

III-F. Profile of UNDP

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1. Overview

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the UN's global network, focused on helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of globalisation and human development. A number of its activities relate to the linkages between sustainable development and peace and sometimes to environment, as well.

2. Prevention and Risk Reduction

UNDP works to prevent and reduce the risk of two types of crises: natural disasters and armed conflict. While the dynamics of disaster and conflict situations differ, there are approaches which are common to both. UNDP seeks to build national and local capacity through the development of tools and training of personnel. One aspect of this training is focused on convening and facilitation skills which enable stakeholders to solve problems through constructive dialogue. Overall, UNDP promotes the integration of prevention considerations into long-term development planning.

Conflict Prevention and Peace-building

UNDP promotes prevention and peace-building to reduce and avert conflict. Building skills among key stakeholders enables them to convene problem-solving discussions as an alternative to violence. Raising awareness of contentious issues for development planners and policymakers allows them to integrate prevention measures into the long-term development agenda. UNDP undertakes its prevention and peacebuilding activities in collaboration with UN Departments and agencies, including the UN Department of Political Affairs, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Enhanced collaborative efforts have also been developed via the UNDP **Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR)**¹ and through the combined work of CRISMART (Swedish National Defense College) and the Crisis Research Center (Leiden University).

The BCPR is one of nine major bureaus within UNDP. Consistent with UNDP's mission to promote sustainable human development, the focus is on the development dimension of crisis situations.

UNDP is also charged with addressing the obstacle to economic activity and long-term development presented by landmine contamination. The agency helps to develop removal strategies; supports national management systems; assists with the implementation of landmine-related legal obligations; provides training; raises citizen

¹ See Crisis Prevention and Recovery at: http://www.undp.org/bcpr/we_do/prevention_risk.shtml with links to UNDP's work related to Conflict Prevention and Peace-building, Natural Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction, and Small Arms Control and the Reduction of Armed Violence

awareness of how to manage landmine risks; and advocates for the inclusion of mine action in national development plans.

Natural Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction

UNDP has contributed to a large portfolio of natural disaster risk management programs spread over 60 countries. UNDP assists in identifying the causal factors of disasters, researching new risk patterns (such as those related to weather and climate change), supporting national disaster reduction strategies, and responding to sudden on-set crises such as earthquakes and mudslides.

In light of the link between natural disasters and poverty, UNDP has launched a series of initiatives, which include the development of regional early warning systems, most specifically targeted towards South Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

UNDP has also established the **Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)**² focuses on disaster prevention and provides financial and technical support to UNDP country offices as they seek to integrate disaster reduction strategies into development planning and processes. The DRU also serves as a forum for discussion and exchange of strategy and capabilities between participating nations and between the developed and developing world. More than fifty countries are supported worldwide by this initiative.

3. Conflict Development Analysis

UNDP's **Conflict Development Analysis Programme (CDA)** provides assistance to UNDP country offices to enable them to address conflict prevention and related analysis into country development strategies, especially in conflict-prone countries. Support is also provided for collaborative peace building and conflict prevention initiatives.

4. Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Since the establishment in 2000 of the Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (TTF) as a multilateral transition funding mechanism, a number of key achievements have been made - both within UNDP and within the international system more broadly. There is growing recognition that peace, security, and development are closely linked. The UN system is adjusting its inter-agency collaboration processes to ensure that recovery assistance is deployed hand in hand with immediate humanitarian relief. Comprehensive needs assessments have been conducted in a number of countries, jointly with the International Financial Institutions. Recent crises make a strong case for an even stronger, much faster, and far more comprehensive multilateral response capacity that would underpin national crisis prevention and recovery efforts with strategically targeted and better funded interventions.

5. ENVSEC Initiative

Also UNDP is part of the ENVSEC Initiative along with UNEP, OSCE and NATO. UNDP focuses on Central Asia and Eastern Europe where it leads the ENVSEC projects in establishing an early warning system and in strengthening national capacities in natural disaster risk management in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. UNDP also leads on establishing a cross-border warning system in Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and

² See UNDP Disaster Reduction Unit at <http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/> The Disaster Risk Index data base is particularly useful.

Montenegro, Albania. UNDP is working as well in building environmental cooperation and enhancing the natural resources management systems in these two regions as well as in the South Caucasus Triangle.

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC)³ serves 29 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Working under a mandate issued by the UN Secretary-General, RBEC, formerly the Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, began the process of establishing offices and programmes in the region in 1992. With its headquarters in New York, RBEC's outfit comprises 22 country offices and its Regional Centre in Bratislava.⁴

6. Peacebuilding Portal

UNDP is a partner, with other UN agencies, the African Union and the Organisation of American States in the operation of the Peacebuilding Portal.⁵

The Peacebuilding Portal, offers a database designed to dynamically serve users who seek related information presented in an expedient and user friendly way. The database contains the peacebuilding initiatives undertaken by international organisations, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, networks, taskforces, research institutions and others promoting conflict management and peace building.

Land / Environment is among the ten main themes covered in the portal's data base.

In fulfilment of the UN's commitment to integrate the land and environmental perspectives into its work and in the spirit of UN agency and family teamwork, the Portal, in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (UN-HABITAT), offers information on NGOs working on land and environmental rights and peacebuilding.

The website is structured to fully incorporate data related to land and environment rights in conflict management and peacebuilding. It's hoped that this information will be useful to those in government, civil society, local, national, regional and international organizations in their efforts to support dialogue on the land and environmental theme within peacebuilding processes.

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³ The RBEC website is at: <http://europeandcis.undp.org/>? The site contains links to relevant activities on Crisis Prevention, Energy and Environment, Water Governance, etc.

⁴ For a complete list of ENVSEC Initiative projects go to: <http://www.envsec.org/projects.php>

⁵ See: <http://www.peacebuildingportal.org/>

