state armed groups and government forces in Cabo Delgado displaced more than 800,000 people, UNDP quickly moved to support stabilization in the province at a time when other international actors were absent, restarting vital services and supporting livelihoods activities as the foundation for peace and development. A total of 1,600 people, 724 of them women, participated in cash-for-work activities, with their revenue bringing benefits to 8,000 more people in the Macomia, Quissanga, Ancuabe and Palma districts. Their work contributed to the resumption of economic activity in areas with severe infrastructure damage, as well as the reopening of essential infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, supporting social cohesion in vulnerable communities. Mobile payments to the workers strengthened the financial inclusion and autonomy of beneficiary women. Around 6,720 people benefited from the installation of public solar lighting in two districts, along with water systems equipped with solar pumps. To ensure the safe presence of state authorities, essential transportation was procured, including five cars and one ambulance. UNDP investment and stabilization efforts attracted donors to the amount of \$30 million for 2022–2023.

## **Myanmar** Rebuilding a post-coup democratic Myanmar

With at least a quarter of the population living in poverty in Myanmar, UNDP sought to cushion the socio-economic impact of the February 2021 military coup, prolonged conflict and COVID-19 by providing urgent livelihood support to 5,261 farmers in Rakhine. Farmers received 2,707 bags of compound and organic fertilizers to lift their agricultural productivity and provide livelihood and food security to more than 20,000 people. Applying the 'by communities, for communities' approach where communities identify those most in need, Rohingyas, an ethnic minority that has been gravely persecuted over the years, accounted for 17 percent of beneficiaries (the Rohingya population is approximately 30 percent in Central Rakhine), while 23 percent were women. In addition, 487 households received personal protective equipment kits, including thermometers, masks, gloves and other protective materials, to combat a third wave of COVID-19.

National CSOs have better access to legal assistance and can better promote awareness of legal and human rights, especially labour rights, targeting migrant workers from Rakhine and Ayerwaddy. In a context where human rights defenders are under extensive surveillance, frequent risk assessments supported gathering information through a secure channel on potential CSO partners. UNDP provided organizational and technical mentoring to strengthen the resilience and capacities of national CSOs, including at UNHCR's request to 18 national CSOs in northern Rakhine on land, housing and property rights. Meanwhile, in the conflict-stricken urban district of Hlaing Thar Yar, Yangon, about 1,600 people across 450 vulnerable urban households, 30 percent of which were headed by women, benefited from 22,400 meals procured, cooked and distributed by volunteers and community organizers.

## **Niger** Electoral process 2020–2021

Persistent instability and threats from terrorist groups, along with community-level conflicts, have undermined Niger's democratic journey. To ensure secure and legitimate elections, UNDP strengthened the organizational strategy and capacities of the newly independent National Electoral Commission of Niger (CENI). Project funds enabled UNDP Niger to support CENI in planning, coordinating and enhancing the security of elections, as well as strengthening its organizational capacities and strategies. The funds also allowed CENI to lead an international seminar in August 2021, to exchange experiences with other regional and international election management bodies to inform CENI's institutional strategy.

As a result of UNDP's advocacy, awareness-raising and leadership training for women and girls, gender inequality in decision-making was reduced through a new national quota for women to hold decision-making and political positions. A total of eight training sessions were held for 570 elected women across every region of Niger, allowing them to deliver on their electoral mandate. The project assisted in establishing regional structures for the network of locally elected women of Niger. A high-level advocacy event was organized, resulting in the commitment of 75 percent of parliamentarians to hire more women. At the subnational level, women and youth presence in communal, district and city councillors of Maradi region grew from 16 percent to 25 percent, suggesting that young people and women have become more politically engaged, while 80 women councillors from all regions of Niger were trained in gender-sensitive budgeting, communication and transformational leadership. With these advances, UNDP Niger supported women's political participation and helped position several women leaders within their communities, strengthening Niger's democratic representation.

## Niger Integrated regional stabilization of the Lake Chad Basin

To reduce the risk of conflict in areas of the Lake Chad Basin affected by Boko Haram, UNDP helped to prevent the circulation of illicit arms—a major contributor to regional instability—after which security conditions in Diffa improved, with no major attack having been reported since August 2021. After training the National Commission for Control and Collection of Illicit Weapons, 75 representatives from local authorities, security forces and civil society gained stronger capacities to detect and counter the circulation of illegal arms locally.

More than 23,000 people across six communities benefited from equitable access to water, after UNDP Niger helped the local government in restoration efforts, reducing the risk of community tensions over water resources, particularly for farmers; and 43,213 people gained enhanced access to renewable energy with 371 solar street lights installed. Meanwhile, 12,519 internally displaced men, women and children were able to return to their villages in N'Gagam, Garin Dogo and Baroua, with assistance from UNDP's Stabilization Facility; 1,907 people benefited from temporary and cash-for-work opportunities; 3,185 people were supported in resuming economic activities; 1,899 men and 173 women received fishing or market gardening kits; and 19 local women's cooperatives were assisted in processing agricultural products, raising their revenues substantially.

UNDP also promoted cohesion within communities, as well as among authorities and security forces. As a result of a major radio campaign in the three languages of host communities of refugees and internally displaced people—Hausa, Fulani and Kanuri—934,924 people (51 percent women and 51 percent youth) were sensitized to prevent and manage community conflicts. In another district, an estimated 140,114 people (51 percent women, 50 percent youth) were informed via 'peace caravans' of ways to avoid conflicts and inspire peace, for example, between farmers and herders and while sharing natural resources, contributing to the peaceful return of displaced people in these communities.

## Paraguay Institutional strengthening on electoral justice

UNDP responded quickly to the government's request for support, resulting in transparent and inclusive elections. UNDP's technical advice in rolling out a new system of electronic voting machines and its support in establishing an open list system of candidates led to elections in June (primaries) and October that were praised by international observers. According to International IDEA: **"The technical and logistical performance of the Superior Court of Electoral Justice was fundamental for the development of an electoral day without major setbacks."** Voter turnout in municipal elections was strong, with youth participation exceeding 60 percent. It followed targeted steps taken by UNDP and partners—the Supreme Tribunal for Electoral Justice, the European Union and International IDEA—to inform and inspire young people about democracy and leadership. These included online workshops, conferences and debates targeting youth, along with a media campaign in the months leading up to the elections.

In addition to greater youth engagement, women participation increased by 2 percent compared to the previous municipal elections of 2015. This follows UNDP's support of the School of Political Formation of Women Leaders, empowering more women to enter politics by providing training on democracy, gender equality and leadership. A series of conferences on women's political empowerment was also conducted via social media, reaching more than 40,000 female participants from all regions of the country.

## Philippines Recovery and resilience-building

To better prepare national and local governments in the Philippines to respond to disasters, climate sensitivity models and hazard maps were developed showing the scale, scope and distribution of medium and long-term risks, enabling authorities to better manage them. In disaster-prone Cagayan province, UNDP implemented its DevLIVE+ (Development through Local Indicators and Vulnerability Exposure) database to allow risk-informed planning. A Risk Atlas consisting of 75 risk maps was prepared to guide resilience efforts, including for the flood-prone Bangsamoro Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), with basic disaster risk reduction information and recommendations now guiding government's land use plans in the region.



In collaboration with the national disaster risk reduction council, UNDP produced a wide-ranging situational analysis and gaps assessment, through inclusive consultations with over 720 stakeholders. This led the Government to update and approve its national disaster risk reduction and management plan. One of its key policy recommendations is being implemented: the creation of a national framework to enhance results-based monitoring and evaluation. UNDP strengthened the capacities of BARM national officers, enabling them to develop climate and disaster risk-informed land use plans. Finally, UNDP enabled 706 women entrepreneurs in Albay and Catanduanes provinces to rebuild or begin new micro businesses, giving families diversified incomes to become more resilient during disasters.

These initiatives on integrated digital tools, data governance and local economic resilience-building will serve as a foundation for the upcoming SHIELD project funded in part by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with a budget of \$13 million over six years.

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines La Soufrière volcano response

After volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent in April 2021, UNDP provided emergency employment to 185 people facing financial hardships—78 women and 107 men—in exchange for removing ash and debris. In direct partnership with the Bridges, Roads and General Services Authority and applying an inclusive selection process, targeting vulnerable women unemployed due to the eruption, the women worked 92 days, receiving \$93 each per week on par with national standards. This enabled them to purchase essential items, such as food. One beneficiary said: **“As a single mother, I am very grateful ... for the opportunity to gain employment under the programme to clean the institutions around Georgetown, as there were no other forms of employment.”**

A total of 15,000 cubic yards were cleared in the heavily impacted orange zone, including on access routes to nine educational institutions, two churches, a nursery and houses with elderly occupants. The clean-up efforts supported the safe return of key facilities and structures and allowed vital services to resume, such as access to urgent sexual and reproductive health services for 834 women and girls. Over 1,600 students, half girls and half boys, were able to return to school in the orange zone two months after the eruption following the removal of ash and rubble from the affected area. The safe clean-up, storage and transportation of ash and debris has contributed to protecting residents' health, which may have been affected by respiratory and eye problems, as well as potential water supply contamination. UNDP procured personal protective equipment and tools via the seaport, an alternative to the closed airport. Where possible, equipment was sourced from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines suppliers, to reinvest in the local economy. The Government's ability to take on similar debris removal work in the future is strengthened as the equipment used and workers employed by the programme will be absorbed into the national system.

## Sierra Leone Strengthening youth's meaningful participation in decision-making structures

In Sierra Leone, which is overcoming the legacy of civil war, UNDP helped to strengthen youth entrepreneurship and leadership to create conditions for lasting stability and growth. A skills training hub was established in Kenema, while another was enhanced in Kabala, expanding options for vulnerable youths in these districts. After UNDP provided vocational skills training and start-up kits, 20 young women and 40 young men gained greater potential for wage earning and self-employment. Most of the women trained in soap-making and gara tie-dyeing have since set up their own businesses. The young men acquired skills in motor bike repairs, welding and carpentry. From this cohort, 15 young women and 35 young men have set up their own businesses from the start-up kits provided by UNDP.

A mentorship programme with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus supported 80 young women and girls to participate in decision-making processes, such as becoming more effective activists and advocacy communicators, positively impacting another 300 women and building their confidence and interest in leadership. A national framework to raise youth representation on decision-making bodies was developed, after consultations with 650 young people, policymakers, community leaders and stakeholders from all electoral districts.

During consultative meetings held on the gender equality and women's empowerment policy, the active participation of men was evidence of the effectiveness of the use of media, theatre and other forms of entertainment and outreach to sensitize and raise awareness among 90 young men and 60 young women on women's rights issues, including sexual and gender-based violence. The Youth Steering Committee was reactivated, composed of 10 members, 4 of whom were women, to provide guidance and oversight for youth activities in Sierra Leone with more inclusive engagement, more networking and experience-sharing between communities.

## Somalia Programme transition

To ensure programme continuity and transitional activities between the end of the previous Country Programme Document and the new one, UNDP Somalia worked to strengthen its implementation capacities, as well as those of national counterparts. Staff from 70 implementing partners and 96 institutions across Federal Member States and the

Federal Government of Somalia were trained in project and financial management, while 125 government programme staff, 35 of them women, were trained on UNDP project and financial management. Feedback from participants showed their intention to apply improved project and financial management procedures from the training. While the number of women employees at the counterpart level remains low, in Somaliland, 60 percent of participants were women, enabling them to gain critical work skills. As such, the training also helped to raise awareness of how the rights and opportunities of women can be improved.

## **Somalia** Enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable communities

To mitigate Somalia's vulnerability to droughts, floods, cyclones and other climate risks, UNDP supported the country's first national operating procedure for managing disasters at federal and state levels, by providing technical assistance and training. Authorities at all levels can guide and coordinate efforts in response to disasters, a vital step given that institutions in Somalia are still evolving and not yet supported by formal rules or constitutional mandates. Key actors, partners and institutions have defined roles at every stage of disaster risk management, coordinated by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, following five consultations at the federal, state and local levels. UNDP helped establish a multi-hazard early warning centre in Mogadishu with its connectivity and linkages to four nodal entities, providing critical and timely information to vulnerable communities that enables them to save lives, livelihoods and assets in the event of an imminent disaster.

## **Somalia** Implementation of anti-corruption strategy

The National Integrity Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Justice was set up and operationalized and is responsible for driving the anti-corruption agenda of the Government of Somalia. The unit guided the Government in ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), accelerating structural change for sustainable development by incentivizing alternatives to corrupt and environmentally harmful practices, such as the illegal charcoal trade. The unit coordinated the work on anti-corruption, drafted UNCAC ratification legal documents, and provided briefing notes for legislators and other officials.

On 9 December 2021, the UN joined the Minister of Justice in Mogadishu to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. As a new party to the UNCAC, Somalia sent a delegation to the biennial Conference of State Parties from 13 to 17 December 2021, where it made a high-profile presentation. The government is increasingly able to use international law to prosecute crimes involving fraud locally and internationally, giving Somalia greater leverage to recover assets lost to corruption, which could be used to revive the state and ensure transparency in government.

## **Somalia** Reconciliation and federalism

UNDP supported mediation and reconciliation initiatives working with core government institutions in the Somali federal government, as well as in the states of Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest and Jubbaland. Key elements of the national reconciliation framework were implemented, especially on contentious state-building issues. UNDP Somalia was instrumental in unlocking the two-year political gridlock on the electoral framework and timeline by supporting the highest-level political dialogues, which culminated in an Agreement on Election, which included consensus on the implementation of a 30 percent quota for women. As a result of the 2021 senator selection process, 14 out of 54 senators are women, 26 percent, a vast improvement from 2 percent in 2016.

UNDP contributed to these efforts with catalytic interventions, by nurturing Somali-led and Somali-owned processes and by expanding communication and coordination between the federal government and states, focusing on policy issues related to reconciliation and federalism—essential for a peaceful and inclusive transfer of power. To coordinate intergovernmental relations, UNDP helped establish and operationalize a coordination body for Director Generals, including representatives from the offices of the President and the Prime Minister. Moreover, the Office of the Prime Minister was able to facilitate the establishment of a platform for resolving interministerial disputes.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation and UNDP's Digital Transformation/AccLab, an oral history project for peacebuilding was launched, recording interviews and oral narratives to reflect on the past, understand the present and support new visions of the future; 20 young documentarians each produced a narrative after training, which will be showcased at a national oral history festival in 2022.

## **Somalia** Resilience through water management and energy access

UNDP strengthened Somalia's resilience during crises, including COVID-19, by expanding safe drinking water and electricity access among vulnerable communities. More than 10,280 internally displaced people and host communities, of whom 85 percent were women, gained access to safe, reliable water sources, after Funding Windows resources

helped to rehabilitate 210 safe water tanks in water-stressed regions. This reduced water kiosk crowds, while boosting sanitation and social distancing. Additionally, 400 households, of which 92 percent were led by women, gained safe, sustainable energy in the form of solar lanterns. These have enhanced security for women and girls, as well as enabled children to study after dark, while reducing fire and indoor air pollution hazards from burning candles and kerosene lamps. Together, these interventions help to protect the basic rights of marginalized people to clean, safe energy and water, and to good health and education.

## **Somalia** Tolerance and dialogue for peace

UNDP helped combat violent extremism in Somalia by establishing 13 networks of influential religious leaders in Banadir and Federal Member States (FMS) to debunk extremist narratives and promote Islam as a religion of peace. Religious leaders' capacities to encourage peace were enhanced with training on Islamic conflict-resolution principles, while also countering Islamic extremism in the forms of spreading misinformation and inciting violence. To promote peace and religious tolerance, UNDP accompanied the first consultation with the influential Ulema council, the Federal Government of Somalia and FMS Ministries of Religious Affairs. These meetings enabled discussion for and endorsement of a strategy to encourage religious dialogue, improving exchange and coordination between religious leaders and other stakeholders. Combating violent extremism through such efforts has become even more critical since the onset of COVID-19, which has overlapped with a dramatic increase in experiences of violence by both women and men.

The project successfully negotiated the inclusion of women in 7 of the 13 faith networks. So far, 15 women have recently joined religious leaders' networks, actively participating in the dialogues, and feedback suggesting that they are being heard by male religious leaders. By including women, religious networks are better able to represent their needs for peace and security, as well as engage women in their communities, reducing female exclusion and marginalization, a major driver of violent extremism.

## **South Sudan** Restoring trust and service delivery in the states and communities

In South Sudan, UNDP worked to improve security and governance, as well as reduce intercommunity conflict, after the country's seven-year civil war ended in 2018. The 5th Governors' Forum was organized in Juba where over 500 delegates from states, national governments, non-state actors, UN agencies and regional representatives gathered to promote policy dialogue and peace. The Forum passed 38 resolutions and made 79 recommendations, and announced the resumption of peace talks without preconditions. In closing, H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit commended UNDP for its leadership and support to the Office of the President in successfully organizing the Forum.

To support the process of forming a new constitution, UNDP organized state-level consultations in Aweil, Bor, Juba, Torit and Wau and Yambio and brought together 311 participants (68 women) from national and subnational governments, CSOs, as well as youth, people with disabilities and religious leaders. Constitutional experts were brought in to help participants play a meaningful role and understand the risks of a relapse into conflict if a constitution is not agreed upon, while another focus was women's rights and participation in the legislative and executive. Five radio talk shows enabled an estimated 1.5 million people, 40 percent of them women, to learn about the constitution-making process.

To assist development planning, the National Development Strategy was costed, supporting effective public financial management. A total of 10 states developed draft development plans aligned to the SDGs after a UNDP baseline study identified key gaps. As a sign of confidence in the work delivered, Sweden funded the training of local governance leaders, Japan provided a Supplementary Budget of \$100,000, and \$2 million was secured from the Peacebuilding Fund to carry out follow-up public consultations, civic awareness and dialogues on the constitution in 2022 and 2023. To widen women's participation in political dialogue and decision-making, 40 women leaders and 40 state officials, 11 of them women, gained improved leadership and intercommunal conflict management skills through UNDP-supported training, which emphasized the importance of the rule of law for a lasting peace. Participants observed that discussions in such settings allowed leaders from military backgrounds to learn how to work with civilians. Women participants gained mediation and leadership skills that built their confidence to engage in the public domain and advocate for women's rights.

## **Sri Lanka** Enhancing national and subnational transparency, accountability and inclusion capacities and multi-stakeholder engagement for achieving the SDGs

Sri Lankan citizens, especially the marginalized and vulnerable, are benefiting from more inclusive, accountable and effective public institutions following UNDP support, improving trust within communities and towards the State. Half of all target CSOs actively engaged with parliamentary committees, after building committee capacities on transparency, accountability and inclusion. The Sri Lankan government approved the allocation of approximately \$50,000 for women's

empowerment in the 2022 budget. The recommendations submitted by the Select Committee on Women and Gender, which was set up after advocacy by UNDP and CSOs, and the Women Parliamentarian's Caucus, supported by UNDP, made a significant contribution towards this. Two field trips by these entities to a shelter for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Batticaloa provided vital evidence to argue for policy support for victims. Standards for women's safety in shelters were also raised through the formulation of Shelter Guidelines by the State Ministry, which were updated to include COVID-19 safeguards. Consultations with CSOs and local elected officials resulted in a commitment from parliamentary committees to prioritize addressing sexual harassment in universities, SGBV cases and the economic challenges experienced by women during COVID-19.

Sri Lanka maintained its country ranking as 4th on the Global Right to Information Rating in 2021, after UNDP's contributions to greater transparency and openness in the government. Sign language interpretation was provided during the 2022 budget reading by Parliament, allowing the over 4 percent of the population who are hearing impaired to follow live proceedings for the first time, making Parliament more inclusive and responsive. Greater parliamentary openness was also achieved via regular updates and telecasting proceedings on local satellite TV and virtual platforms. By digitizing public services, UNDP also improved information disclosure by key ministries, with the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Department of Labour and Inland Revenue Department proactively sharing 26 percent of information. The restructured web portals have since been visited approximately 120 times a day by the public, and 95 percent of more than 2,000 officers, 66 percent of whom are women, attached to 15 institutions, including the labour department, the Inland Revenue Department and the Sri Lanka Police, reported improved knowledge and skills on information disclosure.

## **Sudan** Inclusive and accountable institutions

A total of 30 key staff (18 women) from the Aid Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and six line ministries participated in a deep dive of Sudan's governance systems, aid coordination and policy formulation, with consideration of gender issues. As key civil servants engaged in the government's accountability, the staff will contribute to enhancing the monitoring of aid flows in and out of their respective ministries, improving the performance and coordination of Sudan's institutions. Partnering with Swedish experts, UNDP Sudan provided technical advisory services in the review and updating of Sudan's Aid Strategy, laying the foundation for effective cooperation to guide engagement between Sudan and its development partners.

## **Sudan** Partnering against violent extremism

In Sudan, poverty, the absence of basic services, lack of opportunities and limited governance create grievances that can easily be exploited by extremist groups. Youth are increasingly vulnerable because of low-quality education, which fails to equip them for the limited and competitive job market. To overcome this, an initiative targeted community-based interventions in Kassala and Gedaref states and provided vocational training as well as support for small businesses and agricultural activities, benefiting over 3,113 people, of whom 1,104 were women. The vocational trainings resulted in 125 out of 542 trainees being employed six months afterwards; support to 162 small businesses led 68 percent of women beneficiaries to start their own businesses; over 430 seasonal jobs were created; and 2,192 people attended screenings of a film on peace and the risks of extremism. Overall, UNDP helped prevent violent extremism by contributing to the stability and resilience of at-risk youth and citizens with the potential to be radicalized—through livelihood support, a sensitization campaign and training key stakeholders.

## **Sudan** Response to the influx of refugees from Ethiopia

Crisis-affected Ethiopian refugees arriving in East Sudan and their host communities now have access to quality public services, enhanced safety and security, clean energy and emergency employment, after UNDP's interventions in Um Rakuba and Tenedbah Camps. Infrastructure construction and rehabilitation included 4 health facilities, 2 mobile clinics bringing health services to 80,000 people, 1 police station serving over 200,000 people, 7 motorbikes for the police patrols, 2 schools and 42 latrines. Some 155 solar street lights and floodlights were installed in refugee camps and host communities, benefiting over 20,000 people, leading women to feel safer collecting firewood and using camp facilities at night and decreasing cases of gender-based violence, according to UNHCR and UNFPA. The local government hailed UNDP's approach for rehabilitating and constructing service centres with fixed permanent materials, which will remain useful to host communities after the Tigray refugee crisis ends, unlike those built by emergency actors with plastic and other temporary materials.

UNDP provided livelihood relief to 35 people by training and providing them with the necessary materials to maintain the solar panels. Through cash-for-work initiatives, an estimated 1,020 daily, temporary, labour-intensive jobs were created for youth. UNDP also strengthened disaster risk reduction by adding flood monitoring stations at the Gash River, enabling early warnings of flash floods. Access to early warning information on river flood levels provides critical information and time to save lives and property in the event of flooding. Four broken spurs at the river basin were repaired to control the flood water direction and divert its gusts away from residential settlements, raising their resilience in future.



## **Sudan** Supporting the transitional civilian government

After fragility and conflict affecting Sudan for decades, UNDP supported the transitional government in carrying out its agenda for democratic transformation and civilian governance, prior to the October 2021 military coup. UNDP helped draft a five-year national strategy for the Ministry of Justice, now being finalized, to enable its crucial role in upholding human rights and the rule of law. As a result of UNDP's assistance, three draft laws will lead to the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, the Constitution-Making Process and the Electoral Commission. A conference on restructuring and modernizing the judiciary was held in October 2021, drawing 120 legal counsels, of whom 30 percent were women, and producing key recommendations to support judicial restructuring. A new judiciary training centre is in place, including 30 computers, printers and projectors, to support the digitization of judicial services.

## **Syria** Gaziantep civil society initiative

To better advocate for the most disadvantaged people in Syria, UNDP helped improve the institutional capacities and coordination of Syrian civil society, enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency. The Syrian CSO Strategic Forum was established to allow consultations among forum members across areas in governance, gender, capacity-building, people with disabilities and early recovery. The platform content was updated twice in 2021 and now counts 181 CSOs and 4 networks. The coordination of the forum was strengthened with UNDP support through a new governance structure, gender-sensitive policies and a common online platform, which enables CSOs to register themselves with new eligibility criteria.

The recently renovated Syrian CSOs House hosted trainings on subjects such as organizational governance, financial management, human resources management, gender sensitivity and programming for developmental projects. A workshop on early recovery and livelihoods enabled CSOs to share experiences and tackle misconceptions regarding the needs for early recovery interventions during conflict. UNDP helped to upgrade the house to allow easier access for people with disabilities, while a guideline was prepared on best practices for including people with disabilities in humanitarian response and development.

## **Syria** Strengthening conflict-sensitive programming in Daraa, As Sweida, Quneitra, rural Damascus and the whole of Syria

To accompany Syria in its inclusive, community and human rights–based recovery, enabled by local peacebuilding and conflict prevention, UNDP is promoting a context-specific, conflict-sensitivity approach to resilience assistance in Syria. Analysis, interventions and dialogues are changing the way early recovery actors interact with communities and local authorities in Syria, promoting dialogue and cooperation across divides and ensuring more inclusive local decision-making. Through advocacy and training, key actors involved in early crisis recovery have strengthened their understanding of the relationship between early recovery, local peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Eight local conflict analyses involving communities and humanitarian actors in the field were undertaken in UN field hubs across the country, with over 100 humanitarian personnel receiving capacity-building in conflict analysis and sensitivity. Through dialogue across communities, key drivers of tensions were identified (including unequal access to employment opportunities and services) and recommendations were made to address them in future programming. Their implementation is showing evidence that previously distrustful relations within and between communities can be improved and that greater support from authorities for community participation in local planning can be promoted. In a context like Syria where an 'emergency mode' of operating is common and where community dialogue and empowerment is limited, such changes are significant. The progress has attracted \$250,000 from Denmark to expand the work, establishing a dedicated Context Sensitivity Team in the country office.

## **Timor-Leste** Accelerating access to justice for all

Timor-Leste has some of the highest rates of gender-based violence and domestic violence in the Asia-Pacific, driving instability in the country. In 2016, 33 percent of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical violence, while 35 percent of married women experienced physical or sexual partner violence in the preceding year. In 2021, UNDP strengthened institutional capacities of state and grass-roots legal aid organizations to better serve rural women and girls, while improving the ability of rule of law institutions to uphold zero tolerance to gender-based violence. A total of 200 survivors and family members (110 survivors and 90 family members) benefited from shelter, counselling and reintegration, while 119 survivors of domestic violence, abandonment and sexual assault benefited from legal counselling from partner CSOs. In addition, 500 community members in remote areas, of whom 74 percent are women, received legal information. UNDP boosted women's representation in Timor-Leste's justice sector through legal training, enhancing their probability of entering the Legal and Judicial Training Centre. 77 women and 71 men were selected to participate in a UNDP-supported training, focusing on gender, social justice, human rights and criminal and civil laws. A total of 63 percent of the women participants completed the intensive three month-course, which led to more women passing the exams.

Overall, 35 to 40 percent of those who passed were women, far exceeding the current 22 percent of women in the country's judicial system. Of these successful women, 55 percent had participated in the UNDP training. Internships at renowned legal NGOs were facilitated for 12 recent law graduates, 6 of whom were women, resulting in 4 hired by their host organizations as legal associates. A full 100 percent of the interns think that the internship helped them to improve their understanding of social issues and challenges faced by women, the poor, people with disabilities and LGBTQI people, and 100 percent think that their internship experience in social and gender justice will have a positive impact on their career development.

UNDP also partnered with two grass-roots organizations offering safe spaces to gender-based violence survivors outside the capital. While GBV cases were rising during the pandemic, GBV organizations in local districts were neglected and UNDP stepped in to support their services to GBV survivors, including legal assistance. In December, the Korean National Police shared their approach to handling gender-based violence with the National Police of Timor-Leste, involving cooperation between multiple sectors and institutions. For the first time, a peer-to-peer learning conference brought together key stakeholders for addressing gender-based violence in Timor-Leste, including the national police, Ministry of Health, Secretariat of State for Equality and Inclusion, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, and civil society organizations, laying a critical foundation for tackling gender-based violence together in the future.

## **Timor-Leste** Supporting flood response and recovery

After the April 2021 floods and landslides in Timor-Leste, UNDP addressed widespread disruption to lives and livelihoods by providing 5,441 people, 47 percent of them women, with food and cash for work, removing debris and repairing infrastructure in 42 flood-hit villages, as well as 21 beaches and hillsides. Participants each received \$110 for 22 days' work: 97 percent of participants reported that this emergency income enabled them to meet the basic needs of their families (including water, food and health care) and 93 percent believed their village was safer and cleaner after the project. The cash for work programme led 4,731 participants, 47 percent of them women, to open their first-ever bank accounts, boosting their financial security and inclusion, while 92 percent of participants enrolled in the national social security administration, which subsidized employers 70 percent of the workers' salaries to hire them for a minimum of six months, enabling longer-term livelihood support. UNDP worked with 10 UN Volunteer Community Mobilizers to provide financial literacy training to 239 people, including 37 women. When asked to reflect on the project, 65 percent of participants informed UNDP that they had either saved income to reinvest in their livelihoods, found a job or planned to enrol in education. At the same time, 280 families who were unable to take part in the cash-for-work programme received food baskets from 123 local producers, boosting the local economy, with 60 percent of recipients reported that the baskets contained enough food to feed their families for a month.

## **Trinidad and Tobago** Prevention of violent extremism and youth empowerment and strengthening project

The Funding Windows enabled the Child Probation Department and Prison Service of Trinidad and Tobago to set up a more risk-informed treatment plan for child offenders, enabling more targeted interventions to reduce future criminal activity by youth. To achieve this, UNDP trained 31 officers to conduct risk assessments and develop individual treatment plans that could prevent minors from becoming repeat offenders. Another 40 prison officers attached to the youth detention centre were trained in youth mentorship and motivation. Training participants reported gaining knowledge, particularly on community hierarchies, gender sensitivities and conflict resolution mediation. UNDP's Peace Innovation Challenge, launched in 2021, will help young people to develop and implement peacebuilding interventions at the community level. The Challenge led to the co-design of nearly 90 proposals by youth-led organizations and women's groups, 5 of which will be implemented in 2022. Ten of these youth-led organizations have engaged in the UNDP Spotlight Initiative, based on compelling project ideas for preventing gender-based violence. Meanwhile, UNDP supported the establishment of a learning space for girls in detention which will allow them to participate in academic, vocational, psychosocial, peacebuilding and recreational programmes. This will have a direct impact on restoration and rehabilitation as female youth offenders will be empowered to become contributing members of society through gender-informed and specifically designed programmes which will enhance employment opportunities, build resilience and reduce recidivism.

## **Turkey** Violence against women

To combat gender-based violence in Turkey, UNDP strengthened the skills and resources of rule of law and human rights institutions and systems, to widen access to justice and support for those most at risk, including women, children and other vulnerable groups. A total of 82 counsellors—77 women and 5 men—from CSOs under the Federation of Women Associations of Turkey benefited from two specialized online trainings, rating their interest and satisfaction levels highly in evaluations. Meanwhile, 107 personnel—73 women and 34 men—of the Judicial Support and Victims' Services Directorates enriched their knowledge of providing effective services to survivors of violence after three UNDP-supported trainings on national laws and regulations for protecting women and children, along with interviewing and counselling techniques.

UNDP cooperated with UNHCR to translate vital information on the Federation of Women Associations of Turkey website into Persian, Arabic and English, including a referral message to an emergency hotline. To further raise awareness of the emergency hotline, 420 digital signboards were produced and distributed to 54 provinces. Separately, 337 calls were received by CSOs, where experts provided psychological, legal and counselling support: 143 came from violence survivors seeking help. Hotline referrals led to 31 people receiving legal support and 20 people provided with psychological counselling.

A needs assessment to gauge the coordination and quality of services for survivors of violence against women was conducted through nine focus group discussions with 59 people—16 men and 43 women— including staff of public institutions, the justice sector, law enforcement and CSOs. Recommendations to improve the quality of services for gender-based violence survivors were validated, supporting policy coherence between the Ministry of Justice and other institutions, and outlining methods to better collect data on violence. Coordination also improved across public institutions for preventing violence and supporting survivors, evidenced by six field visits where 161 representatives—92 women and 69 men— participated from the justice sector, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family and Social Services and the boards of education and health.

## **Uzbekistan** Advancing electoral reform and deeper national SDGs integration in parliament

UNDP strengthened Uzbekistan's young democracy by enhancing the ability of the Central Election Commission (CEC) to deliver transparent, inclusive elections; strengthening parliamentary representation, legislation and oversight; and modernizing parliamentary systems for public engagement. For the first time, the CEC held open sessions and published its decisions in a timely manner, thus contributing to the transparency of the electoral process. The CEC organized a comprehensive and inclusive voter awareness campaign in several languages throughout the country and well in advance of election day. UNDP supported CEC's public outreach for peaceful, informed voter participation, which reached 80.4 percent in the October 2021 presidential election; there was 52.4 percent women and 47.6 percent men in a single voter roll. This follows electoral reforms supported by the Funding Windows since 2020. Amendments were adopted and integrated into the Constitution, the Electoral Code and the Law on Political Party Financing, banning state funds in campaigns and improving electoral dispute resolution. UNDP supported the translation of CEC guidelines, operational materials and electoral programmes in Russian and English, expanding accessibility of voters, contestants and international electoral observers to relevant CEC documents.

Following a training on the SDGs for Senate and Legislature members, 56 parliamentary enquiries into SDG implementation were held in 2021, increasing democratic checks on progress to end poverty and protect the planet. Communication skills among Members of Parliament were strengthened for digital social media and the SDGs, with 53 MPs, including 22 women, trained. In partnership with Parliament, government agencies and NGOs, UNDP organized two high-level international SDG summits (the Bukhara Forum and SDG Summit in Tashkent), along with seven workshops and conferences. UNDP helped improve the digital infrastructure of democracy with a new server that enables citizens to engage with their Senators, following UNDP's digital needs assessment. The MyConstituency app now provides quick access to data on national indicators for the SDGs, along with government spending for monitoring and oversight.

## **Zimbabwe** Preparatory support towards public sector modernization

UNDP and Zimbabwe's government completed baseline studies that provided empirical evidence to support decision-making to modernize the public sector, as well as support service delivery and economic recovery. Six baseline studies were produced: two on gender and sexual harassment; one on disability access to public services; one on public sector conflict management; one on citizen satisfaction with the public sector and one on ICT infrastructure. These assessments directly informed the development of a sexual harassment policy, programmatic interventions and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the public service, and recommendations to raise awareness of the rights and obligations of employees within the internal dispute resolution system.

Attention was paid to the achievement of SDG 5, by promoting greater accountability and strengthening the capacity of the public administration system in combating sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices in the workplace. Adopted by the cabinet in April 2022, the implementation of the sexual harassment policy will target an estimated 230,000 employees. With UNDP's support, the policy was informed by an interactive voice-response mobile survey, which collected data from 3,897 public service employees across the 10 provinces who made recommendations on eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, including by strengthening reporting mechanisms, supporting victims in the public service and raising awareness and training. As part of a suite of 13 e-learning modules that will reach 200,000 employees, UNDP Zimbabwe helped develop a module to develop capacities and systems for preventing and addressing gender inequality and sexual harassment in the public service.

The Government's accountability was further strengthened by UNDP-enhanced digital platforms, increasing communication between the Public Service Commission, civil servants and citizens. With UNDP's support, the commission produced a strategic plan, annual report and quarterly newsletters, as well as compiled videos and posted messages on public buses featuring public services in order to build trust, confidence and enhance accountability. UNDP supported a baseline study on citizen satisfaction of Zimbabwe's public service delivery. The findings of the survey are an important advocacy tool for further investment in public sector governance, decentralization of services at the sub-national level and a new work culture for improved service delivery to citizens.

## Global project: Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI)

Supporting countries to build resilience entails strengthening capacities to anticipate, prevent, respond to and recover from the impacts of conflict, crises and shocks. UNDP's emphasis is to promote a strong development lens that calls for acting early and at scale in conflict and crisis prevention, to stabilize and protect hard-won development gains, mitigate risks of conflict relapse and recurrence through addressing the root causes and structural drivers of conflict, and build institutional and community resilience to promote peaceful development pathways. UNDP's approach aims to ensure those most marginalized and excluded are not left behind, reinforcing a rights-based approach, promoting structural transformations towards resilience and restoring trust and social cohesion. Recognizing that gender inequality is both a driver and consequence of conflict, crisis and fragility, UNDP's interventions aim to tackle the most persistent drivers of gender inequality and drive transformational change in gender equality and women's empowerment in contexts of conflict, crisis and fragility.

**First, the project advanced efforts to prevent violent extremism** by adopting a three-pronged approach focused on developing policy, enhancing programming and building partnerships to further support the integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in prevention and peacebuilding contexts. Strengthening the GPN network, the team led over 29 knowledge-sharing events with around 3,255 participants, built capacities and provided technical assistance to five country offices on MHPSS activities. It compiled lessons and shared learning from these experiences among practitioners through several knowledge products and contributed to establishing a new [Research Portal for UNDP publications on preventing violent extremism \(PVE\)](#), which includes over 100 UNDP publications. A global PVE database of its projects and activities was developed, serving as a knowledge repository across the PVE community of practice, and the PVE dashboard was revamped, enabling partner organizations and external stakeholders to access UNDP learning and resources, participate in events and contribute to consultations. To further support country offices in providing MHPSS, the team is developing a guidance note, which builds on global consultations that engaged more than 100 internal and external participants in 2021. UNDP brought together key actors whose engagement is necessary to address hate speech, intolerance, violence and conflict, such as the media and CSOs, including youth and women-led CSOs.

**In Pakistan**, a Youth Innovation Challenge was launched in the Afghanistan–Pakistan border areas to design and apply solutions to improve living conditions, and youth's sense of ownership and action over their own lives through training and mentoring. After receiving over 1,000 applications, 25 young leaders, including 11 women and 1 transgender person, were selected to realize their projects, while gaining leadership skills for peacebuilding through training. The project promoted the rehabilitation of young prisoners in Karachi's Jail Malir district, improving the prospects of 55 young people, including 20 women, in conflict with the law and supporting their reintegration into society and reducing the risks of violent extremism. Psychological counselling helped build young people's resilience, discouraging them from engaging in violence but acting instead as actors of peace. In response to the trainings, all prisoners reported a two-point increase in positive feelings about their fellow inmates and people of different religions and ethnicities. Further, based on their direct work with women prisoners and their unique rehabilitation needs, 22 provincial prison officials, including 4 women, and 35 probation officers, including 9 women, gained capacities to provide a supportive institutional environment for rehabilitating and reintegrating young people in conflict with the law. As a sign of success, the Sindh provincial government is now institutionalizing skills trainings for prisoners via formal links between prisons and state-owned technical and vocational institutes. The project's technical expertise provided context-specific guidance and ensured South–South knowledge exchange in the implementation of the Funding Windows allocations to **Iraq and Trinidad and Tobago**.

**Second, the CPPRI project's core government functions** and local governance team advanced efforts around local governance, aid management, public financial management and public sector management in fragile and crisis-affected settings from a development, peacebuilding and prevention perspective. This enables UNDP to contribute to the provision of basic public services, reinforcement of social contracts and restoration of trust in core government institutions at national and local levels. For example, in **Algeria**, the team supported the anti-corruption commission in gaining greater capacities for inclusive governance and the SDGs, while in **Sudan**, the team improved aid management as a core function of the transitional government until the coup in October 2021 limited UNDP's engagement. In **Zimbabwe**, the team supported public sector reforms to tackle institutional weaknesses, operational challenges and capacity constraints, in support of the SDGs and the national 2030 Vision.

UNDP supports national and community ownership of response and recovery efforts and helps strengthen horizontal and vertical coordination capacities between central and local actors and among local actors themselves, to address governance bottlenecks and ensure a bottom-up approach to service delivery. On supporting local governance and enabling more participatory, accountable public services, the team supported **Afghanistan's** new Area Based Country Programme with a community and service delivery assessment. The first decentralization and local development policy in the **Central African Republic** was designed and validated after consultations, a key part of the 2019 Peace Agreement. An area-based programming pilot was set up in Lebanon through the host communities support programme there, covering 24 municipalities and 24 CSOs. In **Myanmar**, the team helped design public service delivery in areas controlled by ethnic armed groups, affecting two states and about 1.5 million people. In countries like Central African Republic and Myanmar, recurrent conflict, electoral violence and irregular political transition created complex operational environments, while the Beirut blast and national economic collapse worsened Lebanon's political crisis. Coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, these unforeseen events and challenging operational contexts led to delays in UNDP projects. UNDP redoubled efforts to complete work when access became possible and adapted working approaches when necessary.

UNDP leveraged its partnerships on core governance functions by organizing together, with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office, an ambassador-level consultation on institution building, thus promoting collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors, along with tools to strengthen governance and the critical role of state institutions in peacebuilding. Together with UNHCR, UNDP developed a Diagnostic Assessment on Local Governance in Situations of Forced Displacement, aimed at ensuring that refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and host communities share equally in development gains. To advance knowledge and lessons for restoring core government functions in crises and inclusive local governance, UNDP partnered with Princeton University and Build Up in Kenya to develop 7 research papers and 20 case studies, including from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, Iraq, Pakistan and Ukraine.

**Third, the CPPRI project engaged in global policy setting and advocacy on climate security.** UNDP's offer on climate security stresses 'climate-proofing' prevention and peacebuilding, ensuring peace-positive mitigation and adaptation, and delivering integrated approaches to climate action and sustaining peace. UNDP, together with the Climate Security Mechanism, a joint initiative by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is helping strengthen integrated approaches to climate change, prevention and sustaining peace. Given that the impacts of and responses to climate security transcend national borders, regional and country analyses, strategies and programming were produced.

In Kassala, **Sudan**, UNDP conducted a climate-related security risk assessment in conflict-affected communities. UNDP is supporting communities affected by conflict and climate change effects with alternative livelihoods and energy such as solar stoves and planting trees and fruit seedlings targeting 300 at-risk youth, women and other vulnerable populations with an aim to reduce the risk of people joining violent extremists.

In **Somalia**, a training on climate security for rule of law, environment and climate change institutions at the federal and state level took place, while the team supported an analysis of gaps and opportunities to integrate climate security, which will lead to a report to be produced in collaboration with the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change. Finally, an expert on climate and security risk was embedded in the Liptako Gourma Authority Secretariat to mainstream climate-related security risks into stabilization efforts in the Liptako Gourma region and contribute to an analysis of institutional frameworks and the needs of local communities.

## Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development

In 2021, the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development delivered support to 50 conflict and crisis-affected countries, protecting human rights and enabling access to justice for some of the world's most vulnerable people. Led by UNDP's promise of leaving no one behind, the Global Programme reached those most at risk, including women and girls, individuals deprived of their liberty, human rights defenders and indigenous communities. As testament to its established reputation, \$26.8 million was mobilized in 2021, 98 percent of which was disbursed, an 18 percent increase from 2020.

Justice institutions globally benefited from the Global Programme's technical support and expertise in protecting human rights, as well as aligning judicial digitization with the SDGs, particularly SDG 16 on 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', mapping e-justice projects across the world and producing an analysis of e-justice opportunities and risks, offering guidance for digitizing the legal sector responsibly. In **Guatemala**, the Global Programme supported the digital transformation and virtual justice strategy for the Judicial Branch and Constitutional Court, by incorporating filing and statistical management systems. Indigenous people across 16 municipalities were able to benefit from better access to justice: 272 virtual hearings were held in 2021, after 5 Justices of Peace Courts were equipped to provide



online services. UNDP also provided ICT equipment to improve Mayan language translations within the Judicial Branch, enabling simultaneous translations at hearings and bringing justice closer to indigenous communities. In **Nepal**, UNDP helped to resolve 188 cases of human rights violations, after providing technical and logistic support to the National Human Rights Commission. Cases included extrajudicial killings; discrimination based on gender, caste and ethnicity; citizenship claims; and lack of medical services for detainees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global Programme leverages the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP), co-chaired by UNDP and the Department of Peace Operations, to protect human rights, as well as restore justice and security for communities affected by conflict; 12 countries and territories benefited from joint funding, missions and deployments in 2021. In the **Central African Republic**, with support from the GFP, the Special Criminal Court was established to investigate, prosecute and judge serious human rights violations, along with grave breaches of international criminal and humanitarian law. By the end of 2021, the Court was investigating most of the 237 complaints filed by victims. Another 305 victims and witnesses, including 24 women, benefited from the Court's protection measures.

Initial results from a UNDP–UN Women partnership provided women and girls access to justice in 14 conflict-affected countries, reaching 34,179 individuals, 89 percent of whom were women, including 500 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. In **Pakistan**, UNDP rolled out a programme for vulnerable women and girls in the Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, a post-conflict area where stabilization and human rights assistance is not accessible to other development partners. UNDP built a network of five gender desks across all four provinces, comprised of women lawyers, CSO representatives and transgender persons, to strengthen links between communities and the National Human Rights Institution.

## Global Project: The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approach

UNDP's Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach addresses the immediate, medium and long-term needs of communities. In the words of UNDP Resident Representatives from Iraq, Myanmar and Nigeria, this involves “planting the seeds of peace” to break cycles of conflict by tackling structural drivers of instability with long-term development and peacebuilding approaches alongside humanitarian relief.

In 2021, UNDP strengthened development paths to preventing conflict and preserving peace in seven countries—**Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Haiti, Libya, Myanmar** and **Niger**—as well as in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions. UNDP's expertise helped accelerate nexus approaches across UNDP country programmes, by designing development solutions that reduce humanitarian needs, and facilitating better coordination and learning across the humanitarian, development and peace pillars nexus. Trained nexus advisors were deployed to guide programming through a dedicated Crisis Bureau help desk. In **Afghanistan**, UNDP's Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) programme is protecting development gains and ensuring the continuity of basic services to the most vulnerable people. In **Myanmar**, UNDP developed a new community-focused support strategy that protects people's well-being, raises their resilience and maintains democratic space amidst significant, ongoing shocks. These and other interventions are delivered in partnership with government entities, other UN agencies (including UNHCR, World Food Programme and UNICEF), international financial institutions, the private sector and NGOs. In **Central African Republic**, the development of a strategy for durable solutions and support for transitional justice contributed to conflict prevention and the preservation of peace.

To accelerate the implementation of the nexus approach globally, UNDP piloted a multi-stakeholder ‘Nexus Academy’ in 2021, bringing together participants from UNDP, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, UN agencies and NGOs to build shared knowledge, skills and capacities to accelerate nexus approaches. The Nexus Academy was subsequently launched in February 2022 and has already trained around 150 participants. Academy ‘alumni’ have come together at the country level in a range of contexts, from the **Sahel to Madagascar, Mozambique** and beyond. To foster exchange and a sense of community, these trained specialists continue to engage and access online training on the online learning platform, which offers over 100 key learning resources.

A leader in the field, UNDP is at the forefront of the global nexus forums, including co-chairing the OECD-INCAF [International Network on Conflict and Fragility] Task Team (with the Republic of Korea) to shape the international policy agenda on fragility, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (with Oxfam), as well as leading the workstream on trilingualism, with Japan in the DAC-UN Dialogue and co-chairing the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian Development Collaboration (with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). The demonstrated advances on the HDP nexus have attracted additional finance from Germany with an initial \$205,000 contribution.

## Global Project: Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

In 2021, UNDP's joint programme with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) relied on the Funding Windows to channel seed funding to 16 catalytic initiatives worth \$1,343,000 to respond quickly to emerging needs. The programme helped strengthen the capacities of national stakeholders in over 80 countries to prevent conflict and build peace, supported by 120 Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs); 79 percent of PDAs supported national policies and strategies for conflict prevention.

In **Malawi**, the Parliament passed the Malawi Peace and Unity Bill into law, providing the legal basis for forming national bodies to prevent conflict. The PDA team provided technical advice to the Ministry of Civic Education and National Unity through this process, including by developing an advocacy strategy to boost support for the bill when its adoption process stalled. A total of 66 percent of PDAs developed government capacities for conflict prevention and peacebuilding through training, and 81 percent of PDAs facilitated or engaged in preventive diplomacy, mediation and dialogue.

In 2021, 95 percent of PDAs supported UN conflict prevention programming. PDAs also enhanced the conflict sensitivity of UN policies, strategies and programmes, and contributed to UN country team analyses, connecting their findings to conflict prevention programming. In **Kenya**, a report by the PDA team found that 10 out of 47 counties risk being left behind, following historical and economic marginalization, with the lowest human development markers in the country. This report informed the UN's Country Common Analysis and became the framing principle for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, prioritizing political and socio-economic inclusion to address root causes of inequality and conflicts over the next five years. In **Bolivia**, the PDA helped coordinate a comprehensive UN dialogue with an indigenous community affected by the operations of an international mining company, which was hindering access to their land and polluting their water supplies, creating grievances that could contribute to the emergence of protests, violence or conflict. Following a needs assessment and intergovernmental consultations, the PDA team in **Kyrgyzstan** recommended a joint set of priorities and spearheaded a cross-border cooperation programme with Uzbekistan to build trust between border communities. Many PDAs work to expand national stakeholders' inclusion and engagement in conflict prevention; 90 percent of PDAs engaged with women groups, with 60 percent working to increase women's involvement in dialogue and mediation; while another 90 percent reached out to youth groups, where 76 percent focused on boosting youth participation in dialogue and mediation. In **Tunisia**, the PDA team collaborated with DPPA's Mediation Support Unit and an external technical partner to conduct a series of youth-focused digital dialogues, creating opportunities for young women and men from various parts of the country to express their aspirations and discuss barriers to youth participation in public life. With the support of the PDA team, a climate security assessment focused on land and water conflicts was conducted by UNDP, FAO and the Resident Coordinator Office in collaboration with a local think tank. The study provided concrete recommendations to national actors and helped develop a UN-wide advocacy and resource mobilization strategy.

While PDAs work across the UN's peace and security and development pillars, they are increasingly engaged in human rights, seeking to prevent violent conflict that is rooted in injustice, human rights violations and disenfranchisement, and to sustain peace. In 2021, the PDAs and Human Rights Advisers closely worked together in 22 of the 23 countries where both were present. For example, the PDA in **Cambodia** led the drafting and coordination of the first-ever Joint Human Rights Strategy, which promotes an integrated way of working across the three pillars of the UN to ensure that human rights rests at the core of all UN System actions in the country. The Human Rights Strategy also serves as the framework to guide UN Cambodia's prevention work.

## Global Project: Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (SALW) Roadmap Implementation

In 2021, UNDP contributed to making the **Western Balkans** safer for all, by strengthening capacities of government authorities to combat the illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, with systems and practices meeting international standards to detect, prevent and prosecute illegal arms circulation.

In **Serbia**, UNDP, together with the Government of Germany and the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, donated equipment for crime scene investigations, forensic and ballistic examination worth over \$600,000 to the National Forensic Centre and the Serbian police. While accepting the donation, Serbian Minister of the Interior, Aleksandar Vulin, said: "**Thanks to the generous support ... members of the Serbian police who are working on investigations are not lagging behind their colleagues in richer and more developed countries.**" UNDP Serbia also worked to improve the institutional response to prosecution and the punishment of firearms misuse in domestic and intimate partner violence. Deeper insight into existing practices of the criminal justice system and the tracking of reported cases will support evidence-based policymaking and serve to monitor efficient institutional response to these reported crimes.

In **Albania** and **Serbia**, police and ballistic laboratories increased the quality of their work and their ability to conduct more effective criminal investigations and generate more reliable and accurate evidence. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 774 police officers gained greater knowledge and increased their capacities to tackle illicit arms trafficking using standard operating procedures, following UNDP training. In **Kosovo**,<sup>1</sup> the Ministry of Interior's weapons registration system was upgraded to more easily identify and trace firearms and, after a successful training on preventing and responding to illicit arms trafficking, the Ministry requested UNDP to replicate it to benefit a larger pool of border police officials. In **Montenegro**, the project helped upgrade the security of small arms and light weapons storage, reducing the risk of firearm proliferation and related crimes or accidents. In **North Macedonia**, UNDP helped improve the collection, analysis and sharing of firearm-related data via a new Information Management System it developed. The Minister of Interior, Oliver Spasovski, praised the initiative, saying it "will enable the Ministry to collect and analyse data ... in a faster and more accurate manner," improving citizens' safety.

UNDP enabled more informed policymaking and policing, releasing 26 knowledge products guiding police, social welfare centres, courts, public prosecutor's offices and women's CSOs, including on the relation between gender and firearms in **North Macedonia** and **Serbia**. Across the region, UNDP raised public awareness of the risks of firearms misuse through an awareness and communication campaign that included information brochures, news articles, appearances in local media, videos and social media posts. As a result of UNDP's efforts and advocacy in **Serbia**, firearm-related violence was integrated into the national strategy for preventing and combating gender-based violence for 2021 to 2025.

## Country Project: Improving Burkina Faso's Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law

In the challenging context of COVID-19, ministerial changes and humanitarian and security challenges, the Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law (COSED) project supports the Burkina Faso government in strengthening local policing. Local policing is vital in improving community security and countering terrorism risks. The project's substantial support assists with the fight against insecurity and terrorism through the capacity-building of security actors and the provision of materials and equipment to improve the policing network throughout the country. A particular emphasis is on building and upgrading key infrastructures adapted to gender equality and the protection of human rights. This is being done by promoting proximity to the population and providing suitable and reliable means of transport, tools for processing of digital files and communication, and targeted training that allows upgrades and communicates the standards and norms of intervention required to ensure human rights. In 2021, a national conference on local security initiatives enabled nearly 700 participants to incorporate the vision and strategy of community policing into their work, as well as strengthen managers' supervisory and monitoring capacities of local security initiatives. After a training on control procedures and assessment criteria, the national coordination body for controlling the police was able to carry out quality controls. To better manage gender-based violence cases and strengthen the representation of women in defence and security forces, UNDP trained Ministry of Security operational staff in gender-sensitive planning and integrated budgeting that supports the rights of women and children. Finally, UNDP Burkina Faso produced and broadcast radio shows and awareness capsules on the importance of collaborating with internal security forces. The delivery of activities has been slowed down because of the level of insecurity in the selected areas and the need to agree with the authorities on the implementation modality and responsibilities. The planned building of infrastructure could not begin, due to the inability to complete an environmental impact study after national administrative delays. This has been noted and discussed between UNDP, the donor and the government, while taking into account the security situation has led to a phased approach.

1 All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

### **Burkina Faso** Strengthening livelihoods for women in the Centre-North

In Burkina Faso's ongoing security crisis, UNDP's cash-for-work programme enabled 31 women and 69 men to earn income that will be spent within their communities and reinforce the economy. Interviews with beneficiaries indicate the money was either invested in their businesses, their children's education or their family's health care. In the context of poverty, such income has the potential to transform the position of women as key contributors to their households and communities, boosting their independence and leadership. Twenty community infrastructures, including schools and two health centres in the communal districts of Barsalogo et Zéguédéguin, were rehabilitated through short-term employment projects. It is estimated that 50 patients per day now use the health centres, while 441 pupils are enjoying better learning conditions within their rehabilitated school in Zéguédéguin.

A total of 200 women, including 93 from the host population and 107 internally displaced people, better understand how to sustainably manage a micro-enterprise, after receiving business and value chain management training. They also received micro-enterprise kits to transform peanut oil, prepare food and juice, fatten sheep, create soap and do hairdressing. Feedback from beneficiaries suggests that this has helped rebuild their livelihoods and support communities in overcoming the rise in poverty and unemployment due to conflict. Ouedragogo Rabiatou, an IDP who arrived in Zéguédéguin pregnant, trained in managing small businesses and marketing. She also received a sewing machine, table, iron, scissors and other tools, remarking: **"With my activity, I will be able to take care of my future baby as well as the family's expenses ... and help us to be autonomous."**

UNDP also helped build local committees in the communes of Barsalogo, Bourzanga and Kaya, to raise awareness on conflict prevention, enabling a safer and more peaceful society, especially for women. In total, 50 women were invited to discuss social cohesion within their communities through three workshops on community-level consultations, as well as managing and preventing intercommunal conflict. Acting as project focal points in their communes, these women have become key advocates for peace, contributing to the sensitization of some 4,640 people, 2,742 of whom were women, in social cohesion.

### **Central African Republic** Support project for strengthening the livelihoods and resilience of local communities in the Basse-Kotto prefecture

With violent conflict already constraining access to health care and decent jobs in Central African Republic, UNDP responded to COVID-19 by raising awareness on hygiene measures to prevent its spread. Over 20,000 people in three communities received messages through awareness-raising caravans organized with the mayor, youth and women leaders, and a local NGO partner. Radio messages were also shared via radio stations, featuring renowned actors, while handwashing sites were created in different parts of the city where crowds gather for public services, including 15 in Mobaye centre and 5 in Langandji. These actions contributed to lowering infection rates and only 10 cases were reported in Mobaye.

An estimated 350 jobs were created, either through temporary cash-for-work or income-generating entrepreneurship activities. As part of a dedicated training for 150 women and girls, women's groups were provided with seed kits and girls were trained in sewing. To support women's economic activity, UNDP renovated a recreation space, where women can sell their products, and rehabilitated five infrastructural sites, including two bridges, facilitating socio-economic exchanges between the city of Mobaye and outlying villages. Further, to lessen the economic impact of COVID-19, 50 vulnerable people—27 women and 23 men—were identified with the support of community leaders and given food vouchers worth \$44 per month, since August 2021. Monitoring evidence demonstrates breeders' success in increasing their assets and sales. Community-led groups have been formed to benefit from project assets such as deriving income from the sale of cattle products and rentals of rickshaws and the recreation centre, all of which support further commercial activities. While no data are available, anecdotal evidence suggests that the hygienic slaughterhouse has reduced the transmission of disease through food.

## **Iraq** Enhance socio-economic participation of vulnerable populations

Through UNDP's job matching pilot, 35 people, 18 of them women, started internships with one of the biggest companies in Karbala, after UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and private companies to open paid internships for three months for 150 young people over 2021–2022. Of these, five young people, including three women, secured long-term employment with private companies. Separately, 75 young trainees, 36 of them women, received soft skills training and explored the online youth-led platform (INPoint) and its 16 training courses. These Arabic courses developed by UNDP cover areas such as digital marketing, data analysis, and programming and project management. A set of 25 trainees out of the 75 have begun studying the courses, including 13 women. An end-of training survey found that 100 percent of trainees found the learning materials useful, enabling them to gain tangible benefits in navigating professional work environments, such as CV writing, communication and interview skills, as well as data analysis, business management and leadership. They added that the training boosted their mental health, as many experienced bouts of depression while unemployed. Participants received certificates after completing their courses, enhancing their employability. As an indication of success, \$15,000 was mobilized from the telecom partner Asiacell to develop another online course. The initiative has the potential to be scaled up and applied in other Arab countries, enabling more youth to benefit from the learning materials produced, free of charge.

## **Liberia** Livelihood and employment creation

To mitigate the economic shock of COVID-19, UNDP supported Liberians to get informal sector jobs that underpin Liberia's economy, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, many of which have less capital, as well as lower savings, investments and productivity, raising their vulnerability during crises. Following UNDP's cash-for-work intervention, 5 women beneficiaries started small-scale businesses and 85 percent out of 40 beneficiaries invested at least half of their earnings into small businesses, including fish drying, cassava processing and bread baking. On average, those who invested about half of their earnings into their businesses were able to generate a monthly income of about \$80. Three quarters of the beneficiaries were under the age of 40, at least half of the small business recipients hire women, and 60 percent of beneficiaries reported improved business structures and better management of their business records.

As a result of the purchase of 12 solar freezers and 3 industrial dryers, 100 women working in fish-processing in 3 fishing communities increased their income and their capacity to support their families, by increasing produce quality and lifespans. Women who previously had to buy mangrove and other forest wood to dry fish are now able to preserve their fish in the solar freezers with minimum fees, saving about \$20 a month. In addition, over \$56,000 was circulated in the local economy through cash-for-work interventions, which generated incomes for 210 women and 220 men from 12 communities across Grand Cape Mount County. This included 14 people living with disabilities, who are far more vulnerable to poverty due to social stigma and economic exclusion. More than 55 percent of beneficiaries spent the money received on food, household needs, house repairs, school fees and health care, while those with disabilities spent it mostly on food and health care.

The initiative also helped launch Liberia's first youth eco-brigade, creating jobs in biodiversity management. As part of a five-year ecosystem protection strategy, the Youth Eco-Brigade employs 60 young people—29 women and 31 men—to conserve Lake Piso's wetlands through clean-up efforts and community awareness activities. Each youth eco-brigade receives \$400 towards a business start-up, which some have invested in farming, fish-processing and cassava-processing businesses. With UNDP grants, technical assistance and mentorship, 52 of these start-ups have reached more customers and scaled up their activities. For example, a chip-making enterprise increased production and its products are now sold by local vendors. Project participant Massa James started a bread-making and distribution business, in addition to a used-clothes trading business. She generated a monthly income of \$33.30 during her first two months of business and recruited two women who work on commission in the sale of the products.



## **Mozambique** Strengthening inclusive, SDG-sensitive and COVID-19 responsive planning for the most vulnerable through community-based approaches

Following the armed conflict in Cabo Delgado province, through cleaning and rehabilitation interventions, UNDP became the first UN agency to access the district of Macomia, working closely with the government and community, and providing 9,900 households with tool kits to support livelihoods, comprised of agricultural tools (two hoes, one rack, one axe and one machete) and use of a storage warehouse. As a result of a small cash injection of \$94 per household per month, local economic activity increased, with markets near renovation sites becoming busier.

With women and girls especially vulnerable in conflicts and disproportionately burdened in the post-conflict process, dedicated interventions were piloted and expanded in support of women's economic empowerment. For example, many women participants gained greater access to information and communication technologies, as well as more control over household resources, through the distribution of smart phones and the use of mobile transfers via password-protected mobile accounts. This has laid the foundation for new ways of promoting financial literacy, particularly for women. Finally, local women are beginning to assume leadership roles as a result of engaging with an experienced group of women community officers who discussed women's rights and gender equality with local women, creating the awareness and environment needed for women to be empowered.

## **North Macedonia** Meet-up for digitization and future job skills

In North Macedonia, where 35 percent of people aged 15 to 24 are unemployed, developing skills for the future of work is critical for youth. With UNDP support, North Macedonia's new Future Skills Centre opened in November 2021, sharing knowledge on key technologies emerging in the digital and green transition across construction, textiles and agriculture. In partnership with the Fund for Innovation and Technological Development and South East European University, the Future Skills Centre engages with businesses, professional bodies and associations to meet changing industry needs through flexible training. So far, 270 people have gained specialized skills in information modelling, 3D design and renewable energy. Six occupational standards on emerging skills were developed by the private sector in textiles, construction and renewable energy, supporting a culture of professionalism and innovation that is set to drive transformational change for business and youth alike. According to Bojana Boranieva from the Bortas construction company: **"The sessions on information modelling provided (an) excellent introduction to this technology and practical ways on how to implement it in the work processes of our company."**

## **Sierra Leone** Emergency livelihood support to COVID-19 affected communities in Kailahun district

With farmers among those most vulnerable to the economic fallout of COVID-19, UNDP provided 100 farmers—60 women and 40 men—from Kisi Tongi Chiefdom in Kailahun district with seeds, locally made farming tools by persons with disabilities and financial assistance. As a result, farmers were able to grow groundnuts and vegetables during the sowing season, thereby improving their food production, income and welfare. All 100 community members who participated in UNDP's training in innovation, entrepreneurship and microfinance reported that they found the sessions useful and felt more confidence in opening savings bank accounts and accessing loans to enable sustained financing for their income-generating activities. This initiative helped establish six village savings and loan groups for community members, offering financial literacy training and kits; 95 targeted beneficiaries—60 women and 35 men—joined these groups and as of November 2021, some \$13,651 was mobilized to invest in their economic activities. Another positive change is an observed increase in respect towards people with disabilities, as well as their incomes, as project tools and agriculture inputs worth \$30,000 provided to beneficiaries were procured from people with disabilities, raising their value within their communities.

As a result of the campaigns to raise awareness on COVID-19 and sexual and gender-based violence, 100 SGBV cases from the Kailahun district were documented, with support provided to access justice. This included 67 cases of sexual violence against young girls, 30 cases of domestic violence, 1 case of sodomy, 1 case of child trafficking, and 1 of property deprivation involving women as victims. Targeted communities are also now more aware of where, when and how to report on such cases, to better protect more women and children. The campaigns also targeted the military, policy and law enforcement bodies—76 men and 35 women—enhancing their understanding of the nexus between health, human rights and sexual and gender-based violence. Dialogue between community members and law enforcement bodies enhanced confidence in security agencies.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

### Global Project: Ending Gender-Based Violence and Achieving the SDGs

The project delivers innovative approaches to end gender-based violence and accelerate progress towards other development goals. It has done so by testing new tools in seven pilot countries (**Bhutan, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Peru, Republic of Moldova** and **Uganda**), fostering collaboration across sectors and building support to end gender-based violence outside of gender teams.

After four years of implementation, the project's tools and approaches have been institutionalized into government and other actors' policies, processes and budgets, helping to ensure that many of the positive changes set in motion because of the project will be sustained. For example, approaches used by six of the seven pilot countries will be replicated or broadened. Five have secured additional financial support, including in **Indonesia** (the Village Fund allocated funds to a local action plan to end gender-based violence), in **Peru** (three local governments allocated \$270,000 to scale up efforts), and in **Moldova** (some \$60,000 is allocated annually from the national budget for the functioning of the Safe Space, while the regional government has contributed \$85,375).

Forging new and unexpected partnerships has been pivotal to the project's ability to break silos and galvanize broad support to end gender-based violence. **Private sector partnerships** were forged in **Lebanon, Peru, Moldova** and **Uganda**. In **Peru**, the company Natura purchased dignity kits for more than 2,000 women. As a show of their support to end gender-based violence, the **Ugandan** Ministries of Water and Environment, of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the National Meteorological Agency are integrating gender-based violence risk mitigation and prevention in the workstreams and processes of a broader climate change project.

Addressing harmful social norms and gender-inequitable attitudes and behaviours have been a driving force behind the project's success. In **Lebanon**, 90 percent of 182 women who participated in the gender-based violence prevention sessions reported feeling more empowered and confident in taking on more decision-making roles in their communities. In **Bhutan**, 153 adolescent participants reported that they adopted more gender-equitable attitudes following UNDP-led programming. This success has inspired the Government of Bhutan to expand the approach in three other schools. In **Iraq**, both male and female participants of a participatory curriculum with couples reported improved anger management, more favourable views of girls' education and changed attitudes towards violence against children. There were also shifts in gender roles: participants became more accepting of men participating in domestic duties and of women working outside the home.

The project also resulted in improved livelihoods and a better work environment for women. In **Moldova**, the creation of a safe space for women in 2020 led to the creation of seven new businesses and provided livelihood support to 50 gender-based violence survivors. In **Lebanon**, a new national law to address sexual harassment was implemented, 8 employers were supported to draft aligned policies, and workshops with 14 businesses participating were convened to advance gender equality and non-discriminatory practices in the workplace.

### Global Project: Gender and Crisis Facility

The Gender and Crisis Facility supported the early crisis response in **Afghanistan** by providing technical guidance to a high-profile event on the margins of the 2021 UN Security Council debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) focusing on several Afghan women and their demands for continued development support in the wake of the acute crisis. Two gender-responsive conflict analyses in **Myanmar** and **Sudan** were rolled out in partnership with UN Women to drive evidence-based programming. The analysis in Myanmar fed directly into UN country team discussions around re-engagement with the government as well as into the Myanmar Data Observatory that will inform UNDP's post-conflict programming. A pilot initiative in Sudan used gender-responsive risk and early warning data to strengthen the gender indicators of the UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboard.

## Global Project: Gender Equality Global Policy Observatory

The Gender Equality Global Policy Observatory was launched in 2021 with mapping global observatories on gender equality to help define data gaps and needs. The Observatory is based on the [UNDP and UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and women's empowerment, which attracted widespread attention, informing policymakers and supporting development actors and country offices in gender analysis. The tracker provides analytics and evidence to support public policies that are inclusive and gender-responsive, including data on gender-sensitive COVID-19 policy measures and women's leadership in COVID task forces. Through the Observatory, the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions online platform has been updated to enable participating public institutions in developing countries to implement gender equality standards, with step-by-step guidance and support, along with access to the toolbox

## NATURE, CLIMATE AND ENERGY

### Global Project: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Phase II

Despite a shared concern about environmental issues, efforts by policymakers, scientists and practitioners remain largely divided. The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) project's aim is to support dialogue and exchange between these key groups, referred to as 'Dialogues', while supporting evidence-based policymaking, planning and on-the-ground actions.

The success of these Dialogues can be assessed by the approval and implementation of work plans oriented to BES solutions, which they helped produce. In 2021, such work plans were rolled out in **Kazakhstan**, **Nigeria** and **Trinidad and Tobago**.

In **Kazakhstan**, more than 120 hectares of degraded lands were restored through integrated BES management, focusing on protecting pollinator species. UNDP revitalized Kazakhstan's traditional agricultural extension centres, strengthening the capacities of 7,900 farmers, of whom 48 percent were women, in Almaty Shymkent and Kyzylorda regions, while enhancing their agro-technological skills to rehabilitate land and boost agricultural productivity. In **Nigeria**, recognition of the country's pollinator species increased after a DNA barcoding and QR coding system was established to identify them, informing national strategies on pollinators and integrated pest management being prepared by the Ministry of Environment.

Multi-stakeholder institutional frameworks that addressed policy, science and practice were created in **Kazakhstan** and **Nigeria**, promoting evidence-based sustainable BES management initiatives. After Kazakhstan led a regional BES partnership with Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the countries signed a memorandum of understanding on information sharing and access to information in their national genetic resources databases. Over 500 researchers and policymakers in the **Dominican Republic**, **Malawi** and **Thailand** enhanced their ability to apply key BES concepts to national ecosystem assessments, such as engaging multiple stakeholders, including indigenous and local knowledge holders.

An online citizen science platform gathered data on pollinators and pests across the Caribbean, where more than 800 contributors across 28 countries and territories uploaded over 8,000 photos of animal species from gardens, schools and fields. The effort led to the discovery of a new butterfly species in **Trinidad and Tobago**, while the data are helping scientists monitor the distribution of useful pollinators and harmful pests to inform policymaking in these areas.

BES-Net, through its Solution Fund, facilitates governments and their partners to jointly invest in neglected ecological fields, such as pollinator species conservation and pesticide control. **Trinidad and Tobago** formed a new partnership with Trinidad Cement Limited, which will expand work on pollinator gardens and education centres. Similarly, in **Kazakhstan**, the Institute of Botany and Phytointroduction of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences is providing funds to establish a coordinating centre on environmental conventions.

## Global Project: Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

While it is estimated that \$824 billion is needed annually to sustain biodiversity, current annual global investment is \$142 billion. Through the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), UNDP is bringing together partners to help countries measure their biodiversity investments, assess their financial needs and identify the best strategies to overcome their biodiversity financing gaps.

In 2021, the number of BIOFIN countries grew from 35 to 40, including **China**, which responded to the call to protect biodiversity and reach their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The number of countries supported outside the programme also expanded, as **Belarus**, **Panama** and **Ukraine** began carrying out activities with their own funds, overseen by UNDP.

More than \$1.7 million was mobilized through the crowdfunding campaign, “Keep Conservation Heroes in their Jobs”, launched in early 2020 in **Costa Rica**, **Ecuador**, **the Philippines** and **Thailand**, raising significant biodiversity awareness and funds. In Costa Rica, development banks pledged \$300,000 for nature-positive investments. Separately, through the country’s ‘+ Women + Nature’ initiative, BIOFIN mobilized \$27.6 million to boost women’s incentives and access to credit in biodiversity-related activities such as agriculture, tourism, fishing and forestry. One thousand hectares of rural land in **Colombia** will be under conservation, after a new payment for ecosystem services initiative was launched and generated \$2 million for 2021–2024. A new biodiversity offsets and ecotourism law took effect in **Kazakhstan**, while a short documentary on the role of women in farming and hunting was released in Russian and English to promote their involvement in biodiversity protection. **Botswana**’s government agreed on a new set of protected area fees that could annually raise more than \$1 million dollars in revenue. By the end of 2021, **Zambia** removed a barrier to conservation investments by reducing the threshold for incentives from \$500,000 to \$50,000. **Kyrgyzstan** began creating the conditions for developing and delivering the national budget more effectively, including ensuring funding for activities in all Forest Enterprises and Protected Areas. Already, the measures have been implemented in three areas, with proposals made to scale up in another 13 areas, as well as 33 forest firms. In **Mongolia**, a new regulation to collect environmental fees and allocate their associated revenue was approved by parliament, after two successful pilots.

To reverse the \$500 billion a year that governments spend globally on nature-negative investments in the agriculture sector, such as agricultural subsidies, BIOFIN worked to repurpose harmful subsidies in **27 countries**. The UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy and SIDA co-financed efforts to repurpose subsidies harming biodiversity in **Colombia**, **Kyrgyzstan** and **Nepal**.

UNDP produced the ‘Catalogue of Biodiversity Finance Solutions’, which offers more than 160 financing solutions for countries to choose from to bridge nature financing gaps. In cooperation with Global Canopy, Agence Française de Développement, World Wildlife Fund and Cornell University, BIOFIN launched the ‘Little Book for Investing in Nature’, providing options for financing biodiversity conservation globally. To foster South–South exchange, virtual pan-regional dialogues brought all BIOFIN countries together in global sessions, along with region-specific sessions, to ensure effective regional cooperation for biodiversity finance.

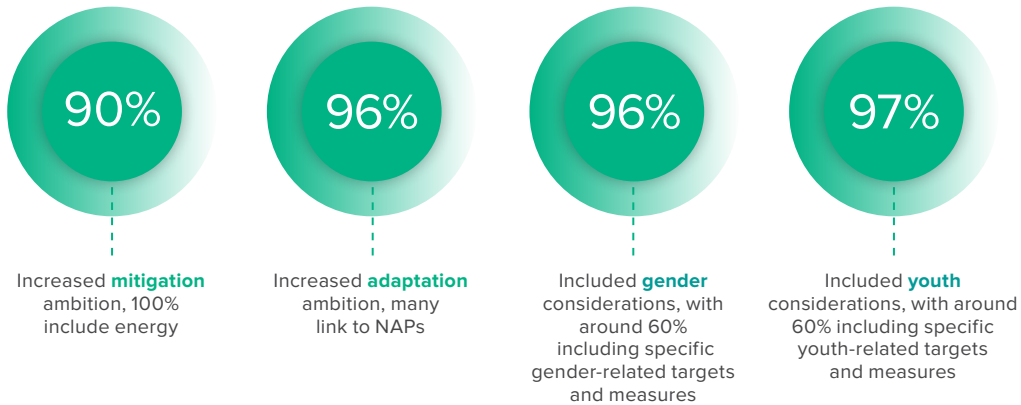
## Global Project: Climate Promise

Climate change is now widespread, rapid and intensifying. It presents the single largest threat to sustainable development and has already caused unprecedented impacts that disproportionately burden the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable. In delivering the Climate Promise, UNDP has demonstrated that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can be powerful tools in helping to define sustainable development priorities through inclusive and whole-of-society processes. **NDCs are not just a pledge from countries on climate action but also represent a key political signal on the direction of sustainable development that a country plans to take**, from policies and measures on energy to gender equality, describing a pathway for transforming economies and societies.

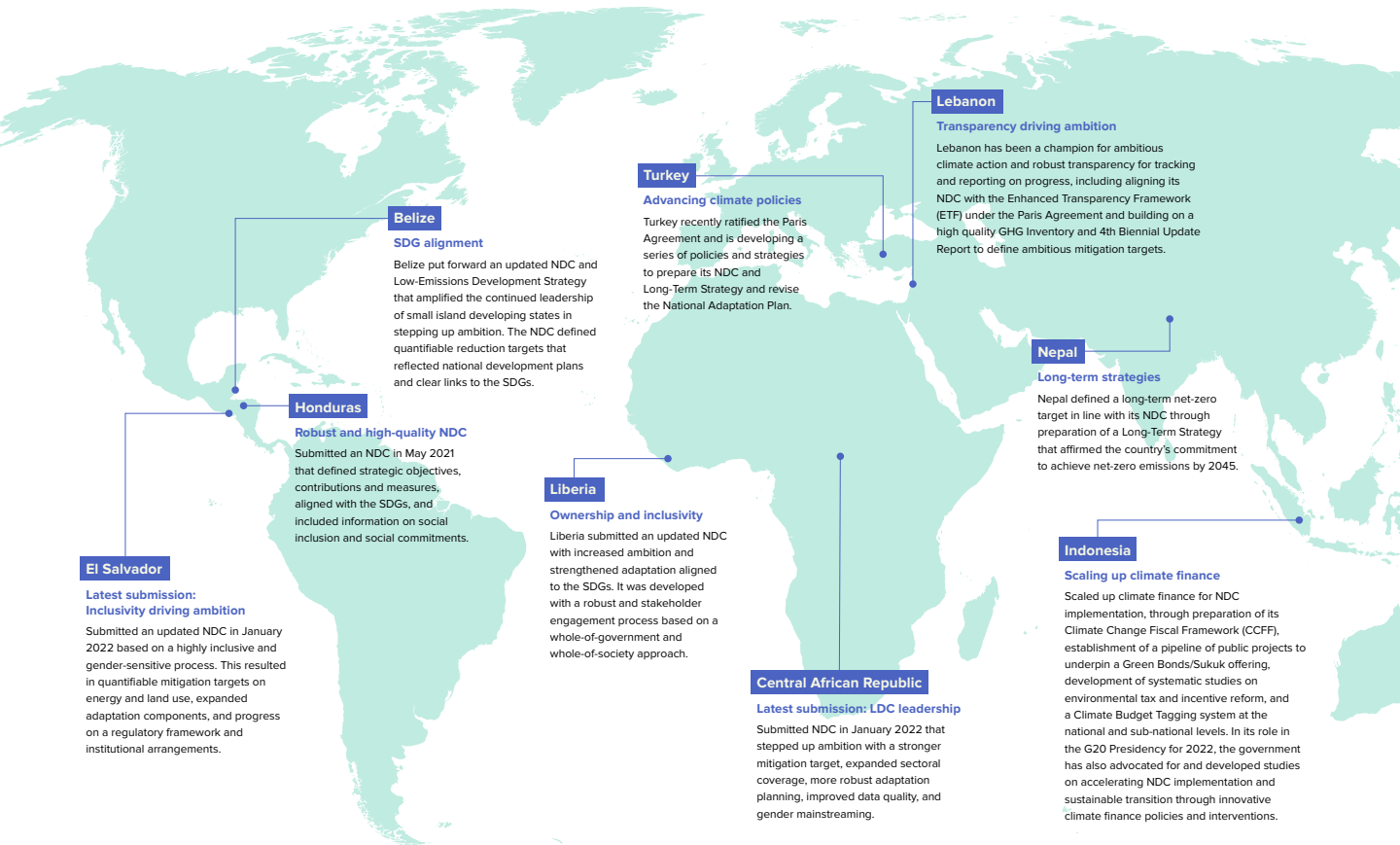
UNDP’s Climate Promise remains the largest global offer of NDC support, covering over 120 countries and territories. As of 31 December 2021, 92 Climate Promise countries have submitted revised NDCs, representing 22 percent of global emissions and 84 percent of developing countries. This includes 33 least developed countries, 17 small island developing states, 11 higher-emitters and 38 fragile states. Of the total:

- 90 were establishing and/or strengthening policies, institutions and capacities for effective NDC implementation
- 87 were identifying and mobilizing resources to realize NDC targets
- 81 were advancing systems to track, monitor and report on climate action
- 60 were aligning and mainstreaming NDC priorities and measures into development plans and strategies, including with the SDG processes.

Second-generation NDCs are of higher quality with better data and detailed costing, and linked to development and sectoral planning. For example, 110 countries undertook assessments and analyses of baselines and scenarios, target reviews and updates in priority sectors. UNDP is already working with countries to put in place the right policies and enabling environments to accelerate NDC implementation. However, finance at scale remains a key hurdle for developing countries, impacting the feasibility of implementation.



Among the 92 Climate Promise country submissions, 90 percent have demonstrated an increase in mitigation ambition and 96 percent have enhanced adaptation ambition. NDCs have also adopted more inclusive approaches and reflect a broader scope of society. For example, 96 percent of Climate Promise countries' NDCs include references to women's empowerment and/or gender equality, as compared to 48 percent in the first generation of NDCs.





Partnerships, within the UN system and beyond, continue to be at the heart of the Climate Promise. UNDP is engaged with over 35 partners at national, regional and global levels to deliver coordinated and joint support to countries. This includes leveraging the coordinating platform of the NDC Partnership as one of its largest implementing partners.

## Global Project: Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Global Support Initiative

Indigenous people are almost three times more likely to live in extreme poverty than other groups. Combining traditional indigenous knowledge with Western science, the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Global Support Initiative (ICCA-GSI) strengthens the ability of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to protect the ecosystems that their livelihoods depend on—territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities—while diversifying their source of earnings. Since 2014, the initiative has partnered with the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Global ICCA Consortium, the Global Programme on Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, securing over \$37 million for 45 countries.

In 2021, ICCA-GSI has reached 235,000 IPLCs in 26 countries, by supporting community-based actions, as well as demonstrating ICCA ecosystem protection and sustainable livelihoods. Over 3 million hectares have been positively influenced. In **Belize**, the indigenous-led Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative enabled a community forest programme in the village of San José, along with sustainable agricultural production and protection of flora and fauna, across 1,012 hectares. Through training on the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), members gained capacities for identifying land-use demarcation, enhancing forest management and conservation. A rise of 10 percent in cacao production, 12 to 15 percent in ground food production and 5 percent in non-timber forest goods resulted in increased income for the farmers. In **Iran**, indigenous villagers from Babol City are aiming to conserve the remaining 184 Ab-bandaans in Babol City using indigenous wetland conservation methods and raising awareness of their environmental and economic benefits among the public.

Towards enabling communities to define and pursue plans according to their needs and goals, 559,059 people gained capacities in managing their land from an ICCA perspective. This included assessing the health of conservation areas by identifying and addressing internal threats (e.g. declining traditional knowledge and practices due to low intergenerational transfers) and external threats (e.g. climate change, land grabs and encroachment). In **Tanzania**, land-use conflicts between Maasai and Akie villages were resolved, after a territorial mapping was produced, a land-use plan for the 30,000-hectare Olongapa ICCA was agreed, and people received land ownership certificates. As a result of the ensuing environmental benefits, crop yield improved, medicinal herbs were diversified, and livestock became healthier from the biomass available in the protected grazing lands. In **Indonesia**, a natural resource mapping of the Alab Lanas and Simbuan indigenous peoples 6,200-hectare customary territories, as well as documentation of their traditional knowledge and practices, is leading to more sustainable land-use protocols. A platform has now been established to negotiate shared land management with the Forestry Department, the Bornion Timber Company and others.

ICCA-GSI training on territorial mapping and reporting to the World Database for Protected Areas led 374 ICCAs in **29 countries** providing self-reporting and thus critical evidence of communities' governance rights and systems, reducing their risk of being removed or displaced from their land. As a sign of success, the ICCA-GSI was praised by various partners at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP26, as a major international delivery mechanism for funding IPLCs to advance biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. More than \$1.7 billion was pledged by 14 country and philanthropic donors from 2021 to 2025 to advance IPLCs' forest rights and support their role as guardians of nature. The ICCA-GSI and its partners further contributed to the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** in 2021, launching three key publications providing clear, compelling evidence that global biodiversity goals depend on the full inclusion of IPLCs: [the State of IPLCs Report](#); [the Territories for Life: 2021 Report](#) and the [Protected Planet Report](#).

## Global Project: PANORAMA

PANORAMA is a bottom-up, multi-actor initiative that combines the world's leading online digital platform dedicated to identifying and disseminating proven solutions that work for nature and people across different sectors with offline learning and sharing of products and activities. The PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet platform enables global partners to share solutions around a range of nature conservation and sustainable development challenges. By the end of 2021, the list of partners included Germany's GIZ, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, GRID-Arendal and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. The platform had published more than 1,030 solutions from 768 providers in some 120 countries and been accessed by 162,641 users. Two new thematic communities were launched—Forest Landscapes Restoration and Species Conservation—to add to the existing seven.

These solutions and their impact on global biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation are shared widely, including through the IUCN publication, *Solutions for development challenges: Insights from protected and conserved areas*, which highlights over 100 PANORAMA case studies. In collaboration with IUCN, UNDP launched the Pathfinder Award, which recognized outstanding solutions from **China, India, Madagascar** and **Tanzania**, selected as winners from more than 400 submissions. The initiative is fostering learning opportunities from successful practices in biodiversity conservation, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation, strengthening environmental decision-making globally.

## Global Project: Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture

Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA) supports countries in translating Nationally Determined Contributions and/or National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) into workable, transformative climate solutions for land use and agriculture. In its first year, SCALA signed 10 country programme agreements and successfully organized 12 workshop defining meetings with relevant stakeholders. Nine SCALA countries (Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda) were supported in screening their NDCs and NAPs, and identifying high-impact climate actions with the engagement of stakeholders.

To amplify benefits beyond NDCs and NAPs, SCALA developed strategies on gender and social inclusion, communications and private sector engagement. A technical facility dedicated to strengthening private sector engagement in the implementation of NDCs and NAPs was launched at COP26. The facility will support 12 more countries, other than SCALA countries, in mapping opportunities, undertaking risk assessments and de-risking analysis to enable private investments. In the margins of COP26, SCALA partnered with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to organize a popular session on engaging the private sector to implement agriculture and land use priorities as found in NDCs and NAPs. SCALA is collaborating with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the NDC Partnership, the UNDP Climate Promise, the UNDP Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems team and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and is exploring additional global, regional and country-level collaboration to further boost its potential and increase its impacts.

## Annex 2: Projects that received earmarked funds through the Funding Windows in 2021

### GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING, CRISIS AND RESILIENCE

Burkina Faso's Social Cohesion, Security and Rule of Law (COSED) programme

---

Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI), including Climate Security

---

Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development (GPRoL)

---

Crisis and Fragility Engagement and Policy project, particularly the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus output

---

Support to the Implementation of the Roadmap for a Sustainable Solution to the Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition in the Western Balkans

---

UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme for Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

---

### NATURE, CLIMATE AND ENERGY

BES-Net Phase II

---

BIOFIN: Biodiversity Finance Initiative

---

Support to indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas and territories (ICCA)

---

Nationally Determined Contributions Support

---

PANORAMA

---

Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture

---

### GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Ending Gender-Based Violence and Achieving the SDGs

---

Gender and Crisis Facility

---

The Global Observatory of Public Policies

---

### POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Inclusive Insurance and Risk Financing Facility

---

## Annex 3: 2021 Crisis response allocations, by crisis level

### LEVEL 2

COUNTRY	CRISIS	DATE OF UNDP CRISIS DECLARATION	FUNDING WINDOWS INVESTMENT
Mozambique	Conflict in Cabo Delgado	February 2021	\$500,000
Myanmar	Myanmar Crisis	February 2021	\$500,000
Haiti	Earthquake and tropical depression	September 2021	\$500,000

### LEVEL 1

COUNTRY	CRISIS	DATE OF UNDP CRISIS DECLARATION	FUNDING WINDOWS INVESTMENT
Eritrea	The Impact of COVID-19 on the informal sector	2020	\$200,000
Barbados (regional)	Volcano La Soufrière and its impact in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados	April 2021	\$200,000
Timor-Leste	Floods	April 2021	\$200,000

## Annex 4: 2021 Pooled Funding Windows allocations

Allocation month	Country office	Allocation amount	Activity supported	Window
January	Sudan*	350,000	Response to the influx of Ethiopia refugees to Sudan	EDRCR
January	Syria	1,800,000	Strengthening the evidence base for more effective resilience and early recovery programming in the Syrian Arab Republic	GPCR
January	El Salvador	192,000	Effective and Transparent Election Services	GIPS
February	Sierra Leone*	100,000	Emergency livelihoods support to COVID-19 affected communities in Kailahun district	SDPE
February	Djibouti*	900,000	Anti-corruption and Civic Engagement	GPCR
February	Chad*	1,243,627	Support for the Strengthening of the Rule of Law and Social Cohesion	GPCR
February	Ethiopia*	1,800,000	Recovery and livelihoods in response to COVID-19	GPCR
February	Niger*	1,400,000	Support the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad Region	GPCR
February	Mozambique*	660,000	Strengthening inclusive, SDG-sensitive and COVID-19 responsive planning for the most vulnerable through community-based approaches	SDPE
February	Liberia*	280,000	Livelihood and Employment Creation	SDPE
February	CAR*	306,500	Appui au renforcement des moyens de subsistance et de la résilience des communautés locales dans la préfecture de Basse-Kotto	SDPE
February	Mali*	1,500,000	Jeunes et paix	GPCR
February	Mauritania*	1,243,000	Promouvoir des emplois et d'autres moyens de subsistance respectueux de l'environnement	GPCR
February	Mauritania*	1,243,628	Appui à la modernisation et à l'accessibilité de la Justice	GPCR
February	Burkina Faso*	400,000	Relèvement et protection des moyens d'existence des communautés vulnérables dans le contexte du Covid-19 dans les régions du Nord, du Centre Nord et des Hauts-Bassin	SDPE
April	Myanmar*	500,000	Emergency response to Myanmar Crisis	GPCR-CR
April	Timor-Leste*	200,000	Support the response to the floods	GPCR-CR
April	Barbados	200,000	To support the response to Volcano La Soufrière and its impact in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados	GPCR-CR
April	Fiji	50,000	Support the Response to Tropical Cyclone Yasa	GPCR-CR
April	Azerbaijan	150,000	Response to the South Caucasus crisis	GPCR-CR
April	Guatemala	150,000	Support the Response to Hurricane ETA	GPCR-CR
April	Mauritius	200,000	Support the Response to the Pollution Crisis	GPCR-CR
April	Ethiopia*	500,000	Support the response to the conflict in and around the Tigray Region	GPCR-CR
April	Mozambique*	500,000	Support the response to the conflict in Cabo Delgado	GPCR-CR
April	Armenia	150,000	Response to the South Caucasus crisis	GPCR-CR
July	Chad*	1,000,000	Promote Accountable, Inclusive and Peaceful Transition	GPCR

August	Iraq	400,000	Enhance socio-economic participation of vulnerable population through EIP Approaches	PI
August	Dominican Republic	400,000	Resilient recovery of the tourism value-chain	PI
August	North Macedonia	400,000	Smooth meetup of Digitalization and Future Job Skills	PI
September	Senegal	400,000	Strengthening the socio-economic resilience of informal sector actor	PI
September	Eritrea*	200,000	The Impact of COVID-19 on informal sector	GPCR-CR
September	Haiti*	500,000	Support the response to the earthquake and tropical depression	EDRCR
October	Afghanistan*	2,000,000	Community Resilience and Social Cohesion	GPCR
October	Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean	300,000	Criminal Justice Reform – Advancing Inclusive Justice in the Caribbean	GPCR-CPSP
October	Chile	448,000	Constitution Making for Sustainable Development	GPCR-DG
October	Djibouti*	900,000	Community Resilience for Sustainable Peace	GPCR
October	Eritrea*	1,200,000	Rural Community Stabilization through Vulnerable Women and Girls	GPCR
October	Ethiopia*	2,400,000	Livelihoods, Economic Recovery and Peacebuilding for Conflict-Affected Communities	GPCR
October	Honduras	315,000	Inclusive Justice	GPCR-CPSP
October	Iraq	2,500,000	Community Security Initiative	GPCR
October	Kosovo	321,000	Youth Development, Gender Norms and Human Security	GPCR-CPSP
October	Kyrgyzstan	300,000	Address Hate Speech and Information Pollution for Social Cohesion	GPCR-CPSP
October	Mauritania*	983,000	Youth and Women in Social Cohesion, Peace and Security	GPCR
October	Moldova	225,000	Accelerate Sustainable Digital Transformation	GPCR-DG
October	Montenegro	300,000	Enable dialogue for countering hate speech and bridging divide	GPCR-CPSP
October	Myanmar	321,000	Promote Acceptance of Difference	GPCR-CPSP
October	Peru	315,000	Strengthen democratic institutions and active citizenship	GPCR-CPSP
October	Philippines	300,000	Kick Off a SALW Programme in BARMM Communities	GPCR-CPSP
October	Somalia	2,800,000	Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding for Security and Stability	GPCR
October	Sri Lanka	300,000	Identification of the drivers of environmental-resources-based communal conflicts	GPCR-CPSP
October	Syria	2,200,000	Climate Resilience of Conflict-Affected Communities	GPCR
October	Uzbekistan	224,000	Support Anti-corruption	GPCR-DG
November	Burkina Faso*	3,000,000	Support the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization	GPCR
November	Mali*	3,000,000	Support the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization	GPCR
November	Niger*	3,000,000	Support the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization	GPCR
November	Samoa*	224,000	Strengthening women's participation and access to justice	GPCR-DG
November	Solomon Islands*	224,000	Strengthening women's participation and access to justice	GPCR-DG

\*Least developed country





**United Nations Development Programme**

One United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

© UNDP 2022