

Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development

**2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**In conflicts and crises, access to human rights and justice is paramount to prevent and address war crimes, protect civilians, ensure accountability, amplify peace efforts and support post-conflict development, including transitional justice. Security measures are vital to save lives, reduce violence, maintain the social contract and cohesion.**

In conflicts that were raging in 2023, UNDP stayed and delivered, to ensure continued support to the rule of law, human rights, justice and security.

UNDP's primary mechanism for rule of law and human rights programming is the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development (the Global Programme). It operates in line with UNDP's Crisis Offer to help countries anticipate, prevent, respond to and recover from crisis. The Global Programme is implemented by the Rule of Law, Justice, Security and Human Rights team within UNDP's Crisis Bureau and is part of UNDP's Global Policy Network (GPN).

In 2023, the Global Programme provided financial, technical and expert support to over 100 countries and territories worldwide. Its policy work focused on mutual reinforcement of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting people-centred justice and security, analysing gaps and solutions for environmental justice, digital justice and gender justice, and exploring responsible business practices in conflict settings.

Across the UN system and beyond, the Global Programme serves as a unique platform for partnerships, in line with UNDP's designated 'integrator' role and in support of the One-UN approach.



Awareness-raising session on sexual and gender-based violence in a rural area, Gabu region, Guinea-Bissau.  
UNDP

[Read the full report](#)



# GLOBAL IMPACT

- In 34 contexts, the Global Programme supported human rights institutions, systems or stakeholders to strengthen capacities to support the fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations.
- In 17 contexts, the Global Programme supported human rights due diligence training for companies to understand how to identify, mitigate and respond to human rights abuses throughout their supply chains.
- In 17 contexts, Global Programme support has contributed to the establishment and/or strengthening of justice & security mechanisms, processes and frameworks to prevent, respond to and address sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.
- In 11 contexts, the Global Programme introduced or strengthened people-centred and gender-sensitive transitional justice solutions.
- The Global Programme developed or strengthened 59 people-centred justice or security services, policies, or innovative digital solutions.

As of 2023, UNDP's Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF) shows that UNDP globally supported **90 million** people in accessing justice (cumulative).

# PARTNERSHIPS

## Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law

The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) provides expertise and catalytic funding for integrated joint approaches across the United Nations (UN). Co-chaired by UNDP and the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), GFP reinforces the One-UN approach to address violent conflicts, protect human rights and restore justice and security.

In 2023, the GFP delivered catalytic funding and/or technical expertise for the joint rule of law programming in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Libya, Mali and Somalia. To support gender responsive rule of law and security services, GFP operationalized its working group on gender justice. It also supported a Gender Parity Initiative to ensure the deployment of women corrections officers to UN peace operations.



In the Central African Republic, fighting impunity is the priority of the Joint Rule of Law Programme. UNDP CAR

## Gender Justice Platform



Judge Amina Augie, Justice of the Supreme Court in Nigeria spoke about her experience in becoming a judge at the Gender Justice Platform #HagueTalks event. HagueTalks

In 2023, the Gender Justice Platform, a global partnership between UNDP and UN Women to advance gender equality and close the global gender justice gap, broadened its network and outreach through new partnerships. The in-country programming support was also extended as 31 countries globally received support through the Platform.

To improve women's effective representation in the justice system in Africa, UNDP and UN Women launched the Women in Justice in Africa Initiative, based on the comprehensive research commissioned through the Gender Justice Platform in 14 African countries.

Innovative gender justice initiatives were implemented in the Asia Pacific and Arab States regions where behavioural insights were used to analyse the root causes of gender inequality in the provision of justice and security services.

## SALIENT: Saving Lives Entity

Saving-Lives Entity (SALIENT), a joint initiative of UNDP and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works on the principle that small arms control and armed violence reduction must be nationally led, people-centred, anticipatory and responsive.

In 2023, SALIENT completed implementation in Cameroon, Jamaica and South Sudan, providing legislative and policy support, capacity building for law enforcement, sensitization and educational activities with communities, civil society actors, journalists and youth.

To set the stage for SALIENT implementation in 2024, the team held consultations in Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Papua New Guinea to identify the needs of these countries on armed violence reduction.



In 2023, UNDP opened a Peace Education Room in a local school in Kupari, Hela Province in Papua New Guinea. The province has been a hotspot for intercommunal conflicts in recent years. **UNDP Papua New Guinea**



## Tripartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions



Achieving the SDGs requires building on and strengthening a culture and system of human rights promotion and protection.  
UNDP Honduras

In 2023, UNDP's Global Programme supported human rights institutions, systems and stakeholders in 34 countries, including through the Tripartite Partnership (TPP) among the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, UNDP and the UN Human Rights Office.

To amplify the potential of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), the TPP expanded its demand-driven assistance to reach NHRIs across all regions. The TPP identified 13 NHRIs to receive TPP programmatic support in order to build and assess their capacities in 2024.

To improve coordination and to respond to the demands and challenges faced by NHRIs, UNDP convened stakeholders including Member States, nearly 100 representatives of NHRIs, partners and civil society to discuss NHRIs' contribution to sustainable development and the opportunities to accelerate progress.

## KEY RESULTS: COUNTRY AND POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

### People-centred justice

- In **Ukraine**, UNDP enabled the Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) offices to provide direct quality service and advice to over 100,000 people. In addition, UNDP strengthened the capacity of 119 prosecutors and police officers (including 53 women) on investigating and prosecuting war crimes. Overall, UNDP's expert and financial support had a catalytic effect on the development of a nationwide victim and witness support system by the Government, thus bringing a transformative change in strengthening national criminal accountability mechanisms.
- In **Sierra Leone**, UNDP's initiatives expedited trials and case reviews. Over 800 (almost 80 percent) of all the backlogged cases were cleared and over 600 cases were reviewed in which the verdicts had been wrongful. Almost 3,000 people (including 1,000 women) had access to justice and remedy as a result of UNDP's support to the timely adjudication, review and clearance of backlogged cases.
- UNDP delivered justice services to rural women, internally displaced persons, gender-based violence survivors and communities most at risk of being left behind. In **Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Lebanon, Moldova** and beyond, UNDP supported mobile justice and legal mechanisms, including mobile courts, mobile help desks and justice teams. Capitalizing on advances



Ungheni mobile team assists Ukrainian refugees and survivors of violence directly in their communities in Moldova. UNDP Moldova

in digital technologies, these mechanisms made justice more accessible to people who needed legal support but could not seek or afford it.

- In **Sri Lanka**, the Legal Aid Commission established 14 legal aid clinics to enable more people to access legal aid. Notably, the funding from the Global Programme was catalytic as it gave impetus to legal awareness and legal aid interventions funded by the European Union. UNDP facilitated workshops for 200 judicial officers which had a longer-term effect on justice administration. A new law was adopted with stronger protection guarantees for victims and witnesses.

## Business and human rights

- To promote the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (BHR), UNDP organized four regional B+HR forums, including an inaugural forum in **the Caribbean**, involving over 3,700 people.
- UNDP's technical support to governments played a key role in the development of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAPs). In Asia, NAPs were adopted by five countries – **Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam**. Additionally, **Mozambique** published the first draft of its NAP after a consultation period of 55 days involving over 1,000 stakeholders. Both **Kyrgyzstan and Mexico** published national baseline assessments and draft NAPs. Moreover, UNDP's support in **Pakistan** prompted the government to create a human rights due diligence (HRDD) policy framework as part of its comprehensive NAP implementation.
- In 2023, UNDP also expanded its direct work with the private sector. Through its global partnership with the Government of Japan, UNDP facilitated the participation of over 1,300 companies in the **B+HR Academy**, UNDP's global initiative focusing on HRDD training. Its **guide for businesses operating in conflict-affected contexts** was referenced in the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and further developed into a global training package for businesses. Meanwhile, to assist businesses in taking action on the triple planetary crisis, UNDP drafted **a practical tool on human rights due diligence and the environment** in consultation with over 200 stakeholders.



Through individual guidance sessions under the B+HR Academy, UNDP supported a local Mongolian leather production company in managing human rights risks. **UNDP**



In 2023, with support from the Government of Japan UNDP's B+HR Academy trained more than 1,300 companies in human rights due diligence to enhance efforts to address human rights risks in their operations and supply chains. **UNDP**

## Human rights

- In the **State of Palestine**, Sawasya II (the joint rule of law programme of UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF) provided direct legal assistance to over 11,000 Palestinians, mostly women. In addition, through UNDP-supported civil society organizations in Gaza, almost 600 people (over 40 percent were women) received assistance in freedom of movement cases. Over 50 percent of cases were resolved in their favour.
- In **Myanmar**, civil society activists and paralegals provided over 500 legal consultations on housing, land and property rights. This helped mitigate protection risks and improve livelihood opportunities. Further, UNDP empowered rural women and displaced persons by enhancing their digital capacities: 37 digital literacy sessions were held engaging 380 women and 254 men.
- In **Mozambique**, UNDP strengthened the capacities of the national human rights institution (NHRI): through training on handling complaints and a study visit to Kenya. In **Sierra Leone**, the NHRI developed a mechanism to collect complaints in remote communities. In **Ukraine**, UNDP strengthened the capacities of the NHRI and equipped it with knowledge and tools for better human rights protections amidst the war.
- To help governments fulfil the right to a healthy environment, UNDP launched environmental justice programming in **Bolivia, Lebanon, Pakistan** and beyond. Regional forums were held in the Western Balkans and in the Arab States: the latter in partnership with the National Institute for Human Rights of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Consultation session on promoting access to environmental justice with key government departments in Balochistan. UNDP



Interview with the management of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Kyiv in the shelter during the air alert. UNDP Ukraine / Maksym Polishchuk

## Community security

- In **Iraq**, UNDP established six Model Police Stations (MPS) and trained 3,360 Iraqi police officers on people-centred policing. According to a survey conducted in the areas where the MPS were operational, people felt more secure and perceived the police force as a reliable source of support and justice for victims and witnesses of crime, representing a shift in public perception and confidence in law enforcement.
- In **Mali**, 239 local conflicts were prevented or managed through mediation and other interventions of village land commissions which were revitalized with UNDP support. Women and youth comprised at least 30 percent of the members of the Land Commissions.



A workshop on people-centred policing at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, Commanders' Training Center. UNDP Iraq



- In **Somalia**, a formal police force was established for the first time in Galmudug state with UNDP’s support – a major step in delivering a formal professional policing service in the area. Following a three-month training course, 400 new recruits (including 64 women) were deployed to the state districts.
- In **Venezuela**, UNDP supported the development of SIETPOL, an information platform to monitor and oversee police operations to improve internal accountability in a situation of heightened risk.



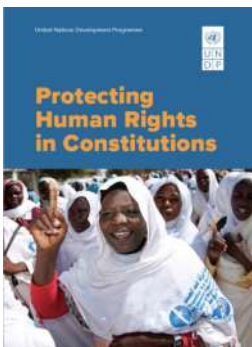
Basic recruits to the newly formed Galmudug Police Force. UNDP Somalia

# MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## Publication highlights



“Human Rights and SDG systems integration: Beyond linkages, data and efficiency to leave no one behind” highlights the need to harness the potential of human rights and SDG systems integration to accelerate inclusive policy solutions.



A guidebook on “Protecting Human Rights in Constitutions” assists constitution-makers to design stronger rights-based constitutions based on national needs and international standards.



The report “Diverse Pathways to People-Centred Justice: Report of the Working Group on Customary and Informal Justice and SDG16+” pleads for increased engagement with customary and informal justice actors.



## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning: New approach

The Global Programme monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) unit became fully operational in 2023. In consultation with partners, the Global Programme updated its strategy and approach to MEL to be operationalized next year. Guidance, tools and templates have been developed for systematic collection of programme results and ongoing reflection from programming countries and projects

The Global Programme's MEL activities are aligned with and actively contribute to UNDP's corporate Knowledge Management Strategy, as well as Crisis Bureau's knowledge management priority actions and implementation plan and the Crisis Offer Learning Agenda, in collaboration with UNDP's Global Policy Network and knowledge functions.

In 2023, the MEL unit (co-)designed and facilitated learning events to stimulate collective reflection, exchange of knowledge and learning.



The Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights Knowledge and Learning Collaborative 2023: enabling change through MEL, innovation and integration. **UNDP**

## THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OPERATES THANKS TO THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF



## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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